

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRISTLETON

England & Wales · Charity number 1133992

Details

Other names ST JAMES CHURCH, CHRISTLETON

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-02-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Parish Office
St James
Pepper Street
Christleton

Phone 01244325529

Email pa.saintjames@gmail.com

Website www.stjameschristleton.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all and the provision of sacred space for personal prayer. Pastoral care including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons and small groups. The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£193,641	£159,165	-	-
2023-12-31	£152,996	£176,601	-	-
2022-12-31	£154,059	£179,059	-	-
2021-12-31	£173,377	£136,554	-	-
2020-12-31	£138,804	£138,622	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alastair David Holland		2023-04-23
Ann White		2016-05-23
CATHERINE ELIZABETH ROSE GILLIATT		2014-04-28
Christopher Peter William Platel		2024-05-05
David Heyes		2025-05-11
Dr Stefan John Collier		2018-09-11
Geoffrey Wellens		2025-05-11
Joce Platel		2016-07-25
John Douglas Norbury		2022-05-22
John Eccles		2024-05-05
Lesley Anne Morgan		2023-04-23
Liz McClure		2016-04-24
Sarah Janet Bowden		2024-05-05
Sheena Hope Cumiskey Mrs		2025-05-11
Suzanne Elizabeth Lyttle		2025-05-11

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Accounts

PARISH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL** **for the Parish of Christleton** for the year ended 31 December 2024

and Agenda for Annual Meetings 11 May 2025

Rector: The Reverend Dr Stefan Collier



Church: St James

St James' Church, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG

Bankers: Santander

Charity Registration Number: 1133992



(Draft 7.1)

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AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS 11 MAY 2025

Meeting of the Parishioners (Vestry Meeting): (10)

To: Elect Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) (Total = 67 mins)

Opening Prayers (3)

1. Apologies (1)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 2024 (Available in the Annual Report) (5)

3. Matters Arising (10)

4. Reports (30)

- **Rector's Report (5)**
- **Churchwardens' Report (5)**
- **Treasurer's Report (10)**
- **Deanery Synod Report (2)**
- **PCC Report (3)**
- **Electoral Roll Report (5)**

5. Elections and Appointments (10)

- **Deanery Synod**
- **PCC – including Secretary & Treasurer**
- **Auditor**

6. Any Other Business (5)

7. Closing Prayers (3)

Jocelyn Platel, PCC Secretary

The above meeting(s) to be followed by a short PCC Meeting to appoint:

Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Standing Committee, ER Officer & confirm date of PCC Meeting

ROLES AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

St James' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has financial and maintenance responsibilities for St James.

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

Since the APCM of May 2024 the following have served as members of the PCC:

Rector (ex-officio)	Revd Dr Stefan Collier
Assistant Curates (ex-officio)	Revd Tina Lightfoot
Churchwardens (ex-officio) Elected annually at Meeting of the Parishioners.	Bettie Gilliatt Mike Lightfoot
Deanery Synod Members: This church may appoint up to 3 lay people as Lay Deanery Synod representatives and they become ex-officio on the PCC (if not already on PCC). They are appointed for a three-year fixed term. (Current fixed term: 2023-2026)	Bettie Gilliatt Jan Bowden John Norbury
Elected PCC members: This church may have 12 elected PCC members based on our current Electoral Roll size. Members are elected for a 3 year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms (ie: 6 years) # Member will have completed 3 years at the 2025 APCM.	Pat Bull (nee Powell) (elected: 2022) # John Norbury (elected: 2022) # Joce Platel (elected: 2023) Alastair Holland (elected: 2023) Lesley Morgan (elected: 2023) Elizabeth McClure (elected: 2023) Ann White (elected: 2023) John Eccles (elected 2024) Chris Platel (elected 2024) Jan Bowden (elected 2024) Two PCC positions are vacant (prior to the 2025 APCM)
Co-opted PCC members: (Co-opted by the PCC for 1 year) Maximum of 2.	None

PCC Appointments	
PCC Treasurer (appointed annually)	Elizabeth McClure
PCC Secretary (appointed annually)	Jocelyn Platel
Electoral Roll Officer (appointed annually)	Marj Keech
Parish Safeguarding Officer (appointed annually)	Ann White

Licenced Lay Workers	
Pastoral Worker	Lesley Morgan

Parish Appointments	
Employed Director of Music	Bob Jones
Parish Administrator	Marj Keech

MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD AT 12.00 PM ON 5TH MAY 2024

14 people attended the meetings.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS (Vestry Meeting)

Nominations had been received for Bettie Gilliatt (Proposed by Liz McClure and seconded by Sheena Cumiskey) and Mike Lightfoot (Proposed by Janet Milton and seconded by Joy Verrier). No other nominations had been received and therefore these two Churchwardens were elected unanimously without the need for a vote. Stefan thanked Bettie and Mike for their tremendous work during the past year not only for their welcoming presence in church, but also for looking after the fabric of the building and the maintenance of the churchyard. Gill Hibbert commented that visiting so many other parishes had increased her awareness of the responsibility and the enormous amount of work the job entailed. The meeting closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Stefan advised that Information Packs had been available containing the agenda, previous minutes, reports etc.

Stefan offered Opening Prayers.

1: Apologies: Apologies received from: Brian and Elizabeth Inall, Carl and Sheena Cumiskey, Tina and Mike Lightfoot, Martin and Hazel Thompson, John and June Pearson, Tim and Suzanne Little.

2: Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 23rd April 2023. These were approved as a true record to be signed by Stefan.

3: Matters Arising: There were none.

4: Reports:

- **Rector's Report** – Stefan gave the following report:

"I won't read to you my report, rather draw attention to how thankful I am for our desire to go on becoming a community of welcome, witness, and worship; that is be formed into the likeness of God who is a God of welcome, witness, and worship.

This is so very important. As is what I hope we are about to embark on this coming year. The development of St James Church. After almost 6 years we will finally hear whether we are to receive permission or not in about the next 6 months. If we do receive this permission, we need to raise of order an eye-watering 600K to make this dream a reality.

It sounds and feels impossible. But this is surely how Joseph felt left in a pit to die by his brothers. Surely how Elizabeth felt when told she was to bear a child at advanced age. How Jesus felt as he knelt down to pray in the garden of Gethsemane. How Paul and his companions felt on his missionary journeys in Asia. Their life's impossible. Indeed, they were. But not with God. With God, time and time again, the impossible is made possible. And so I believe it will be for us. God will make possible the impossible for this church community.

For sure, it will be so very hard and challenging. But I am confident because we are not committed to ourselves, because we are blessed with many people with many gifts. Because, when all is said and done, we desire to run, or walk purposively, the race of faith set before us. To hand on a community of welcome, witness, and worship to those who follow after us. The impossible will be made possible. Thank you for this confidence.

Finally. Thank you to the leaders of our PCC, and those on the margins of our community; critical as they are. Thank you to our excellent ministry team of Tina, Elizabeth, Gill, and Lesley. Thank you to Nikki and Ian and the bellringers collective, Maria, John, Marj, and Bob for their especial ministries among us without which our common life would suffer greatly. Thank you for the gift of what is coming. No less, than the Kingdom of God on earth as in heaven."

Gill Hibbert questioned Stefan as to whether he believed the church development was God's will. Stefan shared how, prior to Christleton, he did not feel called to lead a major building project, so was surprised and frustrated (with God) when the PCC and others begun to discern this direction a few months post his arrival. He, but more importantly we, are confident this is a direction we are being asked to take for the future of the church and communities it serves. David Cummings reiterated that we need to make sure the church will serve the needs of future generations. Jan agreed that we need a space which will allow more creative things to take place like concerts and art exhibitions. Historically churches were used for those sorts of events. Although St James is a Butterfield church, the only one in Cheshire, the pews are not an essential feature, whereas, e.g., the polychromatic stonework is. Gill felt we need to sell this vision through our enthusiasm and positivity.

- **Churchwardens' Report – BG** commented that £3,500 has been spent on repairs to the church roof: there were missing slates, ridge tiles and valleys needed to be cleared. She thanked the churchyard working party, especially Sarah Bromage and Joe Dilworth for their unfailing support. The work of the Payback team is much appreciated and they value the positive feedback they are given. There is a wide range of wildlife and No Mow May should help to increase that. Jan B suggested that laminated signs explaining the concept and reasoning may help to offset any criticism. David offered to produce signs to this effect.

Treasurer's Report – SC thanked Liz and John for all their hard work managing the church finances. Liz wished to highlight certain points:

- 1) Accounts are now on a different (accrual) system which may be needed if dealing with larger amounts of money.
- 2) The regular income does not cover the full Parish Share of 1.25. Without generous donations we cannot pay the full amount. This year we are £12k a month short of the income needed so are paying 1.05 a month.
- 3) The main capital expenditure over the last year has been the AV installation, architects' fees and the repair of churchyard paths.
- 4) The Stewardship Group was tasked with increasing digital giving which is now at £4k per year. QR codes are now on pew sheets and on a new Friends' leaflet.
- 5) John has done a fantastic job with the Friends; he believes in the importance of a personal approach. The contribution of Mike Stuart to the Friends' achievements was highlighted and tributes paid to him.
- 6) On a positive note, Liz acknowledged the warmth, enthusiasm and support of the church community and the Friends. Anyone who would be willing to be a deputy treasurer would be warmly welcomed!

Lesley felt we needed to make the wider congregation aware of the financial situation. There followed discussion of the whole issue of Communications which we are aware needs to improve in this fast-changing world but is a hard issue to solve. Gill H raised the use of the A41 but this does cost and, as it reaches beyond this parish, may raise objections from other churches. SC suggested that if we focus on the worship, welcome and witness (that is in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ) then money will follow in response to our encountering Jesus. Dwelling too much on finances could paralyse us.

There was unanimous acceptance of the accounts (proposed by David C, seconded by Jan B).

- **Deanery Synod – BG** was concerned at the impact the move to carbon zero approved by General Synod could have on the poorest workers who have no protection from unscrupulous leaders. She finds it interesting to find out what is going on in the rest of the deanery.
- **PCC Report – SC** thanked JP for her work as secretary.
- **Electoral Roll – The ER** now stands at 153.
- **Safeguarding – Stefan** thanked Ann for her commitment to making sure Safeguarding policies are being followed. Ann confirmed that we are compliant but there is not much guidance from the powers above. In the end safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

5: Elections and Appointments:

- **Deanery Synod:** BG will remain as a representative; Jan Bowden (proposed by Bettie Gilliatt, seconded by Jocelyn Platel) will replace Chris (who has resigned from his three year term after completing one year).

- **PCC:** Sheena Cumiskey and Brian Inall and Keith Smalls have completed their terms of office. Stefan thanked them all for the gifts that they have given and reiterated his thanks to Martin Thompson who resigned earlier this year.

JP (proposed by Liz McClure, seconded by Pat Powell) was duly nominated as secretary.

LMC (proposed by Jocelyn Platel, seconded by Lesley Morgan) was duly nominated as treasurer.

There were two nominations for new members: John Eccles (proposed by Mike Lightfoot, seconded by Bettie Gilliatt); Chris Platel (proposed by Liz McClure, seconded by Bettie Gilliatt). Both were elected unanimously. As an elected member of Deanery Synod Jan Bowden becomes an ex-officio member of the PCC.

- **Appointment of Auditor:** It was unanimously agreed (proposed by Chris Platel seconded by David Cummings) that Meacher-Jones should continue as our Auditor for 2024 so LMC to contact them.

JP to write a formal letter of thanks on behalf of the PCC.

6: Any Other Business: David Cummings thanked Stefan for his spiritual leadership and guidance and for his love and commitment to the parish. Gill wanted to give grateful thanks to Tina and Elizabeth for all that they do including their preaching.

The meeting closed with prayers led by Stefan at 1.30pm.

REPORTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024

RECTOR'S REPORT 2024:

Dear friends,

As ever, something of the joys and challenges of our blessed common life are reflected in the reports herein. Reports which witness to the loving service of so many dedicated volunteers who give of their time and talents for the flourishing of our parish communities. We give thanks for all of them and for the privilege of sharing life with the parish communities we serve.

We give thanks too, this year, for the work we have done in clarifying our parish vision, the seeds of which were recognisable almost 7 years ago, planted and are beginning to show signs of growth. A vision to be a community of worship, welcome, and witness as discovered and energised through our Holy Scriptures, as detailed for our meditation and guiding on page 3.

A corollary of our parish vision was turning all of our physical resources to its end, and as many people are aware, this led to us embarking on a church development project some 7 years ago. We're pleased to share that after all these years, October 2024 saw us finally receive the necessary secular and church permissions for our church development project. This project will ensure we will continue to grow as a community of welcome, worship, and witness not just now but in the decades ahead.

The project has a story, and here it is after one of our grant applications. The story of providing inclusive, accessible, hospitable, and sustainable space and facilities to St James' Church for up to 200 people in order to advance the Christian faith and participate more fully in God's mission as described in the 5 marks of mission.

In the beginning, around 7 years ago, we asked the question what are we here for? We understood we are here to participate in God's mission. We understood this mission concerned being and becoming a healthy church. However, a church health audit, analysis of attendance, worship and national census data, and financial analysis revealed the community was in poor health. It lacked an outward community focus, did not relate to around 80% of the demographic of the parish communities, and was in a weak, vulnerable financial position. Moreover, the church building was difficult to access and uncomfortable to use and did not have the facilities to better advance the Christian faith and further the Kingdom of God. We understood we were not being or becoming a healthy church community, with the building advancing the faith and Kingdom of God. We understood this needed to change and set priorities to be a learning, outward facing community whose building facilitated our participation in the five marks of mission.

The next 1.5 years, self-funded, saw us undertake a feasibility study with Donald Insall Associates, pray, and reflect in order to better understand how we might improve our facilities for use by the church and its work in the communities it serves. The following 3 years, albeit it with the interruption of the pandemic, we entered into discussions with key stakeholders, including the church and local communities, English Heritage, Cheshire West and Chester Council, The Victorian Society, The Church Buildings Council, and the Diocesan Advisory Committee to shape the submission of a faculty, again self-funded, for permission to develop the building to provide facilities and space for the whole community.

This faculty describes the delivery of an open and flexible space throughout the nave with the replacement of the pews with chairs, an extension with toilets (including disabled access), kitchens and storage facilities, and a screen for the Lady Chapel to provide a church and community prayer and meeting place. Together, these building improvements create an accessible space for a large variety of worship, educational, and community events and activities for groups up to 200 persons - which the existing space does not have and creates significant barriers for use to participate in God's mission. These changes allow us to offer more flexible and engaging worship, use the space for community exhibitions, events and activities which strengthen community partnerships, host faith nurture courses and other Christian learning programmes for the advancement of the Christian faith, and hospitality events, including a cafe, after the hospitality of Christ. Of the 21 needs already identified, each aligned with a mark of mission, 2/3 relate to worship, while the remaining third relate to worship and community purposes. Of these needs 70% are or have been undertaken, with 30% yet to be implemented. Of these 70% tried, 40% are considered non-viable on account of space limitations and 90% are of restricted viability for the same reason.

Our faculty was granted in Q4 of 2024, along with all relevant building permissions. The Chancellor's judgement notes '[m]y own judgement on the material [faculty] s that the future flourishing of mission in the church and parish is likely to depend on it' - this in good part why we dare to change our faith story. We also dare to change our faith story in response to our vocation to be God's people in this place. The architect, and appointed project manager Tony Barton of Donald Insall Associates, estimates construction will take one year once all the funding is available, c. £600K. Funds will be raised in 2025 with matched community and grant support, £300K each. We aspire to deliver the project in 2026.

Looking back on 2024, our worshipping community grew around 3% in 2024 (when accounting for an 8% reduction due to death this growth is likely to be of order 10%) . Our pastoral offices, of funerals, baptisms, and marriages, serve over 2000 people, and through the year around 10000 people attended all services. At the same time, we fed around 500 people through our community lunches, collected around 1500 kg of food for our local food bank, and enjoy supportive, active partnerships with other local churches and schools. We have doubled our number of faith small groups, and regularly offer multiple Christian educational opportunities through the year, with the Rector giving lectures on science and religion at the Cathedral and other churches.

We are slowly becoming a healthy church community, but without improvements to our building we are at risk of perishing. We aspire to be a church which serves all in our communities, and whose building is at the heart of our communities, available to all people without distinction, and facilitates their flourishing. We aspire to increase the social and Christian value of St James, and our sharing in God's mission will grow through adding direct economic value, the provision of community services, an increase in volunteer economic value and wellbeing, an increase in wellbeing to those who benefit from the community services provided, and additional wellbeing through advancement in the faith of people attending church services, learning programmes, and events. This increase in value facilitates our being and becoming a healthy - sustainable church community, and will be further protected through the use of a range of quantitative and qualitative data to measure the impact of the building improvements and, where required, make necessary changes to the partnerships further developed and activities offered.

This then is our story of late. The story that you the reader are part of. We now, together with God in Christ and through the power of his Holy Spirit, have especial responsibility for the future flourishing of God's mission here in this place by finishing our story from which other stories of love will emerge. We now ask for your sacrificial financial support. We ask for God's blessing that our story will glorify God and serve the common good now and in the decades to come.

With my love and prayers, Stefan, Rector, Christleton.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT:

The quinquennial inspection has been carried out by the church architects Donald Insall and the Church was commended as being in good condition overall. A recommendation was made that we ensure that the ground in proximity to the lower walls is kept weed-free. This is carried out regularly.

All the services, alarm, fire extinguishers, boilers have been carried out and the roof has been checked twice due to very wet weather and some high winds. Ridge tiles have been re-bedded, valleys cleared of debris and several slipped slates have been re-bedded.

It should be noted that the cost of checking the roof is quite substantial but is essential to ensure that it is in sound condition. During the inspection, the contractor noted that the wooden shingles on the tower looked very dry. The louvres on the windows (also wooden) were noted as possibly requiring attention in the near future.

The Church boilers are approaching ten years old and have caused a couple of problems over the year. Thought must be given to their possible replacement in a few years.

All portable electric appliances and cables were tested by the electrical contractor.

The lightning conductor underwent a regular inspection. As usual it was noted that the readings do not conform to the usual standard due to the substrata on which the Church is built. This is not possible to alter but the conductor is intact.

Martin Thompson has taken on the checking of the movement monitors in the Church (reminder that the monitor on the north wall of the chancel has been positioned upside down).

Recently it was noted that a small amount of mortar has fallen from the ceiling of the choir vestry (below the ringing chamber). This remains to be investigated.

Unfortunately, after eight years, the Community Payback team was unable to continue to help with the churchyard maintenance and the gap has been filled by the dedication of a band of volunteers who have regularly turned up on a Saturday morning (and often during the week) to keep the grounds in good order. However, in February we were informed that the Payback team would resume on a weekly basis. The monthly working parties of volunteers will continue.

Some damage was caused during the storms in January with one acer in a line of these trees coming down and causing some damage to a headstone in the northern section. The tree was sawn up and removed. Another small tree along the east boundary wall fell down and was despatched.

Measurements were also noted along the west boundary wall where the roots of some large mature yew trees are exposed, one in particular. They overlook a public footpath. The Payback team trimmed a large dead branch of a tree in the grounds of Christleton House – this hung over the footpath and onto a grave. The Tree Officer, Ruth Tothill and the owner of Christleton House were informed in case there might be any comeback.

Some trees in the copse, close to private properties, were regarded as too tall and unsafe and were felled but left on the ground to act as wildlife habitats.

Blackwells (monumental masons) conducted the regular (every four years) inspection of all the headstones in the churchyard and found only one which was found to be loose. This was repaired at no cost to the parish.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the worshipping and local community for all the help in grass cutting, strimming, and leaf clearing during the year. Without you life would be so much more difficult and expensive!

The Churchwardens conducted an inspection of all the goods and ornaments. All items were accounted for with the exception of a wooden "alms bowl" of uncertain date which one of the churchwardens remembered from some years back but which has been missing. It has not been on the list in the Terrier.

The Churchwardens would like to extend their grateful thanks to the volunteers who perform the readings at services, perform sidespersons' duties, meeting and greeting worshippers to the services and acting as stewards.

Mike Lightfoot & Bettie Gilliatt, Churchwardens

PARISH HALL:

Many thanks to Maria Norbury for looking after the smooth administration of the hall.

A major and expensive repair to the cooker was necessary due to damage of the glass top rendering it unsafe to use. It should be noted that the cooker top is for cooking and not for use as an extra shelf even though space is limited in the kitchen.

Some remedial work on the exterior boiler door was necessary (so far, no cost), although the boiler was fitted with a new expansion vessel (at less than three years old this is regarded as most unusual).

Following a complaint about one of the fire doors (found to be in working order) it was decided to check the fire doors monthly at the same time as the emergency lighting. May have to do a little remedial work on the main hall fire door.

The outside paintwork is scheduled to be done around the end of May (and weather permitting).

Ridge tiles were re-bedded and a slipped slate replaced during the Church roof inspection. Also a part of the guttering on the northside was repaired.

A new acoustics system is to be installed, provided by a private donation. This should address the problem of noise and particularly to anyone hard of hearing.

ADDENDUM. It should be noted that within the next few years the boilers will have to be replaced to comply with zero carbon. Other options will need to be considered e.g. solar panels (not necessarily on the building), small wind turbine, heat pumps, and possibly new systems not yet available. Planning for the future without fossil fuels will have to be addressed.

Grants are available for churches and religious buildings to help to reduce emissions.

Mike Lightfoot & Bettie Gilliatt, Churchwardens.

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:

2024 has been a steady year in terms of maintaining the number of hours hired out to regular and occasional hirers. We have regular hirers each morning Tuesday to Saturday and each evening Monday to Thursday. We could do with more regular hirer hours during the daytime, but we do not receive many enquiries for regular hire slots. The feedback from hirers is that they like using our hall.

Maria Norbury, Bookings Secretary.

ELECTORAL ROLL:

Since the last Annual Report the overall number of names on the Electoral Roll (ER) has reduced from 182 to 151. The reduction of the numbers represents 6 people who have died and several names which were removed following the

annual revision of the Roll last spring which saw those who had moved away from the parish or who did not attend services, removed from it. There have been 13 additions to the ER.

This year there has been a complete renewal of the Electoral Roll which we are obliged to do every 6 years. All members are removed from the Roll and are invited to re-apply.

Applications will have been accepted from the 9th March to the 13th April. At the time of writing the new Roll number is not known, but this will be available on the 14th April. Any members of our community who missed the deadline may still apply following the APCM. Those wishing to enrol should contact the Electoral Roll Officer or the Rector who will be happy to provide the information required. Application forms can be found at the back of church.

Marj Keech – Electoral Roll Officer.

ST JAMES' CHURCH - END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDING 31 DEC 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	17,316.50	-	-	17,316.50	3,034.08
Income from charitable activities	147,838.14	9,026.75	-	156,864.89	136,247.09
Other trading activities	12,690.00	-	-	12,690.00	12,286.00
Investments	3,062.50	-	-	3,062.50	3,238.95
Other income	3,078.83	628.20	-	3,707.03	4,428.30
Total income	183,985.97	9,654.95	-	193,640.92	159,234.42
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	1,416.71	-	-	1,416.71	898.25
Expenditure on charitable activities	142,247.39	5,054.97	-	147,302.36	154,920.24
Other expenditure	9,955.58	490.00	-	10,445.58	21,811.27
Total expenditure	153,619.68	5,544.97	-	159,164.65	177,629.76
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	30,366.29	4,109.98	-	34,476.27	(18,395.34)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	138.20	-	-	138.20	8,957.31
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	(138.20)	-	(138.20)	(8,957.31)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	30,504.49	3,971.78	-	34,476.27	(18,395.34)

Total funds brought forward	57,538.16	13,941.81	-	71,479.97	89,875.31
Total funds carried forward	88,042.65	17,913.59	-	105,956.24	71,479.97
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	22,120.84	-	-	22,120.84	25,264.55
Designated					
Audio-Visual project	-	-	-	-	-
car park land trust	-	-	-	-	-
choir	581.30	-	-	581.30	581.30
hymnbooks	-	-	-	-	-
legacy/church development	65,577.50	-	-	65,577.50	31,427.50
parish hall refurbishment	(1,613.99)	-	-	(1,613.99)	(1,112.19)
rectory decorating	-	-	-	-	-
window protection	1,377.00	-	-	1,377.00	1,377.00
Restricted					
Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
bellringers	-	1,744.22	-	1,744.22	1,744.22
car park	-	-	-	-	-
chancel	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
charitable	-	96.70	-	96.70	96.70
churchyard	-	(487.32)	-	(487.32)	667.65
Egerton	-	-	-	-	-
Friends of St James	-	5,601.95	-	5,601.95	475.20
heating/boiler	-	-	-	-	-
legacy / church development restricted	-	-	-	-	-
parish hall refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-
PH refurb restricted	-	-	-	-	-
rector D prof	-	-	-	-	-
restoration	-	5,363.53	-	5,363.53	5,363.53
sunday school/messy church	-	2,594.51	-	2,594.51	2,594.51
Total funds	88,042.65	17,913.59	-	105,956.24	71,479.97

Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Current assets			
CA1	current account	11,122.31	12,598.36
CA2	savings account	-	-
CA3	CBF investment account	84,594.75	51,659.69
CA4	petty cash	-	-
Z05	Accounts Receivable	12,450.83	7,412.70
	Total Current assets	108,167.89	71,670.75
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	-	(2,012.82)
Z04	Accounts Payable	2,211.65	2,203.60
	Total Liabilities	2,211.65	190.78
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	105,956.24	71,479.97
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	34,476.27	29,593.81
Z01	Starting balances	71,479.97	41,886.16
	Total Reserves	105,956.24	71,479.97
	Represented by Funds		
	General (Unrestricted)	22,120.84	25,264.55
	Designated	65,921.81	32,273.61
	Restricted	17,913.59	13,941.81
	Total	105,956.24	71,479.97

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash At Bank And In Hand			
CA1: current account			
bellringers	Restricted	1,744.02	1,744.02
charitable	Restricted	96.70	96.70
churchyard	Restricted	(487.32)	667.65
Friends of St James	Restricted	5,251.95	100.20

legacy/church development	Designated	-	2,034.08
parish hall refurbishment	Designated	(1,613.99)	(1,112.19)
window protection	Designated	1,377.00	1,377.00
General fund	Unrestricted	4,753.95	9,703.72
Agency collection	Restricted	-	(2,012.82)
		11,122.31	12,598.36
Cash At Bank And In Hand		11,122.31	12,598.36
Debtors			
Z05: Accounts Receivable			
Friends of St James	Restricted	350.00	375.00
General fund	Unrestricted	12,100.83	7,037.70
		12,450.83	7,412.70
Debtors		12,450.83	7,412.70
Investments			
CA3: CBF investment account			
bellringers	Restricted	0.20	0.20
chancel	Restricted	3,000.00	3,000.00
choir	Designated	581.30	581.30
legacy/church development	Designated	65,577.50	29,393.42
restoration	Restricted	5,363.53	5,363.53
sunday school/messy church	Restricted	2,594.51	2,594.51
General fund	Unrestricted	7,477.71	10,726.73
		84,594.75	51,659.69
Investments		84,594.75	51,659.69
Agency Accounts			
6699: Agency collections			
Agency collection	Restricted	-	(2,012.82)
		-	(2,012.82)
Agency Accounts		-	(2,012.82)
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year			
Z04: Accounts Payable			
General fund	Unrestricted	2,211.65	2,203.60
		2,211.65	2,203.60
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year		2,211.65	2,203.60
Grand Total		105,956.24	71,479.97

Fund movement summary

	Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
bells								
Restricted		1,744.22	-	-	-	-	-	1,744.22
Sub-totals		1,744.22	-	-	-	-	-	1,744.22
chancel								
Restricted		3,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00
Sub-totals		3,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00
charit								
Restricted		96.70	-	-	-	-	-	96.70
Sub-totals		96.70	-	-	-	-	-	96.70
choir								
Designated		581.30	-	-	-	-	-	581.30
Sub-totals		581.30	-	-	-	-	-	581.30
churchyd								
Restricted		667.65	110.00	1,264.97	-	-	-	(487.32)
Sub-totals		667.65	110.00	1,264.97	-	-	-	(487.32)
FRIENDS								
Restricted		475.20	8,916.75	3,790.00	-	-	-	5,601.95
Sub-totals		475.20	8,916.75	3,790.00	-	-	-	5,601.95
LCD								
Designated		31,427.50	35,000.00	850.00	-	-	-	65,577.50
Sub-totals		31,427.50	35,000.00	850.00	-	-	-	65,577.50
PHRest								
Designated		(1,112.19)	-	640.00	138.20	-	-	(1,613.99)
Restricted		-	628.20	490.00	(138.20)	-	-	-
Sub-totals		(1,112.19)	628.20	1,130.00	-	-	-	(1,613.99)
rest								
Restricted		5,363.53	-	-	-	-	-	5,363.53
Sub-totals		5,363.53	-	-	-	-	-	5,363.53

ssmessy

Restricted	2,594.51	-	-	-	-	-	2,594.51
Sub-totals	2,594.51	-	-	-	-	-	2,594.51

windprot

Designated	1,377.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,377.00
Sub-totals	1,377.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,377.00

General

Unrestricted	25,264.55	148,985.97	152,129.68	-	-	-	22,120.84
Sub-totals	25,264.55	148,985.97	152,129.68	-	-	-	22,120.84

Totals	71,479.97	193,640.92	159,164.65	-	-	-	105,956.24
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Analysis of income and expenditure

	Total					
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies						
IN10 - legacy	-	14,000.00	-	-	14,000.00	3,034.08
IN16 - mistaken entry	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN25 - luncheon club donations PH	3,316.50	-	-	-	3,316.50	-
Donations and legacies Totals	3,316.50	14,000.00	-	-	17,316.50	3,034.08
Income from charitable activities						
IN01 - collections	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN02 - envelope scheme	3,165.62	-	-	-	3,165.62	3,467.11
IN03 - gift aid env	1,510.30	-	-	-	1,510.30	1,598.40
IN04 - funerals and weddings	22,957.00	-	-	-	22,957.00	19,267.00
IN07 - standing orders	54,272.00	-	5,175.00	-	59,447.00	54,672.00
IN08 - HMRC	25,434.33	-	1,514.00	-	26,948.33	27,229.03
IN14 - donations	19,498.89	21,000.00	2,337.75	-	42,836.64	30,013.55
IN20 - general exp reimbursement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from charitable activities Totals	126,838.14	21,000.00	9,026.75	-	156,864.89	136,247.09
Other trading activities						
IN05 - parish hall	12,420.00	-	-	-	12,420.00	12,016.00
IN06 - parish magazine	-	-	-	-	-	-

IN19 - land rent	270.00	-	-	-	270.00	270.00
Other trading activities Totals	12,690.00	-	-	-	12,690.00	12,286.00
Investments						
IN09 - investment acct interest	3,062.50	-	-	-	3,062.50	3,238.95
Investments Totals	3,062.50	-	-	-	3,062.50	3,238.95
Other income						
IN11 - fundraising	3,078.83	-	628.20	-	3,707.03	4,382.80
IN12 - insurance repayment	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN13 - BT way payment	-	-	-	-	-	45.50
IN15 - rectory exp reimb	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN17 - clergy fee reimbursement	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN18 - church gas reimb	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN21 - VAT RECLAIM	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN22 - PH ELEC REIMB	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN23 - CH ELEC REIMB	-	-	-	-	-	-
IN24 - REIMB PH GAS	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income Totals	3,078.83	-	628.20	-	3,707.03	4,428.30
Income and endowments Grand totals	148,985.97	35,000.00	9,654.95	-	193,640.92	159,234.42

EXPENDITURE ON:

Raising funds

EX11 - parish magazine	-	-	-	-	-	-
EX26 - f/r exp	1,416.71	-	-	-	1,416.71	898.25
Raising funds Totals	1,416.71	-	-	-	1,416.71	898.25

Expenditure on charitable activities

EX01 - Church gas	4,941.32	-	-	-	4,941.32	3,977.33
EX02 - Church electricity	1,963.86	-	-	-	1,963.86	1,625.69
EX03 - Church salaries	4,206.26	-	-	-	4,206.26	4,434.52
EX04 - church insurance	4,168.57	-	-	-	4,168.57	4,381.60
EX05 - church building maintenance	222.00	-	3,790.00	-	4,012.00	680.00
EX06 - churchyard maintenance	-	-	1,264.97	-	1,264.97	23,066.55
EX07 - clergy expenses	2,075.35	-	-	-	2,075.35	3,042.93
EX08 - weddings/funerals	10,563.67	-	-	-	10,563.67	7,885.60
EX12 - messy church	-	-	-	-	-	-
EX14 - parish share	89,695.68	-	-	-	89,695.68	85,424.52
EX15 - rectory expenses	10,148.04	-	-	-	10,148.04	4,368.83
EX19 - church water	72.52	-	-	-	72.52	128.43
EX20 - church gen expenses	12,581.83	-	-	-	12,581.83	12,044.46
EX21 - church fabric maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	337.78

EX22 - choir expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
EX25 - AVproject	-	-	-	-	-	3,522.00
EX27 - luncheon club expenses	1,608.29	-	-	-	1,608.29	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	142,247.39	-	5,054.97	-	147,302.36	154,920.24
Other expenditure						
EX09 - parish hall salaries	-	-	-	-	-	-
EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen	-	640.00	490.00	-	1,130.00	1,920.99
EX13 - car park maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-
EX16 - parish hall gas	1,289.24	-	-	-	1,289.24	1,093.61
EX17 - parish hall electricity	1,234.08	-	-	-	1,234.08	946.45
EX18 - parish hall water	548.65	-	-	-	548.65	557.35
EX23 - parish hall general expenses	5,393.61	-	-	-	5,393.61	5,292.87
EX24 - church development	-	850.00	-	-	850.00	12,000.00
Other expenditure Totals	8,465.58	1,490.00	490.00	-	10,445.58	21,811.27
Expenditure Grand totals	152,129.68	1,490.00	5,544.97	-	159,164.65	177,629.76

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024:

These accounts are produced by the online version of Finance co-ordinator, Myfundaccounting, to which we have just transferred under the umbrella of the diocese in conjunction with 90 other parishes.

This is the first full year these have included accrual accounting, which is required for income over £250,000 which we hope to achieve during 2025 due to the church development.

This process apportions some income and expenditure around the year end to the relevant year and makes the accounts more exact than a pure receipts and payments account.

Overall picture, including all funds.

In this we have a surplus of £34,476.

This is a considerable improvement on last year when our expenditure on 2 capital projects and the architect's fees took us into a deficit of £23,604.

This surplus is explained by donations for the church development, individual generous donations and also the receipt of 2 legacies, this latter totalling £14,000.

These numbers can be a bit misleading as they include both income and expenditure, also capital raising hence the large swing from 2023 to 2024. Our true trading position is more clearly illustrated by concentrating on the General Fund.

The general fund

This is our working business fund.

We have paid our parish share in full which we have done every year since Covid. The sum is £89,655 which is the highest in the Chester Deanery.

We had an unexpected and exceptional debt on the account this year of approximately £6,000. This related to an error by the Council which for a number of years gave us an inappropriate single person discount on the rectory rates since Stefan took up residence.

Throughout the year we had hoped to show a small surplus. This charge took us to the wrong side of the line so we show a small deficit of £3,143 despite generous donations.

Specifically in the general fund:

The funerals and weddings net income is £12,394, an increase from £11,400. It is good that these services are offered to the people of our community.

Our standing orders are markedly increased from £54,600 to £59,300. We have 24 “friends” standing orders and 70 to the general fund. The response to our appeal this autumn to endeavour to have enough regular income to support paying the parish share has been very heartening.

Our digital giving is in fact reduced this year, sumup (our website giving) £625, £270 of which is from the pew QR codes, the contactless terminal accepting £1,730. This may be partly explained by the increase in standing orders.

PH income has increased leaving us with a surplus of £4,000, an increase from £2,800 cp last year. Many thanks are due to the hard work of Maria Norbury. Unfortunately, there are often significant expenses maintaining this property.

The Friends

They have funded the one significant capital expenditure on roof repairs for the church, £3,790. They continue to make steady progress and this year have had an income of £8,917.

Looking forward.

Our major expenditure is on the parish share.

Due to a re-banding exercise by the diocese where the 2021 census has been used, our allocated share for 2025 is 1.15 rather than 1.25.

The total annual payment is £84,995, a reduction of £4,660 from 2024 figure of £89,665.

The effect of this and taking into account the generous response of the congregation, means that for the first time in several years we hope to be able to pay the full share allocated to us each month rather than scraping it together and taking money out of reserves at the end of the year.

This is an immensely reassuring position in which to find ourselves as we begin the drive to fundraise for our church development which finally this autumn was given the go ahead by the diocese.

This will be an incredible opportunity for ourselves and the community to achieve this renewal project to restore the church to the hub of the community and improve its accessibility to and hospitality for everyone in the parish. May we all rise to the challenge!

Once again, I particularly thank the stewardship group for their support, in particular John Norbury, but also Nigel Seddon for his work on the gift aid claims, so essential for our work.

Elizabeth A McClure, PCC Treasurer.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT:

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members / Trustees of the Parochial Council of St James' Parish Church

We report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

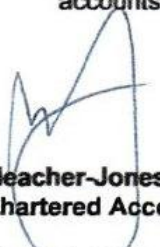
Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Meacher-Jones
Chartered Accountants

6 St John's Court
Vicars Lane
Chester
CH1 9E

30 April 2025

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

There have been three Deanery Synod meetings in 2024.

12th February. The meeting was held at St. Mark's Church, Lache cum Saltney and introduced by Revd Hennie Johnston the vicar and Rural Dean.

St. Mark's parish now only has one church – there used to be a church in Wales (St. Matthew's which burnt down). Part of the parish is in Wales.

The parish is a mix of deprived and more affluent areas. The church has a Debt Advice Centre, a library and a doctor's surgery.

The speaker was Dr Alan Downen (lay chairman). We were asked to look into the Diocesan Vision and what it would mean for parishes. We looked at how parishes would manage if there were no clergy to run them. There are fewer stipendiary clergy now in the Diocese and this will have to be addressed in the future.

10th June. The meeting was held at St. John the Evangelist Ashton Heyes and introduced by Dr Alan Downen.

Elections for people to stand for Diocesan Synod had been disappointing from the Laity side as there had only been two nominations for the six places, while there were nine nominations for Clergy.

St John the Evangelist includes Mouldsworth and Horton-cum-Peel and underwent major redevelopment in 2020 which was curtailed due to Covid. Pews were removed and the floor taken up. Diocese permission to remove the pews took 10 years but the church is now fully refurbished with toilets and a kitchen. It can function as a cafe-style church when required and is used as a community centre due to its new layout.

Jon Pocock, the speaker for the evening looked at the four main points of Diocese Vision Strategy:

1. Looking to save the 1.5 million in our Diocese.
2. Increasing Missional Outreach.
3. Planting Missional Communities.
4. Developing Missional Leadership.

7th October. The meeting was held at St. James' Christleton.

The meeting was opened by Revd Hennie Johnston the Rural Dean. She thanked everyone for coming and The Revd Dr Stefan Collier for hosting. She mentioned that there is to be a Bishop's visit for the Churches in the Chester Deanery.

Anne Stockdale, Safeguarding Officer for St. Michael's Plas Newton warned of a scam regarding DBS's.

Revd Stefan spoke on the subject of "The most boring Deanery Synod talk you will ever hear" – the Government of the Church of England. His talk included a quiz which enabled people to join in groups from different parishes – some knew a lot and some did not! Stefan presented some slides.

All meetings closed with prayer. A service of Holy Communion was held at the conclusion of this meeting.

Bettie Gilliatt

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT:

The PCC has continued to meet regularly throughout 2024 as the leadership group of St James. As well as the existing Mission Groups of Stewardship, Faith and Worship, Communications and Partnerships, a new Church Development Group has been formed since the permission for the Church Development plan was given the go-ahead.

The Belt and Braces Group which the Partnerships Group set up has continued to flourish, meeting fortnightly at the 'Stute' for coffee and chat. Despite fewer collectors, the Christian Aid house to house collection raised £2,600 augmented by David Cummings' talk on beautiful locations in his native Wales. The Summer Teas led by Churches Together in Christleton was well supported by the community raising just over £2000 for the Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire Blood Bikes charity.

For the second year running the PCC ran a tombola stall at Christleton Village Fete thus contributing to a lively community event and raising money for village organisations. As a church we continue to explore ways of reaching out to the community.

Jocelyn Plate, PCC Secretary.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT:

In the past twelve months Safeguarding in the C of E has rarely been out of the headlines of the British Press. Unfortunately all too often not in a positive light. Evidence of past cases of abuse and victims of abuse speaking out as to how they have been treated. In addition some high profile individuals who have been 'shielded' from being exposed for the historic abuse they inflicted on vulnerable individuals. Whilst we acknowledge these past events, and the ongoing work to help those affected there are many nationwide initiatives ongoing to make our churches safer places for all.

I am reporting on Safeguarding at St James', Christleton as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

BUT

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We are closely following the advice and guidelines as laid out in the 'Safeguarding e-manual' which is found on <https://www.churchofengland.org>.

In addition within the Safeguarding section there is House of Bishops' Safeguarding Guidance and Safeguarding Code of Practice. There are now a wealth of resources and details of campaigns relating to Safeguarding on the website.

Parish records were transferred in January 2023 to a safeguarding web application. This application was designed by Rev. Dr. Stefan Collier, and the associated database contains all DBS and safeguarding records.

- DBS records and training records of the clergy who officiate at St James are managed by the Diocese.
- At present twenty-three lay members of St James 'have DBS certificates and depending on their roles within the church community they will have completed the various training courses as required by The House of Bishops.
- The application gives us a central point of access and allows reports of DBS and training renewals.
- Effective safeguarding training is one of the main elements to drive the ambition to make a safer and healthier Church. There is a comprehensive programme of training for all members of the clergy. There are also specific courses for the lay community and the range of roles they may cover in church activities.
- The majority of the safeguarding training courses are delivered via the internet and are valid for three years. If an individual is still in office longer than three years their DBS and training courses need to be renewed. Once a person has taken up a role then the relevant Safeguarding courses need to be completed within 6 months. If the training is not completed within the 6 month 'window' they will be asked to step down.

- Safeguarding courses available to lay members are:
Basic Awareness
Foundation
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
Safer Recruitment and People Management
Modern-day Slavery and People Trafficking
and
Leadership Pathway
- There are links to 'Safe Spaces – 'safespaces@firstlight.org.uk. This is a website for Supporting Survivors of Church-related Abuse.
- 'Promoting a Safer Church' are posters that give information of who to contact and how, when anyone has a concern about safeguarding. Copies of the poster are displayed on church, parish hall, churchyard and car park noticeboards.
- Eleven members of the PCC have Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) as do other members of the church community who have direct contact with members of the public. (Pastoral groups, Visiting, Youth Activities).
- At the same time, the parish has engaged with the safeguarding dashboards and is at level 3 currently.
- The safeguarding web application will be superseded by a safer recruitment web application in 2025 (same author) which will provide for the comprehensive management of volunteers in the church and their associated DBS and safeguarding records.
- Safeguarding will remain a standing item on the agenda of all PCC meetings.

Ann White, Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Lead Recruiter.

FOODBANK REPORT:

PCC report 2025 on West Cheshire Foodbank for the year 2024

West Cheshire Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together to combat hunger in our local area. It is part of a nationwide network of 2,818 food banks in the UK.

St James' Church became involved in the scheme in 2013 and has continued ever since. Donations of food are left in the box at the back of church, to which are attached details of the Bank the Food app. This is an innovative app, providing information from our local West Cheshire Food Bank about food items most urgently required.

The amount of food last year donated from St James' was 1845.62 Kgs - an increase of almost 200 Kgs on the previous year - for which I thank you, on behalf of the Foodbank and users.

However, food donations to our local Foodbank are down which means that currently food supplies are having to be purchased, which is clearly not sustainable. Thus, it would indeed be excellent if we, at St James Church, could make a substantial increase in the coming year, either through food or financial donations, as we hold in our hearts our fellow human beings, less fortunate and privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship.

Chris Alderton

LUNCHEON CLUB REPORT:

I'm very tempted to say 'See the reports for the last few years', but the St James' monthly Luncheon Club has been growing and developing through 2024 (and into 2025). Started in January 2014 it meets every 3rd Monday and gets around 50 diners, and sometimes 60. The themed Christmas and January lunches are particularly busy. Not only an increase in 'guest' numbers, but we also have a growing team of helpers – about 20 in total. This means the burden of catering and running the lunches, and complying with hygiene regulations, all of which is hard work, is spread around.

We get accolades from those who come - about how they've enjoyed the fantastic food, fun and the fellowship. The meals continue to be provided free and the diners' generosity in optionally and anonymously donating money towards costs means that there is a surplus. In 2024 we made a total cash surplus of over £1,700, which the PCC retains. Card donations and gift aid reclaims make this even more.

For 2025 we look forward to the Parish Hall acoustics being improved in March which will enable easier conversations, especially for those who are a bit hard of hearing.

Thanks to all who help and all who come. This outreach and service to the community is a key mission of St James' Church and we hope that our Luncheon Club continues well into the future.

Brian Inall

YOUTH WORK REPORT:

The youth ministry team met for a morning in the library at Chester Cathedral in January '24 to review the past year and agree a way forward for our young families.

It was agreed that the provision of Sunday school running concurrent with the 10:30 service is not attracting young families, with none attending on many Sundays.

It was agreed a fresh approach was required and the following was decided:

- 1) 'big' events throughout the year. These would require significant people resource and widespread advertising, including social media. It would, however, give us the opportunity to reach out to those who wouldn't otherwise come to a more 'distinctive' church service.
The first event was an Easter Egg hunt affording the opportunity to tell the easter story. This reached out to over 40 families. A churchyard nature count, nativity village trail and crib service were planned for the remainder of the year.
These events will be repeated in '25 with the addition of a pancake party and possibly an event around harvest.
- 2) Pending the development of the church which will give more flexibility and opportunity to provide for youngsters during worship and at other times, it was agreed that the creche would be made more child friendly, reviewing/renewing books and toys this is work in progress.

Revd Tina Lightfoot, Assistant Curate.

ARK COMMUNITY BABY AND TODDLER GROUP - 2024

Ark meets every Friday morning in term time. Each week there are three leaders who set up, chat to carers, play with children, serve hot drinks and homemade cakes or biscuits to the adults, tell the story and lead the singing. The team of leaders meets during the preceding holiday to plan the whole term and decide what craft activities would be suitable. We have a team of 9 leaders who take it in turns on a rota as well as others who help with the baking and Victor and Ann who turn up every week to wash up and help with the clearing up. Kim sorts and provides the materials for each week's craft activity.

The children range in age from babes in arms to rising 4 year olds and that varies considerably each week so we're never sure whether the story and/or craft activity will be suitably age appropriate. So flexibility with our plans is essential!

As ever, if anyone would like to become involved and help with Ark then please do talk to me.

Elizabeth Inall

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP REPORT: (Nov 2022- end October 2023)

Following the constraints after the Covid 19 pandemic, and several other factors, the BSG team no longer exists in the way that things were envisaged and carried out between 1992-2020. David & Beryl now carry out administrative tasks with the support of Marj Keech & the Rector. Sympathy cards are sent out to families approximately 4 weeks after a funeral, and in September each year an invitation is sent out to the bereaved families to attend the annual All Souls Service at St James.

2023-24	There were 34 bereavements. Services at St James: 26 Services elsewhere: 8 Committal at St James: 19 Committal elsewhere: 15
2024-25	There are 9 bereavements to date. Services at St James: 9 Committal at St James: 5 Committal elsewhere: 4

Beryl & David Cummings

BELL RINGERS' REPORT:

The Ringer's AGM was held on 28-01-2025. The outcome of the leadership election was as follows.

Position	Elected
Tower Captain	Nikki Dromgoole
Deputy Tower Captain	Ian Braithwaite
Treasurer	Ian Braithwaite
Secretary	Mary Cowen

During 2024 there has been an increase in the number of ringers for Sunday services up from 7.1 to 8.9 per service. This has enabled us to ring the full eight bells more times than 2023.

Safeguarding

The Tower Captain (TC) and deputy TC attended a Safeguarding for Leaders course at Diocesan House in Daresbury in November 2024. Now St. James's tower is safeguarding compliant. Additionally, we have implemented the sign in book for every session, as recommended by the Diocesan safeguarding Officer.

Funds

For the bellringers account to remain in a positive position, the ringers have agreed on some cost cutting measures. Primarily, individuals will now pay for their own Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers membership. This is £12 per annum for each ringer. Given the number of ringers there are now, this will be a significant saving. Also, a donations box has been placed in the Ringing Chamber to encourage visiting ringers to contribute to funds.

Learning & Development

Extra teaching sessions have been scheduled during 2025. Our goal is to increase the number of methods that we can ring at Christleton and therefore remove the reliance on a few experienced ringers, to sustain the practice of bellringing at St. James. Additionally, one of our ringers has been successful in gaining a place on the Hereford Ringing course which offers a four-day intensive learning program for various methods.

Nikki Dromgoole, Tower Captain.

On behalf of the PCC

The Revd Dr Stefan Collier
(Chairman)

Jocelyn Platel
(Hon Secretary)

St James' Church, Pepper Street, Christleton. CH3 7AG

Telephone (Rector): 01244 335663

Telephone (Administrator): 07487 642912

Email: office@stjameschristleton.org.uk

Website: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

Facebook: [@stjameschristleton](https://www.facebook.com/stjameschristleton)



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRISTLETON

England & Wales - Charity number 1133992

Accounts

PARISH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the Parish of Christleton

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Rector: The Reverend Dr Stefan Collier



Church: St James

Parish Office: St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG
Bankers: Santander

Charity Registration Number: 1133992



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ROLES AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

St James Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has financial and maintenance responsibilities for St James.

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

Since the APCM of April 2023 the following have served as members of the PCC:

Rector (ex-officio)	Revd Dr Stefan Collier
Assistant Curates (ex-officio)	Revd Tina Lightfoot Revd Rob Croft (left the parish June 2023)
Churchwardens (ex-officio) Elected annually.	Bettie Gilliatt Mike Lightfoot
Deanery Synod Members: This church may appoint up to 3 lay people as Lay Deanery Synod representatives and they become ex-officio on the PCC (if not already on PCC). They are appointed for a three year fixed term. (Current fixed term: 2023-2026)	Bettie Gilliatt Chris Platel John Norbury
Elected PCC members: This church may have 12 elected PCC members based on our current Electoral Roll size. Members are elected for a 3 year term, maximum of two consecutive terms (ie: 6 years) * Member will have completed 6 years at the 2024 APCM.	Sheena Cumiskey (elected: 2018 & 2021) * Brian Inall (elected: 2018 & 2021) * Keith Smalls (elected: 2018 & 2021) * Martin Thompson (elected: 2020) (resigned) Pat Powell (elected: 2022) John Norbury (elected: 2022) Jan Bowden (elected: 2023) (resigned) Joce Platel (elected: 2023) Alastair Holland (elected: 2023) Lesley Morgan (elected: 2023) Elizabeth McClure (elected: 2023) Ann White (elected: 2023) Two PCC positions are now vacant.
Co-opted PCC members: Co-opted by the PCC for 1 year. Maximum of 2.	None

PCC Appointments	
PCC Treasurer (appointed annually)	Elizabeth McClure
PCC Secretary (appointed annually)	Jocelyn Platel
Electoral Roll Officer (appointed annually)	Marj Keech
Safeguarding Officer (appointed annually)	Ann White

Parish Appointments	
Employed Director of Music	Bob Jones

MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETINGS held at 12.00 pm on 23rd April 2023:

22 people attended the meetings.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS (Vestry Meeting)

Nominations had been received for Bettie Gilliatt (Proposed by Mike Lightfoot and seconded by Liz McClure) and Mike Lightfoot (Proposed by Bettie Gilliatt and seconded by Sheena Cumiskey). No other nominations had been received and therefore these two Churchwardens were elected unanimously without the need for a vote. Stefan thanked Bettie and Mike for their tremendous work during the past year. He also thanked Sheena for stepping in to provide temporary cover while Bettie recovered from her recent operation. The meeting closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Stefan advised that Information Packs had been available containing the agenda, previous minutes, reports etc.

Stefan offered Opening Prayers.

1: Apologies: Apologies received from: John and Sue Eccles, Carl Cumiskey, David and Beryl Cummings, Elizabeth and Brian Inall, Liz McClure, Hazel and Martin Thompson, Cindy Wilcox, Ann White.

2: Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 16th May 2021. These were approved as a true record to be signed by Stefan.

3: Matters Arising: There were none.

4: Reports:

- **Rector's Report** – SC reflected that when he wrote his report, as on previous occasions in his earlier life, he experienced the sense that moments which can feel unexceptional are frequently transformed into thankfulness and a sense that the Lord is alongside him. The Church Development Plan is now in its 4th year. Progress is slow but there is movement forward. He thanked Marj, our voluntary administrator, for her efficiency and good humour, the PCC for their continued passion and commitment, Keith Smalls and Ken Rivers on CDG for their continuing work behind the scenes. SC commended the work of the ministry team who complement each other so well and serve alongside the community. He wanted to thank those in the church community who get on with no fuss: Maria (PH), Lesley M (pastoral), John M (verger) the choir and many others.
- **Churchwardens' Report** – ML commented that the payback team are only able to come every three weeks so we may need to pay for help to maintain the churchyard, even with the help offered by members of the community. TL suggested the community could become more involved in the churchyard management which would link to the environmental report.
ShC commended the work and commitment of the churchwardens; her insight had been much increased while engaged in her temporary role.
- **Treasurer's Report** – SC offered his grateful thanks to LMC and JN for using their gifts of wise decision-making and clarity of reporting in the way they oversee the church accounts.
In the absence of LMC, JN drew attention to two notable achievements:
 - 1) the completion of the AV project, an important aspect of the CDP.
 - 2) the replacement of the boiler in the PH paid for by grants, donations and by the efforts of CA and Fundraising activities.

JN drew attention to the fact that we are struggling to pay the Parish Share at 1.25% on our current level of income and can really only sustain paying at 1.05% though we did pay back last year's deficit. ML suggested we can only keep digging into reserves for about another two years. We really need to increase regular income, largely through Standing Orders. Richard K asked about the consequences of not paying the full PS. One would be not having a full-time rector if SC leaves. Also the consequences impact elsewhere in poorer parishes; the current system aims to redistribute wealth. BG commented that giving in Birkenhead is higher than in Christleton-linking to gospel accounts of the generosity of the poor, acknowledging the generosity of God's love

to us. The link between payment and our need for support from the diocese for our Development Plan was mentioned. TL pointed out that we do receive help from diocese eg Safeguarding training, churchwarden training. It is incumbent upon us to do our best and make wise choices about our spending but these are challenging times. CP pointed out that with our CA appeal we are asking people to give more and it is largely the same section of the parish community. PP raised the issue of using collection plates on the occasion of baptisms etc. There was general support for this.

- **Deanery Synod** – TL felt there should be more opportunity for vision from parish level upwards.
- **PCC Report** – SC commented that apart from the spiritual input afforded by PCC there is much to be grateful for in the practical contributions of groups such as the bellringers and the Friends whose contribution to maintenance is much appreciated.
- **Electoral Roll** – there is a 6% increase since the last APCM . This reflects some new members of the church community. At the same time contact has been lost with some, especially those who are housebound. SC stated that the ER should reflect the worshipping community. CP pointed out that eligibility for those outside the parish is different from those who reside inside it. There are misunderstandings which are best clarified through conversations. SC emphasised it is all about relationship and conversation. Jan B suggested this could be explained on one of the information sheets produced by Communications Group. It was generally welcomed as a good idea.

5: Elections and Appointments:

- **Deanery Synod:** BG will remain as a representative; CP will replace JP who has completed a six year term; JN offered to become another representative.
- **PCC:** Christine Abrams and Chris Platel have completed their terms of office. Stefan thanked them both for the gifts that they have given.
JP (proposed by Marj Keech, seconded by Pat Powell) was duly nominated as secretary.
LMC (proposed by Keith Smalls, seconded by Ken Rivers) was duly nominated as treasurer.

There were three nominations for new members: Alistair Holland (proposed by Chris Platel, seconded by David Bull); Jan Bowden (proposed by Mike Lightfoot, seconded by Chris Platel); Lesley Morgan (proposed by Mike Lightfoot, seconded by Jan Bowden). All three were elected unanimously.
- **Appointment of Auditor:** It was unanimously agreed (proposed by ML seconded by RC) that Meacher-Jones should continue as our Auditor for 2023 so LMC to contact them.
There was unanimous acceptance of the accounts (proposed by CP, seconded by ShC).

6: Any Other Business: TL thanked SC for his spiritual leadership and encouragement and guidance to the church community. These gifts were endorsed by all those present.

John Milton spoke of his love of the role of vergers on a voluntary basis and thanked the churchwardens and others for their help in supporting him.

ShC raised the issue of the CDP and how we can move forward with this to assure the future life of our church. SC acknowledged it was difficult to find the time for all the administrative documents. The removal of pews is the contentious issue. A resubmission with more evidence will be made. Maria N asked why, when there is precedence elsewhere, is it so difficult to obtain agreement here. Response: we are a Butterfield church, though there are other Butterfield churches where pews have been removed.

TL offered thanks to AW for her leadership on Safeguarding. We have a high threshold on Safeguarding in this parish. The meeting closed with prayers led by Stefan at 1.35pm.

REPORTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023

RECTOR'S REPORT 2024:

The church spends most of its time in so called ordinary time. Of which there are two periods¹. First, a short time between the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (29 Jan) and Ash Wednesday (22 Feb) which marks the beginning of Lent. Second, a longer time after Pentecost (28 May) until, say, Advent (3 Dec). On the one hand, nothing especial is happening. On the other hand, the formation of a faith community through the ordinariness of its worship sees the creation of thin spaces for God to burst through the ordinary and go on transforming his creation of which we are all a part and invited to share.

Perhaps this captures something of our shared journey this last year. An ordinary journey of love, recalling a snippet of one of U.A. Fanthorpe's love poems to her partner Rosie Bailey, 'Atlas'.

'There is a kind of love called maintenance
.....;which upholds
The permanently rickety elaborate
Structures of living, which is Atlas²'.

Our structures of living, which is Jesus.

On the one hand, nothing especial has happened. On the other hand, we have witnessed with the community raising funds for Christian Aid's Empowering Left Behind communities as you will wonderfully read elsewhere in this report. We have paid attention to our worship as a means of being formed into the likeness of Christ. We have welcomed Christ in the other as we celebrated together the King's coronation. The ordinary has been the ether of the extraordinary goodness of God.

And I am thankful, as always, for both the ordinariness and extraordinariness of our common life this last year; for the leaders of St James, its many volunteers, members, partners across the communities we serve, and those who live among us and regularly reveal to us the ordinary and extraordinary face of Christ. Thank you.

The coming year, which of course, we are deep into at the time of writing this report will bring more of the same – yes: We will welcome. We will worship. We will witness. The extraordinary mystery, goodness, and saving love of Jesus will continue to shine in the darkness. We will hear the words of Jesus and do our best to act on them, be like the wise woman who built her house on rock. "The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock" (Matthew 7.24-25).

With my love and prayers,
Stefan

¹ Note the date change annually.

² <https://www.best-poems.net/u-a-fanthorpe/atlas.html>

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT:

Bettie and Mike were re-elected Wardens at the Meeting of the Parishioners in April 2023. They would like to thank everyone who stood in for them in times of absence during that period.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE:

The churchyard remains in good order. Our re-wilding scheme is now in its fifth year. The areas covered are to the west of the tower and the north side of the church. The national church has endorsed this policy of maintaining God's acre. Last year's Chelsea flower show also endorsed re-wilding.

Overall maintenance is undertaken by a Community Payback team who generally come once a week, sometimes twice a month. They trim and cut grass and maintain paths in the wilder areas. We are truly grateful for this. A working party takes place once a month which is supported by members of the church and the wider community. When the weather allows we occasionally hold a barbecue for the workers.

We encourage the local community to come and walk, chat and sit in the churchyard. Dog walkers are most welcome: water is usually available for thirsty pets by the porch door. We look forward to another year maintaining and caring for our wonderful environment.

FABRIC AND MAINTENANCE REPORT FOR 2023:

Some time ago it was noted that the clerestory windows were showing signs of rust but it was not possible to address the issue as the pews do not allow access to them. That may change in the future.

The AV system has proved a very useful tool and is now generally well-received by all.

The repairs carried out two years ago to the lych gate are holding up well and especially in the recent very wet summer and winter; the new guttering on the south side has been of great benefit.

Paul Forrest, an invaluable member of the maintenance team, sadly died during the year. He had begun the task of painstakingly cleaning the stained glass windows which has had to be put on hold for now, awaiting the attention of another dedicated volunteer! The new Millennium window protection which was discussed has not been proceeded with as yet.

The annual inspection of the Church roof was carried out in September. Valleys and gutters were cleaned and slipped slates re-bedded. Due to frequent bad weather more work will have to be done this coming year.

GOODS AND ORNAMENTS: The Church Property Register is up to date. The goods and ornaments belonging to the Church were accounted for. The next audit is due in March.

RISK ASSESSMENTS: Risk assessments are prepared for events operated by the Church both in the Church and the Parish Hall.

All portable electrical appliances in the Church including cables used to connect appliances, were checked by our designated electrical firm. This is done annually.

The security alarm system has occasionally malfunctioned, sensors being “triggered” but returning to “normal” again. The system is undoubtedly old and outdated but it is thought that to leave it until other work is done is the best option.

The gas boilers, which occasionally struggle to maintain a workable temperature in the coldest of weather, have been serviced. In accordance with Historic England guidance for listed buildings, we try to maintain the ambient temperature between 8 and 12 degrees Celsius.

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTION: The inspection took place on 21st April 2023 by Tony Barton of Donald Insall Associates (Architects).

SUMMARY: “Christleton St. James is extremely well-cared for by the Church community who display obvious care for a wonderful Church, Butterfield’s only Cheshire church.

The only real advice here is to keep up the good work and to maintain the annual regime of gutter cleaning clearance and pay a bit of attention to the external stonework especially low-level masonry”.

The detailed report is in the vestry and an electronic version available on application to a Churchwarden.

A list of works completed 2017-2023 is also available.

PARISH HALL: The complete heating system recently installed is a great improvement even if energy costs have risen steeply. The hot water system in the kitchen is much more efficient.

All Church volunteers providing food for events now have Food Hygiene qualifications.

A section of guttering on the Pepper Street side is broken. The roofing company has been asked to provide an estimate to replace – awaiting this.

The men's toilets still await a decision on upgrading/repairing the urinals and wall plaster.

Bettie Gilliatt and Mike Lightfoot

ST JAMES' CHRISTLETON END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDING 31 DEC 2023

INTRODUCTION:

These accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, although next year we will move to accounting including accruals. This is relevant to our income and expenditure both at present and projected.

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	—	3,034	—	—	3,034	2,647
Income from charitable activities	122,038	1,500	7,522	—	131,061	134,041
Other trading activities	12,016	—	—	—	12,016	12,375
Investments	1,629	629	198	—	2,457	1,084
Other income	4,428	—	—	—	4,428	3,960
Total income and endowments from:	140,112	5,163	7,720	—	152,997	154,109
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	898	—	—	—	898	—
Expenditure on charitable activities	129,228	3,522	20,660	—	153,411	151,392
Other expenditure	8,571	13,721	—	—	22,292	27,667
Total expenditure on:	138,697	17,243	20,660	—	176,601	179,059
Net income / (expenditure)	1,414	(12,079)	(12,939)	—	(23,604)	(24,950)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	8,762	—	195	—	8,957	1,799
Gross transfers between funds - out	(195)	(8,762)	—	—	(8,957)	(1,799)
Net income / (expenditure)	9,981	(20,841)	(12,744)	—	(23,604)	(24,950)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	9,981	(20,841)	(12,744)	—	(23,604)	(24,950)
Total funds brought forward	10,448	53,114	26,311	—	89,875	114,826
Total funds carried forward	20,430	32,273	13,566	—	66,270	89,875
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	20,430	—	—	—	20,430	10,448
Designated						
Audio-Visual project	—	—	—	—	—	12,284
car park land trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
choir	—	581	—	—	581	581
hymnbooks	—	—	—	—	—	—
legacy/church development	—	31,427	—	—	31,427	39,763
parish hall refurbishment	—	(1,112)	—	—	(1,112)	(891)
rectory decorating	—	—	—	—	—	—

window protection	—	1,377	—	—	1,377	1,377
Restricted						
Egerton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Friends of St James	—	—	100	—	100	12,540
bellringers	—	—	1,744	—	1,744	2,082
car park	—	—	—	—	—	—
chancel	—	—	3,000	—	3,000	3,000
charitable	—	—	96	—	96	96
churchyard	—	—	667	—	667	634
heating/boiler	—	—	—	—	—	—
parish hall refurbishment	—	—	—	—	—	—
rector D prof	—	—	—	—	—	—
restoration	—	—	5,363	—	5,363	5,363
sunday school/messy church	—	—	2,594	—	2,594	2,594

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
CA1	current account	12,598	12,681
CA2	savings account	—	—
CA3	CBF investment account	51,659	75,202
CA4	petty cash	—	—
	Total Current assets	64,258	87,883
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	(2,012)	(1,991)
Z04	Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	(2,012)	(1,991)
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	66,270	89,875
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(23,604)	(24,950)
Z01	Starting balances	89,875	114,826
	Total Reserves	66,270	89,875
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	20,430	10,448
	Designated	32,273	53,114
	Restricted	13,566	26,311
	Endowment	—	—
	Total	66,270	89,875

Statement of assets and liabilities

	This year	Last year
Cash at bank and in hand		
current account		
Friends of St James (Restricted) -	100	5,472
bellringers (Restricted) -	1,744	2,081
charitable (Restricted) -	96	96
churchyard (Restricted) -	667	37
legacy/church development (Designated) -	2,034	1,497
parish hall refurbishment (Designated) -	(1,112)	(891)
window protection (Designated) -	1,377	1,377
General fund (Unrestricted) -	9,703	5,001
Agency collection (Restricted) -	(2,012)	(1,991)
	12,598	12,681
Total for Cash at bank and in hand	12,598	12,681

Investments

CBF investment account

Audio-Visual project (Designated) -	—	12,284
Friends of St James (Restricted) -	—	7,068
bellringers (Restricted) -	0	0
chancel (Restricted) -	3,000	3,000
choir (Designated) -	581	581
churchyard (Restricted) -	—	597
legacy/church development (Designated) -	29,393	38,265
restoration (Restricted) -	5,363	5,363
sunday school/messy church (Restricted) -	2,594	2,594
General fund (Unrestricted) -	10,726	5,446
	51,659	75,202

Total for Investments **51,659** **75,202**

Agency accounts**Agency collections**

Agency collection (Restricted) -	2,012	1,991
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Total for Agency accounts **2,012** **1,991**

Grand total **66,270** **89,875**

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Journals	Closing
AVP - Audio-Visual project							
Designated	12,284	—	3,522	(8,762)	—	—	—
Sub-total for AVP	12,284	—	3,522	(8,762)	—	—	—
EG - Egerton							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for EG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FRIENDS - Friends of St James							
Restricted	12,540	7,559	20,000	—	—	—	100
Sub-total for FRIENDS	12,540	7,559	20,000	—	—	—	100
HB - hymnbooks							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HB	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
LCD - legacy/church develo							
Designated	39,763	3,663	12,000	—	—	—	31,427
Sub-total for LCD	39,763	3,663	12,000	—	—	—	31,427
PHRest - parish hall refurbis							
Designated	(891)	1,500	1,721	—	—	—	(1,112)
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PHRest	(891)	1,500	1,721	—	—	—	(1,112)
RDProf - rector D prof							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for RDProf	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
bells - bellringers							
Restricted	2,082	—	337	—	—	—	1,744
Sub-total for bells	2,082	—	337	—	—	—	1,744
carpark - car park land trust							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carpark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
carparkres - car park							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carparkres	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
chancel - chancel							
Restricted	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	3,000
Sub-total for chancel	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	3,000
charit - charitable							
Restricted	96	—	—	—	—	—	96

Sub-total for charit	96	—	—	—	—	—	96
choir - choir Designated	581	—	—	—	—	—	581
Sub-total for choir	581	—	—	—	—	—	581
churchyd - churchyard Restricted	634	161	323	195	—	—	667
Sub-total for churchyd	634	161	323	195	—	—	667
heating - heating/boiler Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for heating	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
rectdec - rectory decorating Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for rectdec	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
rest - restoration Restricted	5,363	—	—	—	—	—	5,363
Sub-total for rest	5,363	—	—	—	—	—	5,363
ssmessy - sunday school/messy Restricted	2,594	—	—	—	—	—	2,594
Sub-total for ssmessy	2,594	—	—	—	—	—	2,594
windprot - window protection Designated	1,377	—	—	—	—	—	1,377
Sub-total for windprot	1,377	—	—	—	—	—	1,377
General - General fund Unrestricted	10,448	140,112	138,697	8,567	—	—	20,430
Sub-total for General	10,448	140,112	138,697	8,567	—	—	20,430
Grand total	89,875	152,997	176,601	—	—	—	66,270

Analysis of receipts and payments

					Total	
Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year	

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

IN10 - legacy	—	3,034	—	—	3,034	2,647
IN16 - mistaken entry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	3,034	—	—	3,034	2,647

Income from charitable activities

IN01 - collections	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN02 - envelope scheme	3,467	—	—	—	3,467	5,221
IN03 - gift aid env	1,598	—	—	—	1,598	2,230
IN04 - funerals and weddings	19,267	—	—	—	19,267	23,742
IN06 - parish magazine	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN07 - standing orders	50,607	—	4,065	—	54,672	48,953
IN08 - HMRC	20,392	—	1,650	—	22,043	18,041
IN14 - donations	26,706	1,500	1,807	—	30,013	35,845
IN17 - clergy fee reimbursement	—	—	—	—	—	7
IN20 - general exp reimbursement	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN23 - CH ELEC REIMB	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	122,038	1,500	7,522	—	131,061	134,041

Other trading activities

IN05 - parish hall	11,746	—	—	—	11,746	11,742
IN19 - land rent	270	—	—	—	270	585
IN22 - PH ELEC REIMB	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN24 - REIMB PH GAS	—	—	—	—	—	48

Total	12,016	—	—	—	12,016	12,375
Investments						
IN09 - investment acct interest	1,629	629	198	—	2,457	1,084
Total	1,629	629	198	—	2,457	1,084
Other income						
IN11 - fundraising	4,382	—	—	—	4,382	3,960
IN12 - insurance repayment	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN13 - BT way payment	45	—	—	—	45	—
IN15 - rectory exp reimb	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN18 - church gas reimb	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN21 - VAT RECLAIM	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4,428	—	—	—	4,428	3,960
INCOME TOTAL	140,112	5,163	7,720	—	152,997	154,109

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

EX11 - parish magazine	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX26 - f/r exp	898	—	—	—	898	—
Total	898	—	—	—	898	—

Expenditure on charitable activities

EX01 - Church gas	2,944	—	—	—	2,944	2,607
EX02 - Church electricity	1,331	—	—	—	1,331	1,560
EX03 - Church salaries	4,361	—	—	—	4,361	3,980
EX04 - church insurance	4,381	—	—	—	4,381	4,006
EX05 - church building maintenance	680	—	—	—	680	—
EX06 - churchyard maintenance	2,743	—	20,323	—	23,066	6,619
EX07 - clergy expenses	3,042	—	—	—	3,042	3,154
EX08 - weddings/funerals	7,885	—	—	—	7,885	10,356
EX12 - messy church	—	—	—	—	—	33
EX14 - parish share	85,424	—	—	—	85,424	84,020
EX15 - rectory expenses	4,368	—	—	—	4,368	4,135
EX19 - church water	54	—	—	—	54	46
EX20 - church gen expenses	12,009	—	—	—	12,009	12,613
EX21 - church fabric maintenance	—	—	337	—	337	—
EX22 - choir expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX25 - AVproject	—	3,522	—	—	3,522	18,257
Total	129,228	3,522	20,660	—	153,411	151,392

Other expenditure

EX09 - parish hall salaries	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen	199	1,721	—	—	1,920	12,981
EX13 - car park maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX16 - parish hall gas	849	—	—	—	849	404
EX17 - parish hall electricity	800	—	—	—	800	4,797
EX18 - parish hall water	475	—	—	—	475	656
EX23 - parish hall general expenses	6,246	—	—	—	6,246	6,115
EX24 - church development	—	12,000	—	—	12,000	2,711
Total	8,571	13,721	—	—	22,292	27,667
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	138,697	17,243	20,660	—	176,601	179,059

GRAND TOTAL	1,414	(12,079)	(12,939)	—	(23,604)	(24,950)
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Note to the accounts:

For the first time our investment interest for the final 3 months of the year has not been included due to a change in the systems at CCLA.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023:

As noted initially, these accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis, although 2024 accounts will move to accounting including accruals, planning for potentially increased expenditure.

The General Fund – our working fund.

Thanks to generous donations this has come in with a positive balance of £1,415, despite having paid a large top up recently to bring us to our full (1.25) parish share payment. Our regular income does not support this end result. We rely on one-off (generous) donations which are unpredictable.

Total funds position

The overall figures show a deficit of £23,604. This is mainly caused by capital project expenditure, much of which funding comes from accumulated reserves in funds created for this purpose, some from specific fundraising during the year and some from our general fund monies.

3 major projects this year:

1. The AV fund - £3,522 – adding a digital mixer
2. The Development Project - £12,000 on architect's fees.
3. The Paths Project (North Side) - £22,700.

Total Assets:

Summary of change	2021	£114,800
	2022	£89,900
	2023	£66,300

The reduction from 2022 to 2023 reflects the total Funds outcome above.

Comparisons with last year:

Looking at 2023 only, on a Receipts and Payments the figures are as follows:

1. Standing orders, £48,000 last year, are now £54,600. This is reassuring and may be partly explained by our communication this year with the electoral roll members regarding our finances.
2. Our HMRC refund this year is up by £4000, reflecting our giving.
3. The net income from Weddings and Funerals is down from £13,400 to £11,400
4. Parish Hall net income is £2,800 this year compared with a slight loss last year but we did have an anomalous electricity bill and boiler failure then. Many thanks to Maria Norbury for her work on this, including the new PA system which improves our facility for the community.
5. The general donations are down but we did have incredible individual generosity the previous year.
6. Fundraising is marginally down.
7. Income from Gift Aid envelopes and blue regular giving envelopes are down. I suspect this reflects the reduced use of cash.
8. In support of the reduced use of cash, the contactless terminal has attracted £2260 this year as opposed to £1935 in 2022.

Website (included recent QR code) on the other hand has accepted £1740 as opposed to £2260 last year.

Overall, our digital giving is stable at approx £4000 but it is hoped that the QR codes recently introduced to the pews will be helpful for visitors especially.

The Friends of St James Church Building:

This restricted fund supports our church building and grounds. Over the year income totalled £7,560 which with accumulated reserves enabled the Friends to support the Paths expenditure to the tune of £20,000. Thanks go to the

chairman John Norbury and in particular a new Friend, Mike Stuart, who funded and organised a full parish leaflet drop in October. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 26th.

My thanks in particular are to John Norbury and our stewardship group for their fantastic support and oversight over the year, also to Nigel Seddon who regularly meets with me and claims our Gift Aid from HMRC, let alone checking any anomalies in my figures.

Elizabeth McClure, Treasurer. 25.1.24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT:

The Independent Examiner's letter to go in here

FOODBANK REPORT:

PCC REPORT 2024 ON WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK:

West Cheshire Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together to combat hunger in our local area. It is part of a nationwide network of 2,818 food banks in the UK.

St James' Church became involved in the scheme in 2013 and has continued ever since. Donations of food are left in the box at the back of church, to which are attached details of the Bank the Food app. This is an innovative app, providing information from our local West Cheshire Food Bank about food items most urgently required.

In the current financial year, there has been a 15% increase in demand locally - this equates to 7800 referrals, covering 11,000 adults and 5,000 children. Some of the inner-city foodbanks have seen an almost doubling in demand over this winter.

Perhaps the most worrying statistic is that in this same period we have seen locally over 2000 brand new referrals from people (many in work) who have not had to use us before.

The amount of food last year donated from St James' was 1652 Kgs, - over a ton and a half of food - for which I thank you, on behalf of the Foodbank and users.

However, food donations to our local Foodbank are down by about 15% which means that currently food supplies are having to be purchased to the tune of over £5000 per month, which is clearly not sustainable. Thus, it would indeed be excellent if we, at St James Church, could make a substantial increase in the coming year, either through food or financial donations, as we hold in our hearts our fellow human beings, less fortunate and privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship.

Warmly
Chris Alderton

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, NEWTON May 2023:

The meeting was opened by Revd Hennie Johnston the Rural Dean.

Revd Pete Rugan introduced the meeting to the Parish which began as a sister church to All Saints Hoole. It has a Sunday School, scout groups and other clubs. Since Covid, numbers are increasing on Sundays but many are still cautious. Currently they have no youth or children's worker.

The speaker was Revd Mike Loach – his subject was Eco Church and how churches in the Diocese could get involved. General Synod approved a move towards carbon zero by 2032.

The Cathedral now has solar panels on the roof and these have been blessed by the Dean and the Bishop.

Environmentalism is one of the 5 marks of mission and the energy footprint of parishes can be completed on the Church's website.

The charity Roche has an Eco Church scheme which gives gold, silver and bronze awards to parishes.

DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT ST. PETER'S AT THE CROSS, CHESTER October 2023:

The meeting was opened by the Revd Hennie Johnston, the Rural Dean.

Revd Jonathan Phillips told the meeting about the Church which is a place of worship, a place to pray, to eat and to meet. Night Church is also run from here. Sign language is used at services, a cafe is open five days a week and run by volunteers.

The speaker was Dr Alan Downen the Lay Chair and Reader at Ashton Hayes. He gave a talk about Achieving the Vision after a report which had been facilitated by the Diocese – Together in Christ. Four themes shape a mission strategy: Growing braver, fuller faith: Blessing 1.5 million lives one at a time: Transformative loving service: Engaging locally, working together.

The meeting broke into groups to discuss the strategy. Feedback showed the Church has great experience of people with different gifts and learning from other parishes, from House Groups, Bible Study, Coffee Mornings and other group meetings.

Bettie Gilliatt

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT:

The PCC has continued to work through its 4 designated Mission Groups. The evidence of the Stewardship's efficient management of the church's finances is shown in the accounts published in this document. Faith and Worship has brought initiatives to our spiritual growth including the experimental Morning Worship services on the first Sunday of the month. Communications has continued to produce newsletters which have been delivered to most houses in the parish. Partnerships has set up Belts and Braces for men at the 'Stute'.

However, the highlight of 2023 must be the raising of over £15,000 by the community, including the High School, for the Christian Aid Empowering Minority Communities in Bangladesh Appeal. As this sum is matched x5 by the EU it should have a real impact! A lot of hard work organising fund-raising events went on: a craft fair, garden tea party, slide shows, quiz, concerts, a BBQ, an Indian meal but it was wonderful to see so many from the local community coming together to support a good cause.

Jocelyn Platel (PCC Secretary)

PARISH HALL REPORT:

2023 has been a steady year in terms of maintaining the number of hours hired out to regular and occasional hirers. We could do with more regular hirer hours to reverse what has been a downward trend since Covid, but we do not receive many enquiries for regular hire slots. It has also been a steady year in terms of spend on general maintenance.

As a follow up to the new central heating system in 2022, the loop system was re-instated, and a wireless PA system was installed rather than re-instating the wired system with plug-in microphones. This turned out to cost more than expected because we needed a new amplifier. We have had good feedback from hirers in respect of the new central heating system, Wi-Fi, PA and loop systems and they like using our hall.

Maria Norbury

LUNCHEON CLUB REPORT:

The St James' monthly Luncheon Club has been running since January 2014 and so has completed 10 years. We offer free lunches but are grateful for donations towards costs. 2023 was begun with the traditional Burns lunch complete

with haggis and a piper, and rounded off by the usual splendid Christmas lunch in December. A lot of hard work goes into running these lunches which are well supported. Fortunately, we have many volunteers to share the load.

Our lovely diners were as generous with their donations as usual and for 2023, after expenses, we were able to give a staggering £1,727.16 back to the PCC, and also give £325 in May to Christian Aid for our highly successful Bangladesh project. The odd amount to the PCC is caused by the new St James' financial system starting in 2024 which means that Luncheon Club no longer holds a float and all expenses are now paid directly from the PCC.

Thanks to all who help and all who come. This outreach and service to the community is a key mission of St James' Church and we hope that Luncheon Club continues well into the future.

Brian Inall

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT:

Though we have lost six members of our community from the electoral roll in the last 12 months the number registered by the end of December 2023 had risen slightly from 182 to 186. As with last year, the new registrations have come mainly from our church community.

Marj Keech

YOUTH WORK REPORT:

The Ark Play and Praise Parent and Toddler Group

The group continues to meet on Friday mornings in term time. It is a haven for parents and children alike. It is supported by several members of our worshipping community but more help would be welcome.

Lighthouse Sunday Club

Children of primary school age are invited to come along and get to know Jesus through play and bible stories. It runs concurrent to the Sunday 10.30 service and culminates with the children joining the main congregation where they share what they have learnt. The leadership is shared between a few members of the worshipping community (more offers of help welcome).

We continue to struggle to attract young families to join us and are praying for growth over the coming year.

Baptisms

It was a joy and a privilege to baptise 4 children during 2003

Save the Family Unit

Our relationship with the Save the Family unit continues to deepen. In addition to attending their coffee morning weekly, the unit have made a room available to us on a monthly basis to facilitate one to one confidential, pastoral conversations with residents and staff.

We were also able to offer a Christingle service and a crib service in December, both of which were well supported and appreciated.

Primary School

Our relationship with the primary school continues to deepen. We hold regular assemblies and also offer occasional lessons as part of their timetable. In addition, certain year groups visit the church as part of their curriculum and services are held in the church for and by the school at for Harvest thanksgiving and Christmas Carol service.

Rev'd Tina Lightfoot, Assistant curate

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP REPORT: (Nov 2022- end October 2023)

Bereavements in 2021-2022

Anniversary Cards sent; 31

Nov 2022-October 2023

Bereavements connected to St James' Church; 37

Services at St James' Church; 26

Services at another Church; 2

Services at Chester/Vale Royal Crem; 14

Burial at St James' Churchyard; 14

Burial of ashes in Churchyard; 11

The analysis is taken from All Souls Service Invitations Nov 2022 to Oct 31st 2023

Beryl & David Cummings

SAFEGUARDING REPORT:

"The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all."

The statement above is taken from the document, 'Promoting a Safer Church', first published by the Church of England in 2017. Safeguarding is all our responsibility. We at St James' work hard to make everyone welcome, we also need to work towards making our church a safe place for all. In recent years a lot of resources, structures and training have been put in place with the aim to show us all how we can play our part in safeguarding.

We are closely following the advice and guidelines in The Parish Safeguarding Handbook – published 2018. This has now been out of print for two years and we await the updated version.

- Since the last report to the APCM all safeguarding records including all DBS certificates (Disclosure and Disbarring Service) records are no longer kept in paper format but on St James' Database. This was designed and implemented by Rev. Dr. Stefan Collier. Parish records were transferred in January 2023.
- DBS records and training records of the clergy who officiate at St James are managed by the Diocese.
- At present twenty-one lay members of St James' have DBS certificates and depending on their roles within the church community they will have completed the various training courses recommended by The House of Bishops.
- All people involved in church activities under the umbrella of St James' Church have a card stating what to do and who to contact when they feel there is a potential safeguarding issue.
- The majority of the safeguarding training courses are delivered via the internet.
- There is a link to 'Safe Spaces' – safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk. This is a website for Supporting Survivors of Church-related Abuse.
- 'Promoting a Safer Church' are posters that give information of who to contact and how, when anyone has a concern about safeguarding. Copies of the poster are displayed on church, parish hall, churchyard and car park noticeboards.
- Eleven members of the PCC have Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Clearance as do other members of the church community who have direct contact with members of the public. (Pastoral groups, Visiting, Youth Activities).

- Effective safeguarding training is one of the main elements to drive the ambition to make a safer and healthier Church. There is a comprehensive programme of training for all members of the clergy. There are also specific courses for the lay community and the range of roles they may cover in church activities.
- If we all are to take on board our individual responsibilities towards safeguarding and making St James' a safe place for all, we should at least complete the Basic Awareness Course. To give access to all who may be interested it is planned to make the Basic and Foundation courses open to all within the next year.
- Safeguarding will remain a standing item on the agenda of all PCC meetings.

Ann White (Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Lead Recruiter)

BELL RINGERS' REPORT:

TOWER CAPTAIN'S REPORT FOR THE CHRISTLETON BELL RINGERS FOR THE YEAR 2023:

The Ringer's AGM was held on 23-01-2024. The outcome of the leadership election was as follows.

Position	Elected
Tower Captain	Nikki Dromgoole
Deputy Tower Captain	Ian Braithwaite
Treasurer	Ian Braithwaite
Secretary	Mary Cowen

Ringling Development

Last year's recruitment drive meant that we gained seven new ringers and throughout 2023 there has been a programme of intensive training to progress them to a Sunday ringing standard. We have added extra sessions for the ringers that need more time to develop their skill. To minimise the impact of these sessions on our neighbours, we have implemented a noise reduction solution. The extra ringers enabled us to ring all eight bells for the King's coronation on 6th May 2023. Additionally, we can ring eight bells more regularly, on practice nights and for services.

Accounts

There has been a reduction in income due to fewer weddings and fewer visiting ringers. Whilst the accounts show a positive balance, it has been noted that individual ringers are covering costs of certain expenditure projects. The ringers need to maintain a positive balance to prepare for future capital expenditure such as replacement ropes and bell stays. The ringers are currently exploring how to generate income to make sure we can pay for necessary expense when it arises.

Nikki Dromgoole

On behalf of the PCC

**The Revd Dr Stefan Collier
(Chairman)**

**Jocelyn Platel
(Hon Secretary)**

Parish Office, St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG

Telephone: 01244 325529

Email: office@stjameschristleton.org.uk

Website: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>



Accounts

PARISH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the Parish of Christleton

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Rector: The Reverend Dr Stefan Collier



Church: St James

Parish Office: St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG

Bankers: Santander

Charity Registration Number: 1133992



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ROLES AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

St James Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has financial and maintenance responsibilities for St James.

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

Since the APCM of April 2022 the following have served as members of the PCC:

Rector (ex-officio)	Revd Dr Stefan Collier
Assistant Curates(ex-officio)	Revd Tina Lightfoot Revd Rob Croft
Churchwardens (ex-officio) Elected annually.	Bettie Gilliatt Mike Lightfoot
Deanery Synod Members: This church may appoint up to 3 lay people as Lay Deanery Synod representatives and they become ex-officio on the PCC (if not already on PCC). They are appointed for a three year fixed term. (Current fixed term: 2020-2023)	Bettie Gilliatt Jocelyn Platel
Elected PCC members: This church may have 12 elected PCC members based on our current Electoral Roll size. Members are elected for a 3 year term, maximum of two consecutive terms (ie: 6 years) * Member has completed 6 years. # Member has completed 3 years.	Christine Abrams (elected: 2019 & 2022) Chris Platel (elected: 2017 & 2020) * Sheena Cumiskey (elected: 2018 & 2021) Brian Inall (elected: 2018 & 2021) Keith Smalls (elected: 2018 & 2021) Martin Thompson (elected: 2020) # Pat Powell (elected: 2022) John Norbury (elected: 2022) Four PCC positions have been vacant.
Co-opted PCC members: Co-opted by the PCC for 1 year. Maximum of 2.	Elizabeth McClure Ann White

PCC Appointments	
PCC Treasurer (appointed annually)	Elizabeth McClure
PCC Secretary (appointed annually)	Jocelyn Platel
Electoral Roll Officer (appointed annually)	Chris Platel
Safeguarding Officer (appointed annually)	Ann White

Parish Appointments	
Employed Director of Music	Bob Jones

MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS held at 12.30 pm on 22nd May 2022

27 people attended the meetings.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS (Vestry Meeting)

Nominations had been received for Bettie Gilliatt (Proposed by Liz McClure and seconded by John Norbury) and Mike Lightfoot (Proposed by Keith Smalls and seconded by Christine Abrams). No other nominations had been received and therefore these two Churchwardens were elected unanimously without the need for a vote. Stefan thanked Bettie and Mike for their tremendous work during the past challenging year. The meeting closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Stefan advised that Information Packs had been available containing the agenda, previous minutes, reports etc. Stefan offered Opening Prayers.

1: Apologies: Apologies received from: John and Sue Eccles, Sheena and Carl Cumiskey, Victor and Ann Parfremment, Olga Clayton, Ann White.

2: Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 16th May 2021. These were approved as a true record to be signed by Stefan. Bettie drew attention to a correction needed on P5 where the word thermo coupling should read thermocouple.

3: Matters Arising: The Parish Hall boiler is now completely defunct and requires replacing.

4: Reports:

- **Electoral Roll** – Chris Platel said the numbers on the Roll were 172. The list should be displayed in the church porch; Chris will do this. Brian Inall pointed out that it could be published electronically.
- **PCC Report** – there were no comments.
- **Finance**- Covid still impacted on finances in 2021 but Liz confirmed that income exceeded expenditure mainly because of the generosity of those who donated regularly by SO and through the envelope scheme which made it less stressful for her. She registered her thanks for these donations and for the £10k legacy received. The contactless terminal has contributed £1,200. Thanks were due to Nigel Seddon for administering the envelope scheme.
- Liz thanked John Norbury and the Stewardship Group for their support. The Friends have paid for the new notice boards. There will be a shortfall in the funding needed for a new boiler for the PH and the work on the churchyard paths so extra fundraising will be needed. It would be good to extend the Friends scheme. Bettie was praised for her tenaciousness in securing funding. She will be aiming to secure more funding but highlighted timing can be tricky. Also thanks are due to Maria Norbury for her sterling work in making a profit of £4362 for the PH.

The absence of questions/comments was testimony to Liz's efficiency and management. Brian asked if we could use collection plates again now and Stefan confirmed it was now permissible.

- **Fabric** – The repairs to the lychgate have been completed but cost £1000 more than the quote because the services of a new stone mason had to be sought. The churchyard paths urgently need attention and repair. The PCC has now approved for this to go ahead. The stained glass windows are generally in a good state of repair but need cleaning- a delicate and painstaking task so volunteers will be needed. Brian pointed out that the new AV equipment needs to be added to the maintenance audit; it has been added to the insurance policy.
- **Deanery Synod** – no comments.
- **Churchwardens' Report** – on behalf of both wardens Mike thanked the congregation for their support during the restrictions imposed by Covid. He thanked the payback team for their huge contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard. They would normally make a charge but because of the hospitality they receive at St James this has been waived. Mike purchased a new mower and strimmer for their use at a cost of about £900. The team is down in size at the moment, in terms of both workers and supervisors. Mike thanked Martin Thompson

for taking over the administering of the foodbank donations and acknowledged the work done by Chris Alderton previous to this. The outcome of the Archdeacon's visitation in December was that he was highly complimentary; SC emphasised how much work had been done prior to this visit to ensure its success. Mike and Bettie planted wild flowers in the churchyard yesterday.

- **Rector's Report** – Stefan communicated his sense of joy at living within and being animated by God's mission here; the vision we are working towards has some degree of alignment with the vision of the national church of being simpler, humbler and bolder. Our plans for developing the church building as a missional centre of the community, in use daily rather than weekly, will probably take at least three years: much is entrusted to us, much demanded. It is so important that we are growing our experience and our understanding of following Jesus together; we all have a unique role to play in contributing to the mission at St James. Stefan identified Tina and Lesley for their response to the call to follow the ministry of Jesus; the bellringers for their regular commitment and particularly for ringing a quarter peal to mark the Beating the Bounds yesterday; he paid tribute to the work of the churchwardens and John Milton as verger; the PCC members for the important work being undertaken; the reformed choir; the ministry team with whom we are blessed with especial thanks to Rob; our administrator, Marj; Brian for all his work on the AV installation and his challenging questions; the many volunteers, around 60-70, who help with refreshments, intercessions, readings etc. It would be good to have a party every year to thank all these volunteers.
- Martin raised the issue of reinstating the shared cup at communion. New advice from C of E is that the common cup could be reintroduced which has caused consternation in some parishes. A discussion of how to proceed is on the PCC agenda. Chris Platel asked if there was an intention to return to the midweek communion. Stefan suggested the new ministry introduced by Lesley may become a replacement for that but it is too early to know yet. Liz pointed out there were new volunteers to help with the monthly luncheon club which is a positive. Christine Abrams said she felt more optimistic about the future of the parish than she did ten years ago, thanks to Stefan and his positive impact on the rest of us. Tina pointed out that progress has been made with children's ministry through the Ark and Lighthouse in engaging some young parents though there is a need for more volunteers.

5: Elections and Appointments:

- **Deanery Synod:** Bettie and Joce will continue in this role until 2023 when there will be elections.
- **PCC:** Paul Forrest has come to the end of his term as a member of PCC but will continue his supportive role with Fabric and Maintenance. Ann White has also completed her term but will continue in her role of Safeguarding Officer. Charlie Bolley has resigned from PCC as she is expecting a baby this summer. Stefan thanked all three for all that they had done.
There were two nominations for new members, John Norbury (proposed by Liz McClure and seconded by Bettie Gilliatt) and Pat Powell (nominated by Chris Abrams and seconded by Bettie Gilliatt). Both were elected unanimously.
- **Appointment of Auditor:** It was unanimously agreed (proposed by LMC, seconded by BI) that Meacher-Jones should continue as our Auditor for 2022 & Liz said she would contact them.
There was unanimous acceptance of the accounts (proposed by DC, seconded by CA).

6: Any Other Business: SC announced that he was working on an internal electronic system to manage the PCC's responsibilities and workload.

It was agreed that it is desirable to hold the APCM earlier in the year, closer to the time and events recorded in the document so next year the aim is to hold the meeting in February. Brian proposed that we hold a church meeting with lunch to which we invite the community where we publicise what is going on and discuss the mission of the church.

The meeting closed with prayers led by Stefan at 1.45pm.

Signed (Rector) Date

REPORTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In reflecting on 2022, I called to mind the following incomplete list of highlights. These, and other highlights (of which there are many) noted in the reports that follow, testify wonderfully to the way in which we are living out our vocation to worship, welcome, and witness in the communities we serve.

- We have undertaken dedicated teaching around prayer (Feb/Mar), the Eucharist (Mar), the book of Romans (Jun/Jul), and Living in Love and Faith (Mar/Apr).
- We have piloted a vocation development course in the parish (Sept), and ran a confirmation class for candidates (Oct/Nov).
- We have developed and implemented major technological solutions to register church services (Jan) and manage administration services (including safeguarding, pastoral offices, pastoral visiting, and electoral roll) in the parish (c. Feb - Jul). At the same time, we have developed and implemented a community social network for use (Jul).
- We have offered key community events through the year, among them: Beating the Bounds (May), the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee (June), running a code club in the local primary school (Sept-Nov), and later, sadly, events to commemorate the Queen's life and death (Sep).
- We have progressed the church development project with the submission of a faculty for permission, and received feedback from key stakeholders. At the same time, the long overdue (on account of COVID) installation of the Audio-Visual (AV) system took place (Feb through Nov).
- We reviewed, revised, and implemented a new Parochial Church Council (PCC) governance structure (Jul – Nov) which is bearing fruit in how we communicate, worship, partner with others, and steward our God given resources.
- We continue to collect and donate significant amounts of food to families and individuals who are facing food insecurity.
- We welcomed with joy the ordination of Tina Lightfoot as deacon and Assistant Curate of the parish (Jul).

There is, as you can see, so much to be thankful for. May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our leadership (ministry colleagues and PCC), volunteers, members, and those we partner with who have worked tirelessly to make our church community a welcoming and supportive place. A community which serves as a focal point and catalyst for the transformation of the communities we serve through prayer, praxis, and proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to the coming year with great optimism and hope to the new creation the Lord is continuing to reveal among our communities with and without us, and am confident that, through our collective abiding in Christ and letting his love become our own, we will grow in the transformation of God's world of which we are a precious part. Thank you.

With much love,

Stefan - Rector, Christleton

St James Parish Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030

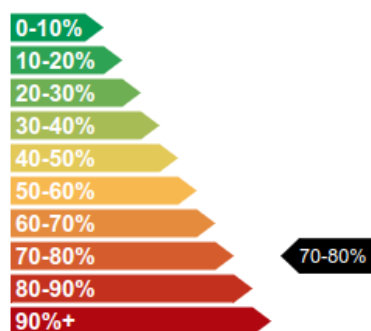
Challenges include	Solution	Date to be achieved
Heating/Lighting	Switched to Green Tariff for gas and electricity	Done
Eco Church	Registered Bronze Award Silver Award Gold Award	Achieved Apr/May 2024 Dec 2027 Dec 2030
Carbon Footprint Calculated	Carbon Footprint Tool	Completed 2022 submission, see below.
Annual report to APCM on progress with environmental issues		Apr/May 2023
Churchyard environmental improvements, including biodiversity	Caring for God's Acre consultation Installed bug hotel in churchyard, West End Rewilding parts of churchyard	Dec 2024 Done Done/in process
LED lights installed		Done where possible (to be confirmed)
Energy Efficiency	Maintenance of the building especially drains and gutters Drafts dealt with Insulation installed	On annual drains/gutters contract N/A
Theological input	Services/small groups include appropriate messaging Designed sermon series for Creationtide (2022) – interrupted by death of monarch	Sept 2024
Travel to church	Plan for clergy Walk to church Sunday	N/A N/A @ this time
Individuals driving change identified		
Liturgical opportunities	Environment Sunday (4 June 2023; nearest Sunday to World Environment Day) Climate Sunday (in Creationtide) Rogation Lammas Harvest	4/6/23 Celebrated annually Celebrated annually - Celebrated annually

Carbon Footprint

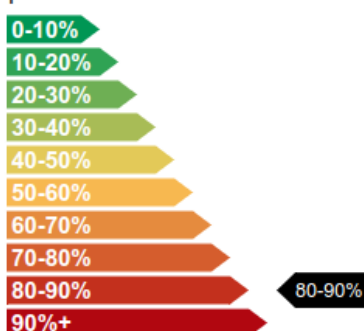
	This Year	Last Year
Gross CO ₂ emissions (Tonnes) ?	10.1	11.0
Net CO ₂ emissions (Tonnes) ?	8.5	11.0
Renewables and offsets: non-accredited (tonnes)	8.9	-

Weather Adjusted Energy Efficiency

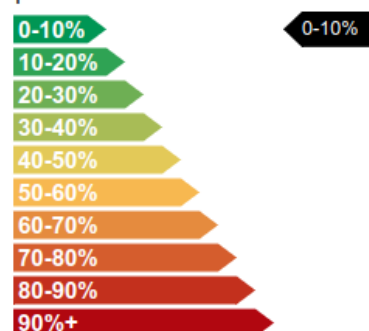
Net CO₂ Percentile



Emissions/sq metre adjusted percentile band



Church usage adjusted percentile band



The three bands above are intended to give you a perspective on whether your church emits "a little" or "a lot" of carbon, taking into account the size of the building and its pattern of usage

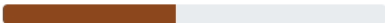
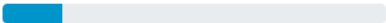
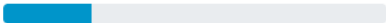
The first figure highlights where your net footprint lies relative to other churches within the Church of England. A score of 0-10% puts you in the 10% of churches with the smallest footprint, while a score of 90%+ means you are in the 10% of churches with the largest footprint.

The second figure highlights where your net footprint lies relative to other churches once we take into account the size of the building.

The third figure highlights where your net footprint lies relative to other churches once we take into account how many people typically make use of the building, and how long the building is open for

	This Year	Last Year
CO ₂ emissions per m ² ?	22.9	22.4

St James Environmental Award Progress – A Rocha

Worship and Teaching  Gold You've answered 10 of 10 questions. Fill in this section	Buildings  Silver You've answered 30 of 33 questions. Fill in this section ☒ Is your church responsible for the premises in which it meets?	Land  Bronze You've answered 16 of 16 questions. Fill in this section ☒ Does your church have influence over any land? This includes church gardens, car parks, paved areas, flower-beds or planters, churchyards.
Community and Global Engagement  No Award You've answered 27 of 27 questions. Fill in this section	Lifestyle  No Award You've answered 15 of 15 questions. Fill in this section	

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT:

Fabric and Maintenance.

The PCC agreed to the installation of a new boiler and radiators in the Parish Hall. The work was completed late summer early autumn. Thanks to everyone involved in this project, especially Maria Norbury who worked tirelessly along with Connor.

Regular maintenance checks were undertaken on the Church roof, fire extinguishers, and security system. New sensors may have to be fitted to the security system in the coming months.

Three cycle stands were erected in the parish hall car park at no cost to the church.

Churchyard Maintenance.

Following extensive consultation, two large trees were cut down in the churchyard. These were on the north side of the church. We have had planted two native hornbeams in Littleton copse.

The community payback team stopped maintaining the grounds towards the end of the year. The organisation is short of supervisors. We are hopeful of their return in 2023.

Mike Lightfoot.Churchwarden.

The financial reports for 2022 now follow in 3 sections: (i) Financial Statements; (ii) Treasurer's Report
(iii) Independent Examiner's Report:

ST JAMES' CHURCH CHRISTLETON – END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDING Dec 31, 2022

Introduction:

These accounts are produced on a receipts and payments basis by the programme Finance Co-ordinator, as in the previous 5 years so are directly comparable. Accrual accounts and full audit is not required at our income level.

Receipts and Payments Account

	Total funds	Prior year funds
AVP - Audio-Visual project (Designated)		
Income and endowments		
Income from charitable activities		
IN14 - donations	—	19,293
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>19,293</i>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
EX25 - AVproject	18,257	423
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>18,257</i>	<i>423</i>
Other expenditure		
EX24 - church development	1,954	3,058
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,954</i>	<i>3,058</i>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(20,212)	15,811
Brought forward balance	32,496	—
Transfers to/(from)	—	16,685
Carried forward balance	12,284	32,496
EG - Egerton (Restricted)		
Brought forward balance	1,441	2,882
Transfers to/(from)	(1,441)	(1,441)
Carried forward balance	—	1,441
FRIENDS - Friends of St James (Restricted)		
Income and endowments		
Income from charitable activities		
IN07 - standing orders	3,555	330
IN08 - HMRC	1,006	2,500
IN14 - donations	2,326	12,354
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<i>6,887</i>	<i>15,184</i>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
EX05 - church building maintenance	—	4,734
EX06 - churchyard maintenance	3,900	897
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>3,900</i>	<i>5,631</i>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	2,987	9,553
Brought forward balance	9,553	—
Carried forward balance	12,540	9,553
HB - hymnbooks (Designated)		

Brought forward balance		—	—
	Carried forward balance	—	—
LCD - legacy/church development (Designated)			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
IN10 - legacy		1,647	10,000
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>1,647</i>	<i>10,000</i>
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
EX24 - church development		756	1,127
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>756</i>	<i>1,127</i>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		890	8,872
Brought forward balance		38,872	—
Transfers to/(from)		—	30,000
	Carried forward balance	39,763	38,872
PHRest - parish hall refurbishment (Designated)			
Income and endowments			
Income from charitable activities			
IN14 - donations		2,075	—
	<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<i>2,075</i>	<i>—</i>
Other trading activities			
IN05 - parish hall		24	—
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>—</i>
Other income			
IN11 - fundraising		3,558	864
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>3,558</i>	<i>864</i>
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen		12,367	1,362
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>12,367</i>	<i>1,362</i>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(6,709)	(498)
Brought forward balance		5,818	6,316
	Carried forward balance	(891)	5,818
PHRest - parish hall refurbishment (Restricted)			
Brought forward balance		—	—
	Carried forward balance	—	—
RDProf - rector D prof (Restricted)			
Income and endowments			
Income from charitable activities			
IN08 - HMRC		—	750
	<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>750</i>
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
EX07 - clergy expenses		—	750
	<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>750</i>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		—	—
Brought forward balance		—	—
	Carried forward balance	—	—

bells - bellringers (Restricted)**Income and endowments**

Income from charitable activities
IN14 - donations

	350	—
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>—</i>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	350	—
Brought forward balance	1,732	1,732
Carried forward balance	2,082	1,732

carpark - car park land trust (Designated)

Brought forward balance	—	—
Carried forward balance	—	—

carparkres - car park (Restricted)

Brought forward balance	—	—
Carried forward balance	—	—

chancel - chancel (Restricted)

Brought forward balance	3,000	3,000
Carried forward balance	3,000	3,000

charit - charitable (Restricted)

Brought forward balance	96	96
Carried forward balance	96	96

choir - choir (Designated)

Brought forward balance	581	581
Carried forward balance	581	581

churchyd - churchyard (Restricted)**Income and endowments**

Income from charitable activities
IN07 - standing orders
IN08 - HMRC
IN14 - donations

	64	96
	30	100
	534	755
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<i>628</i>	<i>951</i>

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities
EX06 - churchyard maintenance

	2,719	889
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>2,719</i>	<i>889</i>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(2,090)	61
Brought forward balance	1,284	(217)
Transfers to/(from)	1,441	1,441
Carried forward balance	634	1,284

heating - heating/boiler (Restricted)

Brought forward balance	—	—
Carried forward balance	—	—

rectdec - rectory decorating (Designated)**Income and endowments**

Income from charitable activities
IN14 - donations

	—	200
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	—	200

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance
Transfers to/(from)

	—	200
	(358)	(558)
	358	—
Carried forward balance	—	(358)

rest - restoration (Restricted)**Income and endowments**

Income from charitable activities
IN14 - donations

	500	1,000
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	500	1,000

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities
EX05 - church building maintenance

	—	1,500
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	—	1,500

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance

	500	(500)
	4,863	5,363
Carried forward balance	5,363	4,863

ssmessy - sunday school/messy church (Restricted)**Expenditure**

Expenditure on charitable activities
EX12 - messy church
EX20 - church gen expenses

	33	109
	—	56
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	33	165

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure
Brought forward balance

	(33)	(165)
	2,627	2,792
Carried forward balance	2,594	2,627

windprot - window protection (Designated)

Brought forward balance

	1,377	1,377
Carried forward balance	1,377	1,377

General - General fund (Unrestricted)**Income and endowments**

Donations and legacies
IN10 - legacy

	1,000	—
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	1,000	—

Income from charitable activities

IN02 - envelope scheme
IN03 - gift aid env
IN04 - funerals and weddings
IN06 - parish magazine
IN07 - standing orders
IN08 - HMRC
IN14 - donations
IN17 - clergy fee reimbursement
IN20 - general exp reimbursement
IN23 - CH ELEC REIMB

	5,221	9,459
	2,230	955
	23,742	16,894
	—	159
	45,284	42,629
	17,004	18,294
	30,060	24,967
	7	—
	—	10
	—	46
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	123,550	113,416

Other trading activities

IN05 - parish hall	11,718	10,472
IN19 - land rent	585	45
IN22 - PH ELEC REIMB	—	142
IN24 - REIMB PH GAS	48	712
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>12,351</i>	<i>11,373</i>
Investments		
IN09 - investment acct interest	1,084	45
<i>Total Investments</i>	<i>1,084</i>	<i>45</i>
Other income		
IN11 - fundraising	401	300
<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>401</i>	<i>300</i>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
EX01 - Church gas	2,607	2,636
EX02 - Church electricity	1,560	966
EX03 - Church salaries	3,980	455
EX04 - church insurance	4,006	3,594
EX05 - church building maintenance	—	1,060
EX07 - clergy expenses	3,154	2,938
EX08 - weddings/funerals	10,356	9,082
EX12 - messy church	—	104
EX14 - parish share	84,020	81,303
EX15 - rectory expenses	4,135	5,950
EX19 - church water	46	45
EX20 - church gen expenses	12,613	7,254
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>126,482</i>	<i>115,392</i>
Other expenditure		
EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen	614	—
EX16 - parish hall gas	404	566
EX17 - parish hall electricity	4,797	833
EX18 - parish hall water	656	247
EX23 - parish hall general expenses	6,115	4,606
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>12,589</i>	<i>6,253</i>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(683)	3,488
Brought forward balance	11,439	54,637
Transfers to/(from)	(358)	(46,685)
Carried forward balance	10,398	11,439

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
CA1	current account	12,631	11,874
CA2	savings account	—	—
CA3	CBF investment account	75,202	101,117
CA4	petty cash	—	—
	Total Current assets	87,833	112,991
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	(1,991)	(1,834)
Z04	Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	(1,991)	(1,834)
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	89,825	114,826
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(25,000)	36,822
Z01	Starting balances	114,826	78,003
	Total Reserves	89,825	114,826
	Represented by funds		

Unrestricted	10,398	11,439
Designated	53,114	78,788
Restricted	26,311	24,598
Endowment	—	—
Total	89,825	114,826

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
current account -	4,951	1,983	5,696	—	12,631	11,874
Totals	4,951	1,983	5,696	—	12,631	11,874
Current assets - Investments						
CBF investment account -	5,446	51,131	18,623	—	75,202	101,117
Totals	5,446	51,131	18,623	—	75,202	101,117
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	(1,991)	—	(1,991)	(1,834)
Totals	—	—	(1,991)	—	(1,991)	(1,834)
Grand total	10,398	53,114	26,311	—	89,825	114,826

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Journals	Closing
AVP - Audio-Visual project							
Designated	32,496	—	20,212	—	—	—	12,284
Sub-total for AVP	32,496	—	20,212	—	—	—	12,284
EG - Egerton							
Restricted	1,441	—	—	(1,441)	—	—	—
Sub-total for EG	1,441	—	—	(1,441)	—	—	—
FRIENDS - Friends of St James							
Restricted	9,553	6,887	3,900	—	—	—	12,540
Sub-total for FRIENDS	9,553	6,887	3,900	—	—	—	12,540
HB - hymnbooks							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HB	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
LCD - legacy/church develo							
Designated	38,872	1,647	756	—	—	—	39,763
Sub-total for LCD	38,872	1,647	756	—	—	—	39,763
PHRest - parish hall refurbis							
Designated	5,818	5,657	12,367	—	—	—	(891)
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PHRest	5,818	5,657	12,367	—	—	—	(891)
RDProf - rector D prof							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for RDProf	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
bells - bellringers							
Restricted	1,732	350	—	—	—	—	2,082
Sub-total for bells	1,732	350	—	—	—	—	2,082
carpark - car park land trust							
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carpark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
carparkres - car park							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carparkres	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
chancel - chancel							
Restricted	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	3,000

Sub-total for chancel	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	3,000
charit - charitable							
Restricted	96	—	—	—	—	—	96
Sub-total for charit	96	—	—	—	—	—	96
choir - choir							
Designated	581	—	—	—	—	—	581
Sub-total for choir	581	—	—	—	—	—	581
churchyd - churchyard							
Restricted	1,284	628	2,719	1,441	—	—	634
Sub-total for churchyd	1,284	628	2,719	1,441	—	—	634
heating - heating/boiler							
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for heating	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
rectdec - rectory decorating							
Designated	(358)	—	—	358	—	—	—
Sub-total for rectdec	(358)	—	—	358	—	—	—
rest - restoration							
Restricted	4,863	500	—	—	—	—	5,363
Sub-total for rest	4,863	500	—	—	—	—	5,363
ssmessy - sunday school/messy							
Restricted	2,627	—	33	—	—	—	2,594
Sub-total for ssmessy	2,627	—	33	—	—	—	2,594
windprot - window protection							
Designated	1,377	—	—	—	—	—	1,377
Sub-total for windprot	1,377	—	—	—	—	—	1,377
General - General fund							
Unrestricted	11,439	138,388	139,071	(358)	—	—	10,398
Sub-total for General	11,439	138,388	139,071	(358)	—	—	10,398
Grand total	114,826	154,059	179,059	—	—	—	89,825

Analysis of receipts and payments

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

IN10 - legacy	1,000	1,647	—	—	2,647	10,000
Total	1,000	1,647	—	—	2,647	10,000

Income from charitable activities

IN02 - envelope scheme	5,221	—	—	—	5,221	9,459
IN03 - gift aid env	2,230	—	—	—	2,230	955
IN04 - funerals and weddings	23,742	—	—	—	23,742	16,894
IN06 - parish magazine	—	—	—	—	—	159
IN07 - standing orders	45,284	—	3,619	—	48,903	43,055
IN08 - HMRC	17,004	—	1,036	—	18,041	21,644
IN14 - donations	30,060	2,075	3,710	—	35,845	58,569
IN17 - clergy fee reimbursement	7	—	—	—	7	—
IN20 - general exp reimbursement	—	—	—	—	—	10
IN23 - CH ELEC REIMB	—	—	—	—	—	46
Total	123,550	2,075	8,365	—	133,991	150,794

Other trading activities

IN05 - parish hall	11,718	24	—	—	11,742	10,472
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IN19 - land rent	585	—	—	—	585	45
IN22 - PH ELEC REIMB	—	—	—	—	—	142
IN24 - REIMB PH GAS	48	—	—	—	48	712
Total	12,351	24	—	—	12,375	11,373
Investments						
IN09 - investment acct interest	1,084	—	—	—	1,084	45
Total	1,084	—	—	—	1,084	45
Other income						
IN11 - fundraising	401	3,558	—	—	3,960	1,164
Total	401	3,558	—	—	3,960	1,164
INCOME TOTAL	138,388	7,304	8,365	—	154,059	173,377

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on charitable activities

EX01 - Church gas	2,607	—	—	—	2,607	2,636
EX02 - Church electricity	1,560	—	—	—	1,560	966
EX03 - Church salaries	3,980	—	—	—	3,980	455
EX04 - church insurance	4,006	—	—	—	4,006	3,594
EX05 - church building maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	7,294
EX06 - churchyard maintenance	—	—	6,619	—	6,619	1,786
EX07 - clergy expenses	3,154	—	—	—	3,154	3,688
EX08 - weddings/funerals	10,356	—	—	—	10,356	9,082
EX12 - messy church	—	—	33	—	33	213
EX14 - parish share	84,020	—	—	—	84,020	81,303
EX15 - rectory expenses	4,135	—	—	—	4,135	5,950
EX19 - church water	46	—	—	—	46	45
EX20 - church gen expenses	12,613	—	—	—	12,613	7,310
EX25 - AVproject	—	18,257	—	—	18,257	423
Total	126,482	18,257	6,652	—	151,392	124,752

Other expenditure

EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen	614	12,367	—	—	12,981	1,362
EX16 - parish hall gas	404	—	—	—	404	566
EX17 - parish hall electricity	4,797	—	—	—	4,797	833
EX18 - parish hall water	656	—	—	—	656	247
EX23 - parish hall general expenses	6,115	—	—	—	6,115	4,606
EX24 - church development	—	2,711	—	—	2,711	4,185
Total	12,589	15,078	—	—	27,667	11,801
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	139,071	33,336	6,652	—	179,059	136,554
GRAND TOTAL	(683)	(26,031)	1,713	—	(25,000)	36,822

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The overall income and expenditure figures give a deficit of £25,000.

We have however spent £20,257 on capital projects.

The general fund figures give a deficit of £683. We had expected to dig further into reserves when the PCC resolved in November to pay additional payments to bring the parish share to our allocated 1.25, so although not good, it is not as bad as we had feared.

As you can see from the Assets and Liabilities sheet, we have less in our CBF investment account.

Comparison with last year is limited in view of the fact omicron had a significant effect on normal church life.

However, looking at income:

Envelope use has dropped from £9,400 to £5,200 – very few are using this method.

GA envelope use has increased from £955 to £2,230. This is important as it is from visitors or occasional attendees in general.

Standing orders have increased in both number and total from £42,600 to £45,200 (GF only)

Donations to the GF are up by £5,000 this year.

Fundraising has increased from £1,160 to £3,900 as the team has taken advantage of Covid recovery on the church's behalf

Our net Funeral and Wedding income has increased by £7,600 since last year.

The Parish Hall, if all the utilities' expenses are taken into account, has made a small loss of £831. However, some of the ridiculous electricity bill may well belong to last year and was due to the boiler failure.

The website has attracted donations totalling £2,260 – 30 donations

The contactless terminal has attracted donations of £1,935 – 255 donations

The Friends has been a very successful stewardship venture, with now 15 standing orders, the fund being augmented by some one-off donors. This now stands at £12,500. Projects are in hand, including part of the paths.

2 major capital projects have been undertaken –

AV installation is as yet not complete but has cost £18,257.

The PH boiler has been replaced and central heating system has been updated – £12,000.

Due to receipt of a grant of £1,500 on 5th January 2023 this has now been fully funded by fundraising, grants and previous donations, unfortunately not quite in the 2022 financial year.

The parish share for next year at 1.25, our allocated figure, is £85,425, £7118.71 pcm.

If this were to be funded from our regular giving, ie envelopes, gift aid envelopes, standing orders and the HMRC refund that would be £69,000, adding donations would make it £99,000 (this figure is less predictable, however).

As you see we are running increasingly close to the wind, with little to pay our expenses, salaries etc.

It is difficult to presume to make a recommendation but I suspect in view of the increasing costs of running the parish, we need to consider making the case to suggest an increase in regular giving of 5% or more which might allow us to break even on the general fund.

I am overwhelmed by the generosity, kindness and welcome of all those I have visited over the Christmas season – very, very many thanks to you all

I am, as always, much indebted to John Norbury and the Stewardship group for their support, also to Nigel Seddon who claims our gift aid from HMRC.

Elizabeth McClure 11.1.23.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT:

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members / Trustees of the Parochial Council of St James' Parish Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Meacher-Jones
Chartered Accountants**

6 St John's Court
Vicars Lane
Chester
CH1 9E

28 February 2023

FOODBANK REPORT:

West Cheshire Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together to combat hunger in our local area. It is part of a nationwide network of over 2,000 food banks in the UK.

Sadly, the need for Foodbanks has steadily increased over time. In the past year, there has been a 60% increase in need, the most significant being to supply single people who are in work but whose income is insufficient to meet daily needs. This is especially the case now during these extremely difficult and uncertain times with the enormous rise in the cost of living on so many fronts.

Fortunately, there has also been a heart-warming generosity resulting in an increase in both food and monetary contributions. The amount of food last year donated from St James' was 1339.3 Kgs, - over a ton and a quarter of food.

St James' Church became involved in the scheme in 2013 and has continued ever since. Donations of food can be left in the box at the back of church. Each month there is an updated list on the collection box at the back of church of the items that are particularly in short supply, as well as a 'help yourself' more general list of requirements.

I want to say a big thank you for your ongoing generosity on behalf of those who are so much less fortunate and privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship for so many of our fellow human beings.

Chris Alderton

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

The Deanery Synod met at St Philips, Kelsall on 28th February 2022. The topic for the evening was Healing Ministry and the speaker explored a range of ways in which healing can be administered.

The October meeting took place at All Saints, Hoole where the Outreach Director of Diocesan Mission, Rev Peter Froggart spoke about Bishop Mark's desire to achieve greater cohesion in the diocese.

Jocelyn Platel and Bettie Gilliatt.(Deanery Synod Representatives)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT:

This year the PCC undertook an evaluation exercise to identify strengths and weaknesses of how we function. A proposed Away Day to explore how leadership structures could be developed proved too difficult to achieve in the timescale. Therefore, an extended evening meeting in September was used to discuss the Governance Proposal for the future working structure of the parish.

The outcome of this was the setting up of four Mission Groups: Stewardship, Faith and Worship, Communication and Partnerships. These groups should meet within their own frameworks to decide on objectives and then report back to each PCC meeting. This is how the PCC has begun to function.

Jocelyn Platel (PCC Secretary)

PARISH HALL REPORT

Issues surrounding the heating system and specifically "the boiler" were finally resolved with the implementation of a new system supported by remote control mechanisms. The finance was covered by monies carried forward and some vigorous fund raising. This enhancement has greatly improved the experience for users of the hall. We are also able to offer a wi-fi service to our clients.

Maria Norbury

LUNCHEON CLUB REPORT:

The monthly Luncheon Club has been running since January 2014 and is a valuable outreach from St James' Church to the community. We offer free lunches but are grateful for donations towards costs. During the Covid pandemic we had to stop, but in 2022 lunches restarted from March, although omitting August when the Parish Hall was unavailable because of much needed heating works. So we met nine times in the year including a wonderful Christmas lunch.

Attendance was good, enthusiasm is high and donations were generous – so much so that we were able to give £1,000 back to the PCC for 2022. We have recruited new volunteers to the kitchen team and to those who set tables, serve, wash up and welcome our guests – so we are in a very healthy position going forward.

We are slightly re-branding from “Luncheon Club” to “St James' Luncheon Club” to emphasise that it is a church initiative.

Thanks to all who help and all who come.

Brian Inall

ST JAMES' AV SYSTEM REPORT:

As part of our Mission Plan the year 2022 saw the installation of the first part of our new Audio Visual (AV) system. St James' Church has a three-phase development plan, the first of which is the new AV system. The others are church re-ordering (seating and meeting area) and a kitchen/toilet extension.

We were successful with our AV faculty application and a new custom AV desk was made to coordinate with existing woodwork. Fixed screens replaced the temporary TV screens we were using, extra screens for the choir, plus a large drop-down central screen with a long-range projector. We can use a computer either from the rear desk or from the front, and everyone gets a good view. There is an internet connection and Wi-Fi in church. It all works well.

At the end of 2022 we awaited the installation of an audio mixer and additional CD/MP3 player in the AV desk. (This was done in Feb 2023 to complete the AV works.)

The system makes a real difference and permits a good deal of flexibility for services, and for other meetings and presentations, including for community users. Thanks to the volunteers who help operate the equipment - more always welcome.

Brian Inall

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT:

The Electoral Roll has increased from 172 in 2021 to 182 with the new members coming from our church community.

We now have a new electronic listing, courtesy of Stefan, which will make the management of the Electoral Roll a simpler process.

Marj Keech

THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL REPORT 2022:

In January The Friends of the Building of St James financed the replacement of the two notice boards at the front of the church on Pepper Street. The remainder of the year was spent accumulating funds for the major project to replace the paths. Leaflets were prepared highlighting this initiative and these have been placed in prominent positions around the village. Whilst there is goodwill in the village it has to be noted that converting interest into hard cash can be challenging.

The financial numbers were as follows (2021 in brackets):

Standing Orders £3,555 (£330)

Donations £2326 (£12,354)

HMRC £1,006 (£2,500)
Total Income £6,687 (£15,184)
2 Notice Boards £3,900
Total Expenditure £3,900 (£5,631)
Surplus as at 31.12.2022 £2,987 (£9,553)
Balance carried forward £12,540

The key point to note is the rebalancing of giving in favour of Standing Orders (80% of donors in this period).

Work on the paths is expected to commence this summer and it is likely to consume the majority of funds.

John Norbury.

YOUTH WORK REPORT:

The main focus on youth work this year has been with the under 5's and their parents. The Ark Pray and Praise toddler and parent group meets weekly during term time. It is well attended attracting an average of 10 family groups each week. It is also well supported by the worshipping community with several members involved from supporting each session, helping to clear away and those who provide refreshments.

The other aspect of our youth work is the Lighthouse Sunday Club for children of primary school age. Despite a skilled and enthusiastic team of leaders, numbers remain low but those who do attend derive great benefit from it. The children join the main congregation at the end of each session and enjoy sharing what they have learned.

Nine children were baptised over the course of 2022

Our aims for 2023 are to build on the relationships which have begun to develop with the local primary school and build up numbers at the Sunday club.

Revd Tina Lightfoot, Assistant curate

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP REPORT:

Due to the constraints caused by Covid 19 and other factors, the group no longer meets or members make visits to bereaved families, as happened traditionally. The system of sending sympathy cards to all families with bereavement connected to St James' Church & the Parish continues, as does the invitation for members of those bereaved families to attend the annual All Souls Service. These cards are really appreciated and we often get feed-back and thanks from the families.

In 2022, we held 20 funeral services at St James and 9 burial of ashes services.

Anniversary Cards were sent to bereaved families as well as Invitations to attend the All Souls' Service.

Beryl Cummings

SAFEGUARDING REPORT:

The parish continues to embed safeguarding as central to its mission. Some of the highlights include.

- The development and implementation of a bespoke safeguarding web application to manage parish safeguarding records.
- The celebration of Safeguarding Sunday on the festival of Christ the King, where around 70 members of the parish community received a Basic Awareness Safeguarding Presentation.
- The revision of the PCC's code of expectation to include the following item:

Within 6 months of being appointed to the PCC of St James each member should have completed the following courses:

Basic Awareness

Foundation Level of Safeguarding

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse

Members who are unable to complete these courses in the allotted time will be asked to stand down from the PCC.

- The development of supplementary materials to aid PCC and other members of the community in accessing and completing safeguarding training.
- The revision of our website to make more explicit and visible links to safeguarding information concerning the parish. Namely, the provision of a dedicated webpage, links to Safe Spaces, and our safeguarding policy.

Ann White, Parish Safeguarding Officer

BELL RINGERS' REPORT:

The Bell Ringers' AGM was held on 07-03-2023. The outcome of the leadership election was as follows.

Position	Elected
Tower Captain	Nikki Dromgoole
Deputy Tower Captain	Ian Braithwaite
Treasurer	Ian Braithwaite
Secretary	Mary Cowen

Safeguarding

We have two ringers who have obtained their DBS certification and three additional ringers who are part way to becoming qualified.

Ringling Development

We have one ringer who has gained accreditation from the Association of ringing teachers. This will help with our ringing recruitment. The stand at the village fete created awareness of ringing at St. James. However, the death of her Majesty the Queen meant that we had to postpone the Tower Open Day to 2023.

Noise Complaint

The ringers had one noise complaint during 2022. The ringers reported the incident to the Rector. There was no further communication from the complainant. However, the ringers discussed what they could do to mitigate noise complaints and have put a plan in place to address this and to continue our policy of being good neighbours.

Safety

The ringers have created several risk assessments relating to our ringing activity. Additional focus will be on people entering the tower when the ringers are not present. This has been necessary after an electrical cable was left in the path of the bell and if not noticed before ringing commenced, could have caused harm.

Accounts

Wedding fees stayed at £100 per wedding though there was a temporary increase to £125 for three of the weddings which the PCC did not ask to be refunded. Weddings currently contribute £16 to tower funds (£84 goes to ringers). The other main source of income is the PCC annual retainer of £150. Expenditure includes Guild subs (£12 per ringer). We

anticipate subs increasing in 2023 as recruitment progresses. Reserves total £800 and the account just breaks even but various necessary expenditure in 2022 has not come from tower funds.

- We replaced the ringing chamber electric heater (£40).
- Lighting in the belfry was replaced and not charged for (£350)
- There was a subsidy at the Christmas dinner (£100 donation).
- We have replaced the muffles (£337.78) which did not come from tower funds.
- Tower open day costs were defrayed by ringers personally (advertising, posters and leaflets, refreshments approx. £150).
- Spare wooden stay blanks have been sourced at a cost of £7 each.
- A full set of bell ropes were purchased privately about ten years ago (approx. £1000) and the remaining ropes (four) have been given to the tower.

The ringers would like to communicate the work they do to mitigate the cost of ringing provision at St. James, Christleton.

Nikki Dromgoole

On behalf of the PCC



The Revd Dr Stefan Collier
(Chairman)

Jocelyn Platel
(Hon Secretary)

Parish Office, St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG
Telephone: 01244 325529
Email: office@stjameschristleton.org.uk
Website: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRISTLETON

England & Wales - Charity number 1133992

Accounts

PARISH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the Parish of Christleton

for the year ended 31 December 2021

Rector: The Reverend Dr Stefan Collier



Church: St James

Parish Office: St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG

Bankers: Santander

Charity Registration Number: 1133992

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ROLES AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

St James Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has financial and maintenance responsibilities for St James.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or co-opted, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Since the APCM of April 2021 the following have served as members of the PCC.

Rector (ex-officio)	Revd Dr Stefan Collier
Assistant Curate (ex-officio)	Revd Rob Croft
Churchwardens (ex-officio) Elected annually.	Bettie Gilliatt Mike Lightfoot
Deanery Synod Members: This church may appoint up to 3 lay people as Lay Deanery Synod representatives and they become ex-officio on the PCC (if not already on PCC). They are appointed for a three year fixed term. (Current fixed term: 2020-2023)	Bettie Gilliatt Jocelyn Platel
Elected PCC members: This church may have 12 elected PCC members based on our current Electoral Roll size. Members are elected for a 3 year term, maximum of two consecutive terms (ie: 6 years) * Member has completed 6 years. # Member has completed 3 years.	Jocelyn Platel (elected: 2016 & 2019) * Elizabeth McClure (elected: 2016 & 2019) * Ann White (elected: 2016 & 2019) * Paul Forrest (elected: 2016 & 2019) * Christine Abrams (elected: 2019) # Chris Platel (elected: 2017 & 2020) Sheena Cumiskey (elected: 2018 & 2021) Brian Inall (elected: 2018 & 2021) Keith Smalls (elected: 2018 & 2021) Charlotte Bolley (elected: 2020) Martin Thompson (elected: 2020) One PCC position has been vacant.

PCC Appointments	
PCC Treasurer (appointed annually)	Elizabeth McClure
PCC Secretary (appointed annually)	Jocelyn Platel
Electoral Roll Officer (appointed annually)	Chris Platel

Parish Appointments	
Director of Music	Vacant during 2021

MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL MEETINGS held at 12.30 pm on 16th May 2021 via Zoom

21 people attended the virtual meetings.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS (Vestry Meeting)

Nominations had been received for Bettie Gilliatt (Proposed by Liz McClure and seconded by Paul Forrest) and Mike Lightfoot (Proposed by John Milton and seconded by Bettie Gilliatt). No other nominations had been received and therefore these two Churchwardens were elected unanimously without the need for a vote. Stefan thanked Tina and Mike for their tremendous work during the past challenging year with especial thanks to Tina for the vision and passion with which she has served the parish in her years as churchwarden. A presentation had been made to Tina in the service preceeding the meeting as she leaves office to prepare for training for ordination. The meeting closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Stefan advised that Information Packs had been available containing the agenda, previous minutes, reports etc.

Stefan offered Opening Prayers.

1: Apologies: Apologies received from: John and June Pearson, John and Sue Eccles, June and John Pearson, Charlie Griffin, Al and Claire Holland, John Norbury, Jan Bowden.

2: Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 24 March 2019. These were approved as a true record to be signed by Stefan.

3: Matters Arising: Nil

4: Reports:

Stefan prefaced this section by saying that the gifts of this community are the people who in turn use their gifts as vehicles for God's blessings which is a cause for thanksgiving.

Detailed reports had been printed in the Information Pack distributed prior to the APCM and a brief resumé of those followed:

Electoral Roll – Chris Platel said the numbers on the Roll had increased and currently stand at 176. There is ongoing revision with some issues of eligibility. He felt it important to meet with people to clarify the commitment involved in church membership.

PCC – The main capability gap is in the area of music. Stefan is in touch with a student from Queen's School who could play hymns on the piano for Sunday worship once singing is allowed again. There is also the possibility of someone with cantoring skills for psalms. But clearly there is need for more creative solutions for live music to enhance our collective worship.

Finance – Liz said this had been an unprecedented year and rather worrying for the Treasurer! She was extremely grateful for the support of the stewardship group, especially John Norbury and even more grateful for the generosity and accommodation of those who had responded to her pleas, phone calls etc over the year. There are now 75 standing orders, increased from the 31 inherited when she took over the accounts so that provides us with a considerable degree of stability and predictability.

A full bells refurbishment took place, fully funded by a very generous donation.

The Parish Hall made a loss of £1000, not surprisingly, and fundraising was minimal.

The contactless terminal has contributed £805, the website £1160; it is a huge bonus to have these facilities, the first due to a generous donation in the past, the second thanks to Stefan's expertise and encouragement from treasurers' workshops. All part of normal life now!

The balance in the General Fund at the end of 2020 of £14,461 (very comfortable) has been achieved by paying an average parish share of 1.05, leaving us with a deficit of £12,872 to the diocese. In retrospect, a full parish share payment could have been achieved leaving us with a surplus of £1,589. This would have been even more stressful as this was only achieved as the result of donations at the end of the year. Stefan thanked Liz for her diligence and insight and also John Norbury for his ongoing support.

Jim Hawkes, while acknowledging the benefit of SOs, regretted the loss of offerings made during services being taken to the altar for blessing; Stefan agreed that offerings are a part of the liturgical narrative but that this practice has had to be discontinued during Covid for safety reasons. He also observed that it was remarkable that the envelope scheme continued to produce a good income and Liz agreed she was very grateful for this support. Beryl Cummings observed that the church income from funerals which has dropped during Covid should start to improve as normality returns. Perhaps we should be more proactive in offering opportunities to support the church to those attending funerals etc.

The accounts were formally adopted (Proposer: Brian Inall; Seconded: David Cummings).

Fabric – Bettie explained that the reason for the delay in repairs to the lychgate was the fact that stonemasons are in short supply but she hopes the work will be completed soon. There are some repairs needed on the Kempe windows for which a grant may be available. David Cummings and Mike L thanked Bettie for all her hard work in obtaining grants to support the maintenance work on the church building. Bettie thanked Paul Forrest for his regular maintenance checks and ongoing support with the building. The work of Mike and the Community Payback team on keeping the churchyard looking superb was also recorded.

Bettie was pleased to announce that, thanks to the skills of Maria Norbury's brother, the Parish Hall boiler is not in as bad a state as feared following the replacement of the thermo coupling.

In response to Brian's query as to when the next quinquennial inspection is due Bettie confirmed it is August 2022 but the Archdeacon's inspection in December 2021 will be a useful interim assessment measure. She offered her thanks to John Norbury and Liz for setting up the Friends to help with the costs of maintaining the church fabric.

Deanery Synod – Bettie gave a brief report as per the Information Pack.

PCC – Jocelyn gave a brief report as per the Information Pack.

Churchwardens – The main challenges have been Risk Assessments to accommodate the challenges posed by Covid. Guidance from CoE and government has had to be monitored. Stefan thanked everyone for the way they have followed the guidance. Mike identified the challenge as we move forward is to maintain safety by keeping distancing, masks and sanitiser.

Rector's Report – Stefan paid tribute to the fact that we have kept pastoral support central to our church community throughout the pandemic. He expressed his thanks to Rob for the way in which he has settled into the parish at such a difficult time. His peaceful persona and naturally collaborative style are an asset to Stefan personally and to the whole parish. Stefan also thanked Elizabeth for the support she has given to worship at St James and her participation in proclaiming the gospel. Gill's continuing work at the hospice was celebrated.

Stefan said he was excited about the future where new relationships and possibilities beckon as life returns gradually but cautiously to a more normal, interactive mode. The value of sharing services on Zoom was acknowledged as a benefit to many, especially those isolated and housebound. Although the AV installation will allow live streaming of services, this does not allow for interaction. Ann White expressed thanks for the companionship offered by zoom to those who find physical access to church difficult. Tina is looking for ways to facilitate a regular zoom worship opportunity by setting up a group to take this forward. It was agreed that a 'blended' approach is more inclusive.

5: Elections and Appointments – Sheena Cumiskey and Brian Inall had completed 3 years but were willing to serve a second term. Sheena (proposer: Chris Platel; seconder: Jocelyn Platel) and

Brian (proposer: Bettie Gilliatt; seconder: June Hulmes) were therefore re-elected to the PCC.

Appointment of 2 Members to Deanery Synod: Bettie and Joce were re-elected.

Appointment of Auditor: It was unanimously agreed that Meacher-Jones should continue as our Auditor for 2021 & Liz said she would contact them.

6: Any Other Business: Stefan highlighted that we need an ethos in which PCC members draw in others to work in small groups for particular needs so that it becomes a two-way link with the congregation. There are some signs of growth, but we need to try to draw in more new people.

David Cummings thanked Brian Inall for all his hard work on the Parish Magazine and informed us that we now have an electronic record of St James Parish magazines from 1875 to the present day apart from a short period in the 1950s.

Liz put forward the suggestion that a Deputy Treasurer would be an asset.

The meeting closed with prayers led by Stefan at 1.30 pm.

A short PCC meeting followed at which the following appointments were made.

Vice Chair: Mike Lightfoot

Treasurer: Liz McClure

Secretary: Joce Platel

Standing Committee: Stefan Collier, Rob Croft, Bettie Gilliatt, Mike Lightfoot, Liz McClure, Joce Platel

Electoral Roll Officer: Chris Platel

Date of next PCC Meeting: 23.06.21 at 7.30

Signed (Rector)

Date

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Last year I began my report with 'What a year! An unprecedented year'. Well, the same could be said about the year of this report. It appears unprecedented years are becoming the norm!

I spoke then of a future which beckons. I speak now, albeit briefly, of a growing sense of the framework of what that future might look like. In one sense, it is no different from the one we articulated together back in Nov 2018, and I feel this should give us great confidence. While, in another sense, it feels like it is becoming more embedded in the life of our community, which is cause for great thanksgiving and a sign of our progress under God's authority.

This framework is one of mission. The so called five marks of mission which are as follows:

- 1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- 2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- 3 To respond to human need by loving service
- 4 To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- 5 To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The framework of our future is around the sowing of these seeds of mission, seeds of what constitutes being a healthy church community. Seeds around what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century. Rob, assistant curate, is playing a pivotal role in opening up shared conversations around discipleship for us. Seeds around how the space and facilities of our church building might be developed to embody God's mission; with pivotal oversight by Ken and Keith. Seeds around how we might recognise, develop, and embody God's truth that safeguarding lies at the heart of God's mission. Here, we are greatly blessed with the oversight, energy, and support of Ann, the parish's safeguarding officer.

I am sure these seeds form some of the major threads of our beckoning future. I am also sure these major threads are entwined with the rich tapestry of other threads, no less important, that you will glimpse and read about in the other reports contained within. The life, the blessing of Christ's community in this place is because of you, and all the pivotal roles you play. The many tens of volunteers that give so freely and generously of their time and talents, and bring expression to God's mission. I thank and pray for each and every one of you.

Finally, as I write, I hear the words Jesus spoke to his friends and the crowd about him: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12.48). I am sure these words are spoken to us as Christ's community in this place as we seek to participate in God's mission in the coming year.

Much will be required. We will stumble and fall many times. Of this I am sure. But because we will "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5.17) - we will stand, and God's mission will unfold with and through us to His praise and glory. It is my joy and privilege to share this journey with you. Thank you.

With my love and prayers, Stefan

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT:

I have had the great honour of working along side Bettie as Church Warden. I think we work well as a team especially during the course of the pandemic and during Stefan's sabbatical last year when we worked along side Rob to ensure the smooth running of the Parish.

We have managed Divine Service by ensuring there are several stewards on duty at main Sunday Service at 10.30am. The congregation are ushered to communion in single file, maintaining suitable distancing. Stewards are suitably placed at potential trip hazards to assist individuals when and if necessary. We hope to reinstate a sidespersons rota in the near future.

We underwent an Archdeacon's inspection in December 2021, which went very well, with good, positive feedback from the Archdeacon.

Mike.

ST JAMES' CHURCH CHRISTLETON – END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDING Dec 31, 2021

Introduction

These receipts and payments accounts are produced by Finance Co-ordinator, fully reconciled with bank statements and gift aid spreadsheets also used. They are directly comparable with last year's format

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	—	10,000	—	—	10,000	—
Income from charitable activities	113,416	19,493	17,885	—	150,794	126,428
Other trading activities	11,373	—	—	—	11,373	6,742
Investments	45	—	—	—	45	263
Other income	300	864	—	—	1,164	5,369
Total income and endowments from:	125,134	30,357	17,885	—	173,377	138,804
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	—	—	—	—	—	369
Expenditure on charitable activities	115,392	423	8,936	—	124,752	128,655
Other expenditure	6,253	5,547	—	—	11,801	9,597
Total expenditure on:	121,646	5,971	8,936	—	136,554	138,622
Net income / (expenditure)	3,488	24,385	8,948	—	36,822	181
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	6,500	53,185	1,441	—	61,126	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(53,185)	(6,500)	(1,441)	—	(61,126)	—
Net income / (expenditure)	(43,197)	71,071	8,948	—	36,822	181
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(43,197)	71,071	8,948	—	36,822	181
Total funds brought forward	54,637	7,716	15,649	—	78,003	77,821
Total funds carried forward	11,439	78,788	24,598	—	114,826	78,003
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	11,439	—	—	—	11,439	54,637
Designated						
Audio-Visual project	—	32,496	—	—	32,496	—
car park land trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
choir	—	581	—	—	581	581
hymnbooks	—	—	—	—	—	—
legacy/church development	—	38,872	—	—	38,872	—
parish hall refurbishment	—	5,818	—	—	5,818	6,316
rectory decorating	—	(358)	—	—	(358)	(558)
window protection	—	1,377	—	—	1,377	1,377

Restricted

Egerton	—	—	1,441	—	1,441	2,882
Friends of St James	—	—	9,553	—	9,553	—
bellringers	—	—	1,732	—	1,732	1,732
car park	—	—	—	—	—	—
chancel	—	—	3,000	—	3,000	3,000
charitable	—	—	96	—	96	96
churchyard	—	—	1,284	—	1,284	(217)
heating/boiler	—	—	—	—	—	—
parish hall refurbishment	—	—	—	—	—	—
rector D prof	—	—	—	—	—	—
restoration	—	—	4,863	—	4,863	5,363
sunday school/messy church	—	—	2,627	—	2,627	2,792

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
CA1	current account	11,874	25,096
CA2	savings account	—	—
CA3	CBF investment account	101,117	51,072
CA4	petty cash	—	—
	Total Current assets	112,991	76,169
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	(1,834)	(1,834)
Z04	Accounts Payable	—	—
	Total Liabilities	(1,834)	(1,834)
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	114,826	78,003
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	36,822	181
Z01	Starting balances	78,003	77,821
	Total Reserves	114,826	78,003
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	11,439	54,637
	Designated	78,788	7,716
	Restricted	24,598	15,649
	Endowment	—	—
	Total	114,826	78,003

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
current account -	6,937	4,069	866	—	11,874	25,096
Totals	6,937	4,069	866	—	11,874	25,096
Current assets - Investments						
CBF investment account -	4,502	74,718	21,897	—	101,117	51,072
Totals	4,502	74,718	21,897	—	101,117	51,072
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections -	—	—	(1,834)	—	(1,834)	(1,834)
Totals	—	—	(1,834)	—	(1,834)	(1,834)
Grand total	11,439	78,788	24,598	—	114,826	78,003

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
AVP - Audio-Visual project						
Designated	—	19,293	3,481	16,685	—	32,496
Sub-total for AVP	—	19,293	3,481	16,685	—	32,496
EG - Egerton						
Restricted	2,882	—	—	(1,441)	—	1,441
Sub-total for EG	2,882	—	—	(1,441)	—	1,441
FRIENDS - Friends of St James						
Restricted	—	15,184	5,631	—	—	9,553
Sub-total for FRIENDS	—	15,184	5,631	—	—	9,553
HB - hymnbooks						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HB	—	—	—	—	—	—
LCD - legacy/church develo						
Designated	—	10,000	1,127	30,000	—	38,872
Sub-total for LCD	—	10,000	1,127	30,000	—	38,872
PHRest - parish hall refurbis						
Designated	6,316	864	1,362	—	—	5,818
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PHRest	6,316	864	1,362	—	—	5,818
RDProf - rector D prof						
Restricted	—	750	750	—	—	—
Sub-total for RDProf	—	750	750	—	—	—
bells - bellringers						
Restricted	1,732	—	—	—	—	1,732
Sub-total for bells	1,732	—	—	—	—	1,732

carpark - car park land trust						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carpark	—	—	—	—	—	—
carparkres - car park						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carparkres	—	—	—	—	—	—
chancel - chancel						
Restricted	3,000	—	—	—	—	3,000
Sub-total for chancel	3,000	—	—	—	—	3,000
charit - charitable						
Restricted	96	—	—	—	—	96
Sub-total for charit	96	—	—	—	—	96
choir - choir						
Designated	581	—	—	—	—	581
Sub-total for choir	581	—	—	—	—	581
churchyd - churchyard						
Restricted	(217)	951	889	1,441	—	1,284
Sub-total for churchyd	(217)	951	889	1,441	—	1,284
heating - heating/boiler						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for heating	—	—	—	—	—	—
rectdec - rectory decorating						
Designated	(558)	200	—	—	—	(358)
Sub-total for rectdec	(558)	200	—	—	—	(358)
rest - restoration						
Restricted	5,363	1,000	1,500	—	—	4,863
Sub-total for rest	5,363	1,000	1,500	—	—	4,863
ssmessy - sunday school/messy						
Restricted	2,792	—	165	—	—	2,627
Sub-total for ssmessy	2,792	—	165	—	—	2,627
windprot - window protection						
Designated	1,377	—	—	—	—	1,377
Sub-total for windprot	1,377	—	—	—	—	1,377
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	54,637	125,134	121,646	(46,685)	—	11,439
Sub-total for General	54,637	125,134	121,646	(46,685)	—	11,439
Grand total	78,003	173,377	136,554	—	—	114,826

Analysis of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
IN10 - legacy	—	10,000	—	—	10,000	—
IN16 - mistaken entry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	10,000	—	—	10,000	—
Income from charitable activities						
IN01 - collections	—	—	—	—	—	704
IN02 - envelope scheme	9,459	—	—	—	9,459	23,563
IN03 - gift aid env	955	—	—	—	955	1,839
IN04 - funerals and weddings	16,894	—	—	—	16,894	6,544
IN06 - parish magazine	159	—	—	—	159	408
IN07 - standing orders	42,629	—	426	—	43,055	30,128
IN08 - HMRC	18,294	—	3,350	—	21,644	25,329
IN14 - donations	24,967	19,493	14,109	—	58,569	37,515
IN17 - clergy fee reimbursement	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN20 - general exp reimbursement	10	—	—	—	10	395
IN23 - CH ELEC REIMB	46	—	—	—	46	—
Total	113,416	19,493	17,885	—	150,794	126,428
Other trading activities						
IN05 - parish hall	10,472	—	—	—	10,472	6,472
IN19 - land rent	45	—	—	—	45	270
IN22 - PH ELEC REIMB	142	—	—	—	142	—
IN24 - REIMB PH GAS	712	—	—	—	712	—
Total	11,373	—	—	—	11,373	6,742
Investments						
IN09 - investment acct interest	45	—	—	—	45	263
Total	45	—	—	—	45	263
Other income						
IN11 - fundraising	300	864	—	—	1,164	1,082
IN12 - insurance repayment	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN13 - BT way payment	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN15 - rectory expreimb	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN18 - church gas reimb	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN21 - VAT RECLAIM	—	—	—	—	—	4,287
Total	300	864	—	—	1,164	5,369
INCOME TOTAL	125,134	30,357	17,885	—	173,377	138,804

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

EX11 - parish magazine	—	—	—	—	—	369
Total	—	—	—	—	—	369

Expenditure on charitable activities

EX01 - Church gas	2,636	—	—	—	2,636	2,213
EX02 - Church electricity	966	—	—	—	966	1,395
EX03 - Church salaries	455	—	—	—	455	3,105
EX04 - church insurance	3,594	—	—	—	3,594	3,913
EX05 - church building maintenance	1,060	—	6,234	—	7,294	26,916
EX06 - churchyard maintenance	—	—	1,786	—	1,786	3,539
EX07 - clergy expenses	2,938	—	750	—	3,688	4,205
EX08 - weddings/funerals	9,082	—	—	—	9,082	3,925
EX12 - messy church	104	—	109	—	213	294
EX14 - parish share	81,303	—	—	—	81,303	67,624
EX15 - rectory expenses	5,950	—	—	—	5,950	4,306
EX19 - church water	45	—	—	—	45	57
EX20 - church gen expenses	7,254	—	56	—	7,310	7,025
EX21 - church fabric maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX22 - choir expenses	—	—	—	—	—	134
EX25 - AVproject	—	423	—	—	423	—
Total	115,392	423	8,936	—	124,752	128,655

Other expenditure

EX09 - parish hall salaries	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen	—	1,362	—	—	1,362	819
EX13 - car park maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX16 - parish hall gas	566	—	—	—	566	2,269
EX17 - parish hall electricity	833	—	—	—	833	691
EX18 - parish hall water	247	—	—	—	247	428
EX23 - parish hall general expenses	4,606	—	—	—	4,606	4,087
EX24 - church development	—	4,185	—	—	4,185	1,300
Total	6,253	5,547	—	—	11,801	9,597
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	121,646	5,971	8,936	—	136,554	138,622
GRAND TOTAL	3,488	24,385	8,948	—	36,822	181

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021:

The accounts are produced on a receipts and payment basis, permissible with our income level, using Finance Co-ordinator as previously.

This has been another year beset by Covid effects but due to the generosity of our congregation, in particular considerable donations in the early part of the year, we remain in the black.

The general fund, our working money, remains in positive balance **£3488.72**.

This is quite low but the PCC agreed in December, when funds were more evident, to pay the full parish share at 1.25, a total of £81,303.84

Overall, our income has exceeded our expenditure by **£36,822.96**

The discrepancy between these 2 figures is explained as follows.

Approximately £25K donations and £10k legacy have been allocated to funds which are either restricted or designated. eg Friends, Church development, AV innovation.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purpose annotated, designated funds are intended to be used for the annotated purpose but this can be altered by PCC agreement should circumstances change.

Friends of St James

£15184 income, including gift aid reclaimed.

Expenditure £5631, on benches in churchyard and support of the lychgate restoration work

Egerton Trust

This restricted fund, the trust having been dissolved in 2014, has been split between the churchyard fund and the Arcon Trust, which manages the Christleton Almshouses. It remains to be seen whether they accept this money – if not it will go into the churchyard fund.

An Audio-visual designated Fund was set up.

A Church Development/Legacy designated fund was set up.

Policies on Charitable Giving and Reserves have been discussed and agreed.

The Legacy policy has been marginally altered and agreed.

Bettie Gilliatt has worked wonders in securing 3 grants.

£6550 for the AV system from Allchurches trust

£1000 from CWAC for the Lychgate

£500 from Historic Churches Preservation Trust for the Lychgate (not yet received)

Our Utilities as from end of 2021 are now with Octopus green energy.

Comparison of our bills will be interesting but not till next year. The church utilities are much the same cost as last year, the parish hall is considerably cheaper by a factor of at least 5 but this is I think confused by a large refund early in the year and a bill not charged for as yet!

The Parish Hall was used very little in 2020 and made a loss of £1003 but this year thanks to Maria Norbury's sterling work has made a net profit of £4362.

Funeral and Weddings in 2020 had a net profit of £2599 but this year the net profit is £7814

We continue to benefit from the generous donation of the contactless terminal, particularly important in our increasingly cashless society. This year we have gained £930 from this, not including the GADS which will bring it to approximately £1200.

The Website donations add up to £1662, the majority of these gift-aided, making approximately £2000.

I am especially grateful to our regular givers by envelopes and standing orders, being our main stable predictable income – this year £9,549 and £42,629 respectively, providing with gift aid £65,222.

This would not be possible without the help of Nigel Seddon, our gift aid secretary, who keeps a close eye on any potential discrepancies in my accounts!

The Stewardship group and in particular John Norbury have been an incredible support, meeting regularly throughout the year.

Looking forward, the stewardship group plan to review the overview situation on income quarterly. It is evident at present that unless we are in receipt of unexpected large donations, our core income of envelopes, modest donations and standing orders with associated gift aid barely supports a payment of 1.05 parish share. With the funeral/wedding and parish hall income in addition to help cover expenses it is expected we might break even with this. It is hoped we may be able to modify this situation.

In view of the relapse of the Covid situation we remain in uncertain times and will need to continue to monitor month by month very carefully. Detailed budgeting at this time is not a productive exercise in view of the above.

The accounts and spreadsheets provide extensive detailed information but I am happy to try to help should anyone have queries.

Elizabeth A McClure, 15.1.22

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT:

FABRIC AND MAINTENANCE REPORT:

Although the Church was closed for part of the year due to Covid-19, maintenance has not been neglected. The Church has been operating a distance-seating and mandatory mask-wearing regime according to government guidelines.

The security alarm, fire equipment, electrical installations and gas boilers have all been serviced. The fire equipment service providers have changed due to retirement. The annual inspection of the church roof was made in August and includes minor repairs such as slipped slates, valley and gutter clearing. The heating is kept at a minimum of 12C in accordance with Historic England advice for listed buildings. That way the stonework is not subject to constant fluctuating of temperatures and is more fuel efficient.

Movement in the fabric walls especially in the Sanctuary and Tower are monitored regularly.

The clerestory window saddlebars remain to be treated for rust – they are inaccessible due to the pews in the nave.

A new AV system is to be installed and a Faculty has been granted. The cost is in the region of £25,000. We applied for a grant from Nation Churches Trust but were not successful. We did receive a grant of £6,500 from Allchurches Trust. Thanks to Arden Farms, cables were laid under the car park and down the churchyard path into the vestry. At the same time we found where the water pipes are located!

Repairs to the listed lych gate have taken much longer than anticipated. A Faculty was granted and contractor appointed. Low level repairs to the walls of the Church were made.

The architect ordered the whole north roof of the lych gate to be stripped. Some slates had been bonded with silicon during an earlier repair and broke when removed. Replacement Welsh slates could not be found and the architect approved the use of Westmorland slates with a slight colour difference – but there are several colours on the main Church roof! Part way through the lych gate work, the contractor was absent for more than six weeks and was replaced with a new contractor. The work was finally completed and signed off in December (Certificate of Completion sent to the Registrar.) We received grants from Allchurches Trust, Cheshire Historic Churches Preservation Trust and Cheshire West and Chester Council Member's Budget.

The footpaths round the churchyard are deteriorating – there are potholes in many places and uneven areas particularly where tree roots have caused heaving. Bad weather exacerbates this wear and tear. There have been several instances of visitors tripping and falling and it is hazardous for funeral undertakers manoeuvring coffins to the newer section of the churchyard. The yew tree penetration on the west wall is kept under observation.

Regular maintenance contributes to sustainability by preserving resources and keeping buildings and grounds in good condition. When original fabric is retained resources needed to produce replacement material is limited therefore raising funds for maintenance work is not just routine but absolutely essential. According to National Churches Trust, £10 invested in church buildings creates a social return of £37.40.

The exterior noticeboards are beyond repair and it was agreed that they should be replaced. The Friends of St. James' Church would pay for this. The cost is in the region of £4,000 for two new boards in a design and colour approved by the Diocese. Archdeacon's permission has been given.

Oak floorboards in the bell-ringing chamber were wet along the exterior wall, due to the use of non-porous underlay. This was replaced and the problem appears to be solved.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

We conducted an audit of the stained glass windows and noted defects, cracks etc. The windows appear to be in good condition on the whole but require cleaning. It was decided to seek advice from an expert especially with regard to the Millennium window protection which has suffered badly from the sun.

PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall returned to some normality after lockdown was lifted and bookings look promising. The problem is to keep the building in reasonable repair. There is now a regular cleaning firm employed, which has proved satisfactory, if expensive.

There is a rolling programme of Food Hygiene training run by Liz McClure for catering run by the Church.

The flooring in the men's toilets was replaced, and some minor plumbing done although plaster on the outer wall is added causing problems with the urinals.

Following an incident when a child went into the kitchen unsupervised, the door handle was raised above child height and provided the door is kept closed, the kitchen is secure.

Unfortunately despite TLC the boiler finally expired, just as winter set in. Much soul searching ensued as to what should replace the system bearing in mind the planned phasing out of gas boilers. Currently, heating is produced by a number of electric oil-filled portable radiators which operate non-stop.

A small pane of glass was broken by youngsters playing football in the street and fixed promptly. Needless to say the culprits vanished.

GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

The Church Property Register is up to date. Everything registered has been accounted for.

RISK ASSESSMENTS. Risk assessments are prepared for events operated by the Church and Parish Hall.

Maintenance Group: Bettie Gilliatt, Paul Forrest, Mike Lightfoot.

FOODBANK:

St James' Church has been involved continuously with the Foodbank since 2013.

While the church was closed during lockdown, it wasn't possible to leave food donations there, but happily the large supermarkets and local shops provided donation points and there was an increase in regular cash donations. These were very useful, being used to buy those foods which were needed, at a discounted rate for bulk purchase. Since the church reopened in March 2021, the donations left at the back of the church has gone from strength to strength, and the total amount of food donated during the year from St James' was 777 Kgs.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity, on behalf of those who are so much less fortunate and privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship for so many of our fellow human beings.

Chris Alderton

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:

The first Deanery Synod meeting to take place 'in person' as opposed to via zoom was at St James on June 24th. It was a particularly significant meeting in that Bishop Mark came to address us. People were so pleased to be able to meet up again, and, I'm sure, to hear Bishop Mark speak, that there were fifty one attendees, a mixture of laity and clergy. Despite being somewhat out of practice, Bettie and I managed to serve all with refreshments! The Rural Dean Rev'd Hennie Johnston welcomed everyone and then Stefan gave an outline of the parish, highlighting its diversity of communities: schools, care homes, small businesses, Save the Family Charity as well as 3 churches. He identified our priorities as being to root ourselves in daily prayer and to be a loving, Spirit led and faithful community which is welcoming, compassionate and inclusive; a community whose faith is witnessed through its worship, learning and acts of service.

Bishop Mark expressed his joy to be with us in 3D after nearly a year in post; he acknowledged we had all been through a deeply dehumanising situation but reminded us that Jesus brings hope and calm. He emphasised the importance of conversations and of focusing on 1-1 relationships. His vision for deaneries was that they need to be missional and supportive and he was keen to encourage diversity including that of females in ministry. He was keen to involve children more in the life of the church. It was an inspirational message from a new leader keen to encourage his new teams and, indeed, each one of us.

On October 18th we met at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Ashton where the vicar, Phillip Weston, gave us an introduction to his parish. In 2020 they began a refurbishment project which was almost complete and will allow them to run a variety of activities eg coffee mornings, well-being course, lego club etc. There was a presentation on Living in Love and Faith by Rev'd Nikki Greenwood; this is an invitation to every diocese to engage in a process of church-wide learning together, listening to one another and listening to God as a part of discerning the way forward for the Church of England in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Having explored the materials and issues at St James over Lent, we now know much more about this. After the presentation an agape meal was shared.

Jocelyn Platel and Bettie Gilliatt (Deanery Synod Representatives)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) REPORT:

Much of 2021 was again affected by Covid. Many of our PCC meetings and the APCM were conducted via zoom which, although creating an efficient communicative medium, does not facilitate the same exchange of views and opportunity for discussion as meeting in person does. We were able to meet 'in the flesh' again from August 2021. The Rector's greatly deserved sabbatical meant that PCC meetings were chaired by churchwarden, Mike, our vice-chairman, in Stefan's absence. Much of the focus of our meetings has, of necessity, been concerned with trying to move forward on the Church Development Plan which was initiated in 2019. In November 2021 we met in church with Tony Barton (conservation architect from Donald Insall Associates) who gave a slide presentation on the proposed extension to the church. His brief was to provide a flexible worship space within the church and to provide additional facilities of an office, meeting room, much-needed toilets and café and kitchen facilities along with storage space. Decisions related to the future worshipping community of St James are a huge responsibility for PCC members and require a good deal of thought, consideration and prayer. A further matter arose relating to Church Land which was erroneously linked to the proposed development at the University of Law. Events have since led to these two issues being disentangled.

Some members reflected that business issues dominated the agendas to the exclusion of spiritual and faith matters. All PCC members acknowledged that we should explore ways of correcting this highlighted imbalance.

Because of the pandemic restrictions, Fundraising in 2021 was extremely limited but it was heartening to be able to welcome people to a concert in the church performed by local violinist, Philip Chidell, in November. We look forward to being able to return to a fuller programme of events in the future.

LUNCHEON CLUB:

Our monthly lunches have, like everything else, been affected by the Covid situation. During 2021 we had lunches only in October and November - a brief window between periods when we were closed. For those we had simple soup & bread lunches with cake and drinks. Despite the simplicity the lunches were enthusiastically embraced showing the value of these lunches in terms of meeting friends socially and for mental well being - and of course the food is always good!

We were all looking forward to a December Christmas lunch when we were forced again to cancel. We remained closed until March 2022 when with much relief we re-started again with simple lunches - and with some additional helpers which is very welcome.

Lunches remain free of charge although we gratefully receive voluntary donations. We now take the contactless card terminal from church to the lunches to give an alternative method of donating directly to the church for those preferring it over cash.

For 2021 the finances were:

Opening balance:	£101
Cash Donations:	£466
Costs:	£80
Transferred to PCC:	£400
Closing balance:	£87

St James' Church also embraces these lunches as a valuable outreach to the community as those coming include both church members and non members. This forms part of our mission. The work to run these lunches is significant so grateful thanks to all our cooks and helpers.

We look forward to regular monthly lunches now, and a return to a hot cooked meal as soon as possible.

Brian Inall

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT:

In the year, to December 2021, and since the last APCM, the numbers on the ER have reduced by 3. One person has died and 2 names have been removed from the Roll due to their move out of the parish and their ceasing to worship at St James. There is an ongoing effort to make the ER as accurate as possible with good lines of communication built in and this will continue. The figures below highlight the changes.

Number of members – 172

Number of households – 116

Number of members resident in the parish – 103

Number of members not resident in the parish – 69

Number of member households in the parish – 67

Number of member households not in the parish – 49

Chris Platel ERO

FRIENDS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021:

The Friends began life on January 1 2021 and has had a solid first year establishing itself in the financial framework of St James and beginning a campaign of awareness in the wider village.

The Friends raises money through standing orders and donations. These are topped up with Gift Aid in the majority of cases. Donations dominated the figures in this first year. They benefitted from an initial one off payment and exceptional donations resulting from David Cummings birthday party. In total there were 20 contributors noting that a contributor is a "household" for this purpose rather than an individual. Over the medium to long term it is hoped that regular giving will provide the core income. Funds raised in 2021 are noted below.

Standing Orders £330.00

Donations £12,354.02

HMRC £2,500.00

Total Income £15,184.02

In line with the terms of reference expenditure is concentrated on church building and churchyard maintenance.

Specifically The Friends made the following payments:

Contribution to the Lych Gate repair and masonry £4,734.00

3 Churchyard benches £897.00

Total Expenditure £5,631.00

Surplus as at 31.12.2021 £9,553.02

Whilst this is a healthy opening balance for the new year, the two new Notice Boards were paid for in January totaling £3,900. Significantly there is a major project under consideration for this year namely the complete repair of the churchyard paths. Final figures have not been confirmed but the budget will exceed the current Friends balance so there is no room for complacency.

The trustees will therefore continue to try and expand the numerical base of The Friends and widen its financial reach over this next year.

John Norbury - 21/03/2022

YOUTH WORK:

The Ark Play and Praise Parent and Toddler Group

The group meets on Friday mornings in term time and is a haven for parents and children alike. It is supported by several members of our worshipping community but more help would be welcome.

Lighthouse Sunday Club

In September we re-launched Lighthouse after several months enforced absence due to Covid-19. Children of primary school age are invited to come along and get to know Jesus through play and bible stories. It runs concurrent to the Sunday 10.30 service and culminates with the children joining the main congregation where they share what they have learnt. The leadership is shared between a few members of the worshipping community (more offers of help welcome).

Although it is early days, we have 7 children, 2 of whom have come in response to an invitation from one of our original members..... we have an evangelist in our midst!!

Save the Family Unit

Over the last year we have been maintaining a connection with the staff, parents and children at Cotton Farm by providing a presence at their weekly coffee morning where residents and staff gather for an informal chat.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY:

The churchyard is maintained to a high standard by the Community Payback Team. They come to St James' every Saturday under the Supervision of Val Barker from the Probation Service. A monthly working party made up of parishioners also helps with maintenance. The South side of the churchyard is mown and strimmed, as is the newer part of the churchyard on the North side. It was decided by the PCC to allow sections of the churchyard to 'wild' which promotes a greater diversity of wildlife.

Five new benches were installed towards the end of last year, a compost heap was constructed with wooden pallets by the Payback Team, and new notice boards erected courtesy of the Friends of St James.

Mike Lightfoot.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

St James' Bereavement Support team was established in 1997, by Rector KP Lee and 10 members- the leaders being Wendy & Norman Tattam. After all the ensuing years (for many different reasons) there are less than half this number who are still active.

Report for 2021- 22.

28 families were invited to the All Souls Service which was held at St James' last autumn, 31st October 2021.

There have been twelve bereavements in the Parish since then.

Cards are sent out to all bereaved families shortly after their loss. Before covid-19, a member of the BSG Group would be selected to visit the family, taking a pot plant or bunch of flowers, about three weeks after the bereavement- several visits may follow if deemed necessary (but only as a concerned friend- never as a "counsellor")

For obvious reasons there have been no visits since February 2020.

On the first anniversary of a family's loss Anniversary Cards are sent out, and invitations are also sent in early autumn for families to attend the All Souls Service. (probably 30th October 2022) but to be confirmed. This is a gentle and reflective service, much appreciated by those who attend.

Beryl Cummings - 2022

SAFEGUARDING:

"The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all."

The statement above is taken from the document, 'Promoting a Safer Church', first published by the Church of England in 2017. Safeguarding is all our responsibility. We at St James' work hard to make everyone welcome, we also need to work towards making our church a safe place for all. In recent years a lot of resources, structures and training have been put in place with the aim to show us all how we can play our part in safeguarding.

We are closely following the advice and guidelines in the – Parish Safeguarding Handbook

- Safeguarding Policy Promoting a Safer Church was agreed by the PCC May 2020 – was reviewed at the PCC meeting 26.04.21. It is on the church web site (<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>)
- There is a link to 'Safe Spaces' – safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk. This is a website for Supporting Survivors of Church-related Abuse.
- 'Promoting a Safer Church' are posters that give information of who to contact and how when anyone has a concern about safeguarding. Copies of the poster are displayed on church, parish hall, churchyard and car park noticeboards.
- All members of the PCC have Enhanced DBS Clearance as do other members of the church community who have direct contact with members of the public. (Pastoral groups, Visiting ,Youth Activities).
- Within the lay members of the church 25 have DBS Enhanced Certificates – Members of the PCC, leaders of groups and those holding key positions. In addition, all have undertaken levels of training as laid out in 'House of Bishops Safeguarding Guidance. Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021'.

- Effective safeguarding training is one of the main elements to drive the ambition to make a safer and healthier Church. There is a comprehensive programme of training for all members of the clergy. There are also specific courses for the lay community and the range of roles they may cover in church activities.
- If we all are to take on board our individual responsibilities towards safeguarding and making St James' a safe place for all, we should at least complete the Basic Awareness Course. To give access to all who may be interested it is hoped to make the Basic and Foundation courses open to all within the next year.
- Safeguarding will remain a standing item on the agendas of the Stewardship Mission Group and all PCC meetings.

Ann White (Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Lead Recruiter) - 30.03.2022.

BELL RINGERS' REPORT:

St James Christleton Christleton Bell Ringers Annual General Meeting 7:00pm Tuesday 15th Feb 2022 in the Lady Chapel.

Minutes:

1. Attendance Ian Braithwaite, Pauline Cook, Stefan Collier (Rector), Mary Cowen, Nikki Dromgoole, Carol Ferris, Robin Ferris, Mike Hoyland, Karen Smalls, Jo O'Brien Apologies: Steven Everett, Stuart Gillies, Matthew Hoyland, Tracey Simmons, Betty Harris, Brian Harris, Keith Smalls, Jonathan Wright
2. Minutes from the previous AGM on 20th April 2021 These were accepted.
3. Matters arising from the 2021 AGM There were no matters arising.
4. Tower Captains report: Please see attached below Ian proposed thanks to Nikki for her continuing tower captaincy as she is now in her 5th year. Following on from Nikki's report, Stefan asked whether we need to have a maintenance contract for the bells in a similar way that we have for the clock. Nikki confirmed that this wasn't necessary.
5. Treasurer's report: Please see attached below Ian took over from Pauline as treasurer in November 2021. However the process at the bank to change the name on the account from Pauline to Ian is still on going. Ian will chase up again to try and get it fully finalised as Pauline is still receiving emails about the account. There was some discussion around the possibility of using gift aid for the Guild subscriptions. No conclusion was reached and further discussions are required.
6. Election of officer

Position Elected	Proposer	Seconder	Elected
Tower Captain	Jo O'Brien	Karen Smalls	Nikki Dromgoole
Deputy T.C	Mary Cowen	Nikki Dromgoole	Ian Braithwaite
Secretary	Jo O'Brien	Mike Hoyland	Mary Cowen
Treasurer	Karen Smalls	Jo O'Brien	Ian Braithwaite

7. Practice Time As ringing is returning to normal there is a general consensus that we return back to 1.5 hours practice. It was agreed that we will keep the start time at 7pm therefore the practices will now be at 7 to 8:30pm. The Guild Annual Report will need to be updated accordingly. Mary to contact the Guild secretary to arrange this and to also update the contact number with Nikki's mobile number for when we have visiting ringers.

8. Procurement of (i) New Muffles: The clappers have now been measured and Big Wilf's Muffles are now taking orders, although there is a 2 month lead time. Nikki will place the order. Once we receive the new muffles the old ones will be taken to the cobblers in Hoole to see if they can do some repairs to them. There will be a need to ring fully muffled in the event of the death of the monarch. (ii) Tower vacuum cleaner: A vacuum cleaner that can be used in both the bell chamber and the ringing room is needed. Jo agreed to purchase one and the cost will be taken out of tower funds. A working party is to be set up to clean the ringing and bell chambers.

9. Noise complaint: There was a complaint during a recent evening practice. Stefan confirmed that he has not been approached by the complainant. He advised that any challenges should be referred to him and, if necessary, call him out to speak directly with the complainant. In order to try to mitigate future complaints the ringing times will be published with contact details. The church website needs to be updated with the correct times for both service and practice ringing. This has highlighted the need to have a lock on the bell chamber door as well as the one on the ringing chamber door from a safety perspective. Nikki to speak to Mike Lightfoot to arrange.

10. Marketing: Creation of content for village and church noticeboards to promote ringing. Mike agreed to take on this role. Stefan advised that it may be possible to put something on the notice boards in the Ring O'Bells and Christleton Institute. There may also be an event at the church for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend, likely to be Saturday 4th June. This may be an opportunity to have an open session in the tower to attract more ringers. Carol mentioned that there are peal boards in the tower for other jubilees so it was agreed that we would look at the possibility of ringing a quarter peal to mark the occasion.

11. Any other business a) Tower outing 2022 – Ian volunteered to arrange this providing Pauline's lemon drizzle cake was on offer. Ian will look at dates for the Sandbach and Nantwich area. As we are planning to do a visit to other towers it was agreed that we were now open to having visiting ringers in the tower. b) Stefan wanted to thank Nikki and the band for their support.

12. Date of next meeting Tuesday 7th February 2023

Tower Captain's Report 2021

I would like to begin my report by thanking you all for your support during my fifth year as Tower Captain.

To summarise the year in numbers, we have had:

- 6 Weddings.
- 0 visiting bands.
- Hosted 0 Guild training session.
- Number of possible ringing sessions for services 41 (27 in 2020)
- Average Ringers per service 5.2 (5.1 in 2020)

Ringing during 2021 has been challenging but service ringing has taken place when possible. The ringers have adapted to follow the ever-changing COVID regulations throughout the year. One notable high point was when we rang all eight bells for a Sunday service on the 5th of September and there was some excitement on 10th October when the end of the stay fell off and the bell did a full 360 degree rotation when Mike tried to set it. This was fixed with by using nyloc nuts to secure the assembly.

Maintenance

Five new LED strip lights were fitted in the bell chamber, which has made all the difference when showing off the renovation work.

Clock Service

A three year service contract has been taken out with Smiths of Derby. The first service was carried out in 2021, which means that the final service on this contract will be September 2023. To prevent a repeat of the 2020 misunderstanding about whether the clock had or hadn't been serviced, Smiths of Derby were informed that a service report would be required after each visit. A report has subsequently been provided. The service was not a technical one and in due course we will discuss whether we should do it ourselves.

I'm hoping that 2022 will be a busy year with plenty of opportunity to improve our ringing further.

Nikki Dromgoole

PARISH MAGAZINE REPORT:

The monthly Parish Magazine was setup in January 1875 by the Rector of the time who wished that it was both interesting and instructive, a bond of union and a means of communication within the parish and community, and he sought appropriate contributions.

I temporarily took on the magazine at the start of 2019 - meaning that I edited it, compiled it, sought contributions and prepared some myself, and arranged printing and distribution and (this was a big surprise) I had to urgently sort out delivery rounds and subscribers and to gather in subscriptions at short notice. I even set up the magazine's aims and terms of reference so I had a framework in which to work. Having initially taken it on for a couple of months I finished up running it for three years until my last edition in December 2021. I found it great fun and most rewarding, but time consuming when I needed to focus more on other activities.

I want to thank all those who contributed articles, ads and other content over the last 3 years. Often the main difficulty of a magazine is getting enough content and many churches resort to external material to fill it up (eg: Parish Pump). I've had no such problems and I'm most grateful for the wide range and quality of content that I have received for every edition.

During the Covid pandemic we converted from printed subscription copies (mostly black & white) to online, free and in full colour which seemed to work well although we lost some readers in the community who couldn't (or wouldn't) deal with reading it online. I'm computer 'savvy' but I know that I prefer reading from printed paper instead of the screen. Back copies remain online to view via both the St James' Church and the Christleton websites.

I must also thank John Eccles for managing the commercial advertising, and the advertisers themselves, and for Joce Platel who volunteered to manage the tricky task of subscription renewals in 2020 and to manage the 'rounds' and the team of deliverers, although her services were not extensively used because Covid struck and it all went free and online. Also to Jenny Davies who used to assist me with bundling up the printed magazines into rounds for distribution when they came from the printers, and to the trusty band of distributors - now disbanded. Not least, thanks to our readers and all the kind remarks that I've received.

Effective and timely communications for the church is vital. Internally between clergy, wardens, committees and groups, and also wider with the church members, with the community around, with the Deanery, Diocese and other churches and faith groups, and more. The magazine was just a tiny but important part of all that and sadly no-one (so far) wishes to continue it in any form.

To quote from the last edition: 'Mind the Gap!'

Thank you. Brian Inall

On behalf of the PCC



**The Revd Dr Stefan Collier
(Chairman)**

**Jocelyn Platel
(Hon Secretary)**



Parish Office, St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG

Telephone: 01244 325529

Email: office@stjameschristleton.org.uk

Website: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRISTLETON

England & Wales - Charity number 1133992

Accounts

PARISH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON



ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the Parish of Christleton

for the year ended 31 December 2020

Rector: The Reverend Dr Stefan Collier



Church: St James

Parish Office: St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG
Bankers: Santander **Charity Registration Number: 1133992**

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Roles and Membership of the Parochial Church Council

The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council

St James Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St James.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or co-opted, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Since the APCM of April 2020 the following have served as members of the PCC.

Rector	Revd Dr Stefan Collier
Curate	Revd Rob Croft
Churchwardens	Tina Lightfoot Mike Lightfoot
Treasurer	Dr Elizabeth McClure
Secretary	Jocelyn Platel
Deanery Synod Members	Bettie Gilliatt, Jocelyn Platel
Elected members	Christine Abrams, Sheena Cumiskey, Bettie Gilliatt, Charlotte Griffin, Paul Forrest, Brian Inall, Chris Platel, Keith Smalls, Martin Thompson, Ann White

Other Parish Appointments

Volunteer Parish Administrator	Marj Keech
Director of Music	
Pastoral Visit Coordinator	Ann White
Pastoral Assistants	
Verger	John Milton

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18th October 2020

35 people attended the virtual meeting

Apologies received from: John and June Pearson, John & Sue Eccles

Opening Prayer: Prayers were led by Stefan.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS (Vestry Meeting)

Nominations had been received for Tina Lightfoot (Proposed by Bettie Gilliatt and seconded by Jocelyn Platel, and Mike Lightfoot (Proposed by Janet Milton and seconded by Bettie Gilliatt). No other nominations had been received and therefore these two Churchwardens were elected unanimously without the need for a vote. Stefan thanked both Bettie and Tina for their tremendous work during the past year and also to Paul for his excellent contribution in the maintenance of the church. The meeting closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

Stefan advised that Information Packs had been available containing the agenda, previous minutes, reports etc.

1: Minutes of the Annual Meetings held on 24 March 2019. These were approved & signed by Stefan.

2: Matters Arising: Nil

3: Reports: Detailed reports had been printed in the Information Pack distributed prior to the APCM and brief resumé of those followed:

Electoral Roll – Chris Platel said there was still some work to be done on this but it was important to let him know of any changes to individual circumstances. 168 names were on the current Roll.

Finance – Liz said how much she had missed Brian Lewis as her wonderful fall back help and advised that the Stewardship Campaign had received £1,500 when launched but had fallen flat since lockdown. She said there had been a major drop in income initially after lockdown but since church re-opened there had been considerable contributions via the card machine, and several SO's had been set up. We now have no employees and the Parish Hall income was down to £977, again due to lockdown. The magazine made a profit of £30 and the refurbishment of the bells was almost complete and paid for. The comfortable stability is as a result of reducing the Parish Share contribution and she thanked the parishioners for their continued support. Stefan added his thanks to Liz saying he was very grateful for her constant oversight in managing the accounts especially during the pandemic. He also thanked Nigel Seddon & John Norbury for their expertise.

Fabric – Bettie thanked the local Parish Councils & Councillor Stuart Parker for their donations towards work done in the churchyard and lychgate, and Stefan thanked David Cummings for the Statement of Significance which he had prepared. Stefan acknowledged the work which

John had done as Verger and said the community is very grateful for his work at the Pastoral Offices as well as in St James and he was glad he would be continuing in a voluntary capacity as Verger.

Deanery Synod – Bettie gave a brief report as per the Information Pack.

PCC – Janet gave a brief report as per the Information Pack.

Churchwardens – Tina had nothing to add to the report in the Information Pack but said that they would keep everyone posted on any Covid-19 changes affecting services etc. She also suggested that a letter should be sent to the Payback team thanking them for their contribution to the churchyard & Janet was requested to send this letter.

Rector's Report – I looked back at last year's report, and it started with noting my overriding feeling of joy.

Well.... No, it hasn't dissipated you'll be pleased to hear. But I do notice two other overriding feelings as I sit down to write this report. Feelings of hope and thanksgiving.

Hope. For despite the challenges that we continue to face as a church around finance and making disciples today in what is a profoundly different context to those of our ancestors, I - and I don't think I am alone - sense that God is with us where we are.

Reflecting on what we have done (that has built on previous and current successes such as the Luncheon club, Churchyard working party, and multiple successful fundraising events) this last year, we might find that among other things we recall (and give thanks) for the following.

- Another health audit, Nov 2019, which quantified we are moving in a direction of health and growth (Nov 2019).
- Delivered a new Sunday service pattern and provision of services (June 2019).
- Developed a church development brief and commissioned a feasibility study for the development of the church (c. July 2019).
- Employed a Director of Music (Sept. 2019), Hannah, who is making a huge difference to our community.
- Undertook valuable work on our vision, values, and mission (Nov 2019).
- Made significant upgrades to the Parish Hall (2019).
- Celebrated past Parish Administrator, Janet, and gratefully received a new one, Marjorie, (Oct 2019)
- Under the passionate and skilful leadership of Brian, re-energised the Parish Magazine (2019)
- Delivered a temporary Parish Office in the Church (Sept 2019).
- Established a regular relationship with Christleton Primary School which includes multiple shared church services through the year (2019).
- Re-developed old and new missional teams to share leadership in the parish (2019)

- Continued to undergird everything we do in prayer through our daily weekday pattern of prayer for the community (2019).
- Undertaken 2 units of teaching through 2019, at Lent and in Autumn.

We could point to many other things (and should, let's celebrate them), some mundane, others not - all essential, and also cause for further hope (and thanksgiving) in our community.

Given these signs among us how could it be that we do not remain hopeful and confident that God is with us and desiring to bless his communities here in this place.

This then leads me to notice the other feeling I mentioned that of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for you, the people of this place. Your faith, service, humanity and witness is often staggering to encounter, and something you will further glimpse in the reports that follow. I have always thought it unwise to offer a list naming people, for you are bound to miss people off this list. But with this caveat in mind, asking for your forgiveness as I start it, and in no particular order. It seems remiss not to note, the relentless dedication, multifaceted, and complementary skills of Tina and Bettie your churchwardens without whom this parish would be in a very different place, the PCC members corporate [Tina, Bettie, Ann, Brian, Chris, Joce, Christine, Liz, John, Keith, Linda, Mike, Paul, Janet, and Sheena], all of have offered skilful service and indispensable leadership, the PCC's calm and efficient secretary Janet, Hannah our comparatively recent Director of Music who is revitalising our musical tradition, Elizabeth [Liz] our passionate treasurer, the faithful and much appreciated ministry team of Elizabeth and Gill, Marjorie our new Parish administrator who is wonderfully organising us, and the steadfast and diligent service of John as Verger. These people, the various members of other teams who comprise our common life - be it our wonderful and thriving choir, our Messy Church team led by Lesley, Jan and Beryl, the church development group, flower team, Janet and Olive who faithfully enable the midweek communion with John, our incredible bellringers led by Nikki, our wonderful safeguarding lead Ann, relentlessly efficient and passionate Brian of the Magazine, the hidden service of Paul, Jonathan, and Mike around caring for our wonderful church building, website, and churchyard, Chris and Mike who regularly deliver food gathered to our local foodbank - and so many other hidden saints in our community make our parish community what it is, not least those who distribute the parish magazine, act as sides-people and welcomers on a Sunday morning, clean our church and serve coffee and teas on a Sunday. A blessed community of saints which serve as majestic lighting conductors for Christ's love in this place.

For this, I thank you, and give thanks to God for you. The seeds of hope and faith you are sowing, the love you are embodying, and the sacrifice you are making as you follow along the Way of faith in our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ is a powerful testimony that the world is not as it might seem, rather it is becoming a new creation as God's kingdom here on earth.

For us, this is in part captured in our new priorities for 2020, which are:

1. To develop the building of St James as a place of worship and regular use by our local communities.

2. To orient the life of our church community towards transforming lives in our local communities through working in partnership with them.
3. To undertake a review of our 2019 service pattern and provision changes.
4. To develop St James as a place of prayer in our communities.

May Christ continue in his steadfast love towards us as we make our pilgrimage of faith in this place, and seek to be part of his new creation. Amen.

Keith spoke on behalf of everyone and said how grateful we all are to Stefan for his energy and drive and leadership within St James.

4: Elections and Appointments: There were 3 vacancies on the PCC & the following nominations papers had been received correctly completed :

Bettie Gilliatt, Martin Thompson, Charlotte Griffin and these were duly elected.

Chris Platel was happy to continue for another 3 years.

The appointment of Secretary and Treasurer would be dealt with at a short PCC Meeting electronically during the next 7 days and Liz had already indicated her willingness to continue as treasurer. Appointment of Sides people would take place at this meeting also.

Appointment of 2 Members to Deanery Synod: Bettie and Joce were re-elected.

Appointment of Auditor: It was unanimously agreed that Meacher-Jones should continue as our Auditor for 2020 & Liz said she would contact them.

5: Any Other Business: Stefan sent best wishes to Rob for his Deaconing next week from everyone present.

The meeting closed with prayers led by Rob at 1.00 pm

Signed (Rector)

Date

Rector's Report 2021

What a year! An unprecedented year, as our community has journeyed through the pandemic of the Coronavirus.

We have been blessed greatly.

Our cornerstone, our worship, has continued almost entirely uninterrupted with services online and in our church building.

Our teaching of the faith has expanded with online courses on the bible and reconciliation, and most recently reading the gospel of Mark together.

Times of fellowship through the week, over coffee and cake or a beer, have been offered.

We put in place a pastoral care network to support our communities through the pandemic, which was thankfully never stressed. At the same time, we sought to keep in touch with our electoral roll through the blessed phone, thereby rediscovering a deep delight.

The people of our communities overwhelmingly and generously supported the church as the pandemic threatened to collapse our finances. Thank you.

Our development of vocations continues to be embedded in the culture of our community. We have had the joy and gift of welcoming Rob Croft as Assistant Curate. Thank you, Rob, for your ministry among us. We have had the joy and gift of Tina Lightfoot being recommended to train for ordination as priest, beginning this autumn. We are so happy for you. We have had the joy and gift of Lesley Morgan exploring a vocation to pastoral ministry. We are so very excited for you Lesley, and all that God has and is doing through you. We have had the joy and gift of numerous other conversations with people, their questions and listening to the divine voice within them. We continue to pray for you, and those that will follow, and for the further embedding of vocational work in our community culture.

We have been blessed greatly, while also being acutely aware of many who have suffered at the hands of the pandemic. Those whose loved ones have died. Those whose mental health has suffered. Those who have struggled to make ends meet; where possible we have sought to walk alongside them through our pastoral ministry, prayers, conversations, and practical support.

Now, a new future beckons. For us, and the communities we serve. Some of this future, we may know; much of it remains necessarily hidden. We have shown ourselves, resting in Christ, to be resilient, agile, and adaptable. All qualities we will need in this new future. Our purpose is clear, as I am reminded by the hymn we have just sung this Sunday morning. 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name'.

To share in this purpose, this life with you, is a gift and one for which I am very thankful for. Just as I am thankful for you, and God with us in the new future which is unfolding. Lord, I pray for our future life, that Jesus must increase, and we must decrease. Amen.

With my love and prayers, Stefan

Churchwarden's Report

This, like the other reports has been a strange one to write as the year has been so overshadowed by the pandemic. As churchwardens it has been a very strange year indeed, dominated by Covid-19 risk assessments, track and trace requirements and 'Covid cleaning'!

Bettie Gilliatt, who has faithfully served as churchwarden for 6 years was due to retire from her duties at the APCM which should have been held in May. Due to the pandemic, the APCM was postponed until October so Bettie served an extra 6 months, she's been succeeded by Mike Lightfoot but she remains a member of the fabric and maintenance team and is our key person in relation to grant applications (see F&M report for details).

It's hard to find the words to sum up all that Bettie brought to the role of churchwarden but suffice to say she will forever be loved by the community payback team for being a constant source of chocolate brownies! Thanks Bettie.

Exactly a year ago to the day that we write this report, the first lockdown commenced. Our church was shut and plans were made to worship online. Just previous to this the PCC had had an extraordinary meeting to discuss how the church would be able to provide pastoral support to our community during the pandemic and the website-based pastoral support network was formed.

Whilst the church itself was closed, there was little we could do except keep a watchful eye on the building and special thanks must go to Paul Forrest who faithfully inspected it each week.

With the gradual easing of restrictions, risk assessments and necessary adaptations were made which allowed us to open the church initially for individual prayer and then on July 5th we opened for public worship under tight restrictions. Many of our worshipping community who were still high risk continued to worship online at which by then we had become reasonably proficient.

We were able to offer a limited programme of Christmas services at which those wishing to attend were asked to book a seat. The thought of denying anyone the chance to worship at such an important time of year was sheer agony for all of those involved in planning. By the time Christmas arrived, you will know that once again the country was facing another wave of the virus and many, quite advisably stayed home. So it was that we then went into this latest lockdown. The difference with this lockdown was that the government had said that places of worship could remain open and could hold services. Our PCC however took the wise decision that due to the vulnerability of our congregation that we should stay home and stay safe. On the anniversary of the first lockdown many have had at least their first vaccination and the restrictions are due to be eased so it is with great rejoicing that we plan, once more to recommence public worship under tight Covid-19 restrictions from Palm Sunday.

Thank you to everyone for your forbearance and understanding during such a difficult period.

St James' Christleton End of Year Financial Statements Year ending 2020

Introduction

These accounts have been produced on Finance Co-ordinator software on a receipts and payments basis. This is all that is required at our level of income.

They are directly comparable with last year.

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
Prior year					
total funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	—	—	—	—	18,823
Income from charitable activities	110,541	134	15,753	—	124,499
Other trading activities	6,742	—	—	—	15,523
Investments	263	—	—	—	316
Other income	1,082	—	4,287	—	4,721
Total receipts	118,629	134	20,040	—	163,884
Payments					
Raising funds	369	—	—	—	2,004
Expenditure on charitable activities	95,528	134	32,992	—	122,071
Other expenditure	8,268	1,328	—	—	17,488
Total payments	104,167	1,462	32,992	—	141,564
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	14,462	(1,328)	(12,952)	—	22,320
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains / losses	14,462	(1,328)	(12,952)	—	22,320
Net movement in funds	14,462	(1,328)	(12,952)	—	22,320
All assets at 01 January 2020	40,174	9,044	28,602	—	55,501
All assets at 31 December 2020	54,637	7,716	15,649	—	77,821
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	54,637	—	—	—	40,174
Designated					
car park land trust	—	—	—	—	—
choir	—	581	—	—	581
hymnbooks	—	—	—	—	—
parish hall refurbishment	—	6,316	—	—	7,644
rectory decorating	—	(558)	—	—	(558)
window protection	—	1,377	—	—	1,377
Restricted					
Egerton	—	—	2,882	—	2,882
bellringers	—	—	1,732	—	16,794
car park	—	—	—	—	—
chancel	—	—	3,000	—	3,000
charitable	—	—	96	—	96
churchyard	—	—	(217)	—	(986)
heating/boiler	—	—	—	—	—
parish hall refurbishment	—	—	—	—	—
rector D prof	—	—	—	—	—
restoration	—	—	5,363	—	3,863
Sunday school/messy church	—	—	2,792	—	2,951

Balance sheet

Class and code Last year	Description	This year	
Current assets			
CA1	current account	25,096	32,235
CA2	savings account	—	—
CA3	CBF investment account	51,072	50,808
CA4	petty cash	—	—
	Total Current assets	76,169	83,044
Liabilities			
6699	Agency collections	(1,834)	(1,277)
Z04	Accounts Payable	—	6,500
	Total Liabilities	(1,834)	5,222
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	78,003	77,821
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	181	35,935
Z01	Starting balances	77,821	41,886
	Total Reserves	78,003	77,821
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	54,637	40,174
	Designated	7,716	9,044
	Restricted	15,649	28,602
	Endowment	—	—
	Total	78,003	77,821

Statement of assets and liabilities

		General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	
Last year							
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand							
current account -		16,180	6,998	1,918	—	25,096	32,235
	Totals	16,180	6,998	1,918	—	25,096	32,235
Current assets - Investments							
CBF investment account -		38,456	718	11,897	—	51,072	50,808
	Totals	38,456	718	11,897	—	51,072	50,808
Liabilities - Agency accounts							
Agency collections -		—	—	(1,834)	—	(1,834)	(1,277)
	Totals	—	—	(1,834)	—	(1,834)	(1,277)
Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year							
Accounts Payable -		—	—	—	—	—	6,500
	Totals	—	—	—	—	—	6,500
	Grand total	54,637	7,716	15,649	—	78,003	77,821

Fund movement by type

		Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	
			Closing				
EG - Egerton							
Restricted		2,882	—	—	—	—	2,882
Sub-total for EG		2,882	—	—	—	—	2,882
HB - hymnbooks							
Designated		—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for HB		—	—	—	—	—	—
PHRest - parish hall refurbis							
Designated		7,644	—	1,328	—	—	6,316
Restricted		—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for PHRest		7,644	—	1,328	—	—	6,316
RDProf - rector D prof							
Restricted		—	3,000	3,000	—	—	—
Sub-total for RDProf		—	3,000	3,000	—	—	—
bells - bellringers							
Restricted		16,794	10,662	25,724	—	—	1,732
Sub-total for bells		16,794	10,662	25,724	—	—	1,732
carpark - car park land trust							
Designated		—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carpark		—	—	—	—	—	—
carparkres - car park							
Restricted		—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for carparkres		—	—	—	—	—	—
chancel - chancel							
Restricted		3,000	—	—	—	—	3,000
Sub-total for chancel		3,000	—	—	—	—	3,000
charit - charitable							
Restricted		96	—	—	—	—	96
Sub-total for charit		96	—	—	—	—	96
choir - choir							
Designated		581	134	134	—	—	581
Sub-total for choir		581	134	134	—	—	581
churchyd - churchyard							
Restricted		(986)	4,308	3,539	—	—	(217)
Sub-total for churchyd		(986)	4,308	3,539	—	—	(217)
heating - heating/boiler							
Restricted		—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for heating		—	—	—	—	—	—
rectdec - rectory decorating							
Designated		(558)	—	—	—	—	(558)
Sub-total for rectdec		(558)	—	—	—	—	(558)
rest - restoration							
Restricted		3,863	2,040	540	—	—	5,363
Sub-total for rest		3,863	2,040	540	—	—	5,363
ssmessy - sunday school/messy							
Restricted		2,951	30	189	—	—	2,792
Sub-total for ssmessy		2,951	30	189	—	—	2,792
windprot - window protection							
Designated		1,377	—	—	—	—	1,377
Sub-total for windprot		1,377	—	—	—	—	1,377
General - General fund							
Unrestricted		40,174	118,629	104,167	—	—	54,637
Sub-total for General		40,174	118,629	104,167	—	—	54,637
Grand total		77,821	138,804	138,622	—	—	78,003

Analysis of receipts and payments

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Donations and legacies						
IN10 - legacy	—	—	—	—	—	18,823
IN16 - mistaken entry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	18,823
Income from charitable activities						
IN01 - collections	704	—	—	—	704	7,009
IN02 - envelope scheme	23,563	—	—	—	23,563	19,731
IN03 - gift aid env	1,839	—	—	—	1,839	7,091
IN04 - funerals and weddings	6,544	—	—	—	6,544	22,325
IN06 - parish magazine	408	—	—	—	408	3,381
IN07 - standing orders	30,104	—	24	—	30,128	25,057
IN08 - HMRC	21,954	—	3,375	—	25,329	18,015
IN14 - donations	25,027	134	12,354	—	37,515	21,887
IN17 - clergy fee reimbursement	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN20 - general exp reimbursement	395	—	—	—	395	—
Total	110,541	134	15,753	—	126,428	124,499
Other trading activities						
IN05 - parish hall	6,472	—	—	—	6,472	14,713
IN19 - land rent	270	—	—	—	270	810
Total	6,742	—	—	—	6,742	15,523
Investments						
IN09 - investment acct interest	263	—	—	—	263	316
Total	263	—	—	—	263	316
Other income						
IN11 - fundraising	1,082	—	—	—	1,082	4,710
IN12 - insurance repayment	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN13 - BT way payment	—	—	—	—	—	—
IN15 - rectory expreimb	—	—	—	—	—	4
IN18 - church gas reimb	—	—	—	—	—	7
IN21 - VAT RECLAIM	—	—	4,287	—	4,287	—
Total	1,082	—	4,287	—	5,369	4,721
INCOME TOTAL	118,629	134	20,040	—	138,804	163,884

EXPENDITURE

Raising funds

EX11 - parish magazine	369	—	—	—	369	2,004
Total	369	—	—	—	369	2,004

Expenditure on charitable activities

EX01 - Church gas	2,213	—	—	—	2,213	2,106
EX02 - Church electricity	1,395	—	—	—	1,395	1,218
EX03 - Church salaries	3,105	—	—	—	3,105	5,704
EX04 - church insurance	3,913	—	—	—	3,913	3,845
EX05 - church building maintenance	652	—	26,264	—	26,916	—
EX06 - churchyard maintenance	—	—	3,539	—	3,539	1,444
EX07 - clergy expenses	1,205	—	3,000	—	4,205	1,799
EX08 - weddings/funerals	3,925	—	—	—	3,925	9,947
EX12 - messy church	105	—	189	—	294	2,877
EX14 - parish share	67,624	—	—	—	67,624	78,541
EX15 - rectory expenses	4,306	—	—	—	4,306	4,043
EX19 - church water	57	—	—	—	57	157
EX20 - church gen expenses	7,025	—	—	—	7,025	8,659
EX21 - church fabric maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX22 - choir expenses	—	134	—	—	134	1,726
Total	95,528	134	32,992	—	128,655	122,071

Other expenditure

EX09 - parish hall salaries	—	—	—	—	—	4,234
EX10 - parish hall maintenance and refurbishmen	91	728	—	—	819	6,367
EX13 - car park maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	—
EX16 - parish hall gas	2,269	—	—	—	2,269	2,308
EX17 - parish hall electricity	691	—	—	—	691	796
EX18 - parish hall water	428	—	—	—	428	1,404
EX23 - parish hall general expenses	4,087	—	—	—	4,087	2,378
EX24 - church development	700	600	—	—	1,300	—
Total	8,268	1,328	—	—	9,597	17,488
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	104,167	1,462	32,992	—	138,622	141,564
GRAND TOTAL	14,462	(1,328)	(12,952)	—	181	22,320

Overview of the Accounts 2020

It is reasonable to say this year has been unprecedented, as everyone else has also remarked! Having had a very positive start to the year launching the new stewardship campaign, using the A41 for the purpose of leaflet drop and publicity, this fell flat due to the lockdown situation in March. Overall, the campaign made a net gain of about £1000, being a mixture of donations and a few new standing orders. March and April were alarming months, as our physical income dropped dramatically and I predicted a very gloomy future ahead from the point of view of certain income, i.e. really only the standing orders.

1. Parish share - our main expense. A decision was made by the PCC that to continue to pay the parish share at a figure of 1.25 was unaffordable, and we arranged only to pay a 0.5 parish share. Thanks to the response of our regular congregation, many agreed to move their giving to standing orders, to bank transfers, or to cheques, some increasing standing orders to incorporate their “as and when” extra giving. By September, a degree of stability had been achieved and we began to pay 0.75 share, still cautious. By the end of the year we felt able to make a one-off payment to average out our payment to 1.05 – sufficient to support our full time member of the clergy and also show willing to support less fortunate parishes.
2. Full Bells Refurbishment. This was funded by a donation of £13,500, a grant of £3000, a loan of £6,500. VAT was reclaimed from the Listed Places of Worship scheme for the full project and the loan repaid. Thanks to the donor and the work of Nikki Dromgoole supervising this project it has been completed. This turned out to be a fairly complex procedure.
3. The Lychgate and some masonry are due for repair and thanks to Bettie Gilliatt’s perseverance, we have established grants of £2500 to help support this work. It is possible we may also be able to make a VAT reclaim on this.
4. The churchyard tree surgery has also been undertaken and the funding for this supported again by grants applied for by Bettie Gilliatt.
5. Our Website online donation has facilitated £1160 income. Our Contactless terminal has facilitated £805 income.
6. The Parish Hall overall has made a loss of £1000. However, the roof repairs £480, toilets £204 and reimbursed rental of £968 contributed to this.
7. The general fund income (donations SO envelopes and relevant HMRC) is £21,108 more than last year. Even taking £5000 out for the extra 3 months HMRC claimed this year to help cash flow, it is evident that we owe an immense debt of gratitude to our congregation for their incredibly generous support in such a difficult year. The bottom-line figure on page 2 of the accounts gives us a surplus of all receipts over payments of £181. At first glance, this appears a knife edge situation. In fact, it is misleading as £13,500 was donated in 2019 and paid out for the bells restoration in 2020, therefore showing 13,500 “extra” in our expenditure, but it was supported by income last year. This was all restricted money, given for the specific purpose of the Bells Restoration. If we look particularly at our general fund monies – our unrestricted money, in other words our working cash flow, we in fact have a surplus of £14,461. This feels extremely comfortable, but it has been achieved by paying a lower parish share as explained above. If we had paid the full 1.25 parish share, our surplus remaining in the general fund would have been £1589. Although this has, in retrospect, turned out to have been feasible, it would have been an even more difficult year to manage the cash flow. Budgets for 2021 are being prepared and may be available by the PCC meeting. Our future income still feels precarious as we endure another lockdown period, but we have a good starting point.

Elizabeth McClure 13.1.21

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members / Trustees of the Parochial Council of St James' Parish Church

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

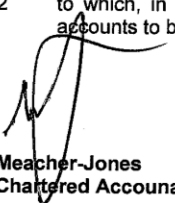
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Meacher-Jones
Chartered Accountants

6 St John's Court
Vicars Lane
Chester
CH1 QE

24 February 2021

Fabric and Maintenance Report

THE CHURCH

Although the Church has been closed for a large part of the past year, maintenance has not taken a back seat. The odd cobweb has appeared, but then spiders have an entitlement as well!

The security alarm, fire safety equipment, electrical inspections, gas boilers and general fabric conditions have all been addressed and serviced where required during last summer.

The roof had its annual inspection in August – this is well-worth the outlay as it pre-empts problems and the gutters and valleys are kept clear of debris. There are two slipped slates (north and south roofs) but currently they do not pose a problem.

Movement in the walls including the tower is monitored regularly. Bird netting in the tower was to have been replaced but is still outstanding but does not appear to have caused undue problems.

One of the Church boilers has had an intermittent fault and new parts have been ordered. One good thing is that with two boilers, at least one can usually be relied upon.

Some masonry repairs are due to be made, hopefully in May. A diocesan Faculty has had to be applied for and obtained so that the work can be done by an accredited stone mason. At the same time urgent repairs on the Grade II listed lychgate will be made. We are very grateful to be awarded grants from Historic Cheshire Churches Trust, Allchurches Trust and a CWAC members budget which will contribute to the cost (currently in the region of £6,000, but in the event may be more!) While the lychgate repairs are under way that entrance to the Church and grounds will not be accessible to the public.

Keeping the Church heated at a constant temperature in accordance with Historic England's guidelines will have kept it in good repair despite fluctuations in outside temperatures. Paul monitors the fuel consumption weekly.

The saddle bars on the clerestory (high) windows still remain to be treated for rust, the problem being access, the pews not being movable.

The AV system is due for an upgrade so that the Church can reach out more effectively to the parish and realise greater potential of the wonderful space. Cables have been laid through the car park, the groundwork having been surveyed using an ancient and "scientific" method by Paul. At the same time we found the source of the Church water supply thanks to the dogged determination of Damian from Severn Trent in weather which was not ideal.

The bells were refurbished during last summer (last done in 1928!). This was mostly due to a most generous donation for which we are most grateful. (Report by Nikki)

THE CHURCHYARD

During the first lockdown, we were unable to have the services of the Community Payback team to look after the grounds – report by Mike Lightfoot.

The west wall which forms the boundary of the public footpath continues to be monitored especially following a very wet winter. Remedial work will need to be done in the near future as the ancient yew trees continue their march outwards.

PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall, which is used by a wide variety of groups as well as the Church, has not been in use since the first lockdown. Consequently, there has been no income from its use although we are responsible for its maintenance.

The boiler which caused many headaches a few years ago is still causing on-going problems. Its main fault is that it is very old and past its working life. Major pipework was replaced several years ago to re-route heating directly from the boiler and now the boiler itself is about to expire. We have managed with the help of Cheshire Boilers, to keep it going but it is fast becoming a situation where replacement has to be considered. The radiators are also old and probably filled with sludge which would require flushing, or in an ideal world, replacement – an unacceptably expensive exercise when funds are as limited as they are. In a “good” year the Hall provides an acceptable return but currently and for the immediate future that looks positively gloomy.

The gents’ toilets are in very poor condition. The urinals should be replaced – one is currently hanging off the wall and the plaster along that wall is flaky and addled. The floor tiles are in poor condition and constantly under water from flooding and leaks. We are awaiting a quotation to address the worst of the problem.

The roof ridge tiles were re-set and repaired during last summer – grass had been growing through the gaps and some were missing altogether. The roof at least should now be watertight.

The Hall has been an essential element of the work of the Church and parish, being the only substantial building able to cope with numbers in the whole area. It is not within our remit to speculate on what could be done or on its future.

GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

All Church property is noted in the Church Property Register and is checked annually – this includes all Church silverware and items listed in and around the Church. Currently everything appears to be in order.

Grateful thanks is extended to all who contribute towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Church and the Churchyard so that all may be passed on to other generations for the benefit of the parish and locality.

Paul Forrest
Bettie Gilliatt

Foodbank

St James' Church has been involved continuously with the West Cheshire Foodbank since 2013.

To share a couple of statistics from our local Foodbank - in the year 2019-2020 there was an increase in need by 20% for adults and 40% for children and in January of this year that increase now stands at 41% for adults and 64% for children. Fortunately, there has also been a heart warming generosity from the public resulting in an increase in both food and monetary contributions.

The amount of food last year donated from St James' was almost a ton of food and there has been an increase in regular cash donations. These are very useful, being used to buy those foods which are needed, at a discounted rate, for bulk purchase. While the church has been closed during lockdown, it hasn't been possible to leave food donations there, but happily this has now resolved with re-opening of the church.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity, on behalf of those who are so much less fortunate and privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship for so many of our fellow human beings.

Chris Alderton

Deanery Synod Report

As with everything else Deanery Synod activities have been restricted by the impact of Covid.

There was a meeting on zoom on December 1st 2020 which was hosted by Reverend Chris Blunt and opened by Reverend Hennie Johnston, the Rural Dean, who welcomed the new officers elected to the Deanery Standing Committee for the next 3 years.

The speaker for the evening was Dr Alan Downen, the Deanery lay chairman, who addressed the topic 'What is Deanery Synod and why are we here?' He highlighted that Deanery Synod was the link between PCC and Diocesan Synod to bring together the church communities in our parishes and to promote the mission of the whole of the church. The Setting God's People Free initiative which highlights the concept of Everyday Faith has been delayed by the pandemic but should begin to have more impact. The 5 Marks of Mission are now supplemented here in Chester by the sixth mark-Bishop Mark! Alan Downen exhorted us to build on a foundation of prayer, to learn from and support each other in our successes and failures through better communication, to be prepared to step outside our comfort zones and to be catalysts for change.

The meeting on zoom on February 9th 2021 was mainly to celebrate the ministry of the Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead as he retires from that role. Bishop Keith referred to John 15 v 1 which speaks of the vine and the branches and how God prunes us in our lives into the shape He has for us. He spoke of the illuminating humanity of Jesus' love for

us until the end of our lives. Bishop Keith will be working with the Church of England Evangelical Council and will also be an Assistant Bishop in the Manchester Diocese.

Jocelyn Platel and Bettie Gilliatt (Deanery Synod Representatives)

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report

I took over the role of PCC Secretary after the last delayed (because of Covid) APCM in October 2020 following the retirement of Janet Milton who has very capably held the role for a number of years. So, a hard act to follow, especially in the isolation and limitations imposed by the pandemic in the last few months.

Not surprisingly it has not been easy to launch new initiatives in the last few months. However, the PCC has progressed its plans for an AV installation in the church, and this is anticipated to proceed in late summer of 2021. How fortunate we were that we already had the screens in place in church which could be used to transmit services when use of paper and books was deemed unsafe. One benefit of the impact of Covid is that everyone has become more used to the role of technology in shared worship and some people have even developed an extended repertoire of skills. So we can all see the value and potential which better AV equipment offers to our mission here in reaching out to church members and the wider community.

Sadly, we have lost the services of Hannah, our Director of Music, who decided to pursue Higher Education studies when musical activities were curtailed by the pandemic. Music has been provided electronically to enhance our services in the current situation.

However, on a more positive note, the Friends of St James has finally launched thanks to the dedication of the Stewardship Group and especially John Norbury, its Chair.

Despite the difficulties inherent in the current pandemic, PCC business has managed to continue with reasonable effectiveness through the medium of zoom, though I'm sure, like everyone else, we are all looking forward to meeting up 'normally' at some point.

Jocelyn Platel – PCC Secretary

Luncheon Club

It's hard to write a report about something that hasn't happened. Luncheon Club hasn't happened since our last arranged lunch in March 2020 was cancelled at short notice as the first Covid lockdown took effect. It caused great sadness as Luncheon Club was valued by many - a highlight in the month for tasty food, but mostly for fellowship. Sadly a few of our loyal luncheoners are no longer with us.

The lunches will return! The desire to continue in some form is strong. We just don't know when or how.

The lunches also provided some income to the church as the cost of food was outweighed by the generous donations received. In fact our residual 'coffers' from a year ago was £101.88 held pending resumption of activities, but earlier this year we gave £100 of that to the church PCC leaving just the £1.88 of small change in the cash tin as a noisy reminder of things past!

Brian Inall

22 March 2021

Parish Magazine

The St James' Church Parish Magazine has been going for generations. In fact we believe it started in the 1870s under the then Rector, Revd Lionel Garnett. Many old copies are kept in the County Archives & Local Record Office, and David Cummings and others have hundreds of past copies, and before too long David plans to get them together and catalogue them. Whether they can be digitised is another matter. Future historians will have a great time!

After a bit of an interruption, in February 2018 when this parish went into a vacancy, the magazine was re-launched for March that year in A4 format. I became involved in its production as part of a small team. Linda Rowe was editor, but I took over from her 'temporarily' at the beginning of 2019 as editor and compiler. You know the rest.

The Parish Magazine (mostly in black & white) was printed and delivered to those who subscribed £6 per year. Our circulation was about 300 copies per month plus more sold from the back of the church at 50p a copy. Together with revenue from advertisers the income exceeded costs so a small surplus went into church funds. Only back copies were electronically available for free from the church website.

Then Covid-19 came along and changed everything. The March 2020 edition was the last that was printed and sold. The Parish Magazine still continued every month, but from April 2020 it was only available online - and it was free - and it was in full colour as we had no printing costs.

Quite recently the latest Parish Magazine was also made available on the Christleton village website, and the archive of past magazines there was brought up-to-date.

Undoubtedly some readers who cannot access the internet are now excluded by this, but we have new readers perhaps - although we are unable to determine our current 'circulation'.

The future of the Parish Magazine is uncertain. After a good deal of thought I have decided to stop as editor/compiler at the end of this year, completing a 3-year stint, and between now and then one or more people need to come forward to run the magazine. Otherwise there will be another interruption.

Of course, it is not clear that we should return to a printed magazine although I know that a lot of people would want that. Maybe it should be available electronically as now, or a hybrid mix, or delivered in some other way. Will people pay for a printed copy? What part does Social Media play? Maybe it should not be monthly, but perhaps a different interval? Should it be

replaced with a simpler newsletter? What do people want? These questions need to be answered in the context of an overall 'comms' plan for St James' Church and in the context of available resources and priorities.

I really appreciate the loyal army of excellent contributors and the input from new folk. Please, keep writing articles. Keep reading - and can you help us going forward?

Thank you,

Brian Inall 28 March 2021

Electoral Roll Report

Since the last APCM the overall numbers on the ER have risen by 8. 6 people have died and 15 new names have been added. The figures below highlight the changes. There has been an increase of 41 on the ER since my beginning as ER officer in May 2019. There has been some effort to make the ER as accurate as possible with good lines of communication built in and this will continue.

The current position is as follows:

Number of members – 176 {168 in 2020}

Number of households – 115 {112 in 2020}

Number of residents within the parish – 101{97 in 2020}

Number of non residents – 75{71 in 2020}

Number of resident households –60 {62 in 2020}

Number of non resident households – 55 {50 in 2020}.

Chris Platel

ERO

Youth Work

Unfortunately, all face to face youth work had to be suspended following the first lockdown and we have not, at the time of writing, recommenced Messy Church, Lighthouse and Ark.

All our families were contacted and resources for worship etc were made available on the website using the 'Roots on the web' resources. In addition, we connected with our 2 older children via zoom and have had weekly bible study/ worship and discussion over the course of the year.

This natural break in our youth provision gives us a chance to reimagine how we can move forward in engaging with youth and young families and this work will hopefully commence shortly after Easter.

Tina Lightfoot

Churchyard Working Party

It all started well. The payback team were coming every Saturday, even during the winter months, we managed two working parties and lunch together in the church, some of the lads asked for guided tours, which we did!

As February moved into March the news wasn't good, gradually Covid 19 was on everyone's lips, then came the order, from March 23 we were to stay at home, essential shopping and exercise only.

Church was locked, all services stopped. No payback team and no working parties. Spring arrived, the grass grew, wildflowers came out in abundance, the churchyard became 'windswept and interesting'. Some people loved it, others didn't.

By high summer the grass was very long! We acquired a petrol mower and strimmer from very kind local residents and various people offered to cut the grass, but essentially we were fighting a losing battle.

The payback team returned in August under strict Covid rules. They were magnificent, working flat out the place was looking great again by early September.

The guys worked hard through the autumn and into winter, but by early January we were back in lockdown. At the time of writing (late March) the payback team are back!

The pandemic has helped us to focus carefully on what we actually do with our sacred area. The wildflowers last spring were magnificent. A decision was made to 'wild' part of the churchyard. The payback team would concentrate on the front of the church, this area would be mown, strimmed and weeded. The North side of the churchyard beyond the footpath would receive the same treatment.

The older parts on the west and immediately north of the church we would 'wild' to allow for botanical diversity. The area would still be accessible by regularly mown paths so visitors could walk through to appreciate the beauty surrounding them.

A bug hotel was built with the help of local children. This is situated on the North side of the tower.

Mike Lightfoot

Bereavement Support Group

This has been a difficult year for the Bereavement Support Group, with no personal visits being made due to the incidence of Covid 19. There has also been the complication in some cases of a long delay between a death and the burial of ashes, which has led to question whether or not an anniversary card should be sent.

There were 24 anniversary cards sent out for the year November 2019 to November 2020. The All Souls Service took place in church on Sunday 1st November, after which the BSG list started again for the following year. There have been 9 deaths this year between November 2020 and April 2021. The BSG Cards are always sent out to the families concerned, often with a personal letter if the family is well known. Occasional letters are received in response to the Anniversary Card from people grateful that their loved ones are still remembered at St James'.

In concluding this report, I wish to most warmly acknowledge the invaluable work done by Beryl and David Cummings in the administrative tasks as outlined above. This has been especially demanding during this year of challenge and on behalf of the BSG, I thank them most sincerely for their dedication.

Chris Alderton

Safeguarding

We are closely following the advice and guidelines in the Chester Diocese – Parish Safeguarding Handbook

- Safeguarding Policy Promoting a Safer Church was agreed by the PCC May 2019 – due to be reviewed at the PCC meeting 26.04.21. It is on the church web site (<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>)
- There is a link to 'Safe Spaces' – safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk. This is a website for Supporting Survivors of Church-related Abuse.
- Posters saying 'Promoting a Safer Church' giving information of 'who to contact and how' are displayed on church, parish hall, churchyard and car park noticeboards.
- All members of the PCC have Enhanced DBS Clearance as do other members of the church community who have direct contact with members of the public. (Bereavement Support, Visiting, Youth Activities).
- In the forthcoming year members of the church community are to be encouraged to look at and complete Safeguarding Level One Training.
- Safeguarding will remain a standing item on the agendas of the Stewardship Mission Group and all PCC meetings.

Ann White

Safeguarding Lead and DBS Lead Recruiter

5th April 2021

Bell Ringers' Report

The Bellringer's AGM will take place on April 20th, 2021. This is later than normal because of the COVID restrictions and will be via Zoom. Therefore, the current officers are still in place.

POSITION	PROPOSER	SECONDER	ELECTED
Tower Captain	Tracey Simmons	Jo O'Brien	Nikki Dromgoole
Deputy Tower Captain	Jo O'Brien	Robin Ferris	Ian Braithwaite
Treasurer	Brian Harris	Brian Harris	Pauline Cook
Secretary	Brian Harris	Mike Hoyland	Mary Cowen

Report

Ringling during 2020 has been challenging but service ringing has taken place when possible. The ringers have adapted the band, to comply with COVID regulations, throughout 2020.

Bell restoration project

Taylor's started the renovation work on Monday 13th July 2020. The first stage of the Job, was to dismantle the bell wheels, remove clappers and roller boxes, stays and sliders. Next the bell hangers removed each bell from the Bearing housings and turn them through 180 degrees, to allow full access to the frame for scraping down in preparation for painting. Additionally, the bellhangers vacuumed the bell chamber and removed the 93yrs of accumulated dust and dirt from the bell chamber floor, which was a welcome bonus!

The fittings were shipped to Taylors in Loughborough for extensive renovation work, to restore them to a good condition. Each week a photographic record was taken of the work, to capture a visual record of the progress made. The final stage of the job was to re-hang the bells and fittings. The bell hanger's last day was Thursday 3rd September 2020. They had planned to finish at lunch time but were still going at 6pm, eventually finishing sometime later.

Once the renovation had been completed, a band rang the bells for a wedding on 12th September 2020. We rang six bells and were wearing face coverings to comply with the Covid regulations at the time. A book recording the bell restoration project has been produced and a digital copy is being created.

Clock Service

The ringers are responsible for winding the church clock weekly. During Q3 of 2020 the winding became stiff. There was no record of the annual clock service on the maintenance sheet in the clock room. Therefore, Smiths of Derby were contacted. After some negotiation, Smiths accepted that they had not completed the service in April and subsequently carried this out in September. The tower captain has now taken responsibility for arranging the annual service and will liaise with Mike Lightfoot so that the relevant paperwork is stored within the church maintenance records.

Future:

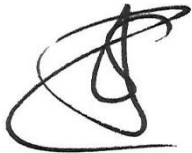
Plans are in place to re-start ringing when possible.

This concludes my report for 2020. However, if any member of the PCC has any questions for the ringers, or would like to visit the tower, please don't hesitate to contact me and you would be most welcome.

Nikki Dromgoole

Christleton Tower Captain.

On behalf of the PCC

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a smaller, more complex flourish.

**The Revd Dr Stefan Collier
(Chairman)**

**Jocelyn Platel
(Hon Secretary)**

Parish Office, St James, Pepper Street, Christleton, CH3 7AG
Telephone: 01244 325529
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