

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE HARBORNE

England & Wales · Charity number 1134152

Details

Other names	ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HARBORNE PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	115 Balden Road Harborne Birmingham B32 2EL
Phone	07532338961
Email	ssfaithlaurence@gmail.com
Website	www.saintfaithandsaintlaurence.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Promulgation of the Christian Religion, Pastoral care and worship. Linking with the local community

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£105,440	£90,030	-	-
2023-12-31	£74,737	£83,383	-	-
2022-12-31	£76,099	£69,598	-	-
2021-12-31	£55,799	£72,702	-	-
2020-12-31	£77,419	£128,034	-	-

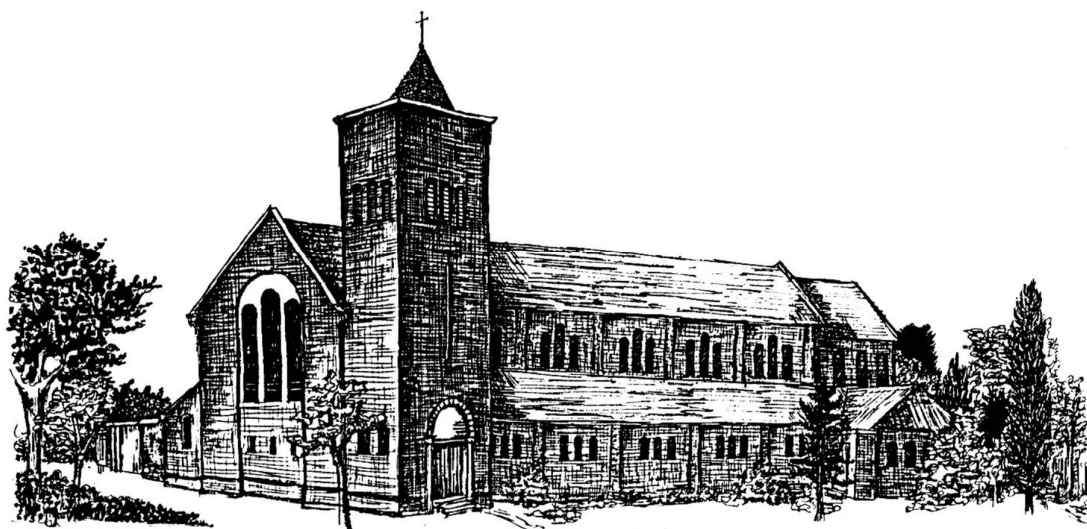
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexandra Louise Robertson		2024-05-02
Anita Margaret Tippin		2022-05-17
Caroline Marguerite Mosley		2019-06-18
Christine Angela Stewart		2023-07-11
Corinne Christiane Francoise Treacy		2019-04-30
David John Glanvill		2024-05-02
Deborah Bronwen Jones		2026-04-26
Doris Brenda Coyne		2023-05-02
Dr Sally Elizabeth Griffiths		2017-04-25
Helen Mary-Rose Setchell		2021-06-01
John Wadman		2021-06-01
Josephine Joan Phillips		2025-05-11
Lesley Jean Arkell		2024-05-02
Loleta Elnora Atkinson		2020-01-14
Malcolm Adey		2016-04-19
Rev David John Parker		2023-03-28

Accounts



St Faith and St Laurence Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/2025



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HARBORNE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**For the year ended April 2025
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024**

Priest in Charge:

The Reverend David Parker
Harborne
Birmingham

Bank:

TSB plc
537 Bearwood Road
Warley
West Midlands
B66 4BQ

Independent Examiner:

Gee Ark FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4AR

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 11th May 2025 at 11.15am and 11.30 am held in the Church Hall**

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence

4. Minutes of the 2023/2024 meeting

5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

The Annual Meeting shall receive from the Parochial Church Council and shall be free to discuss: -

- A report on the numbers entered on the new electoral roll
- An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally
- The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2024
- A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church, under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018
- A report on the proceedings of the Warley and Edgbaston Deanery Synod

6. Elections

- Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (3 for 2025-2028) plus 1 place on Deanery Synod
- Appointment of Independent Examiner

7. Any questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.

8. Final words from the Chair

9. The Grace

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd David Parker

Licensed Reader: Sally Griffiths

Churchwardens: David Glanvill
Corinne Treacy

Deanery Synod Representatives: Caroline Mosley
Lesley Arkell
Alex Robertson

Elected Members: Malcolm Adey
Loleta Atkinson (Treasurer)
Angela Collingwood
Dee Coyne
Alan Jones
Helen Setchell (Secretary)
Anita Tippin
Chris Stewart
John Wadman

Co-opted Member Roger Chester

TASK GROUPS AND OTHER GROUPS 2023/2024

The PCC operates through a number of Task Groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee chaired by the Vicar. This is the only committee required by law. The committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, with two other members of the PCC.

Children and Young People Task Group chaired by Helen Setchell

Church and Estates Task Group chaired by David Arkell

Communications Task Group chaired by Caroline Mosley

Eco Church chaired by Corinne Treacy

Mission Task Group chaired by Pauline Sitford

Socials Task Group chaired by David Glanvill

Safeguarding Sally Griffiths, Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Corinne Treacy, Parish Identity Verifier

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm**

1. Opening Prayers

David Parker led prayers.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

David explained that this meeting is open to all persons on the church's electoral roll and also all residents of the parish, reminding us that the parish church exists to serve everyone in the parish.

2. Election of Churchwardens

David thanked Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy for their work as Churchwardens over the last year. Especial thanks were given to Malcolm, who had served for a total of 8 years, and according to the rule reintroduced in 2023 now gets a well-earned break.

Two nominations had been received to serve as Churchwarden for the year 2024-25:

David Glanvill

Nominated: Helen Setchell **Seconded:** John Wadman **Vote:** Unanimous

Corinne Treacy

Nominated: Mark Lawrence **Seconded:** Caroline Mosley **Vote:** 27 for/2 against/2 abstentions

David Glanvill and Corinne Treacy were duly confirmed as wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This meeting is open to everyone on the church's electoral roll.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Bronwen Jones, Judith and Geoff Bennett and Hilary Shaylor

David commended to the meeting the booklet containing all the reports on the previous year, and extended thanks to Caroline Mosley for all her work in collating the reports and to Peter Stokes for printing the booklets.

4. Minutes of the previous APCM, held on 2nd May 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2023 meeting.

Proposed: Malcolm Adey **Seconded:** Corinne Treacy

5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

- a. **Electoral Roll** – In Judith Bennett’s absence, David Parker reported that that there were 124 names recorded on the roll, 2 fewer than last year. Of these, 63 are residents of the parish and 61 non-residents. Thanks were given to Judith.
- b. **PCC Report** – David Parker drew the meeting’s attention to the report on pp11-13 of the booklet. The two issues raised at last year’s APCM (heating and the audio system) had both received attention: new electrical heaters had been installed in the Lady Chapel and the Choir Vestry, and a new digital mixer had been added to the audio system. The main challenges currently facing the church were refurbishment of the church gutters and finding a permanent organist. There were no questions or comments arising.
- c. **Financial statements** –Loleta Atkinson, Treasurer, referred the meeting to her report in the booklet and the audited statements at the back. David Parker commented that although the accounts showed a deficit of £8.6k over the year part of this was due to repayment of fees accrued during the Vacancy; given the very difficult financial circumstances (and in particular the increased cost of gas) he was not too worried by this deficit, and he celebrated the decision to give 5% of church income to charities. Finances for 2024 are looking reasonable: Hall rentals are up, and if everyone could be encouraged to increase their giving by 10% the situation would be good. The parish has recently received a £10,000 legacy from Priscilla White which will be used for something specific. Peter Stokes commented that our Diocese is likely to ask for a greater contribution from each parish. Currently St Faith and St Laurence is giving £40k annually to the Common Fund.

Ratification of Report and Accounts for 2023

Proposed: Loleta Atkinson **Seconded:** David Arkell **Vote:** Unanimous

Thanks were expressed to Loleta for all her work.

- d. **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments** - A report from the Churchwardens had been circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received. Thanks were expressed to the wardens.
- e. **A report on the proceedings of the Warley and Edgbaston Deanery Synod** was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. No questions were received. Thanks were expressed to Caroline Mosley who is currently our only lay representative – it would be good to have more.
- f. **Other reports.** The other reports in the booklet were received: there were no questions.

6. Elections

a. Deanery Synod representatives

The current Deanery Synod took office in 2023 with a 3 year term. The parish is entitled to have 4 lay representatives but currently has only one (Caroline Mosley), to whom thanks were expressed. No nominations to fill the vacancies had been received prior to the meeting. Caroline spoke about the role of the Synod and encouraged people to consider standing.

Pauline Sitford also said that she had previously enjoyed the experience of being a member. Following this, two people offered to stand:

Alex Robertson

Proposed: Malcolm Adey **Seconded:** Corinne Treacy **Vote:** Unanimous

Lesley Arkell

Proposed: Caroline Mosley **Seconded:** Mark Lawrence **Vote:** Unanimous

These Deanery Synod representatives also become ex-officio members of the PCC.

b. Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the PCC

Before electing representatives to the PCC, the parish needed to confirm its policy with regard to Readers. David suggested that as we only have one (excellent) Reader, it is appropriate that she should be a member of the PCC.

Sally Griffiths

Proposed: David Parker **Seconded:** Helen Hayward **Vote:** Unanimous

Each year 4 members are elected to the PCC for a 3 year term. The members completing their term were Helen Setchell and John Wadman and both were willing to stand again. In addition there are 3 vacancies from the previous year, so 7 places are available in total. Chris Stewart had been coopted in July 2023 and was now standing for election. Malcolm Adey had stood down as Churchwarden but was happy to continue on the PCC. Roger Chester had also offered to stand but was not eligible as he had not been on the electoral roll for the necessary 6 months – David Parker suggested that the PCC might coopt him at its first meeting.

This meant there were 4 nominations for 7 vacancies:

Name: **Helen Setchell**

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Loleta Atkinson

Name: **John Wadman**

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Malcolm Adey

Name: **Chris Stewart**

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Loleta Atkinson

Name: **Malcolm Adey**

Proposed: Anita Tippin **Seconded:** Len Myers

As there were fewer candidates than places these were voted in on a single vote:

Proposed: David Parker **Seconded:** Thelma Kettle **Vote:** unanimous.

c. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that we continue with the current Independent Examiner, Ark Aurora Ltd.

Proposed: Loleta Atkinson **Seconded:** Tim Hayward **Vote:** Unanimous

7. Any questions

- Pauline Sitford asked about disabled access for services via the Hall door for anyone arriving late. One suggestion was to provide a different doorbell – this will be discussed at the PCC.
- Helen Hayward asked that special thanks be given to Mark Lawrence for his work in maintaining the quality of church music since Simon Palmer left.
- Malcolm Adey asked if the report could be published earlier than a week before the annual meeting. David Parker commented that a lot of work goes into this report and a week should be enough time for people to read the document.
- Peter Stokes pointed out that General Synod had recently allowed individual priests to decide whether they will say prayers of blessing for same sex couples. David Parker took the opportunity to declare that he is willing to bless same sexed couples. Brenda Stott commented that this parish has greatly benefited from the contribution of same sex couples so she was sure the parish would fully support David in this matter.
- Alan Jones thanked Anita Tippin and her team for the Easter flowers.
- David Parker said that several people had expressed disappointment that they could not get to a Tuesday evening meeting. He asked for views on having the annual meetings at another time / day. There was general approval for the idea of having them on a Sunday after the 10am service, possibly followed by lunch.
- Peter Stokes thanked David Parker for his role in the parish and the positive impact he has made on church life.

8. Final words from the chair – David referred the meeting to his letter on p27 of the booklet, and repeated his thanks to all who serve the parish. The meeting ended with a sharing of the Peace.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2024/2025

Since the last APCM the Parochial Church Council has met on seven occasions to discuss and decide upon matters of business relating to church life. This includes an extraordinary meeting held in April 2025 to approve the audited accounts.

The church exists to promote the Christian Religion, to offer prayer, worship and pastoral care, and to work in such a way as to offer public benefit to all who might wish to use it or its facilities, including the church hall.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

At its first meeting, in May 2024, the PCC re-elected Caroline Mosley as lay Vice-Chair, Loleta Atkinson as Treasurer and Helen Setchell as Secretary. Caroline Mosley, Malcolm Adey and Anita Tippin were elected to the Standing Committee, joining the Priest-in-charge,

Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary who are ex-officio members of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee has met four times, in June, October, December and February, and has also transacted business by email.

Following the resignation of Simon Palmer as Director of Music with effect from February 2024, the PCC were delighted that Mark Lawrence agreed to take on this role provided he could have 12 Sundays off per year. Mark was formally appointed with effect from 1st August 2024 and, as expected, has proved excellent.

At its July meeting, following some minor vandalism in church and recent thefts from other local churches, the PCC discussed the policy of keeping the church open during daylight hours. It was agreed that this would continue but that all metal objects would be removed with the exception of the cross on the main altar, which is now chained down.

We have spent some time considering our accounting system and financial controls. A number of our suppliers now require online payment, so the bank account has been set up in such a way that any online payment must be authorised by two individuals. The annual accounts provided by our current auditor are unclear and unhelpful, so from 2025 we have agreed to adopt the MyFundAccounting.Online accounts package and the services of their Independent Examiner – this will actually be cheaper as well as providing much clearer information. David Parker has temporarily taken on the role of submitting Gift Aid claims, and in June wrote to all identifiable regular givers to thank them for their generosity.

A major ongoing issue has been the need to tackle the poor state of the church gutters, identified as a priority in the Quinquennial inspection of the church carried out in July 2023. The PCC commissioned the church architect (Philip Waghorn) to draw up a scheme of work for refurbishing all the gutters and downpipes, which was submitted for tenders, and the lowest tender came in at nearly £72k+VAT. In parallel, the necessary approvals were obtained from the Archdeacon in July 2024. While funding was sought, in August a temporary repair was made to the leaking joint to the right of the entrance, which cured the immediate leak. David Parker explored the possibility of obtaining grants for the main work, and was successful in obtaining a small grant of £3250 from the Benefact Trust, but an application for a large grant from the National Churches Trust submitted in stages from September to December 2024 was ultimately turned down in March 2025. Meanwhile an extremely generous gift of £30k from a parishioner has made it possible for the PCC to commit to this project in anticipation of significant fundraising, and it is hoped that work will start in June.

As the existing contract with Clear Business for phone and internet services was due for renewal, in October 2024 it was decided to switch to Daisy Communications, the provider recommended by Parish Buying. Installation of a new full-fibre link took some time but this is now fully operational. The 5-yearly electrical testing of all the circuits in the church and hall was completed satisfactorily in September 2024.

In Summer 2024 Bright Blooms Nursery came up with a proposal to use the hall for 3 sessions per week (the maximum possible given the existing usage). The PCC welcomed this proposal, which would have resulted in significant additional income, but in the end it proved a non-starter. Sadly we recently also lost Slimming World, who have moved to other premises, but we have

gained a BhangraFit group on Thursday evenings and a U3A TaiChi group on Tuesday afternoons. For a time the West Midlands Turkish Association were using the hall for singing and dance classes but this has now ended. The current income from regular hall users totals £440/week, which is supplemented by one off bookings.

A recent request from the Korean Jesus Vision Church to use our buildings on Sunday afternoons is under consideration.

In September and again in March the PCC reviewed the list of roles for which specific Safeguarding training is needed. We still need to produce full role descriptions for all of these.

In November the PCC agreed to give £1000 to each of the four causes recommended by the Mission Task Group: Shelter Box, Practical Action, Buddy Bag and Acorns Hospice. In January 2025 we agreed to increase our annual diocesan Common Fund contribution to £46,000.

Since December 2024 the Vicarage has been occupied by Revd Sam Sieber, priest in charge of St Gabriel's Weoley Castle, which is an excellent development.

During the 2024 APCM a question was raised about disabled access to the church for anyone arriving late for a service, so a new wireless doorbell has been installed and the warden on duty holds the receiver.

Since 2023 the parish is now grouped in an Oversight Area with the parishes of St Peter's Harborne, St Michael's Bartley Green, St Mary's Selly Oak and St Gabriel's Weoley Castle. Until a proper Oversight Minister is appointed the Bishop has asked David Parker to act as convenor for this grouping, and a Formation Day was held at the diocesan offices in March 2025.

The PCC notes that one of the PCC members, Corinne Treacy, has an interest in R T Cleaning and Maintenance, who have the contract for cleaning the church and church hall. Corinne was not involved in the appointment decision process.

As always this report has focussed on matters directly considered by the PCC. However, many parish matters are devolved to the various Task Groups, whose work we commend and whose individual reports accompany this report.

The PCC

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

All page references are to the Annual Accounts, which are at the end of this booklet.

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2024** is on pages 2 and 3.

Income: In 2024 we saw a significant increase in income from lettings, and an increase in Gift Aid.

We had a legacy of £10,163 from the estate of the late, Revd. Priscilla White.

The Grant and Insurance Claim figure includes: A grant of £3,250 from the Benefact Trust and the small grant tax reclaimed, but note, the amount received, £6,665 included the late 2023 claim.

We also received donations that we paid, as required, to the: Food Bank, Christian Aid, Children Society and Shanti Aid.

The Christmas Fayre raised £627 for church funds.

All gratefully received.

Payments: The Common Fund for the year, £40,000 was paid in full. The PCC has agreed to increase the amount we pay next year, 2025, to £46,000. In 2020 we were asked to pay £49K therefore, we are not yet paying the full amount required by the diocese.

We paid initial cost of £2,328 towards essential work to the gutters.

The following costs increased:

- Cost of copies (ink) and paper doubled when compared to the previous year.
- Cost of minor repairs and maintenance to the church and hall increased when compared to the previous year. This is forecast to also increase in 2025 as there are still important minor repairs that have yet to be undertaken.

The cost of our heating/lighting were down compared to last year: 2023 - £9,065 to 2024 - £6,813.

Overall, for the year we had an excess of receipts over payments of approximately £14,500, excluding investment interest of £922. This is despite making a £4,000 charitable donations:

- Acorns Children Hospice - £1,000
- Buddy Bag Foundation - £1,000
- Practical Action - £1,000
- Shelter Box - £1,000

Delegated/Restricted Funds on page 4 and 5.

- Church Hall and Repair Fund: No withdrawal made in 2024.
- Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.

- Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship – Actual balance as confirmed by the Fellowship.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 6.

The first column includes CBF investment Deposit account (i.e The PCC Investment) balance. The PCC investment account is a reserve account mainly to back up the current account. And the current account balance. It shows the total non-restricted funds.

The second column records the Church Hall & Repair Fund Account, a designated fund, analysed on page 4.

Thank You: Thanks to all those who have helped with counting recording and banking the income. Namely, Brenda, Hilary, Anita, Lesley, Peter and Malcolm. To Judith for managing the hall hire. And to the church wardens, Malcolm and Corinne and David for their support.

Thanks to Revd David Parker for making the annual grant claims and grant applications.

Thank you also to those who give generously to the Church.

Parish Giving Scheme: Finally, if you give regularly please join the Parish Giving Scheme. This delivers the Gift Aid, (tax refund) much earlier, monthly, and it avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.

Loleta Atkinson, Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The Churchwardens are Bishops' officers, chosen by the parish and admitted to their office by the Bishop or Archdeacon. Once admitted they have formal and legal responsibilities to fulfil.

The Churchwardens' visitation was held on November 7th 2024. We met with Ian Thorley (Deanery Lay Chair) and all went well. This year, in addition to the usual conversations about buildings, governance and safeguarding, they wanted to look at the silverware which was listed in our church's inventory. We then had to submit online our Archdeacon's Articles of enquiry. This year, the questions were regarding the mission in our Parish and the Safeguarding.

Fabric and Buildings

The fabric of the Church and the Hall buildings remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard. The state of the buildings is monitored on a regular basis and any maintenance and/or repairs needed are agreed through the Church Estate Task Group (CETG), the Standing Committee (SC) and/or Parochial Church Council (PCC).

All maintenance services throughout 2024/25 were carried out in accordance with the regulations i.e. bells, boilers, fire extinguishers and fire alarms, intruder alarms, organ, piano, and sound system. The Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) would be done in due course. The compulsory quinquennial Electrical Report was carried out on September 30th 2024.

The Church

No major works were needed this previous year.

Due to important leaks causing secondary damage, temporary repairs to the south high gutter were made on August 22nd 2024. In addition, as a donation, repairs between the church roof and the bell tower roof were carried out on August 23rd 2024 to eliminate the infiltration of water from the top, running along the wall of the gallery and finally leaking into the Narthex causing secondary damages.

Following the disappearance of the donation boxes, the forcing of the votive candle donation box, the stealing of the brass Eagle from St Augustine's lectern and the Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson's advice, PCC decided on July 9th 2024 that all metallic ornaments i.e. processional crucifixes, crosses, Churchwarden's staffs, missal stand in addition of the brass candle holders, microphones and organ light would have to be locked away in the vestry after the last Sunday service. The big brass cross in the Sanctuary is chained and padlocked to the table.

The Hall and Committee Room

Minor repairs such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing and general maintenance had been carried out this previous year.

One of the outside doubled glazed glass pane at the bottom had to be replaced on April 11th 2024.

There was an increase of regular and occasional hirers. The rental prices have been made more consistent.

Heating

We have had few problems with the boiler system in the hall building. A new valve was installed on October 17th 2024 and a new pressure gauge was fitted on January 28th 2025.

Eco Church

We are delighted to announce that St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) has been awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award on August 12th 2024.

Vicarage

The Vicarage was vacant from July 3rd 2024. When periods occur that the Vicarage is not rented, utility bills and grounds maintenance have to be taken care of by the PCC whilst the Diocese has to take care of the necessary repairs before renting it.

We are pleased to say that since December 18th 2024, the Vicarage has a new tenant, Revd Samantha Sieber, recently licensed at St Gabriel's in Weoley Castle.

Quinquennial 2023

Lot of small issues were identified in the report. CETG has tackled a few of them i.e. Oak doors and frames, cellar door, dampness due to hoppers and downpipes being blocked and overgrown vegetation. The major issue identified in the report is the church cast iron gutters and downpipes. Philip Waghorn (Architect), was commissioned to draw up a scheme on these. The gutter project is advancing fast with grants and donations.

Goods and Ornaments

As churchwardens, we are custodians of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate and ornaments. Therefore, we have completed a full inventory to this effect in

March 2025 and we can confirm that all the items recorded in SF&SL Terrier and Inventory are in reasonable condition.

Since October 10th 2024, we have a new addition to the Inventory - a frame with the portrait of our king Charles III which is on the wall in the Committee Room.

Grounds

We are grateful to the gardening team, lawn and hedge cutters and all the Eco church working party/litter picking volunteers for keeping the community garden, the front grounds and the church surroundings tidy and well maintained.

Services

Throughout this year, we had in addition to our normal pattern of services, some special services. We welcomed Quinton Co-operative Funeralcare for their Christmas Memorial Service on Sunday December 8th 2024 and Woodhouse Primary Academy for their Christmas concert on Monday December 16th 2024. Mark Lawrence, our Director of Music, mesmerised us with fantastic music and singing with his West House School Choir for the Christmas Carol concert on December 15th 2024 and recently for the Mothering Sunday service on March 30th 2025.

Appreciation

David and I would like to record our grateful thanks and appreciation to:

- Malcolm Adey and Sue Glanvill, Deputy Wardens, for their continuous assistance and support given.
- The sidepersons/stewards, who are the first point of welcome to the church.
- Peter Stokes for compiling and / or printing the Parish magazines, the regular pew sheets, the occasional
- orders for service and any supplement needed.
- The Readers, the Intercessors, the Servers, the Chalice Administrators
- Mark Lawrence our Director of Music, the Bell Ringers, the Singers and the Organists who provide us with wonderful music.
- Sally Griffiths, our Lay Reader, for her huge contribution.
- The cleaners, the flower arrangers who ensure that the church looks beautiful.
- The coffee makers and those who launder the Altar linens and the kitchen cloths.
- The Children and Young People (CYP) team who have facilitated the return of Messy Church sessions.
- David Parker, our Priest-in-Charge, for all his hard work in the Parish and for ensuring that our spiritual life continues to develop and grow.
- All at SF&SL, for their continued willingness to give their time to carry out tasks, duties and offer each other support, encouragement and assistance.

David Glanvill and Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

WARLEY AND EDGBASTON DEANERY SYNOD 2024/2025

The Deanery Synod met three times on 5th June, 23rd October 2024 and 25th February 2025. St Faith and St Laurence members of Synod are Caroline Mosley, Lesley Arkell and Alex Robertson. Revd David Parker is automatically a member as priest in charge.

The June Synod at Christ Church Summerfield started with discussions on the financial state of the Church of England Birmingham, following the February presentation by the Diocesan Board of Finance. Frustration stemmed from the budgeted £1.6m deficit for 2024, clergy morale issues, and lack of financial information provided to synod and parishes. The Deanery Synod Standing Committee proposed a motion to Diocesan Synod requesting clearer financial details, plans to address the deficit, and better engagement with deaneries and parishes. After discussion, the motion was passed by majority vote.

Canon Dr Andrew Smith, Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop of Birmingham spoke about his role. Most parishes in Birmingham Diocese have diverse populations. He focused particularly on the work of the 94 Presence and Engagement parishes where 10% and over of their population are from other faiths. He also provided guidance on discussing our beliefs with members of other faiths. Andrew offered to come and support parishes in any way that was helpful.

Finally, Rev Dr Katie Stock gave a presentation on vexatious complaints against clergy, highlighting the unique vulnerability of clergy to such complaints. She asked for Synod support for a motion to be submitted to Diocesan Synod asking for a review of the current Diocesan complaint policies in regards to vexatious complaints, to incorporate best practice in revised policies and provide guidance on how best to identify and deal with such complaints. The resolution received unanimous support.

The October Synod meeting was held at St Germain's, Edgbaston. The focus was the climate crisis and how we respond to the challenge. An open invitation to attend had been given to Parish Environment Contacts (PECs) and anyone in the deanery with an interest in the environment. There was an opportunity before the meeting to go on a tour of the church before hearing about St Germain's eco journey. The church is large and a fractured gas pipe and failing heating system posed major issues. It required creative thinking in how the church space could be used and heated. Some of their innovative ideas were on show.

Caroline Egan, Church of England Birmingham's Assistant Environment Officer spoke about the Church's response to the climate crisis. A retired lawyer, she now promotes climate action and has been involved in consultations on A Rocha's Eco Diocese awards and the Church of England's renewable energy criteria. Caroline gave an overview of the climate and environmental crises we are currently facing and what the Christian response to this should be. Actions that churches and individuals can do was explored, the support available through the Church of England Birmingham and the types of grants available to churches were highlighted.

Dawn Braithwaite provided a racial justice update, describing work going on in the development of a diocesan racial justice strategy. A document outlining the way forward is due to be issued.

Archdeacon Jenny spoke about progress with the People and Places programme, including the oversight areas and oversight ministers. She also flagged that parishes should be developing and

encouraging lay ministry amongst their congregations. There are a variety of different options for this ministry in People and Places.

St Michael and All Angels, Bartley Green hosted the February 2025 meeting. Mike Sermon, Area Dean reported that the Diocesan finance resolution submitted to Diocesan Synod in June 2024 had been lost. The vexatious complaints measure had been deferred but would be picked up later. The new Clergy Rules should address some of the points raised.

Guy Hordern (St Bartholomew's, Edgbaston) had been invited by Councillor John Cotton, Leader of Birmingham City Council, to take part, along with other faith group and community representatives, on the "Shaping Birmingham's Future Together 2035" initiative which aims to tackle inequality in the city, develop a thriving economy and provide better opportunities for all. It was to be launched on 25th March and a series of community roadshows will take place throughout the year.

The Diocesan Finance Team had been invited to the meeting and presented the current financial situation, highlighting the Diocese's lack of historical wealth and significant drops in Common Fund income post-Covid. Most Diocesan spending goes towards clergy and parish support. They shared a strategic plan for future financial sustainability, emphasizing the Diocesan vision of growing the Church of England in Birmingham through Transforming Church initiatives, including structural changes, church planting, revitalization, parish growth, and financial development. Following the presentation, Synod members discussed their own parishes' financial challenges and the issues raised.

Caroline Mosley

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP

Children's ministry work is linked to our neighbouring parish of St Peter's Harborne and together we work with the aim of sharing God's love, spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus, God's Son and helping each other to grow through the Holy Spirit with children in an engaging way.

St Faith and St Laurence hosted 2 Messy Church opportunities during the last year, one linked to a Social Committee event and one stand-alone Messy Church morning. In Spring, we celebrated New Beginnings and St George's Day with families able to plant seeds for new growth, make cakes, reflect upon nationality through engagement in crafting activities and by joining in our community fun. Our Messy Church at the end of the Autumn Term was linked to St Faith and St Laurence's Christmas Fair. Everyone was invited to create amongst other things, cards, decorations, door hangers and biscuits using a wide range of craft materials. It was special to be able to hold this advent event in the church by the twinkling Christmas Tree and the children and their families were then able to enjoy the Fair, especially meeting Father Christmas! I was incredibly touched that the Messy Church Team of volunteers continued to cheerfully set up, deliver and pack away the Christmas event by themselves in my absence through ill health.

We are blessed that there is a small number of children who now regularly attend our 10am morning worship on a Sunday. We welcome them to the children's area in church with a number of weekly activities such as playdough, colouring, card making, sticker work and reading games. We ask for continued prayer that this fellowship opportunity may continue and grow.

Members of our Church Community were warmly welcomed to attend St Peter's Good Friday and Harborne Family Day in June so it is a continued blessing that there have been some activities available for families during the past 12 months. Messy Church is developing strong links with our Stay and Play group, held on a Thursday morning and more families are being encouraged to join us when we have our Saturday events. Whilst the number of children attending is relatively small, offering opportunities for Christian Fellowship is worthwhile and rewarding and I am grateful for the support given to our Children's Ministry from those who are willing to run an activity table but also others who provide refreshments and help prepare and clear up afterwards.

In this way, joint events that both parishes share enable the continuation of children being welcomed into our church communities and provide opportunities for all of us to grow in love, deepen our faith and together, work for God.

Helen Setchell

CHURCH ESTATE TASK GROUP

This task group, formerly the Finance and General Purposes Task Group oversees the church buildings, contents (fabric) and its grounds. The seven members of the group have carefully studied the 2023 Quinquennial Church Report in detail and some urgent work has been carried out. The external doors have been repaired, the main noticeboard has been renewed and re-sited, the church front entrance steps re-laid and also a temporary repair of a bad leak from the high south wall guttering has been carried out. In addition, the car park exit has been widened, the concrete bollard removed and a high-vis protector fixed to the corner wall of the church hall.

The main concern, however, is the overall state of the church gutters and downpipes which require urgent replacement. Grant applications have been submitted to fund this work. Fortunately, the Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme, due to end on 31st March this year, has been extended indicating that VAT can still be reclaimed for major works. Hopefully, if adequate funding can be raised, this work will be undertaken in the near future.

An additional requirement is that we look carefully at any possible reduction in energy use and associated carbon emissions. The task group has proposed an action plan "Towards Net Zero Carbon" for the PCC from which we hope that the Church will benefit

David Arkell

CHURCHWOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

From March to December the Fellowship had another very good year with a variety of talks from the homeless charity, St Basil's, Life in the 17th Century, an insight into Birmingham Focus,

2 talks of Peter Stokes's adventures to an afternoon of Christmas Music. We held our AGM in September which was followed by a quiz organised by a member. We also enjoyed 2 lunches at The Old House at Home, one in May and the other at Christmas.

Grateful thanks go to Caroline Marshall for arranging the programme, Carole Mason as treasurer, Wendy Watts for looking after the raffle and all members for their support, making drinks and supplying raffle prizes.

We recruited 2 new ladies during the year making a membership of 21. Any lady who would like to come long will be made very welcome - we meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Committee Room and a copy of the programme is on the Notice Board in the lobby of the Church Hall.

Helen Hayward

COMMUNICATIONS TASK GROUP

The Communications Task Group is chaired by Caroline Mosley with Peter Stokes and Revd David Parker as members.

Caroline Mosley is responsible for website maintenance, Facebook, Twitter (not currently used) and as back up for the weekly email via Churchsuite. Peter Stokes compiles and edits the magazine and produces the weekly pewsheets. David Parker produces the weekly email and is back up for the website maintenance.

The new publishing schedule for the Magazine was launched in March 2024, with it being issued four times a year with Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter issues. The feedback has been generally positive and the revised publishing schedule will continue.

As well as reducing the pressure on the editor, the change is a deliberate attempt to make the Magazine more relevant to our parish life. Contributions from people with articles about the church, its activities or of more general interest are welcomed.

The group did not meet in 2024. As each member works to their own specific responsibilities, it has been agreed by the PCC that the Task Group should be disbanded.

If anyone is interested in helping Caroline with the website maintenance and Facebook posting, please do get in touch.

Caroline Mosley

ECO CHURCH REPORT

I am delighted to announce that SF&SL has been awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award on August 12th 2024. This prestigious award recognises your church's commitment to caring for God's creation, and it is a testament to the efforts you have made to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for the earth. Thank you to everyone involved, your work is much appreciated. Our work now, continues towards becoming Net Zero Carbon and obviously looking at ways to achieve the A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award.

Congratulations to Birmingham Cathedral for their achievement on being awarded the A Rocha Silver Award and to the Church of England Birmingham (CofEB) which has made history by becoming the first Church of England diocese in England to be awarded the prestigious Eco Diocese Silver Award.

Our yearly Energy Footprint report was dully completed. SF&SL has this year slightly increased its carbon footprint from 9.3 net CO₂ emissions (CO₂e) tonnes in 2023 to 10.4 in 2024. However, our church and hall buildings have been used more often this previous year.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) adopted our Environmental Policy at their meeting on January 15th 2025. This policy would be reviewed annually.

We carry on having regular Parish Environment Contact (PEC) meetings. We help each other parishes with Eco Church awards, how to engage the congregation, politicians and neighbours on our journey to net zero carbon and how to work together by sharing ideas and knowledge. At our last meeting, the PECs from St John's in Harborne and St Mary's in Bearwood explained in detail the 'Repair Café' sessions they held regularly at their respective church. This is a very good concept extending the 'life' of an item, which would otherwise being disposed of, by repairing it.

There is a requirement for PCC to adopt an action plan towards "Net Zero Carbon". Together with the Church Estate Task Group (CETG), we are building a practical path to "net zero carbon". This is to help SF&SL reducing its energy use and associated carbon emissions. Reports are presented to PCC regularly.

To celebrate the start of the Churches Count on Nature and the Great Big Green Week, we held a litter picking/working party on Saturday June 8th 2024. This was a chance for us to look after 'God's Acres'. We were not numerous, but a very good and efficient team. Thank you to all involved. Much appreciated!

Thanks to donation (material & labour), you will soon be able to read all our Eco Church news on SF&SL Eco Church noticeboard, due to be erected at the entrance of the carpark.

We continue to write environmental articles, notices, tips which are included in our weekly emails, pew sheets and quarterly magazines.

If you have any environmental articles/tips and/or if you would like to help on our journey to Net Zero and/or achieving the A Rocha Gold Award, please speak to me.

Corinne Treacy (Parish Environment Contact)

GARDEN REPORT

The garden continued to develop and grow in spite of very challenging weather and was tended by an ever reducing number of volunteers.

The long south border was given a complete makeover by Malcolm Adey and his grandson Jack who battled with brambles and other pernicious weeds. A thick mulch of wood chip was applied in the early Spring 2025. Additional planting is planned for later on in the year.

The rockery which was constructed in late 2019 and slowly planted up, is maturing well and the red pasque flowers looked particularly glorious at Eastertime 2024.

The lawns are cut regularly by a current team member and one other who no longer attends our services but is still able and willing to give his time to help. We do need another regular volunteer to join our small band for this particular job.

The roses in the rear community garden bloomed well for months and were still in evidence in November. The corners of the brick surrounds of the raised beds needed repair which was completed at the end of Feb. 2025.

The huge fir trees along the border of the rear of the community garden are to be reduced in height and overall volume and is scheduled for the end of March 2025.

If anyone would like to be involved with the garden volunteer group they would be most welcome.

Lesley Arkell

MINISTRY TEAM

Sally and David meet regularly to plan services and discuss pastoral issues.

The pattern of regular services has remained unchanged over the last year. All age (parade) services were held at 10am on 14th July 2024, 13th October (Harvest), 8th December (Christingle), 26th January 2025, and 30th March (Mothering Sunday). The Remembrance Sunday service on 10th November was very well supported by the local Air Cadet squadron as well as by our own uniformed groups.

The Service of the Word on 12th May 2024 had a special focus on Christian Aid and that on 22nd September was on the theme of Creationtide.

Special evening services during the year included the All Souls Memorial Service on 3rd November, Music and Readings for Advent on 1st December, and communion services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. In a slight break with tradition, the Carol Service on 15th December started at 5pm; we were delighted to welcome choristers from West House School to this service and also to our Mothering Sunday service. We have been very impressed by the way Mark Lawrence has maintained the standard of music in our worship, and express our deep gratitude to him.

During Advent 2024 we held a series of discussions based on Paula Gooder's Women of the Nativity, and in Lent 2025 we used the national church's Living Hope material. To help us start Lent, on Saturday 8th March Fr Jacob Pallet from St Mary's Selly Oak led a Quiet Morning on the theme "May we know You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly, day by day".

Two baptisms were performed during 2024, and a further baptism (of David's grandson) in February 2025. One wedding was celebrated, in August 2024, and two more are booked in for 2025. Between us, we conducted 15 funerals during 2024 (of which 7 were in church) and, so far, a further 5 in 2025 (of which 2 were in church). Memorial services were held for Sue Wright on 18th May and for Anthea Kirk on 2nd November.

Sally continues to lead a monthly service at Queen Mother Gardens, and David leads a monthly service at William Lench Court, celebrating communion there in alternate months. David and Sally have taken communion regularly to a number of parishioners who are no longer able to get to church.

In December we hosted several local branches of the Co-op Funeral Directors for their annual memorial service. Also in December we welcomed Woodhouse Primary Academy to church for their Christmas concert and in April David led an assembly for them on the theme of Holy Week.

The parish has begun to work with the other Oversight Area members (the parishes of St Peter's Harborne, St Michael's Bartley Green, St Mary's Selly Oak and St Gabriel's Weoley Castle). A combined Songs of Praise was held at St Peter's on 7th July 2024, and a joint Ascension Day service in April 2024. The 2025 Ascension Day service will be at St Faith and St Laurence.

David Parker and Sally Griffiths

MISSION TASK GROUP

Chair: Pauline Sitford Secretary: Judith Bennett

Members: David Parker, Hilary Shaylor, Sue Glanvill, Angela Collingwood and Peter Stokes.

We were delighted to welcome Angela to our group this year.

A meeting was held to discuss our Annual Away Giving. It was decided to divide the monies between four charities, two overseas and two local. These were:

- Shelter Box Emergency Disaster Relief
- Practical Actions
- Buddy Bags
- Acorns Hospice

We continue with Call in for Coffee, Prayer Cards etc., and I'm in contact with our usual Mission Societies.

Since Christmas we were made aware of the near starvation of the people of Liwonde. The PCC sent £1,500 for immediate relief and our amazing congregation raised a further £1,650 for the people of Liwonde.

At this point I would like to thank David Glanvill for his admin support in keeping contact with Louis Majeza, the Priest in Liwonde.

Pauline Sitford

MUSIC

From February 2024, I agreed to be the Acting Organist on a voluntary basis, as well as planning the hymns for each sung service, allowing Revd David Parker and the PCC an opportunity to

decide how they wanted things to be in the future. I played the organ for the majority of services, but we also called upon several of our longstanding friends acting as 'deps' on an occasional basis, particularly Richard Lewis and David Griffiths. In August, I was appointed as Director of Music, putting things on a more steady foundation.

We are fortunate that the organ is well-maintained by Philip Cartwright and the PCC has supported the policy of making small repairs as needed to avoid a much larger cost (which neglect would inevitably lead to).

As of February 2024, the only regular choir members were myself and Susannah Palmer (who naturally followed Simon to St Peter's). Susannah, like Simon, deserved much praise for her dedication to music at the church - for even longer than him. We have to be realistic that recruiting a regular choir is a particularly challenging prospect in this locality. So a new, hybrid approach is more likely. We had some singers for Palm Sunday and Easter Day and I was pleased that a substantial group from my school chamber choir, West House Chorale, sang very enthusiastically at our Christmas 2024 Nine Lessons and Carols service and returned for Mothering Sunday in 2025. Our other services have continued with organ and hymns, keeping the music very much going.

I have taken steps to encourage and bolster the singing of the congregation, including inviting those that are willing to a short practice on Sunday mornings; this seems to have been successful in supporting the hymn-singing and performing responsorial psalms and other simple anthems. A regular group seems to be emerging, so this is a very encouraging development. I would welcome others from the congregation, including children from Year 3 onwards, to join our group as we see where it takes us.

Mark Lawrence, Director of Music

QUEEN MOTHER GARDENS

This building in Elm Tree Rd was opened by the late Her Majesty the Queen Mother in 1991.

It has supported accommodation/ sheltered housing for older people of both sexes, many of whom are sight impaired. There are 25 self contained apartments with on site support if needed, within pleasant surrounding gardens.

Our previous vicar Priscilla White started a small service once a month on Tuesday morning in the communal lounge for residents who may wish to come. Numbers attending have inevitably fluctuated considerably over the years but at our last service we had 6 residents and 6 church members.

Sally Griffiths our Reader leads the short service, her husband David plays the piano for the hymns and there is time for socialisation and coffee afterwards.

Lesley Arkell

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is the action the Church can take to promote a safer culture and is about protecting people with regards to their health, wellbeing and human rights. It is everyone's responsibility – every individual who partakes in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

We take safeguarding seriously at St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) and we try to ensure that everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has complied with its duty to promote a safer church by implementing good safeguarding practice and having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance.

Our Safeguarding policies adhere to the requirements of the Diocese of Birmingham and the Church of England. The PCC has reviewed and ratified the 'Safeguarding & Other Policies' document on March 12th 2025. These policies are available to view and / or to download on our website at www.saintfaithandsaintlaurence.co.uk and as hardcopies displayed in the Narthex in the Church and in the lobby of the Hall building.

The policies apply to everyone involved in a working capacity of the church; including all Clergy, Churchwardens, Member of the PCC, everyone carrying out any sort of church activity or non-church related activity within the church premises, regardless of whether a person is paid for their work or not, has been elected to a position, or has volunteered.

Necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and Safeguarding trainings for SF&SL Volunteers and Trustees are ongoing but are completed in due course whenever necessary.

All church activities and non-church related activities have been reviewed and authorised by PCC at the meeting held on September 10th 2024.

Work needs to be carried out on Risk Assessments and roles for different groups of people working in a variety of contexts. This is an ongoing action

This year, with Corinne as the Facilitator and David helping especially with the Pastoral side, we were able to offer Face to Face via video sessions of Safeguarding Training to SF&SL volunteers and also to volunteers of other churches.

If at any time you have any concerns about the wellbeing of an individual or need to talk to someone please speak to Sally Griffiths, our Parish Safeguarding Coordinator contact.

We would like to thank you for supporting SF&SL Safeguarding policies

Sally Griffiths, David Parker and Corinne Treacy

SOCIALS TASK GROUP

We held a full timetable of events during this year. The first was a St. Georges Day Skittles Evening with Fish and Chips Supper on 27th April. This was well attended and some people who had never bowled before joined in and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Fish and Chips arrived exactly on time and were enjoyed by everyone. Thanks must be extended to George

and Helens for the food. As a result we were able to make a donation to Rounds Green Methodist Church for the loan of the equipment and another to our local food bank at St. Boniface Quinton.

On the 6th July we embarked on a trip to Middleton Hall, near Fazeley in Staffordshire. The hall has a fascinating history and we were all much more informed by the time we left. My thanks go to Thelma Kettle for her article in the September magazine detailing the trip in more detail.

October 19th saw us holding a Harvest Supper, the first for many years. This departure to a supper, as opposed to a lunch, comprised of a jacket potato with a choice of filling and salad followed by a dessert and was enjoyed by everyone. We raised a sum of £400.06 towards church funds.

Our Christmas Fayre combined with a "Messy Church" was held on 30th November. Whilst footfall at the Fayre was down on the previous year, due in part to there being at least 3 other events in the area on the same day, the Messy Church was really well supported, keeping the helpers busy all morning. My thanks go to Julia Reid and her team for doing a sterling job, made even more demanding by the absence of Helen Setchell, who contracted a seasonal virus on the previous day. The refreshments were in constant demand and thanks go to Gill Hubble and her team for their hard work. As a result, we banked £626.75 which given the reduced attendance was an amazing result.

We started the New Year with a Burns Night Supper on January 25th. The hall was suitably decorated for the occasion and the menu was a traditional one of homemade cock a leekie soup, followed by haggis with neeps and tatties, concluding with cranachan. My sincere thanks go to James McCarroll for the soup, Brown's the Butcher for the haggis, our Guest of Honour Peter Barnett for his most amusing Address to the Noble Haggis and the members of the Task Group who worked so hard to make it all happen. A tot of whiskey was available for those wishing to join the toast. We were able to bank £294.50 as a result of the raffle and ticket sales so thank you to everyone who joined in and made the night a success.

We have a variety of events planned for the rest of 2025/26 these being:

May	Coffee and Cake morning.
June	Evening Concert Visit to the Glassworks in Stourbridge
July	Summer Barbeque
October	Harvest meal Autumn Fayre
December	T.B.A.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who supported us over the past year, and the Task Group members who worked hard in so many ways to make the events that you attended possible.

Thank you all.

David Glanvill

STAY AND PLAY

Our Stay and Play session meets every Thursday from 9.30am to 11am, charging £2.00 per family. We meet all year round apart from a short break during the Christmas festivities. Our Christmas party was well attended with David telling the children about the Nativity and Father Christmas visiting.

At the moment we have an extremely friendly group, welcoming newcomers and supporting one another.

We have been delighted to welcome Leslie Arkell to our band of regular volunteer helpers.

Judith Bennett

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2024

ARK & CO LTD
Chartered Accountants
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood, Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.

The Maltings
2 Anderson Road, Bearwood
Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

Gee Ark FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	7027		33603	
	Parish Giving Scheme	<u>28669</u>	35696	<u>-</u>	33648
Collections	Loose Plate	3047		2675	
	Gift Aid	2501		2535	
	Weddings, etc	<u>6999</u>	12547	<u>4810</u>	10020
Donation	General Fund	738		-	
	Garden Fund	-		-	
	Votive Candles Fund-	195		149	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	-		-	
	Flower Fund	<u>-</u>	933	<u>-</u>	149
Appeals	Advent	-		-	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	4026		5235	
	Disaster relief	<u>-</u>	4026	<u>-</u>	5235
Grants & Insurance claims		<u>10065</u>		<u>4235</u>	
		59241		53287	
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			13163		37
Income from investments					
Bank interest			922		540
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		-		1469	
Magazine		829		1231	
Hire of church hall		23406		16443	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		703		580	
Fund raising events		627		41	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play		876		782	
Printing		-		94	
Sundry		<u>1647</u>	<u>28088</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>20873</u>
Total Receipts		£ 105440		£ 74737	

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Grants/Donations			
Overseas mission and relief agencies	-	2684	
Home mission and other	4,145	63	
Church organisations	330	800	
Secular charities	<u>308</u>	<u>1105</u>	4652
	4783		
Operation of facilities			
Church heat & light	4389	6589	
Church repairs	5805	2962	
Church cleaning	8167	2853	
Church grounds maintenance	-	428	
Hall heat, light & water	2424	2659	
Hall repairs	-	219	
Hall cleaning	285	3675	
Hall telephone	811	687	
Annual Services charges	<u>1556</u>	<u>-</u>	20072
	23437		
Church management and administration			
Diocesan Common Fund	40000	36000	
BDBF Fees	2602	3460	
Affiliations	434	-	
Clergy expenses	2769	318	
Upkeep of services	2547	2485	
Insurance	4177	3860	
Stationery and printing	2298	1654	
Bank charges	220	193	
Wages & Honorarium	2377	4758	
Accountant's fees	840	780	
Sundry expenses	<u>3546</u>	<u>5151</u>	<u>58659</u>
	61810		
Total Payments		<u>£ 90030</u>	<u>£ 83383</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		15410	(8646)
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund		-	1546
Transfer from Fabric Fund		-	-
Balances at 1 January 2024		<u>19313</u>	<u>26413</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2024		<u>£ 34723</u>	<u>£ 19313</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>1563</u>	<u>943</u>
	1563	943
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1563	943
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	-	(1546)
Bank balance at 1 January 2024	<u>29449</u>	<u>30052</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2024	£ <u>31012</u>	£ <u>29449</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2024	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2024	£ <u>19</u>	£ <u>18</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	-
Payments	<u>-</u>	<u>127</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-
Bank Balance at 1 January 2024	<u>856</u>	<u>983</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>£ 856</u>	<u>£ 856</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2024	2023
					£	£
Cash in Hand	-	-	-		-	15
Bank Current Account	16427	-	-	856	17283	2822
CBOF Deposit Account	<u>18296</u>	<u>31012</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49327</u>	<u>46840</u>
Total Cash	<u>34723</u>	<u>31012</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>66610</u>	<u>49651</u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to be have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

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

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2024

ARK & CO LTD
Chartered Accountants
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood, Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.

The Maltings
2 Anderson Road, Bearwood
Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

Gee Ark FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	7027		33603	
	Parish Giving Scheme	<u>28669</u>	35696	-	33648
Collections	Loose Plate	3047		2675	
	Gift Aid	2501		2535	
	Weddings, etc	<u>6999</u>	12547	<u>4810</u>	10020
Donation	General Fund	738		-	
	Garden Fund	-		-	
	Votive Candles Fund-	195		149	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	-			
	Flower Fund	-	933	-	149
Appeals	Advent	-		-	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	4026		5235	
	Disaster relief	-	4026	-	5235
Grants & Insurance claims		<u>10065</u>		<u>4235</u>	
			59241		53287
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			13163		37
Income from investments					
Bank interest			922		540
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		-		1469	
Magazine		829		1231	
Hire of church hall		23406		16443	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		703		580	
Fund raising events		627		41	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play	-	876		782	
Printing		-		94	
Sundry		<u>1647</u>	<u>28088</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>20873</u>
Total Receipts			<u>£ 105440</u>		<u>£ 74737</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS		<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Grants/Donations			
Overseas mission and relief agencies	-	2684	
Home mission and other	4,145	63	
Church organisations	330	800	
Secular charities	<u>308</u>	<u>1105</u>	4652
	4783		
Operation of facilities			
Church heat & light	4389	6589	
Church repairs	5805	2962	
Church cleaning	8167	2853	
Church grounds maintenance	-	428	
Hall heat, light & water	2424	2659	
Hall repairs	-	219	
Hall cleaning	285	3675	
Hall telephone	811	687	
Annual Services charges	<u>1556</u>	<u>-</u>	20072
	23437		
Church management and administration			
Diocesan Common Fund	40000	36000	
BDBF Fees	2602	3460	
Affiliations	434	-	
Clergy expenses	2769	318	
Upkeep of services	2547	2485	
Insurance	4177	3860	
Stationery and printing	2298	1654	
Bank charges	220	193	
Wages & Honorarium	2377	4758	
Accountant's fees	840	780	
Sundry expenses	<u>3546</u>	<u>5151</u>	<u>58659</u>
	61810		
Total Payments		<u>£ 90030</u>	<u>£ 83383</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		15410	(8646)
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	-		1546
Transfer from Fabric Fund	-		-
Balances at 1 January 2024		<u>19313</u>	<u>26413</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2024		<u>£ 34723</u>	<u>£ 19313</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>1563</u>	<u>943</u>
	1563	943
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1563	943
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	-	(1546)
Bank balance at 1 January 2024	<u>29449</u>	<u>30052</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2024	£ <u>31012</u>	£ <u>29449</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2024	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2024	£ <u>19</u>	£ <u>18</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	-
Payments	<u>-</u>	<u>127</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-
Bank Balance at 1 January 2024	<u>856</u>	<u>983</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>£ 856</u>	<u>£ 856</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2024	2023
					£	£
Cash in Hand	-	-	-		-	15
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Total Cash	<u>34723</u>	<u>31012</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>66610</u>	<u>49651</u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to be have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

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

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

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Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

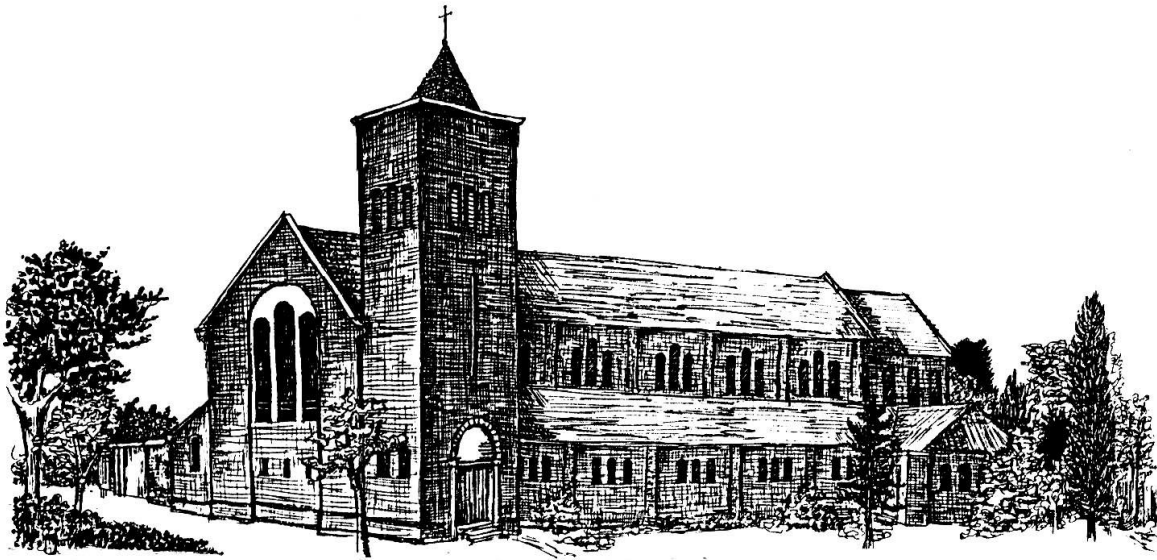
Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

Accounts



St Faith and St Laurence Annual Report and Accounts for 2023/2024



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HARBORNE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**For the year ended April 2024
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023**

Priest in Charge:

The Reverend David Parker
Harborne
Birmingham

Bank:

TSB plc
537 Bearwood Road
Warley
West Midlands
B66 4BQ

Independent Examiner:

Gee Ark FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4AR

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm held in the Church**

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence

4. Minutes of the 2022/2023 meeting

5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

The Annual Meeting shall receive from the Parochial Church Council and shall be free to discuss: -

- A report on changes in the roll since the last annual parochial church meeting
- An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally
- The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2023
- A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church, under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991
- A report on the proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod

6. Elections

- Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (6 for 2024-2027 plus 2 places on Deanery Synod)
- Appointment of Independent Examiner

7. Any questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.

8. Final words from the Chair

9. The Grace

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd David Parker

Licensed Reader: Sally Griffiths
Rachel Luckman (resigned May 2023)

Churchwardens: Malcolm Adey
Corinne Treacy

Treasurer: Loleta Atkinson

Secretary: Helen Setchell

Deanery Synod Caroline Mosley
Representatives: Simon Palmer (resigned January 2024)

Elected Members: Angela Collingwood
Dee Coyne
Alan Jones
Helen Setchell
Anita Tippin
Chris Stewart
John Wadman

TASK GROUPS AND OTHER ROUPS 2023/2024

The PCC operates through a number of Task Groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Standing Committee chaired by the Vicar. This is the only committee required by law. The committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, with two other members of the PCC.

Children and Young People Task Group chaired by Helen Setchell

Church and Estates Task Group chaired by David Arkel

Communications Task Group chaired by Caroline Mosley

Eco Church chaired by Corinne Treacy

Mission Task Group chaired by Pauline Sitford

Socials Task Group chaired by David Glanvill

Safeguarding Sally Griffiths, Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Corinne Treacy, Parish Identity Verifier

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm

In attendance (28): Malcolm Adey, Loleta Atkinson, Geoff Bennett, Judith Bennett, Angela Collingwood, Neil Collingwood, Laurie Deimel, David Glanvill, Sally Griffiths, Helen Hayward, Tim Hayward, Alan Jones, Pat Jones, Thelma Kettle, Diana Leadbeater, Caroline Mosley, Beryl Myers, Len Myers, Simon Palmer, Susannah Palmer, Rev'd David Parker, Jane Shaw, Peter Stokes, Brenda Stott, Anita Tippin, Corinne Treacy, John Wadman and Wendy Watts

I. Opening Prayers

David Parker read from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and led prayers.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

David explained that this meeting is open to all persons on the church's electoral roll and also all residents of the parish, reminding us that the parish church exists to serve everyone in the parish.

David thanked Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy for their work as Churchwardens over the last year, when the parish had until recently been in Vacancy, so the wardens carried extra responsibilities. Both had been nominated to serve again, and there were no other nominations, but before they could be re-elected it was necessary to address the rule under which wardens were not permitted to serve for more than 6 consecutive years. In May 2022, to allow Malcolm to serve for a 7th consecutive year, the parish had passed the resolution "that the requirement under the CofE rules (Churchwardens Measure 2021 s.3) that a person may not serve as churchwarden for more than six successive periods does not apply to the Parish of St Faith and St Laurence for the year 2022/2023". David said he considered the 6 year rule a good thing in general – the same person serving as churchwarden for too long is not good for that person or for the parish. Caroline Mosley proposed reinstating the 6 year with effect from May 2024, which would allow Malcolm to serve one more term (making 8 years in total):

Proposal: that the requirement under the CofE rules (Churchwardens Measure 2021 s.3) that a person may not serve as churchwarden for more than six successive periods does not apply to the Parish of St Faith and St Laurence for the year 2023/2024 will be reinstated from May 2024.

Proposed: Caroline Mosley **Seconded:** Peter Stokes **Vote:** Unanimous

Election of Churchwardens:

Malcolm Adey

Nominated: David Arkell **Seconded:** Alan Jones **Vote:** 27 for/1 against

Corinne Treacy

Nominated: Paul Bartells **Seconded:** Caroline Mosley **Vote:** 27 for/1 abstention

Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy were duly affirmed as wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Arkell, Lesley Arkell, Dee Coyne, Gill Hubble, Bronwen Jones, Mark Laurence, Helen Setchell, Hilary Shaylor and Pauline Sitford

David commended to the meeting the booklet containing all the reports on the previous year, and extended thanks to Gill Hubble for all her work in collating the reports and to Peter Stokes for printing the booklets. There had been a few minor errors and glitches (the report from the Gardening Task Group had gone astray, and that from the Mission Task Group was provided separately) which would be corrected before the final version was published on the website.

4. Minutes of the 2021/2022 meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2022 meeting.

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Len Myers

5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969

- a. Electoral Roll** – Judith Bennett, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there were 126 recorded on the roll, made up of 62 residents of the parish and 64 non-residents. Thanks were given to Judith.
- b. PCC Report** – This had been circulated prior to the meeting. A couple of minor errors were noted: the BBQ and Messy Church event for the Coronation would be in May, not June. There were no questions or comments arising.
- c. Financial statements** – These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Loleta Atkinson, Treasurer, reported to the meeting. There had been a healthy surplus on the year, but this was artificially inflated by the fact that fees collected and retained during the vacancy would now have to be paid to the Diocese.

Tim Heyward pointed out that the value for which the Church Hall is insured has not been increased for several years. David acknowledged that this had recently been brought to his attention, and needed to be addressed.

Ratification of Report and Accounts for 2022

Proposed: Brenda Stott **Seconded:** Sally Griffiths **Vote:** Unanimous

Thanks were expressed to Loleta for all her work.

- d. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments** - A report from the Churchwardens had been circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received.

- e. A report on the proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. No questions were received.

David Parker reported to the meeting that he had just received confirmation that St Michael's Bartley Green had agreed to join the proposed Oversight Area with St Faith and St Laurence, St Peter's, St Mary's Selly Oak and St Gabriel's Weoley Castle.

- f. Churches Together in Harborne – David Parker reported that he is now meeting the other ministers regularly for breakfast, and this is likely to be the main point of contact for the time being. Brenda Stott has been a member of the group which plans the service for the World Day of Prayer, but has now stood down from this.

Other reports. Referring to the report from the FandGP, Loleta confirmed that the 5% retention on the payment for the Hall Roof project had not yet been requested but we were still liable to pay this in due course.

6. Elections

a. Deanery Synod representatives

Thanks were expressed to Caroline Mosley and Bronwen Jones who have represented the parish for the last year on the Deanery Synod.

David explained that a new Synod must be elected this year, to serve for 3 years. The Deanery Synod representatives also act as the electors for the Diocesan and General Synods. We are entitled to have 4 representatives, but only one nomination has been received.

Caroline Mosley

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Michael Averill **Vote:** Unanimous

David encouraged others to consider offering themselves for this role.

b. Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the PCC

Before electing representatives to the PCC, the parish needed to confirm its policy with regard to Readers. David suggested that as we only have 2 Readers, it is appropriate that they should automatically be members of the PCC.

Proposed: David Parker **Seconded:** Alan Jones **Vote:** Unanimous

There are 4 places for PCC members, to serve for the next 3 years. In addition we already had 3 vacancies, and Peter Gardner has decided to stand down from the PCC, so there are actually 8 places available. 4 nominations had been received, as follows: -

Name: *Loleta Atkinson*

Proposed: Corinne Treacy

Seconded: Beryl Myers

Name: *Angela Collingwood*

Proposed: Helen Hayward

Seconded: Len Myers

Name: *Dee Coyne*

Proposed: Pauline Sitford

Seconded: David Glanvill

Name: *Alan Jones*

Proposed: Caroline Mosley

Seconded: Alex Wright

As there were fewer candidates than places these were voted in on a single vote:

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Thelma Kettle **Vote:** unanimous.

c. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that we continue with the current Independent Examiner, Ark Aurora Ltd.

Proposed: Loleta Atkinson **Seconded:** David Parker **Vote:** Unanimous

d. Representatives to Churches Together in Harborne

There was no representative at the moment. There were no volunteers.

7. Any Questions

- a. Peter Stokes suggested that the main issues concerning the congregation were the heating systems and the audio system.

Responding, David explained that the burner for the main church boiler had now been serviced by the manufacturer and was currently working well. However, the life span of a burner was around 25 years and as the present burner is approximately 23 years old thought should be given to replacing it in due course. To replace it may cost around £3k + VAT.

The gas heaters in the Lady Chapel and Choir Vestry were currently not usable: that in the Lady Chapel had been condemned as dangerous fumes were escaping from it, and the Choir Vestry heater had suffered a serious gas leak. He was investigating replacement heaters for these areas.

David noted the concerns about the audio system, and apologised if these had not been addressed with sufficient urgency.

- b. Corinne Treacy reminded the meeting that the Quinquennial Report was overdue and suggested that we should be cautious about committing to new work before knowing what the Quinquennial will raise.

- c. Susannah Palmer noted that a Bouncy Castle was proposed for the Coronation BBQ and asked if appropriate Risk Assessments and insurance checks had been done. David Glanvill promised to do the necessary.
- d. Helen Hayward expressed thanks to Simon Palmer, Mark Lawrence and Susannah Palmer for the wonderful quality of music in church.

8. Final words

David expressed thanks to Caroline Mosley for chairing the PCC so efficiently over the last year, and presented her with a gift of flowers. In turn, Caroline thanked David for his support.

David made some final reflections on the state of the parish, and his appointment as Interim Priest in Charge. He sensed that after the nightmare of Priscilla's illness (not to mention Covid and some other issues) the parish had become rather traumatised, unsettled, lacking in confidence, so it would not have been a good time to advertise for a permanent Vicar. Part of his role was to help restore confidence in the parish, and he had undertaken the role because he could see how much potential there is here, as evidenced by the printed reports to this meeting.

Of course there are challenges – this is a challenging time for all parishes, and this one is certainly not exempt. The finances are not too bad, but we shall need to find a bit more money and start paying more to the Diocese. The church building is believed to be in good condition but who knows what the new Quinquennial inspection will throw up. Perhaps the biggest challenge is the age structure – we are all getting older, so we do need to try to attract children and young families back to church. David said he was delighted that both Simon Palmer and Helen Setchell in different ways were trying to address this, and hoped everyone would support them as much as possible.

David expressed disappointment that the meeting had not managed to fill so many of the posts and encouraged people to offer themselves for the vacant positions.

David ended by reminding everyone of the importance of working constructively together, and being able to disagree without hurting each other, and the meeting closed with the Peace.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2023/2024

Since the last APCM the Parochial Church Council has met on six occasions to discuss and decide upon matters of business relating to church life.

The church exists to promote the Christian Religion, to offer prayer, worship and pastoral care, and to work in such a way as to offer public benefit to all who might wish to use it or its facilities, including the church hall.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

At its first meeting, in May 2023, the PCC re-elected Caroline Mosley as lay Vice-Chair and Loleta Atkinson as Treasurer and elected Helen Setchell as Secretary (note taker). Caroline Mosley and Simon Palmer were elected to the Standing Committee, joining the Priest-in-charge, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary who (as agreed in early 2023) are to be ex-officio members of the Standing Committee.

The previous PCC had agreed to streamline the way the PCC operates by making more use of the Standing Committee in implementing agreed policies, allowing the full PCC to concentrate on deciding policy. The number of PCC meetings has been reduced to 6 per year, in May, July, September, November, January and March, and the Standing Committee has met 4 times, in June, October, December and February, and has also transacted business by email.

This greater use of the Standing Committee partially supplanted the role of the previous Finance and General Purposes Task Group, and it was decided to relaunch this group with a focus specifically on buildings and infrastructure. This relaunch was delayed to autumn 2023 to await receipt of the architect's Quinquennial Report. Subsequently the new group adopted the name Church Estate Task Group (CETG).

One of the first tasks of the new PCC was to appoint a new inspecting architect, since the previous architect (Chris Thomas) had retired. After discussion, and drawing on advice from neighbouring parishes, Philip Waghorn was appointed and carried out a Quinquennial inspection of the church on 4th July 2023. His very detailed report, received on 22nd September, itemised a large number of minor items of concern, many of which the CETG will gradually tackle, but the major issue identified was the poor state of the gutters and downpipes. The PCC agreed to prioritise tackling these as a major project and asked the architect to draw up a detailed scheme of works. This was received at the end of February 2024, and tenders for this work are currently being sought.

During the 2023 APCM, questions were asked about the church heating systems and the audio system. Since the burner was serviced in February 2023, the main church heating has worked reliably, but in the same month the gas heater in the Lady Chapel was condemned as unsafe. The PCC initially planned a like-for-like replacement but, as current CofE policy is to replace gas heaters with electrical heaters wherever possible, permission was eventually obtained to replace the Lady Chapel gas heater with a pair of electric radiators. At the same time, the small gas heater in the choir vestry was replaced by another pair of electric radiators, enabling David to use this

as his office even in the middle of winter. These improvements were funded by a generous donation and by a grant held by David, so cost nothing from PCC funds.

Improvements to the audio system have also been made: the unreliable handheld microphone has been replaced with a much better one, and a new digital mixer has been installed which can be remotely controlled from a tablet in the body of the church. Again, the cost of these enhancements was almost entirely met by specific donations.

Heating costs were a major concern during 2023, following a fourfold increase in gas prices from October 2022, but the parish was already committed to receiving its energy via the Parish Buying scheme's Energy Basket (negotiated nationally). Fortunately, in October 2023 the prices reduced significantly, although they are still much higher than a few years ago.

Following a short trial, the PCC decided to purchase a Payaz contactless payment machine for the church. This cost £460 but in the first 6 months of use has received payments totalling nearly £400 so has now essentially paid for itself.

A review of the rents charged to Hall users led to some users agreeing significant increases. During the year, two new regular users (Lyengar Yoga and Mini Athletics) have joined the existing users (Heathercroft Bridge Club, Quinborne Bridge Club and Slimming World), and our weekly income from these 5 groups now totals £400 per week.

As reported in the 2023 report, the PCC had decided to reinstate the principle of assigning at least 5% of its income to charitable causes. The Mission Task Group were asked to suggest suitable causes to support, and the PCC agreed to their recommendation that £800 be given to each of the following four charities: Church Army (Amber project), USPG (Malawi), Book Aid International and Shanti Aid. When donations to other groups raised in specific appeals are included, a total of over £4700 was given to charities during 2023.

The PCC also agreed to increase the amount of Common Fund we are paying to the Diocesan Board of Finance from £36k to £40k for the year 2024.

As announced at last year's APCM, the parish is now grouped in an Oversight Area with the parishes of St Peter's Harborne, St Michael's Bartley Green, St Mary's Selly Oak and St Gabriel's Weoley Castle. No Oversight Minister has yet been appointed to this grouping, and no formal launch has occurred, but the PCC has embraced opportunities to work with these other parishes, and in particular with St Peter's on joint Messy Church sessions for children.

Towards the end of 2023 the PCC agreed to a proposal from the Communications Task Group that the parish magazine be produced quarterly instead of monthly. The principal reason for the change is not cost-saving but rather the difficulty of obtaining enough material every month; by reducing the frequency to quarterly it is hoped that the magazine can be made more relevant to the parish.

The PCC agreed to renew the contract with R T Cleaning and Maintenance for cleaning the church and church hall for a further 3 years from February 2024. One of the PCC members, Corinne Treacy, has an interest in the firm. Corinne was not involved in the re-appointment decision process.

The church wardens, Corinne Treacy and Malcolm Adey are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments. After 30 years of service, Helen Hayward retired as Verger for weddings and funerals at the end of 2023. The PCC agreed to advertise locally for a replacement and, after a suitable recruitment process, Corinne Treacy was offered and accepted the post.

Simon Palmer's resignation as Organist and Choirmaster at the end of 2023 came as a shock to all. In January 2024 the PCC discussed its vision for the future of music in our worship. We agreed that music in worship is central to our parish identity and committed ourselves to continuing the tradition of liturgical music. We are extremely fortunate that for the time being Mark Lawrence is willing to organise our music and play for most of our services, meaning that we can take our time over recruiting a permanent replacement for Simon.

Apart from Simon's departure, this has largely been a year of stability and consolidation, when parish life returned to something like "normal" after the traumas of recent years. This report has focussed on matters directly considered by the PCC. However, many parish matters are devolved to the various Task Groups, whose work we commend and whose individual reports accompany this report.

The PCC

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

All page references are to the Annual Accounts, which are at the end of this booklet.

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2023** is on pages 2 and 3.

Income: In 2023 we saw a significant increase in income from lettings, but receipts from planned giving, and collections decreased compared to 2022.

We received donations for the sound system of £2,161.65 and for the heating system of £1,518.

The Christmas Fayre raised £1,222 for church fund.

We also received donations that we paid to the: Turkish Appeal, Food Bank, St Basil, Christian Aid, Children Society, City Mission and Malawi. All gratefully received.

Payments: The Common Fund for the year, £36,000 was paid in full. The PCC has agreed to increase the amount we pay next year, 2024 to £40,000, in 2023. We are not yet paying the full amount asked for by the diocese.

We made the final payment of £1,546.37, from the Hall repairs investment account, for the hall roof repairs. This was delayed because the company had not provided us with the final invoice.

We repaid £1953.82 of fees to the Diocese which were outstanding from the period of vacancy.

Our heating costs were approximately £4.5k higher than the previous year.

Overall, for the year we had a significant excess of payments over receipts. This is due in part to the fact that we made payments to charities that we did not pay last year:

- Book Aid International - £800
- UPSG Malawi - £800
- Church Army Cardiff - £800
- Shanti Aid (B'ham) - £800

Delegated/Restricted Funds on page 4 and 5.

- Church Hall and Repair Fund: The balance was reduced by the £1546 transferred to the current account to pay the final roof repairs invoice. And interest added.
- Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.
- Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship – Actual balance as confirmed by the Fellowship recorded.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 6.

The first column includes CBF investment Deposit account (i.e The PCC Investment) balance. The PCC investment account is a reserve account mainly to back up the current account. And the current account balance. It shows the total non-restricted funds.

The second column records the Church Hall & Repair Fund Account, a designated fund, analysed on page 4.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who have helped with counting recording and banking the income, namely, Brenda, Hilary, Anita, Lesley, Peter and Malcolm. To Judith for managing the hall hire. And to the church wardens, Malcolm and Corinne for their support.

Thanks to Geoff who continues to make the annual grant claims and for his continued support.

Thank you also to those who give generously to the Church.

Parish Giving Scheme

One last plea, **please join the Parish Giving Scheme**. This delivers the Gift Aid, (tax refund) much earlier, monthly, and it avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.

Loleta Atkinson, Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT TO APCM 2024

The Churchwardens are Bishops' officers, chosen by the parish and admitted to their office by the Bishop or Archdeacon. Once admitted they have formal and legal responsibilities to fulfil.

Since the Licensing of Revd David Parker as St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) Priest-in-Charge on 27th March 2023 for a period of three years, the church has moved on rapidly. It had been decided that the church will be open to the public and since week beginning April 17th 2023, the church has been open to the public from dusk till dawn from Monday to Friday inclusive.

On July 11th, it had been decided that the Private Prayer sessions carried on manned by Stewards will be stopped from September 2023. Thank you so much to all involved.

Unfortunately, the convent of The Little Sisters of the Poor closed and David, Corinne, Hazel and Vernon attended their last service on July 16th at 3pm.

The Churchwardens' visitation was held on October 9th 2023. We met with Revd Mike Sermon (Area Dean of Warley and Edgbaston) and all went well.

Fabric and Buildings

The fabric of the Church and the Hall buildings remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard. The state of the buildings is monitored on a regular basis and any maintenance and/or repairs needed are agreed through our recently created Church Estate Task Group (CETG), the Standing Committee (SC) and/or Parish Church Council (PCC).

All maintenance services throughout 2023/24 were carried out in accordance with the regulations i.e. bells, boilers, fire extinguishers, intruder alarms, organ, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and sound system.

The Church

No major works were needed this previous year.

We were again delighted to welcome Quinton Co-operative Funeralcare for their Christmas Memorial Service on Sunday December 10th, Woodhouse Primary Academy for their Christmas concert on Monday December 11th, Bright Horizons Nursery for their Nativity on Monday December 18th and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School pupils and staff for their visits to church. The Church was rented to several choirs and / or instrumental workshops and concerts.

The Hall and Committee Room

Minor repairs such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing and general maintenance had been carried out this year. The clock in the Committee Room had stopped working and was replaced recently with a new donated one.

There were more regular and occasional hirers for the Hall and the Committee Room. The rental prices requested to the users had been revised to be more consistent across the hirers.

Heating and Sound System

Following the problems with the gas heaters in the Lady Chapel and in the Choir Vestry in the previous year, the gas heaters in the Lady Chapel and the Choir Vestry/Office were changed in November 2023 to electric ones.

The sound system had been upgraded in November 2023. This included a hand held mic and a remotely controlled digital mixer.

These improvements (heating & sound system) were funded through generous donations from members of the congregation.

Vicarage

Since March 2022, the Vicarage has been rented on and off. When periods occur that the Vicarage is not rented, utility bills and grounds maintenance has to be taken care of by the Parish Church Council (PCC) whilst the Diocese has to take care of the necessary repairs before renting it. Thankfully these periods have never been too long. We, as Churchwardens, are the Vicarage Sequestrators but Bishop Anne has appointed Richard Hall (Diocesan Clergy Housing Surveyor) to deal with the Vicarage on our behalf. A small quantity of post is still being posted at the Vicarage. Due to the good relationship with the tenants, however, the post is always redirected accordingly.

Quinquennial 2023

The report confirmed that the church building is generally in good condition. A lot of small issues were identified, however. These were now in the hand of the CETG. The major issue identified, was the church cast iron gutters and down-pipes. Philip Whaghorn (Architect), who did the Quinquennial report 2023, has been commissioned to draw up a scheme on these.

Goods and Ornaments

As churchwardens we are custodians of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate and ornaments. Therefore, we have completed a full inventory to this effect in March 2024. The Terrier and Inventory of property owned by the church has been checked and it is confirmed that all items recorded are accounted for and in reasonable condition.

Grounds

We are grateful to the gardening team, lawn and hedge cutters and all the Ecochurch working party / litter picking volunteers for keeping the community garden, the front grounds and the church surroundings tidy and well maintained.

Services

Throughout this year, we had normal and special services.

Chalice Administrators were authorised by PCC and appointed by David during the service held on April 9th 2023.

It was decided on June 13th 2023, to release the restriction regarding the wearing of mask during Holy Communion and since Sunday June 18th 2023, the sign of peace can also be a hand shake.

On May 28th we said goodbye to Rachel and Ruth. Thank you Ruth and thank you Rachel for all you had been doing for the Church.

PCC decided that from September 11th Sunday Zoom Worship session would stop. At the same time two of the WhatsApp groups were cancelled.

On February 4th 2024, after 43 years, we said goodbye to Simon Palmer (Organist and Choir Master) and also to Suzannah Palmer as they were moving on to their new roles at St Peter's.

We have had some lovely special services during this previous year and especially during the last few weeks around Easter. Thank you to all the Singers who sang so wonderfully on Palm Sunday, thank you also to Abigail, Jasmin and Rose who sang so beautifully at the 10am Service on Easter Sunday, and thank you to Mark Lawrence who organised all this. The music and singing were mesmerising. Much appreciated!

Appreciation

Malcolm and I would like to record our grateful thanks and appreciation to:

- The Deputy Wardens, David and Sue Glanvill, for their continuous assistance and support given.
- The sides-persons / stewards, who are the first point of welcome to the church.
- Peter Stokes for compiling and/or printing Parish magazines, pew sheets, orders of service etc.
- The bell ringers, the singers, the Organists who produce some lovely music.
- The cleaners, the flower arrangers who ensure that the church looks beautiful.
- Sally Griffiths, our Lay Reader, for her massive contribution.
- David Parker, our Priest-in-Charge, for all his hard work, his support and for ensuring that our spiritual life continues to develop and grow.
- All our volunteers at St Faith and St Laurence for their continued willingness to give their time to carry out tasks, duties and offer each other encouragement and support.
- A special thank you to Helen Hayward (former Verger), who stepped down from her role after many years of commitment.

Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

WARLEY AND EDGBASTON DEANERY SYNOD 2023/2024

The Deanery Synod met three times on 7th June, 12th October 2023 and 6th February 2024. St Faith and St Laurence is entitled to elect three lay members, but Caroline Mosley is currently the only lay representative for the parish. Simon Palmer also agreed to become a member and was appointed by the PCC in July 2023 but subsequently resigned following his departure from the parish in February 2024. Revd David Parker is automatically a member of the Synod as priest in charge.

Deanery Synod operates on a three year cycle and the meeting on 7th June 2023 was the final meeting of that cycle. The meeting was held at Christ Church, The Quinton. The two General Synod representatives, Dawn Braithwaite and Guy Hordern gave their personal reflections on the "Living in Love and Faith" debate that had been held at General Synod in February. They discussed both the difficulties and the positives that came out of the debate. The need for kindness, listening to others and mutual respect of different opinions was emphasised as we all move forward.

Dan Mayes, Property Director for CofE Birmingham and Alan Fraser gave a presentation on the current crisis in social housing, particularly locally, and the diocese's response. The diocese is one of three running "Coming Home" pilot schemes. These follow a CofE Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community report on housing policy. Alan is an experienced social housing professional and is a lead in the pilot. Dan and Alan described two projects in Winson Green and Weoley Castle where they are working with the local churches in collaborating with developers to deliver new social housing schemes. Further projects are being investigated.

Details of the Common Fund collection rate across the CofE Birmingham were presented. The Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance projected a budget deficit of between £800,000 - £1 million for 2023.

Julia Howl, Deanery Environmental Champion, gave updates on the CofE Birmingham net zero actions. Parishes were encouraged to achieve Eco Church awards as this would help push the diocese in achieving its own Eco Diocese silver award.

The formation of our oversight area with St Mary's Selly Oak, St Gabriel's Weoley Castle, St Peter's Harborne and St Michael & All Angels Bartley Green was announced.

Thanks were offered to all the deanery synod representatives and to the steering committee and lay officers of the synod at the end of their terms.

The October meeting, the first in the Synod's next three year cycle, was held at St James, Rounds Green. It began with elections and Ian Thorley, from St Mary the Virgin Bearwood was elected as Deanery Synod Lay Chair. Julia Howl, from St Peter's Harborne was elected as Deanery Synod Secretary. Guy Horder, Peter Pretlove, Paul Geddes, Rev Charlie Butler and Rev David Gould were elected to join Ian, Julia, and Area Dean Mike Sermon as members of the Standing Committee.

Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson spoke about the roles of archdeacon and of deanery synod. She highlighted that the synodical process has the power to lead to change with the example of how an issue raised by a Church of England Birmingham parish had moved through the deanery, diocesan and General synods, before ending in a case before the Supreme Court.

Canon Mark Pryce, Director of Ministry (and a Chaplain to the King), spoke about his role and the importance of support and training for everyone called to ministry, whether full or lay. He outlined the training and support that would be available to authorised local preachers, oversight ministers and oversight areas.

Andy Winmill, recently appointed Director of Mission Support, spoke about his background working with Urban Devotion, a Christian community transformation project in North Birmingham. He then described the work of the Mission Support team, which offers resources to parishes for all aspects of local mission. Andy also outlined the support that would be available to oversight areas as they explore missional opportunities.

Updates we received from the diocesan synod and environment representatives. The first Oversight Ministers were announced.

Unfortunately, neither David nor myself were able to attend the February 2024 meeting which took place at Holy Trinity, Smethwick.

The Area Dean's notes state that the main topic of the evening was a finance presentation from Karen Preece, Diocesan Director of Finance and Sonia Hudson, Finance Manager. There was gratitude and thanks for the generous giving of the deanery's parishes who had met 98% of their Common Fund Pledges in 2023. The wider financial picture for the CofE Birmingham is unfortunately not so good and we are facing a significant financial deficit for 2023 and a growing financial deficit for 2024. Many dioceses are feeling a significant financial squeeze too, as are parishes and all of our own household budgets. As a result, however, hard questions are being asked about the current structure of the diocese and our ability to support the level of stipendiary ordained ministry that we currently enjoy.

The financial presentation was followed by a short act of worship, thanking God for the many blessings that have been received individually and collectively as a deanery, and praying for the future.

The meeting ended with networking in small groups, discussing the future work of the deanery and its parishes.

Caroline Mosley

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP

Children's ministry work is linked to our neighbouring parish of St Peter's Harborne and together we work with the aim of sharing God's love, spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus, God's Son and helping each other to grow through the Holy Spirit with children in an engaging way.

St Faith and St Laurence hosted two Messy Church opportunities during the last year linked to Social Committee events. We celebrated the King's Coronation in May 2023 with families able to plant seeds for new growth, think about Kingship by making crowns, flags, cakes etc and join in our community through sharing in the barbeque, ice cream van and bouncy castle fun. Our Messy Church in December 2023 led into St Faith and St Laurence's Christmas Fair. Everyone was invited to create cards, decorations, door hangers, the Christmas story etc using a wide range of craft materials. It was special to be able to hold this advent event in the church by the twinkling Christmas Tree. The children and their families were then able to enjoy the Fair, especially meeting Father Christmas.

Members of our Church Community were warmly welcomed to attend St Peter's Harborne Family Day in June and their Advent celebrations at the end of November, so it is a blessing that there have been some activities available for families during the past 12 months. Whilst the number of children attending is relatively small, offering opportunities for Christian Fellowship is worthwhile and rewarding and I am grateful for the support given to our Children's Ministry

from those who are willing to run an activity table but also others who provide refreshments and help prepare and clear up afterwards.

The next Messy Church event at St Faith and St Laurence is planned for Saturday 20th April 2024 and Sue Glanvill, Julia Reid and I are planning New Beginnings / St George's Day activities with some baking, crafting and fun things to do.

In this way, joint events that both parishes can share will enable the continuation of children being welcomed into our church communities and provide opportunities for us all to grow in love, deepen our faith and together, work for God.

Helen Setchell

CHURCH ESTATES TASK GROUP

This recently formed Task Group was previously the Finance and General Purposes Task Group. Its remit is to oversee the church buildings, contents (fabric) and its grounds. It does not include major spending which remains the province of the PCC and/or Standing Committee. Its seven members, chosen for their expertise and knowledge, have met twice and have begun to study the Quinquennial 2023 Report in detail, to undertake our own inspection and to plan urgent work needed to maintain the fabric of the church and its surrounds.

An additional requirement is that the church strives to reduce energy use and associated carbon emissions and the TG will subsequently propose an action plan "Towards Net Zero Carbon" for the PCC from which the church will benefit.

David Arkell

CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers have been arranged on the main altar and Lady Chapel every week except during Advent and Lent. The whole church is decorated for Easter and Christmas. The Advent ring is decorated on the lead up to Christmas.

Again, my thanks to the small band of ladies who arrange the flowers in church. They do an excellent job. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to the list of arrangers.

Anita Tippin

CHURCHWOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

In 2023 the Fellowship once again had a lovely programme of speakers and meals out. We started our year in March with Mike Wilkes who showed us wonderful slides of Nature in Action. In case Woodgate Valley Fire Service weren't able to visit us at the last moment in April, a member had prepared an "Alphabet" quiz which did have to be used and she also told us of an incident she was involved in at Lloyds Bank in Quinton!!

In May we went to The Bell in Harborne for our Spring Lunch, then in June Peter Stokes told us about his pilgrimage Walking the Camino de Santiago. Mary Bodfish talked to us about Smethwick in World War 2 in July. After a break in August, we held the AGM in September together with another Quiz.

In October we had a demonstration of Chinese Painting by Glynis Wilson, then in November Peter came again to repeat his talk, this time with pictures as the technology had failed in June!! Our year finished in December with a Christmas Lunch at the Court Oak.

Once again Caroline Marshall did a good job putting together the programme, Carol Mason looked after the finances and Wendy Watts dealt with the monthly raffle. My thanks go to them and all members for their support and making the drinks and bringing raffle prizes. Sadly, we lost one member during the year, leaving a membership of 18.

Any lady who may be interested in coming along would be made very welcome – our programme is on the Notice Board in the Hall lobby. For any more details, please do contact me.

Helen Hayward

COMMUNICATIONS TASK GROUP

The Communications Task Group is chaired by Caroline Mosley with Peter Stokes and Revd David Parker as members.

Caroline Mosley is responsible for website maintenance, Facebook, Twitter (not currently used) and as back up for the weekly email via Churchsuite. Peter Stokes compiles and edits the magazine and produces the weekly pewsheets. David Parker produces the weekly email and is back up for the website maintenance.

The group met once in 2023 to discuss the future of the magazine. Peter Stokes highlighted that we didn't have the content or people needed to produce a full Magazine every month. It was also felt that the constant pressure of the next monthly deadline was an obstacle to people contributing.

After discussion and careful consideration, we decided to reduce the frequency at which the Magazine is published for a trial period. From 2024, the Magazine will be issued four times a year with Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter issues. The Spring issue will focus on Lent, Holy Week and Easter and the Winter issue on Advent and Christmas. The first issue of the new cycle was produced in March 2024. The change is also a deliberate attempt to make the Magazine more relevant to our parish life. It is hoped that the a longer production schedule will encourage more people to contribute articles about the church and its activities. We would welcome feedback on the new format and schedule.

New members are urgently sought for the TG. If you have any interest in helping with our work, please do get in touch.

Caroline Mosley

ECO CHURCH

St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) Eco Church Task Group was created in 2019. Eco Church, provided by A Rocha UK are members of The Climate Coalition, and are encouraging as many Christians and churches as possible to take part. This shows others that we serve a God of Creation and adds our efforts to those of others for the greatest combined impact.

SF&SL is the proud owner of the Eco Church bronze award and the Eco Church silver award is just round the corner.

Birmingham Diocese has applied for the Eco Diocese silver award and if they get it, it will be the first diocese to achieve the silver status. Thanks to all Birmingham Diocese churches' hard work!

The Church of England (CofE) General Synod has recognised the climate emergency and called on all parts of the Church to become "net zero carbon" by 2030. The collective approach to "net zero carbon" is underpinned by six principles: Well maintained, buy renewable, waste less, electric not gas/oil, generate more and offset the rest. A requirement is for Parish Church Councils (PCC) to adopt an action plan towards "Net Zero Carbon". SF&SL PCC has delegated this task to the newly Church Estate Task Group (CETG) and with my recommendations as the Parish Environment Contact (PEC), we shall build a practical path to "net zero carbon". This will aim to help SF&SL reduce its energy use and associated carbon emissions.

Another requirement is for churches to complete an Energy Footprint report. This has to be completed yearly and I am pleased to report that SF&SL has this year decreased its carbon footprint by reducing its CO₂ emissions (CO₂e). This has been possible by switching to LED, buying renewable energy, replacing the gas radiators in the Choir vestry/office and the Lady Chapel for electric ones, servicing our boilers and generally being careful and saving energy by 'switching off'.

Our Parish Environment Contact (PEC) meetings are ongoing and we have more members. We try to meet in different churches so we can visit the church and see what has been achieved and what the next projects are. The aim of our meeting is to care for the environment, help each other parishes with Eco Church awards; how to engage the congregation, politicians and neighbours on our journey to net zero carbon; how to work together by sharing ideas and knowledge; how to connect with the Diocese. On Saturday June 3rd 2023, we held a litter picking / working party to celebrate the start of the Churches Count on Nature and the Great Big Green Week. This was a chance for us to look after 'God's Acres'. We are not numerous, but a very good and efficient team. Thank you to all who helped.

We include environment articles, notices and / or tips in our weekly emails and pew sheet and quarterly magazines.

Membership: Laurie Deimel, Corinne Treacy and Royston Treacy

Corinne Treacy (Parish Environment Contact)

GARDENING

Due to bad weather and health issues in the team not a lot has been done in the garden since last Autumn. The wild garden in the front of the church going down to the road was one of the factors that helped get the Eco bronze award and is looking good. The raised beds need tidying as do the paths and beds. The south border at the front of the church is going to be cleared of weeds and some shrubs and will have slate put down in keeping with the church.

David and Lesley Arkell have done a good job with the rose bed and the garden at the front. The daffodils are looking good as well as many of the shrubs. There is a lot of work to be done and any help would be very much appreciated.

The Gardening Team

MINISTRY TEAM

Since Rachel Luckman left the parish in May 2023, the Ministry Team comprises David and Sally.

During the last year, the only change to the regular monthly pattern of services is that we have discontinued the Zoom service of Evening Prayer on the 2nd Sunday of each month because this was poorly attended, and the only participants were also worshipping with us in person.

In coordination with the uniformed organisations, we have tried to arrange that in alternate months one 10am Service of the Word is “All Age”: in practice such services were held in May, July, October (Harvest), December (Christingle) and March (Mothering Sunday). For the Harvest service we were also joined by the choir of West House School. As usual on Remembrance Sunday we were joined by the local squadron of the Air Training Corps, to which David is now Chaplain.

Special evening services during the year included the All Souls Memorial Service on 5th November, Music and Readings for Advent on 3rd December, the Carol Service on 17th December and communion services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

On Saturday 10th February, to prepare us for Lent, a Quiet Morning was held in church in partnership with St Mary’s Selly Oak. The morning was led by Canon John Austen and was much appreciated by the participants; it is hoped to make this a regular event.

During Advent, a series of discussion groups was held using material on the topic “Hope”. During Lent we used Paula Gooder’s book “Women of Holy Week”, reflecting on six of the women during the six Thursdays in Lent and then the remaining three on the first three evenings of Holy Week – the participants found this material stimulating and it provoked lively discussion.

The only baptism during this period was performed during a Service of the Word on 25th June. There was one wedding, in July 2023. During the last 12 months between us we have officiated at 16 funerals, of which 7 were in church.

We have also taken communion regularly to a number of parishioners who are no longer able to get to church.

We are trying to maintain and strengthen links with local schools and other groups. In the run up to Christmas we welcomed Woodhouse School and Bright Horizons Nursery to church for Christmas performances. Also in December a small group of children from Welsh House Farm Primary School came to hear the Christmas story, to sing two carols and to look around the church. In January David hosted a class from Our Lady of Fatima School who enjoyed seeing the church and hearing the organ. Just before Easter, we both went to Woodhouse School to lead an assembly on the theme of “Holy Week”. Sally continues to lead a monthly service at Queen Mother Gardens, and David assists with a monthly service at William Lench Court, celebrating communion there in alternate months.

David Parker and Sally Griffiths

MISSION TASK GROUP

The Mission Task Group is led by Pauline Sitford and the other members are Judith Bennett, Sue Glanvill, David Parker, Hilary Shaylor and Peter Stokes.

During the last year the group met twice, in June and October. The main focus of the October meeting was to decide which organisations should be recommended to the PCC for support through Away Giving. After discussion four were chosen: USPG’s Malawi projects, Book Aid International (providing books around the world), the Church Army’s Amber Project (helping young people in Cardiff who have mental health issues) and Shanti Aid (a Birmingham charity helping women who are victims of domestic abuse). Based on this recommendation the PCC subsequently donated £800 to each of these four, which represent two international and two domestic causes, in each case one church-based and one secular.

Through Pauline we maintain existing links with missionary organisations. Recently our link with the Diocese of Upper Shire in Malawi has been limited, but we are now in touch with a new priest in Liwonde and will be exploring ways to rebuild this link.

If anyone has questions or is interested in joining this Task Group, please contact Pauline.

Pauline Sitford

MUSIC

Simon Palmer resigned as Organist and Choirmaster with effect from 4th February 2024. Simon had been in the role for 43 years and had provided many musical highlights over the years. He will be missed. His departure was marked with a special service and presentations on the 4th February.

The PCC has endorsed the important part that music plays in the life of St Faith & St Laurence. The process of recruiting a new organist will be started shortly. We are extremely fortunate that Mark Lawrence, Deputy Organist, agreed to coordinate our music in the meantime. He is doing an excellent job.

SAFEGUARDING TASK GROUP

Safeguarding is the action the Church can take to promote a safer culture and is about protecting people with regards to their health, wellbeing and human rights. Everyone who partakes in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

We take safeguarding seriously at St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) and we try to ensure that everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has complied with its duty to promote a safer church by implementing good safeguarding practice and having due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance.

The PCC has reviewed and ratified the Safeguarding & other Policies document on 12th March 2024. These policies are available to view or download on our website at www.saintfaithandsaintlaurence.co.uk and as hardcopies displayed in the Narthex in the Church and in the lobby of the Hall building.

All necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks have been carried out. The Safeguarding training courses required for all SF&SL Volunteers and Trustees are ongoing and well on their way. Face to face via video sessions were given on July 22nd and October 14th 2023 by Corinne (Facilitator). All church activities and non-church activities have been reviewed and authorised by PCC at the meeting held on September 12th 2023. This procedure will be carried on yearly.

SF&SL Dashboard is at Level 3 with 67% progress and SF&SL Hub which is an extension to the dashboard is at stage 3 – Both are ongoing. These are the mechanisms used to assess how thoroughly the parish has completed its obligations with regard to implementing Safeguarding policies and practices, and indicate that good progress has been made but some further work remains to be done.

The Church of England (CofE) has been developing the following five Standards which have been published (Culture, Leadership & Capacity, Prevention, Recognising & Assessing & Managing Risk, Victims & Survivors and Learning & Supervision & Support). This is to help the Church identify their safeguarding strengths and areas for development, to continually improve practice.

We would like to thank you for supporting our Safeguarding policies.

Sally Griffiths, David Parker and Corinne Treacy

SOCIALS TASK GROUP

We have been able to hold a full timetable of events this year following the disruption caused by the Pandemic.

Following our visit to the Serbian Church in October 2022, we planned to invite them to visit us in the spring of 2023, but due to Father Nenad contracting double pneumonia this was cancelled.

On the 13th May we held a Coronation Barbeque, preceded by a Messy Church. We hired a Bouncy Castle and an Ice Cream van which proved extremely popular. I must offer my thanks to Helen Setchell and her team for the Messy Church and to Steven Shaylor for his cooking skills at the barbeque. The weather was particularly kind and added to the success of the day.

On the 24th June we organised a coach outing to Hartlebury Castle (the former seat of the Bishops of Worcester) which brought much of the local history to life.

The 8th October saw us hosting our annual Harvest Lunch which, as in previous years, was well attended and brought a renewed feeling of community spirit and goodwill following the pandemic.

2023 concluded with our Annual Christmas Fayre which was the most successful since well before the pandemic. We commenced with a Messy Church which was well supported, followed by the Fayre, which saw a range of stalls, both third party and "home grown". Simon Palmer produced live music which was relayed into the hall, and also enjoyed by the many people sitting in the church. We raised £1222 towards church funds.

We held our first meeting of 2024 on the 6th March and discussed events for the coming year. Four provisional events are planned and we may try to include a couple more. Those agreed so far are:

April: St. George's Day Skittles Evening with a Fish & Chip Supper

October: Harvest Supper

November: Christmas Fayre

I have to thank all those who supported our events throughout last year and we look forward to welcoming you again this year at these events.

David Glanvill

STAY AND PLAY

How wonderful to see that Stay & Play has started again. It only attracts a small group of under 3's. However this is an extremely happy group and very cooperative between parents and children with lots of interaction going on between both.

It is under the supervision of 3 pairs of church members, plus Vernon, Hazel and John who attend every week. The fees remain at £2 per family and the money goes towards church funds.

Hilary Shaylor

PRIEST IN CHARGE'S LETTER

Last year's APCM followed only a month after my formal Licensing as Priest in Charge at St Faith and St Laurence. In my closing remarks, I said that I saw my role as restoring confidence in the parish after a traumatic few years. I believe that the last year has seen this begin to happen, as several people have commented to me on how much happier and more settled the parish seems. I hope this is true, and that it will continue. To me, the most striking thing is that I have actually changed very little – the parish has a great tradition and is well served by its existing teams, so my role has mainly been to support what was already happening.

So I want to thank everyone who contributes in any way to the life of the parish for making my first year so enjoyable, and for all your work. This set of reports gives a good impression of the breadth of parish life and the number of people responsible: thank you all! It is invidious to start singling out individuals for thanks – I'm bound to miss someone – but there are a few people who I really want to mention:

Sally Griffiths does so much as Reader, not just in preaching and leading worship but also through her spiritual care for everyone (including me). The last few months have not been easy for Sally, so I am especially grateful for her continued support.

Malcolm and Corinne have carried out their duties as churchwardens conscientiously, and have been gracious with me when I have made mistakes.

Caroline Mosley has been very generous in sharing her experience as PCC Vice-Chair, helping me clarify my ideas, and occasionally correcting my English. We all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for volunteering to assemble and edit this set of reports.

As Treasurer, Loleta Atkinson has gone beyond the call of duty in responding to my requests to explain obscure items in the accounts. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated Treasurer.

Helen Setchell has made my life much easier by taking notes at meetings so efficiently, and I admire her enthusiasm for coordinating Messy Church (which is not my forte!).

Though I am not really musical myself, I appreciate how important music is to worship at St Faith and St Laurence. We continue to be extremely blessed by the quality of our musicians. At Christmas, when so many people commented on how wonderful the music was, I found it bittersweet, knowing that just after Christmas I would have to announce that Simon and Susannah Palmer were about to leave us. Their contribution to the musical life of the parish over more than 4 decades was amazing, and we rightly thanked them in February. But we must also thank Mark Lawrence, who has kept things going wonderfully since Simon left, and organised excellent singers for Easter.

To all those I haven't mentioned by name I extend equally sincere thanks.

Overall, in parish life this has been a year of consolidation and even modest growth. In common with the rest of the Church of England, we do face challenges over the years ahead, not least because of our age structure. We cannot solve all the world's problems, or even all the CofE's problems – all we can do is continue working together, faithfully trying to serve God and our brothers and sisters, and trust to God for the rest.

David Parker

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2023

ARK AURORA LTD
Chartered Accountants
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood, Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

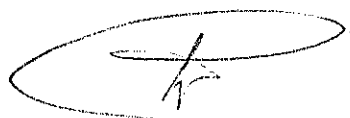
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.



The Maltings
2 Anderson Road, Bearwood
Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

Gee Ark FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	33603		40961	
	Charities Aid/GYE	<u>-</u>	33648	<u>-</u>	40961
Collections	Loose Plate	2675		3069	
	Gift Aid	2535		1043	
	Weddings, etc	<u>4810</u>	10020	<u>9975</u>	14087
Donation	General Fund	-		-	
	Garden Fund	-		-	
	Votive Candles Fund-	149		170	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	-		-	
	Flower Fund	<u>-</u>	149	<u>-</u>	170
Appeals	Advent	-		-	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	5235		-	
	Disaster relief	<u>-</u>	5235	<u>455</u>	455
Grants & Insurance claims		<u>4235</u>		<u>4612</u>	
			53287		60285
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			37		546
Income from investments					
Bank interest			540		219
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		1469		-	
Magazine		1231		271	
Hire of church hall		16443		11578	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		580		1009	
Fund raising events		41		975	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play	-	782		369	
Printing		94		-	
Sundry		<u>233</u>	<u>20873</u>	<u>848</u>	<u>15049</u>
Total Receipts			<u>£ 74737</u>		<u>£ 76099</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS		<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
Grants/Donations				
Overseas mission and relief agencies	2684		455	
Home mission and other	63		315	
Church organisations	800		-	
Secular charities	<u>1105</u>	4652	<u>-</u>	770
Operation of facilities				
Church heat & light	6589		3210	
Church repairs	2962		943	
Church cleaning	2853		3080	
Church grounds maintenance	428		-	
Hall heat, light & water	2659		1581	
Hall repairs	219		1259	
Hall cleaning	3675		4370	
Hall telephone	687		583	
Vicarage expenses	<u>-</u>	20072	<u>823</u>	15849
Church management and administration				
Diocesan Common Fund	36000		36000	
BDBF Fees	3460		-	
Affiliations	-		-	
Clergy expenses	318		318	
Upkeep of services	2485		397	
Insurance	3860		4220	
Stationery and printing	1654		2195	
Bank charges	193		179	
Task groups	-		-	
Wages & Honorarium	4758		8238	
Accountant's fees	780		702	
Sundry expenses	<u>5151</u>	<u>58659</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>52979</u>
Total Payments		<u>£ 83383</u>		<u>£ 69598</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(8646)		6500
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund		1546		-
Transfer from Fabric Fund		-		-
Balances at 1 January 2023		<u>26413</u>		<u>19913</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2023		<u>£ 19313</u>		<u>£ 26413</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>943</u>	<u>304</u>
	943	304
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	943	304
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	(1546)	
Bank balance at 1 January 2023	<u>30052</u>	<u>29748</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2023	£ <u>29449</u>	£ <u>30052</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2023	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2023	£ <u>18</u>	£ <u>17</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	-
Payments	<u>127</u>	<u> </u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-
Bank Balance at 1 January 2023	<u>983</u>	<u>983</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>£ 856</u>	<u>£ 983</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2023	2022
					£	£
Cash in Hand	15	-	-		15	116
Bank Current Account	1940	-	-	856	2822	10446
CBOF Deposit Account	<u>17373</u>	<u>29449</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46840</u>	<u>46903</u>
Total Cash	<u>19328</u>	<u>29449</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>49651</u>	<u>57465</u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to be have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

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

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2023

ARK AURORA LTD
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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

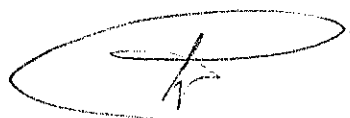
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.



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Gee Ark FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	33603		40961	
	Charities Aid/GYE	<u>-</u>	33648	<u>-</u>	40961
Collections	Loose Plate	2675		3069	
	Gift Aid	2535		1043	
	Weddings, etc	<u>4810</u>	10020	<u>9975</u>	14087
Donation	General Fund	-		-	
	Garden Fund	-		-	
	Votive Candles Fund-	149		170	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	-		-	
	Flower Fund	<u>-</u>	149	<u>-</u>	170
Appeals	Advent	-		-	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	5235		-	
	Disaster relief	<u>-</u>	5235	<u>455</u>	455
Grants & Insurance claims		<u>4235</u>		<u>4612</u>	
			53287		60285
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			37		546
Income from investments					
Bank interest			540		219
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		1469		-	
Magazine		1231		271	
Hire of church hall		16443		11578	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		580		1009	
Fund raising events		41		975	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play	-	782		369	
Printing		94		-	
Sundry		<u>233</u>	<u>20873</u>	<u>848</u>	<u>15049</u>
Total Receipts			<u>£ 74737</u>		<u>£ 76099</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS		<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
Grants/Donations				
Overseas mission and relief agencies	2684		455	
Home mission and other	63		315	
Church organisations	800		-	
Secular charities	<u>1105</u>	4652	<u>-</u>	770
Operation of facilities				
Church heat & light	6589		3210	
Church repairs	2962		943	
Church cleaning	2853		3080	
Church grounds maintenance	428		-	
Hall heat, light & water	2659		1581	
Hall repairs	219		1259	
Hall cleaning	3675		4370	
Hall telephone	687		583	
Vicarage expenses	<u>-</u>	20072	<u>823</u>	15849
Church management and administration				
Diocesan Common Fund	36000		36000	
BDBF Fees	3460		-	
Affiliations	-		-	
Clergy expenses	318		318	
Upkeep of services	2485		397	
Insurance	3860		4220	
Stationery and printing	1654		2195	
Bank charges	193		179	
Task groups	-		-	
Wages & Honorarium	4758		8238	
Accountant's fees	780		702	
Sundry expenses	<u>5151</u>	<u>58659</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>52979</u>
Total Payments		<u>£ 83383</u>		<u>£ 69598</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(8646)		6500
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund		1546		-
Transfer from Fabric Fund		-		-
Balances at 1 January 2023		<u>26413</u>		<u>19913</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2023		<u>£ 19313</u>		<u>£ 26413</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>943</u>	<u>304</u>
	943	304
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	943	304
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	(1546)	
Bank balance at 1 January 2023	<u>30052</u>	<u>29748</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2023	£ <u>29449</u>	£ <u>30052</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2023	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2023	£ <u>18</u>	£ <u>17</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	-
Payments	<u>127</u>	<u> </u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-
Bank Balance at 1 January 2023	<u>983</u>	<u>983</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>£ 856</u>	<u>£ 983</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2023	2022
Cash in Hand	15	-	-		15	116
Bank Current Account	1940	-	-	856	2822	10446
CBOF Deposit Account	<u>17373</u>	<u>29449</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46840</u>	<u>46903</u>
Total Cash	<u>19328</u>	<u>29449</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>856</u>	<u>49651</u>	<u>57465</u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to be have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

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

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

Accounts



St Faith and St Laurence Annual Report and Accounts for 2022/2023



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HARBORNE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended April 2023

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2022

Bank:

TSB plc
537 Bearwood Road
Warley
West Midlands
B66 4BQ

Independent Examiner:

Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4AR

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm held in the Church**

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the 2021/2022 meeting
5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

The Annual Meeting shall receive from the Parochial Church Council and shall be free to discuss: -

- A report on changes in the roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
- An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally;
- The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2022;
- A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church, under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991;
- A report on the proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod;
- A report on the activities of Churches Together in Harborne.

6. Elections

- Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (6 for 2022-2025 plus 4 places on Deanery Synod,
- Appointment of Independent Examiner;
- representatives to Churches Together in Harborne.

7. Any questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.
8. Final words from the Chair
9. The Grace

Membership of the Parochial Church Council

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Licensed Reader	Sally Griffiths Rachel Luckman
Churchwardens	Malcolm Adey Corinne Treacy
Treasurer	Loleta Atkinson
Secretary	Gill Hubble (resigned during this period)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Ruth Jeavons (resigned during this period) Caroline Mosley and Bronwen Jones
Elected Members	Peter Gardner Alan Jones Caroline Mosley (Vice chair) Simon Palmer Helen Setchell Anita Tippin John Wadman

ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE: TASK GROUPS 2021/2023

The PCC operates through a number of Task Groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Finance & General Purposes Task Group

It meets quarterly (with extra meetings for specific projects if needed) and its remit is to oversee finance, building issues and general policies which need legally to be in place.

Children and Young People Task Group

To develop all aspects of worship for children and young people. Especially *Sunday Club, Messy Church, Stay and Play*.

Garden Task Group

The function of this group is to plan and action the various phases of the new garden and quiet areas

Mission Task Group

Supports our Mission links overseas in Lebanon and Malawi.

Thinks creatively about Mission and outreach in the parish.

Christian Aid.

Plans and encourages Lent and Advent appeals for good causes.

Promotes social action in the parish.

Communications Task Group

Socials Task Group

Organises particular events, for example the Christmas Fair. Participates in and supports events suggested by other groups. Organises special refreshments after services where needed.

Worship and Education Task Group

Matters to do with worship. Involvement in the planning of special services.

Plans courses, quiet days and Faith and Learning sessions

Giving Task Group

Allocates the amount set by the PCC for charitable giving each year. Meets once a year for this task.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It now meets on an emergency basis to transact urgent business which cannot wait to be dealt with at a regular meeting of the PCC. The committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, with four other members of the PCC.

Safeguarding Task Group

The Safeguarding Task Group works in line with the Church of England Safeguarding principles. We follow Birmingham's commitment to promoting a safer church for everyone. Safeguarding is the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. We are committed to the safeguarding, care, and nurture of everyone within our community.

The Parish Church Council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm**

(Attached is the signed sheet of attendees)

The meetings were chaired by Caroline Mosley at the request of the Churchwardens.

I. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. **Election of Churchwardens**

Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy left the room whilst the vote for Churchwardens took place.

There were two nominations for the Churchwarden positions, Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy. Under CofE rules (Churchwardens Measure 2021 s.3) a person is disqualified from serving as churchwarden for more than six successive periods of office, unless a meeting of parishioners passes a resolution that this section shall not apply to the parish concerned. Malcolm Adey had now served six years successive years, so was disqualified from standing again under the rules. As he had been nominated and there were no alternative candidates, a resolution was put to the meeting that the requirement under the Measure would not apply.

Special Resolution: that the requirement under the CofE rules (Churchwardens Measure 2021 s.3) that a person may not serve as churchwarden for more than six successive periods does not apply to the Parish of St Faith and St Laurence for the year 2022/2023.

Proposed: Thelma Kettle **Seconded:** Ruth Jeavons **Vote:** Unanimous

Malcolm Adey

Nominated: Alan Jones **Seconded:** Helen Hayward **Vote:** Unanimous

Corinne Treacy

Nominated: Peter Stokes **Seconded:** Anita Tippin

Vote: Carried by majority (3 Abstentions)

Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy were duly affirmed as wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gill Hubble, Peter Stokes, Margaret Thomson

Although they were both absent, Gill Hubble had asked that thanks be expressed to Peter Stokes for printing the Report.

4. Minutes of the 2020/2021 meeting

Priscilla White had approved the minutes as being accurate when Gill Hubble produced them last year. There were no points for amendment made and no comments raised.

Proposed: Helen Setchell **Seconded:** Judith Bennett **Vote:** 2 Abstentions

5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

- a. Electoral Roll** – Judith Bennett, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there were 123 recorded on the roll, made up of 64 residents of the parish and 59 non-residents. Thanks were given to Judith.
- b. PCC Report** – This had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments arising.
- c. Financial statements** – These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Loleta Atkinson, Treasurer, reported to the meeting. There was £30,500 in the current account on 17.05.2022 and the accounts had been audited.

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2021** is found on pages 2 and 3 of the accounts.

Income: 2021 saw a reduction in income from planned giving via envelopes, and from lettings. Receipts from loose plate, gift aid, donations, and weddings increased slightly towards the end of the year.

To ensure that the expenses could be met, £5,000 was transferred from the Church and Hall Repairs investment fund to the current account. £2,000 of that was previously owed by the Church and Hall account to the current account for the cost of hall repairs paid from this account.

To date, 2022 is showing increases in hall lettings and a continued increase in receipts from weddings when compared to 2021.

Payments: Common Fund for the year (£44,400) was paid in full. A reduction in Common Fund from £44,400 to £36,000 (£3,000 per month) was offered and agreed for 2022.

Church and roof repairs payments reduced significantly as completed in 2020.

Loleta highlighted that we are currently spending more than our income.

Designated/Restricted Funds can be found on page 4 and 5.

Church Hall and Repair Fund: decreased as hall and church repairs costs were paid.

Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.

Other Restricted Funds - Women's Fellowship: – No change.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities: The first column includes the CBF Deposit Account which is a reserve account mainly to back up the Current Account.

Peter Gardner raised a question about the cost of the cleaning of the church hall as it is more than before. It was explained that this was mainly due to the way that the figures had been recorded in the ledgers. The figure actually covered both the church and the hall and also included repair costs. Another point was that previously, the cleaners' wages had been recorded under the Honorariums in the accounts. Alison Keepax highlighted that there had been a change in contractor from 2020/2021 through a competitive tender, using best practice, and that the contract was on a different basis than previously. The Family interest has been declared every year since the appointment. It was generally agreed that there had also been a need for increased cleaning in COVID times.

A question was raised about why the "Income Tax recovered" in Receipts stands as nil for 2021. It was explained that now that the accountant had checked the books, recovery can be undertaken.

Thanks were given to all those who have helped with recording the finances, in the past and currently. In particular the counters: Brenda Stott, Hilary Shaylor, Anita Tippin and Lesley Arkell and to the church wardens, Malcolm and Corinne for their support. Thanks were also recorded to Geoff Bennett who continues to make the annual gift aid claims and for his continued support.

Thank were also given to those who give generously to the Church. Without this support it would be impossible to continue.

Ratification of Report and Accounts for 2021

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Hilary Shaylor **Vote:** Unanimous

- d. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments - A report on these was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received.
- e. A report on the proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. No questions were received. Ruth Jeavons has stood down as our representative. Caroline Mosley and Bronwen Jones agreed to stand.
- f. Churches Together in Harborne - As there was no representative from St Faith and St Laurence on this, a report was not provided.

6. Elections

a. Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the PCC

There were 6 places for 2022-2023

There were three nominations as follows: -

Name: *Simon Palmer*

Proposed: Corinne Treacy

Seconded: Rachel Luckman

Name: *Anita Tippin*

Proposed: Corinne Treacy

Seconded: Malcolm Adey

Name: *Peter Gardner*

Proposed: Malcolm Adey

Seconded: Sally Griffiths

As there were fewer candidates than places these were voted in on a single vote, which was unanimous.

Deanery Synod

There were 3 Places for 1 year - Ruth Jeavons had resigned

No nominations had been received prior to the meeting. Bronwen Jones and Caroline Mosley offered to take the role on for one year.

Proposed: Malcolm Adey **Seconded:** Corinne Treacy **Vote:** Unanimous

b. Appointment of Sidespeople

Traditionally at St Faith and St Laurence, the appointment of sidespeople is delegated to the Churchwardens. The meeting agreed to continue this.

d. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that we continue with the current Independent Examiner, Ark Aurora Ltd

Proposed: Helen Hayward

Seconded: Geoff Bennett **Vote:** Unanimous

e. **Representatives to Churches Together in Harborne**

There was no representative at the moment. There were no volunteers.

7. Any Questions

- I. Pauline Sitford said that there had been a problem with sending her Mission Task Group Report as Gill could not open it and therefore it was omitted from the Report. The text of the report was presented as follows: -

MISSION TASK GROUP 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Task Group Members: *Pauline Sitford (Chair) Judith Bennett (Sec.), Hilary Shaylor, Sue Glanvill, Ruth Jeavons, Peter Stokes, Priscilla White, (until Feb. 2022).*

We have done very little due to Covid and links have been difficult, with one exception.

Colin and Audrey Gibson, in Lebanon with CMS *are currently attached to the management team of A Rocha's, Mekse Nature Park. They have continued to keep us up to date with regular newsletters. Others have been found to take over the project so Audrey and Colin are now returning home. They have offered to visit us soon!*

Call in for Coffee *re-opened after Christmas and is being well supported.*

- II. Helen Hayward queried if she should continue distributing the SF&SL Parish Magazine to the cluster churches and still get St Peter's Magazine. Caroline Mosley explained that the clusters had been disbanded. All agreed that the magazines should still be sent. It was noted that some Festival services are still shared amongst our former Cluster churches.
- III. People were asked to join the Parish Giving Scheme. This delivers the Gift Aid tax refund monthly and avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.
- IV. Wendy Watts queried when the orange booklets (Order for Communion) would start to be used at 10am rather than the one-off printed sheets. There was discussion about the timing of their reintroduction at various different services. Their use at 10am was underway. Sally Griffiths reported that there were now new blue Service of the Word booklets to match the orange ones. The readers, Sally and Rachel, would continue to produce one-off service booklets for special services.
- V. Thelma Kettle queried the current reading rota of only two readings at 10am and asked to have more readings. The reintroduction of communion in two kinds was also queried by a number of people. It was agreed that these would be reintroduced slowly. Any changes and return to previous arrangements will be discussed and agreed through the PCC.

- VI. Simon Palmer reported that it was difficult to recruit new choristers, but more music was planned for this year and connections were being made with St Peter's to share Festival services, such as the forthcoming Ascension Day on 26th May 2022.
- VII. It was noted that Helen Setchell and Sue Glanvill had rearranged and updated the children's corner in church.

8. Final words

It was noted that during the vacancy period Corinne and Malcolm, as church wardens, would have lots to do. Sally Griffiths and Rachel Luckman would be taking the lead with services.

Thanks were given to everyone who offers something to the church community, especially in the vacancy period.

Malcolm Adey thanked everyone for the care and support he had received in his period of ill health.

Caroline Mosley was thanked for chairing both meetings.

Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting and taking part. They were reminded that the PCC members are representatives of the church community and are open for conversations with all members of the congregation about any queries or matters of concern.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

17th MAY 2022

(29)

Lidia Atkinson

Wendy Watts

Sat Jones

Alan Jones

David Atwell

Diana herchel

Peter Cropper

Sima Palmer

John Wadman

M. Adey

Tim Hayward

Helen Hayward

John Bennett

Geoff Smith

Alan Jones

Ruth Jeavons

Peter Thompson

Sally Griffiths

Alan Keen

Brown Jones

Pauline Seward

John Shaw

Thelma Little

Helen Letchell

* Anita Tupper

* Hilary Shaylor

~~XXXXXX~~

* Caroline Hosley

* Corinne Treacy

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2022/2023

The church exists to promote the Christian Religion, to offer prayer, worship, and pastoral care, and to work in such a way as to offer public benefit to all who might wish to use it or its facilities, including the church hall.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our former Vicar, Priscilla White, on 28th September 2022. A very moving Thanksgiving Service was held on 2nd February 2023 at Candlemas, at which John White preached. Priscilla's last service with us had been at Candlemas 2022.

For the majority of the year, the church has been in vacancy. Corinne Treacy and Malcolm Adey, as churchwardens and along with the Area Dean Mike Sermon, were responsible for ensuring that church life continued during this time. They were responsible for making sure that worship and occasional services such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals, were maintained through guest clergy and the support of Sally and Rachel, our Readers. Many thanks to them both and to Sally and Rachel for all their hard work during this time and going forward.

We were pleased to welcome Revd David Parker who was licensed as Interim Priest in Charge on 27th March 2023 for a period of three years. David, then Assistant Priest at St Mary's, Selly Oak, initially joined St Faith and St Laurence in July 2022 on a part-time basis to provide some continuity of priestly ministry and leadership. David was an enormous help and support during this period and the PCC happily accepted the proposal of Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson and Area Dean Mike Sermon that he be appointed to the interim priest role. We look forward to continuing our journey of faith with David.

The PCC met 12 times on 7th June 21st June (Extraordinary Meeting), 9th July (TCAP planning), 26th July (TCAP follow up), 13th September 25th September (Extraordinary Meeting), 11th October, 15th November, 10th January 2023, 14th February, 14th March and 16th April (Extraordinary Meeting).

At the first meeting of the PCC, the required election of officers was held. Caroline Mosley was elected as lay Vice-Chair, Loleta Atkinson re-elected as Treasurer and Gill Hubble reconfirmed as Secretary. The role of Chair remained vacant as it can only be held by an incumbent. The Church Wardens and the elected officers formed the Standing Committee. Gill Hubble retired as PCC Secretary in September after 10 years. Our thanks were and are extended to Gill for all her hard work in this role, in which she excelled.

Ruth Jeavons retired from all her Safeguarding roles in September. Many thanks to her for leading the Safeguarding team and all her invaluable work in this area. Sally Griffiths is the interim named safeguarding contact and Corinne Treacy is the parish identifier and responsible for updating the safeguarding Dashboard, also on an interim basis.

There has been a slow but ongoing move back to pre-Covid “operations.” In May, prayer ministry was reintroduced at the 10am service along with named intercessions. Communion in Both Kinds was reintroduced with the wine from the Common Cup from the 3rd July. Wednesday morning Communion was reintroduced in September as David joined the ministry team. The All Souls service for the commemoration of all who had died was held again in November. From February 2023, a Communion service was reintroduced at 6.30pm on the 4th Sunday of each month. An additional 8am service on each fifth Sunday was also added.

The Choir resumed at the 10am service in September and was welcomed back having been much missed. Active recruitment for new members, particularly juniors, is underway. The choir has also sung with St Peter’s choir on several occasions, including Ascension Day, Candlemas, and Good Friday (Stainer’s Crucifixion). A massed choir including singers from St Peter’s and St Mary’s Selly Oak joined them for David’s Licensing service.

In person study groups were held for both Advent (Making Room) and Lent (Dust and Glory). There were both afternoon and evening sessions each time.

Sally Griffiths leads a regular worship service at Queen Mother Gardens supported housing, which is attended by residents and members of the congregation.

Messy Church, aimed at nursery and early primary age children, ran online under Helen Setchell’s able leadership throughout the lockdowns. They returned to in person sessions in May and June 2022. While enjoyed by those who attended, due to low numbers of leaders and attendees, it was decided that Messy Church would take a break. Collaborations with St Peter’s were explored and two successful sessions at St Peter’s have been held in March and April 2023. St Faith and St Laurence will be hosting in June. Many thanks to the Messy Church team of Helen, Sue Glanvill and Julia Reid for all they have done and for taking forward the link up with St Peter’s.

Stay and Play meets each Thursday morning, including the school holidays. It is attracting young families from the surrounding area.

The Socials Task Group were busy during the year. A tea party was arranged in June to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and there was a Harvest lunch in October. A visit to the Serbian Orthodox Church in Bournville was arranged to see the amazing al secco frescos where we also received the kind hospitality of Father Nenad and the congregation. Finally, the Christmas Fayre returned for the first time since 2019 with a fabulous array of stalls, tasty catering, and a visit from Father Christmas himself. A Coronation Barbeque is planned for June. Thanks to David Glanvill and all the members of the Task Group and other helpers.

Call in for Coffee has continued to meet on Wednesday mornings and provides a valuable point of contact with the wider community.

The church continued to open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays thanks to the Warden and volunteer stewards. The PCC has agreed that the church can again open unstewarded during daylight hours, Monday to Friday and Saturday morning. There are a number of arrangements to be made but this will commence on 25th April 2023.

Following the Queen's death, the church was open to the parish for private prayer every day until the funeral. A book of condolence was available. Thanks to the people who stewarded and in particular to Corinne and Royston Treacy who tolled the bell for the required hour, both on Her Majesty's death and preceding the funeral.

A key decision for the PCC during the year was on an "Oversight Area," part of the Diocese's "People and Places" strategy. Oversight areas are groupings of parishes which encourage collaboration and partnerships to develop their missional capacity, increasing the reach of the individual parishes and developing deeper relationships. They are not team ministries - each parish remains separate. A decision was required by 30th September 2022. The PCC explored a number of groupings that were forming locally. It was unanimously decided, on the recommendation of the Wardens and PCC Vice-chair, that St Faith and St Laurence should join the oversight area consisting of St Peter's Harborne, St Mary's Selly Oak, St Gabriel's Weoley Castle and St Michael and All Angels, Bartley Green. The majority of this grouping voted likewise. St Michael and All Angels, however, voted for the original makeup of this grouping, which did not include St Faith and St Laurence. The Area Dean is in ongoing conversations with them about this. In the meantime, through the Choir and Messy Church in particular, we have started to make connections with other members.

Another key area for the PCC was the Transforming Church Action Plan (TCAP), another part of the "People and Places" strategy. This is to set out a vision of the future for St Faith and St Laurence and to create strategic plans to realise this. A workshop was led by Damian Herbert from the Diocese's Parish Mission Support team in July 2022. The PCC were able to focus on what and where the church is now, where we currently engage with the community and where there are opportunities to engage now and in the future. Finally, we focused on what was St Faith and St Laurence's core identity, agreeing on six core elements. PCC members were asked for their vision of the church and its activities in 5 years' time and a follow up meeting was held with Damian. From all the work done, Damian identified the common themes which should form our priorities. These were "Children, Youth and Families," "Inclusion," "Community Engagement," "Music" and "Eco-Church and Environment." A report by the Parish Mission Support team expanding on these is still awaited. Currently, it has not been possible to take TCAP further and engage with the wider congregation and community.

With the cashflow issues at the time of the hall roof repair and then the Covid crisis, the church's formal missional giving had ceased. The PCC agreed in February 2023 to reinstate missional giving of 5% of the church's income for this financial year with a view to work towards 10% in the future. Our Harvest Festival collection was for the Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank, and the Christingle collection was, as usual, for The Children Society. A collection was also made for the DEC Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. A Turkish coffee morning in aid of the charity RESTORE, run by Churches Together In Birmingham to support refugees and asylum seekers, was held on 22nd April 2023.

There have been a variety of problems with the heating over the winter months. The main boiler was not firing up properly and a problem with the burner was identified. Following a service by the manufacturer, this has now been resolved. A new burner will be required in the next few years but this will be a relatively cheap job compared to replacing the whole boiler. Following a gas leak in February, the heaters in the Choir Vestry and Lady Chapel were sealed off. While the Choir Vestry one was repaired, the one in the Lady Chapel was condemned and will need to be replaced. Investigations on replacements are underway.

The church wardens, Corinne Treacy and Malcolm Adey are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments.

Our cleaning contract is held by RT Cleaning & Maintenance (Royston and Corinne Treacy). They do a wonderful job of keeping the church and hall clean and in good order. The contract does mean that one of our PCC members has an interest in the firm. Corinne was not involved in the appointment process which was held by competitive tender in 2021.

This has been a period of upheaval and change, with moments of great sadness. We are now entering a new stage of our witness of faith in this place. Thank you to everyone for supporting the wardens, PCC and ministry team, for volunteering for jobs, supporting events, and holding each other in prayer and care. Let us move forward together.

Parochial Church Council

TREASURER'S REPORT

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2022** is on pages 2 and 3.

Income: In 2022 we saw a slight increase in receipts from planned giving, a significant increase in lettings and wedding receipts. Receipts from fund raising, lunches, coffee mornings and coffee also recorded increases.

Payments: The Common Fund for the year, £36,000 was paid in full. The PCC has agreed to pay the same amount, £36,000, in 2023.

Significant increases to the cost of heat and light. This was helped by a £2,729 one off grant from the diocese.

We collected and paid to support - Ukraine £455 and the Trussell Trust (Food Bank) £315.48

Overall, for the year we had an excess of receipts over payments of £6,500.

Note however, that we reduced the contribution due to the diocese from a previous £44,400 to £36,000pa. And that we paid no BDBF fees to the diocese during the interregnum, but we owe £1962 which will have to be paid in the current year.

Delegated/Restricted Funds on page 4 and 5.

- Church Hall and Repair Fund: No change, except interest received.
- Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.
- Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship – No change.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 6.

The first column includes CBOF Deposit Account which is a reserve account mainly to back up the Current Account.

The second column records the Church Hall & Repair Fund Account, a designated fund.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who have helped with recording the finances, in the past and currently. In particular, to Jackie Taylor, role now undertaken by Corinne Treacy and Alan Jones, and the counters: Brenda, Hilary, Anita, Lesley, Peter, and Malcolm. To Judith for managing the hall hire. Also, to the church wardens Malcolm and Corinne for their support.

Thanks to Geoff who continues to make the annual grant claims and for his continued support.

Thank you also to those who give generously to the Church.

Parish Giving Scheme

One last plea, **please join the Parish Giving Scheme**. This delivers the Gift Aid, (tax refund) much earlier, monthly, and it avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.

Loleta Atkinson Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT TO APCM 2022/2023

The Churchwardens are Bishops' officers, chosen by the parish and admitted to their office by the Bishop or Archdeacon. Once admitted they have formal and legal responsibilities to fulfil.

We had a busy and at times difficult church year that ended in a very positive note with the Licensing of Revd David Parker as St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) Priest-in-Charge on 27th March 2023 for a period of three years.

Since March 2022, SF&SL was in vacancy. The Vicarage utility bills and grounds had to be maintained by the Parish Church Council (PCC) whilst the Diocese took care of the necessary repairs before renting it. Thankfully, this period was only for a few months. On 8th September 2022 Queen Elizabeth II died. SF&SL former Vicar, Revd Canon Priscilla White died on 28th September. The Rt. Revd David Urquhart stepped down as Bishop of Birmingham on 18th October 2022 and SF&SL was represented at his farewell services at St James Church Round green on September 7th and at the Cathedral Church of St Philip on 18th October.

The Churchwardens' visitation held on 28th November and attended by Revd Mike Sermon (Area Dean of Warley and Edgbaston) went well.

Fabric and Building

The fabric of the Church and the Hall buildings remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard. The state of the buildings is monitored on a regular basis and any maintenance and/or repairs needed are agreed through PCC.

All maintenance services throughout 2022/23 were carried out in accordance with the regulations i.e. bells, boilers, fire extinguishers, intruder alarms, organ, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and sound system.

- **The Church**

No major works were needed this previous year. We were delighted to welcome back Woodhouse Primary Academy for their year 3 visits on 15th and 17th September and for their Christmas concert on 6th December. The church also hosted Bright Horizons Nursery for their Nativity on December 12th and Quinton Co-operative Funeralcare for their Christmas Memorial Service on 14th December. SF&SL was hired to several choirs and / or instrumental workshops and concerts.

- **The Hall**

Only a few minor repairs i.e. carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and general maintenance were needed this previous year. The hot water boiler dispenser stopped working. However, thank you to generous donors we have not only a new hot water boiler dispenser but also a kettle and a toaster. The hall and the committee room are hired regularly by regular and occasional users. Due to the increased hiring cost the hall lost some regular hirers in June 2022.

- **Heating**

We have had few problems with our church boiler but after the burner had a service and a clean carried out by the manufacturer company of the burner it seems to be working fine. However, we were informed that the burner life expectancy was of about 25 years and that the burner has nearly reached that age and therefore would have soon to be replaced. Whilst waiting for the commercial technician to attend the church boiler we had about 10 portable electric heaters kindly lent by St Mary's Selly Oak. Thank you St Mary's to enable us to be warm. Much appreciated. We also had problems with the gas heaters. The heater in the Lady Chapel in the Autumn 2022 broke down. Waiting for a part, the Lady Chapel was cold for the congregants attending the 11am Wednesday Holy Communion. Finally, it was repaired. However, a few months later it was condemned. The heater in the Choir vestry had a gas leak which was mended and after a service is now up and running.

- **Sound System**

A second-hand mixer had to be bought in June 2022.

Goods and Ornaments

The churchwardens are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments. The Terrier and Inventory of property owned by the church has been checked in March 2023 and it is confirmed that all items recorded are accounted for and in reasonable condition. Our beautiful little silver chalice with six petals foot had to be brought for repairs as the cup came away from the base. Rudell the jewellers in Harborne have kindly repaired it free of charge – although the work is not guaranteed.

Grounds

After a couple of theft incidents in the carpark, two solar security lights and a disclaimer sign were supplied and installed as a donation. A letterbox was also installed to receive SF&SL post. We are grateful to the gardening team, lawn and hedge cutters and Ecochurch working party / littler picking volunteers for keeping the community garden, the front grounds and the church surroundings tidy and well maintained.

Services

Throughout this year, and despite challenges such as the temperamental boiler and heaters, the vacancy etc. regular and special services were held.

On 3rd July 2022, the communion of both kinds (bread and wine) was re-introduced. The Holy Communion on Wednesday at 11am in the Lady Chapel re-started on 7th September. From February 26th a Eucharist on the 4th Sunday of the month and 8am Holy Communion on the 5th Sunday of the month were added to the existing services.

SF&SL held a Thanksgiving service for Priscilla on February 2nd for Candlemas.

We were very pleased with the announcement of David coming to help us and giving us his support from September 2022 and we were delighted when the decision was made to License him as SF&SL Priest-in-Charge for a period of three year. So, we welcomed Revd David Parker during his licensing by Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst on 27th March 2023.

Appreciation

Malcolm and I would like to record our grateful thanks and appreciation to:

- The Deputy Wardens, David and Sue Glanvill, for their continuous assistance and support given.
- The sides-persons / stewards, who are the first point of welcome to the church. • Peter Stokes for compiling and / or printing Parish magazines, pew sheets, orders of service etc.
- Simon Palmer (Choirmaster and Organist), the organists, singers, choristers and bell ringers who produce some lovely music.
- The cleaners, the flower arrangers who ensure that the church looks beautiful.
- Sally Griffiths and Rachel Luckman, our Lay Readers, for their contribution at church and online.
- David Parker, our Priest-in-Charge, for all his hard work and for ensuring that our spiritual life continues to develop and grow.
- All our volunteers at St Faith and St Laurence for their continued willingness to give their time to carry out tasks, duties and offer each other encouragement and support. • A special thank you to Gill Hubble (former PCC secretary), Ruth Jeavons (former Safeguarding Officer and CYP Co-ordinator) and Bronwen Jones (Deanery Synod and PCC Member) who stepped down from their respective role(s). Their commitment and hard work were deeply appreciated.

**Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy
(Churchwardens)**

WARLEY & EDGBASTON DEANERY SYNOD 2022/2023

The Deanery Synod met three times on 8th June 13th October 2022, and 7th February 2023. St Faith & St Laurence's representatives were Caroline Mosley and Bronwen Jones. The Area Dean is Mike Sermon.

The meeting on 8th June was held at St Augustine's, Edgbaston. A presentation was given on what the Diocese is doing as part of its environmental agenda to meet the CofE 'net zero' target by 2030. A Net Zero Environment Group has been established to oversee this work. Each Deanery has a Deanery Environmental Contact (Julia Howl's, St Peter's Harborne) and each parish is encouraged to appoint a Parish Environmental Contact (Corinne Treacy is St Faith and St Laurence's). Parishes will be required to provide details of their energy use to the Diocese each year to help monitor carbon footprints and the progress to net zero. There was discussion on what other churches have been doing and the issues being faced.

Revd. Canon Bamidele Sotonwa (St Boniface, Quinton) presented the key findings of the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce report "From Lament to Action," published in April 2021, which sets out specific actions to challenge racial injustice and bring about culture change within the church. It aims to create a more inclusive, open and accepting church with proposals that can be taken into churches to change their culture.

Mike Sermon gave an update on the progress on oversight areas, part of the People and Places programme. The deadline for PCCs to decide on their areas was 30 September 2022. Questions and concerns were raised.

The 13th of October meeting was held at Holy Trinity, Smethwick. The Deanery's lay members of Diocesan Synod reported on the latest meeting, followed by a report of the Diocesan Board of Finance's AGM. There was a significant decrease in income, Common Fund returns had declined and finances were not back to pre-pandemic levels. Stipendiary clergy numbers would remain the same, although the costs are not being covered by the Common Fund and the £94k shortfall was being made up from property income.

Progress on the Deanery's oversight areas were discussed focusing on key concerns, opportunities and next steps. Fifteen PCCs had passed oversight area resolutions and more were in progress.

Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson spoke about current issues, including oversight areas and oversight ministry. She outlined the arrangements to manage the Diocese following Bishop David retirement. Bishop Anne becomes acting Bishop of Birmingham in the vacancy. The appointment process for the next Bishop is likely to take around a year. The Vacancy in See Committee will work with national bodies on the selection process.

David Gould, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Smethwick gave a presentation on "Being realistic about money and our response to poverty." He outlined what Holy Trinity had done when launching its much-delayed stewardship campaign as the cost-of-living crisis struck. He stressed the need for the church to be seen to be managing its bills and making cost saving as the congregation was. Conversations with the congregation

needed to be open, honest, and transparent and acknowledging that small increases in giving (ie one or two pounds) were acceptable and that, where some may face personal financial difficulties, giving may need to be reduced.

The meeting on 7th February was held via Zoom. The main presentation was on “Growing Disciples and Developing Leaders” given by Guy Donegan-Cross, the Diocese’s Director of Learning for Discipleship and Mission. He said that making and growing disciples was the central task of the church, from which growth and mission would flow. He outlined the various resources and courses that the Diocese has developed for churches and individuals to help in growing discipleship. These include the Way of Discipleship programme (which is available as both an online course for individuals and groups and as a regular course over Zoom), the Way of Servant-Leadership course, the Everyday Faith programme which enables and encourages people to take their faith into their everyday life, and the Intentional Discipleship groups which meet regular online to support people in their growth as disciples. Details of all these resources are available on the Diocese’s website under “Everyday Faith.”

Updates were also given on progress with the environmental strategy and the oversight areas and ministry.

The new Deanery Synod, which is elected every three years, will run from September 2023.

Caroline Mosley

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBORNE (CTH)

No representative from SF&SL Church.

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES TASK GROUP REPORT

Membership: Loleta Atkinson (Treasurer), Malcolm Adey (Chair and Churchwarden), David Arkell (Vice- Chair), Tim Hayward, Alan Jones, and Corinne Treacy (Churchwarden/Secretary)

The Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Task Group met three times in the previous year: 26th April 31st May, and 5th July 2022.

Finance

See Treasurer's report

Hall Booking

The hall and the committee room are hired regularly by regular and occasional users. Due to the increased hiring cost the hall and the committee room lost some regular hirers in June 2022. Only a few minor repairs i.e. carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and general maintenance were needed this previous year. Thank you to Judith Bennett (SF&SL booking Coordinator) for all her hard work and commitment.

Roof

The final invoice had not been received.

Maintenance

All maintenance and services were done in 2022/23 (bells, boilers, fire extinguishers, intruder alarms, organ, photocopier, Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and sound system) From March 2022, the utility bills for the Vicarage had to be switched to the church together with the maintenance of the grounds until rented. Thank you to Royston Treacy for volunteering and looking after the grounds of the Vicarage.

We had problems with our church commercial boiler and the burner had to be serviced and deep cleaned. Thank you to St Mary's Selly Oak to enable us to stay warm by lending us some portable heaters whilst waiting for the visit of the engineer from the manufacturer. We also had problems with the gas heaters: in the Lady Chapel which is now condemned and in the Choir vestry which has been repaired. A second-hand mixer had to be bought in June 2022 for the sound system.

Quinquennial 2017

The work required within the Quinquennial 2017 had been completed. The new quinquennial is now overdue and would be booked shortly.

Thank you to all the people who use their skills, time, and expertise to keep St Faith and St Laurence church and hall buildings running and in good state of repair.

Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

ECO CHURCH REPORT TO APCM 2023

Membership: Laurie Deimel, Bronwen Jones, Corinne Treacy and Royston Treacy

The Church of England General Synod has recognised the climate emergency and called on all parts of the Church to become net zero carbon by 2030. St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) Eco Church Team was created in 2019.

The collective approach to net zero is underpinned by six principles: Well maintained, buy renewable, waste less, electric not gas/oil, generate more and offset the rest.

Eco Church, provided by A Rocha UK are members of The Climate Coalition, and are encouraging as many Christians and churches as possible to take part. This shows others that we serve a God of Creation and adds our efforts to those of others for the greatest combined impact.

SF&SL is the proud owner of the Eco Church bronze award and we are a few marks away from the Silver Eco Church Award.

New roles were created, Julia Howl from St Peter's is the Deanery Environment Champion (DEC) and I am SF&SL Parish Environment Contact (PEC). We had so far 4 PECs' meetings with other Parishes in Warley and Edgbaston Deanery: 26th June via Zoom, 18th August and 26th October hosted by SF&SL and 23rd January hosted by St Peter's. The aim of our meeting is to care for the environment. We help each other on how to register for Eco Church; how to engage the congregation, politicians, and neighbours on our journey to net zero; how to work together by sharing ideas and knowledge; how to connect with the Diocese.

On Saturday 7th May, we held our first litter picking / working party and to celebrate the start of the Great Big Green Week we held another one on 24th September. We were not numerous, but a very good and efficient team. Thank you to all who helped on these dates.

Thank you to Bronwen Jones who has stepped down from her role within the Eco Church Team.

We are trying to include an environment article in our monthly parish magazine and tips in our weekly email. So, if you have any ideas please email them at ssfaithlaurence@gmail.com or speak to us.

If you wish to be part of the Eco Church Team please let us know.

Corinne Treacy (Parish Environment Contact)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP (CYP)

Ruth Jeavons has resigned from her role as Chairman but Helen Setchell has produced a report regarding Children's Ministry.

Children's Ministry

St Faith and St Laurence Children's Ministry launched face to face Messy Church again in the Spring of 2022 after 2 years of Messy Zoom (which was undertaken once a month from May 2020 to March 2022).

After initial interest post promotion via local schools and three Messy Church sessions the attendance at the monthly Messy Church Sessions was very low. So, the team made the difficult decision to take a sabbatical from outreach work.

Following discussion at PCC of potential inter parish work the Children's Ministry team made links with the Junior Church at St Peter's Parish Church, Harborne.

After a successful sharing meeting between St Faith and St Laurence and St Peter's in February 2023 several exciting opportunities opened up.

As a member of the Children's Ministry Team I have attended two events at St Peter's; a pre Lent family bash and a Messy Play event that did have one of our families attend with two children. We have been warmly welcomed by St Peter's Church and I think there could be exciting times ahead.

There is a Good Friday Workshop for children on Good Friday at St Peter's Church Hall from 10-11.30am which is £2 a child, £3 a family. I have advertised this event alongside the other two on fliers etc. I will not be able to attend this event but anyone else will be warmly welcomed.

When Sue Glanvill and I met with Junior Church Representatives we did open up St Faith and St Laurence's Coronation Celebration Barbecue Event on Saturday 13th May 2023.

David Glanvill is aware and a note has been made in the Social Committee minutes that have been circulated prior to tonight's meeting. Sue G, Julia Reid and I are planning Children's Activities (just like Messy Church) with some baking, crafting and fun things. Promoting this event will need to take place after Easter so I plan to create a flier to post, hand out, share with St Peter's as appropriate.

St Peter's have also invited St Faith and St Laurence to a Family Day on Saturday 24th June 2023 and an Open Church Event in July 2023. Details etc will follow.

The exciting news is that there has therefore been a monthly activity available to families and children since February 2023 running up to July 2023 (six months' worth) which is a blessing.

I am hoping that momentum for Children's Ministry can start to build at St Faith and St Laurence and perhaps our community could plan something for September / October 2023 (Harvest) that we can offer St Peter's as well as a possible Christmas Fayre.

In this way, joint events that both parishes can share will enable the continuation of children being welcomed into our church communities and provide opportunities for us all to grow in love, deepen our faith and work for God.

Helen Setchell

COMMUNICATIONS TASK GROUP

The Communications Task Group is chaired by Caroline Mosley. Other members of the group are Rachel Luckman and Peter Stokes. No meetings of the Task Group were held in 2022.

Following Priscilla's retirement, the responsibilities for the various communication activities were passed to members of the team.

Caroline Mosley is responsible for website maintenance, Facebook, Twitter, ChurchSuite.

The monthly parish magazine is compiled and edited by Peter Stoke. Rachel Luckman acts as sub-editor. This is available in both print and digital versions (via the website). Due to increasing printing costs, a small donation is requested for print copies. Copies of the magazine are also distributed to a number of housebound parishioners for free.

The weekly Pew sheets are compiled by Peter Stokes.

The ChurchSuite database is used to maintain the church's contacts list. It is used for the regular weekly emails which are now compiled and distributed by Caroline Mosley. Revd David Parker will be taking over responsibility for the emails in Spring 2023.

New members are urgently sought for the TG. If you have any interest in helping with our work, please do get in touch.

Caroline Mosley

MISSION TASK GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

Task Group Members: Pauline Sitford (Chair) Judith Bennett (Sec.), Hilary Shaylor, Sue Glanvill, Peter Stokes.

Links are now being gradually re-established (post covid) with USPG and CMS.

We are attempting to re-establish the link with Liwonde in Upper Shire, Malawi.

Colin and Audrey Gibson, (our CMS Mission Partners in Lebanon) visited us for a final visit last June. After the service they gave us a presentation of the ongoing work at Mekse Nature Park, Beirut.. Others have now been found to take over the project so Audrey and Colin have finally returned home. After lunch in the Committee Room we said our final goodbyes as they returned home to Somerset.

Appeals In this current financial climate we have had no big appeals, other than to continue our support of **The Food Bank.**

At Christmas we supported **Birmingham City Mission's Appeal for Toys for Underprivileged Children.** Thank you to Simon Palmer for delivering them.

In April we held a **Turkish Coffee Morning**, raising funds for the work of **Restore, supporting refugees and asylum seekers.** We were very well supported by our own Turkish friends (asylum seekers) and their wives, who made coffee and served cake and Turkish Delight. And they only came in to '**Call in for Coffee**' to improve their English!

Call in for Coffee re-opened after Christmas and is being well supported.

A new box for Prayer Requests has been placed by the candles in church. However, so far it has been little used as the church was only open for private prayer one afternoon a week but thanks to volunteers this is about to change.

Pauline Sitford

SAFEGUARDING REPORT TO APCM 2023

Safeguarding is the action the Church can take to promote a safer culture and is about protecting people with regards to their health, wellbeing, and human rights. Every individual who partakes in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

We take safeguarding seriously at St Faith and St Laurence (SF&SL) and we ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected, and safe.

The Parish Church Council (PCC) has complied with its duty to promote a safer church by implementing good safeguarding practice and having due regard to the House of Bishop's guidance.

The PCC has reviewed and ratified the Safeguarding & other Policies document on 14th March 2023. These policies are available digitally on our website at www.saintfaithandsaintlaurence.co.uk and as hardcopies displayed in the church and in the hall buildings.

Necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and trainings for SF&SL Volunteers and Trustees are ongoing and will be completed shortly.

Work has been carried out on Risk Assessments for different groups of people working in a variety of contexts. This is an ongoing action.

Thank you to Ruth Jeavons who has stepped down from her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer in June 2022, for all her hard work.

At the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on 11th October 2022 Sally Griffiths was appointed as SF&SL Parish Safeguarding Officer and Corinne Treacy as Parish Identity Verifier (PIV) also updating the safeguarding dashboard and training when required. A big thank you!

Sally Griffiths, David Parker, and Corinne Treacy

SOCIALS TASK GROUP REVIEW 2022-3

This year has been less chaotic than the previous two, with us being able to plan and carry out various events.

The first of these was a "Spring Coffee Morning (originally planned as a Christmas Coffee Morning but cancelled due to the pandemic.) This was deemed very successful and the atmosphere was really joyful as everyone enjoyed their freedom from Lockdown. The morning raised £234.10 towards church funds.

The next was event on the 18th June was the "Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea" to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee. This again had a wonderful atmosphere and culminated with a Community Sing Along which proved very popular. Thanks must be extended to David Griffiths for his piano accompaniment which had everyone joining in, and to Corrine Treacy for supplying the song sheets and music at very short notice. A great deal of teamwork went into planning this event and we raised £205.24 which was divided equally between Ronald Macdonald House and the Church.

The 24th September saw us embark on a joint venture with the Friendship Group. This was a Quiz Night and Fish & Chip Supper. This proved to be a lot of fun and raised £210.70 that was again divided between Ronald MacDonald House and the Church. On October 9th we held our annual Harvest Lunch (after Morning Service). Once again this was well supported and we were joined by our now Priest in Charge Rev'd. David Parker.

On October 21st we arranged a visit to the Serbian Orthodox Church in Bournville. This was a most interesting trip with the stunning Frescos and Relics amazing everyone. We were given a most insightful talk by Father Nenad and delightful refreshments to conclude our visit. We have it in mind to invite them to visit us in the future.

On the 3rd December we held our Christmas Fayre (The first since 2019). This proved to be a great success with a wonderful atmosphere and was well supported. We invited 4 external stalls, (Stained Glass, Soaps and Candles and Slimming World) to participate and together with a variety of "home grown" favourites including, Books, Cakes, Gifts and Jewellery, Jams and Preserves, not forgetting a Tombola. Gill Hubble and her team of dedicated workers provided refreshments throughout and we raised a staggering sum of £721.11, which given the financial climate in the country, combined with the Covid pandemic was truly amazing, and has gone into the church coffers.

At our first meeting of 2023, (February 7th) we discussed events for the coming year and have plenty to look forward to, including a "Coronation Barbeque" with a Bouncy Castle, Ice Cream Van and activities for children. This will be well publicised shortly but do keep the 13th May free and come along and support us.

Once again I must thank all of the Socials Task Group for all the sterling work they do to make these events happen together with all those others who rally round in many different ways to make our social life within the church an enjoyable aspect of that life. Finally, I must also thank all of you who come to these events and support us because without you there would be no point in running them.

Thank you all.

David Glanvill

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION TASK GROUP

Members: Sally Griffiths; Rachel Luckman; Ruth Jeavons; Pauline Sitford; Caroline Mosley; Simon Palmer; John Wadman; Michael Averill; Pat Jones; Alan Jones.

The Education and Worship Task Group held one meeting during the period from April 2022 – March 2023

Receiving Communion in both kinds

Reintroduction of the common cup at the Eucharist was permitted from Thursday 14 April 2022. Reintroduction of the common cup is a decision to be made at the parish level.

Following a lengthy discussion – the Task Group agreed that **we received in two kinds, imbibing from the common cup from 3rd July 2022.** A Risk Assessment was completed

Praying for individual people in the Intercessions

We reinstated praying for people who are suffering in some way and for those who have died. Individual people are mentioned in any services and/or in the Pews Sheet. Names will be placed on the prayer list for 4 weeks. If longer is required, names will be placed on the 'Ongoing' list. If possible, people should obtain the permission of the sick person. A box for prayer requests is made available in church.

Introduction of Prayer Ministry

Prayer Ministry in the Lady Chapel during communion services began in February 2023. The new team: Sally Griffiths, Ruth Jeavons, Rachel Luckman, Vicky Miller, Pauline Sitford John Wadman and Vicky Wallis.

Autumn Occasional Services

Simon and Mark organised music (West House School Choir and instrumental music) for occasional services.

Harvest Festival [Messy Church taking part~ theme Food Poverty]

The Uniformed Organisations and the RAF Cadets were involved with the Remembrance Service.

NB: The current pattern of services would continue for the foreseeable time.

Michael Averill requested clarification about the lectionary readings.

We have followed Track One where the lectionary allows a choice. The Lectionary is circulated one month in advance so that readers are aware of their passages and the readings can be used for home study.

FROM SUMMER 2022

In June 2022, the PCC accepted the suggestion that Revd David Parker support the parish during the Vacancy, and since then coordination of worship has been undertaken by the Ministry Team of David, Sally, and Rachel. The role of the Education and Worship Task Group will be reviewed in due course.

Mid-week communion was restarted in September 2022, and a monthly evening communion was reintroduced in February 2023 (on the 4th Sunday), so that the current pattern of services is as follows:

1 st Sunday		10am Communion	6.30pm	Evensong
2 nd Sunday	8am Communion	10am Service of the Word	4pm	Zoom service
3 rd Sunday		10am Communion	6.30pm	Evensong
4 th Sunday	8am Communion	10am Service of the Word	6.30pm	Communion
5 th Sunday	8am Communion	10am Communion	6.30pm	Evensong

The uniformed organisations were involved in the 10am Remembrance Service on 13th Nov 2022 and in a Parade Service held on 12th March 2023. The 10am service on 11th Dec 2022 took the form of a Christingle and Toy Service. Baptisms took place during the 10am service on 1st May 2022 and 15th Jan 2023; afternoon baptisms occurred on 15th May, 14th and 21st August 2022.

“Special services” during 2022 included the All Souls service on 30th Oct, the Advent Carol Service on 27th Nov, the Carol Service on 18th Dec, and the Crib service on 24th Dec 2022. Christmas Communion was celebrated at Midnight Mass and at 8am and 10am on Christmas morning.

Holy Week 2023 was celebrated as below:

Palm Sunday (2 nd April)	Palm Sunday Communion	10am
	Evensong	6.30pm
Monday 3 rd April	Reflection, followed by Compline	7.30pm
Tuesday 4 th April	Reflection, followed by Compline	7.30pm
Wednesday 5 th April	Reflection, followed by Compline	7.30pm
Maundy Thurs 6 th April	Communion, followed by short Vigil	7.30pm
Good Friday 7 th April	Last hour at the Cross	2pm
	Stainer’s <i>Crucifixion</i>	7pm
Easter Sunday 9 th April	Easter morning Communion	8am and 10am

On the Thursdays during Advent 2022 discussion groups based on the York course “Making room” ran in both afternoons and evenings. During Lent 2023 similar groups discussed the Church of England’s Lent book “Failure” by Bishop Emma Ineson.

A service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Ministry of Revd Canon Priscilla White was held on the evening of Candlemas, 2nd February 2023, almost exactly one year after Priscilla's farewell service on 6th February 2022 (which was also a celebration of Candlemas). Some of the same music from the farewell service was used, Priscilla's husband, Revd John White, gave a moving reflection on the Nunc Dimittis and Sally Griffiths recalled Priscilla's love of Julian of Norwich.

On 26th March 2023 David Parker was licensed and installed as Interim Priest-in-charge of the parish: Bishop Anne performed the Licensing and subsequently presided at communion, while Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson preached and performed the Installation. Music was provided by a massed choir drawn from St Faith and St Laurence, St Peter's, and St Mary's Selly Oak (David's previous church).

David Parker and Sally Griffiths

CHOIR AND MUSIC REPORT 2023

At St Faith and St Laurence, we have a fine musical tradition and know the importance of good music to our worship.

In recent times, it has been difficult to recruit choristers, but we are determined to try to build up our musical resources once again, as we know how important this is to our church. Our long-term plan is to recruit a group of new choristers to re-establish a regular choir, but this will take time. In the meantime, we are lucky to have a core of able and willing singers, plus an increasing pool of musicians who attend from time to time.

By encouraging good music in church, both within the liturgy and for concerts, we hope to attract able musicians into the church, who will return to join us on a more regular basis.

I am very grateful to Mark and Susannah who keep everything going week by week. I also thank our dedicated small band of singers who come when they can. I am pleased that over recent months we have managed to recruit other friends for some important services and have made links with the University and Conservatoire.

Reflecting on a selection of musical events over the past year:

- We joined the RSCM choir for their Annual Festival Service in the Cathedral in September.
- The Advent Carol Service by candlelight was effective and moving, with a small choir.
- We had large numbers for our Carol Service, and Sam Gray sang a solo in 'The Three Kings.'
- It was good to have many singing for 'Carol Singing at The Court Oak'

We were pleased to welcome musicians from the local area into church:

- West House School joined us and led the music for a Harvest Service.
- Woodhouse Primary Academy performed their Christmas Concert.

- Even though we do not have many regulars of school age, we are pleased to have reinstated 'choir pay' – a small token of our appreciation for their singing. Choristers were also given a Cadbury's *selection box* after the Carol Service.
- In January, our singers joined the RSCM Orchestral Evensong in January in Birmingham Cathedral.
- Priscilla White's death was very sad to all of us. I was honoured to be asked by John to play the organ for her funeral in Kingsbury Parish Church. We were also pleased that members of our choir who knew Priscilla could be there to sing for the service, a most moving occasion.
- The Thanksgiving Service for Priscilla was a joyful celebration of her life. The choir included new and old friends, plus our colleagues in the choir of St Peter's, Harborne. I was delighted to have the services of Charlie Cooper (Birmingham Conservatoire) to play for the Burgon *Nunc Dimittis*, a piece that Priscilla loved.
- It has been great to see Sam Gray thriving in the choir of Trinity College, Cambridge
- We were pleased to welcome Norfolk House School (Headmistress Susannah Palmer) for their concert on Wednesday 1st March.
- Most recently, I was delighted that we formed a joint choir of St Faith and St Laurence, St Pater's and St Mary's, Selly Oak for the happy occasion of David Parker's Licencing Service. As someone commented, the first 'Three Choirs Festival'! I hope that this is the first of many joint events.
- I have been publishing the organ voluntaries on the pew sheet.

With Susannah and Mark, I am working hard to make connections with musicians outside church and encourage them to sing and play for us. These are my priorities for the coming year: -

- Keep contact with, and encourage our current regular singers
- Encourage local school choirs to use us for concerts, and then join us for services
- Make contact with other local schools, groups, and musicians
- Go into schools and audition potential choristers
- Print a new Choir Leaflet for advertising
- Arrange singing events in church
- Try to get the community involved in services eg an 'Education Sunday' service.
- Make use of the website and social media for recruitment
- Consider ways to give financial support for choir and music events

I value the support of the PCC and congregation that I receive, and I am always pleased to discuss the development of music with members of the church.

Simon Palmer
Organist & Choirmaster

CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers have been arranged on the main altar every week except during Advent and Lent. Now the church is open daily it is easier to get access but the church is not fully open and it requires someone with a key to be able to turn off the alarm in the vestry area. Previously the caretakers were there on Friday mornings, so it was possible to have access. At festival times there have been flowers on the altar, in the porch and at the lectern. The Advent ring was decorated on the lead up to Christmas. Easter, we plan to have flowers back to normal.

Again, my thanks to the small band of ladies who now arrange flowers in church. They do an excellent job.

I am reluctant to produce a flower rota until church services are back to normal but if we are to continue to have flowers in church they must be funded and so I ask that people who like to support the Flower Fund would continue to donate on celebrating a special event or remembering a loved one or a special anniversary. We would be happy to welcome more volunteers to the list, you do not need to be an award-winning arranger, a simple vase of flower also looks good

Anita Tippin

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

We have decided to leave the long bed to grow wild to attract birds and insects. Some weeds will be kept under some control and we will put some wild flower seeds in. We will remove some of the shrubs in the bed down the side of the church but keep the best ones. Weeds will be removed and plum coloured slate put down around the shrubs to help prevent weeds from spreading. The colour will go with the church roof. Our thanks to David and Lesley Arkell for planting up the rose bed and keeping the large front bed looking so good. Our thanks also go to all those who keep the grass mown and the privet cut. There is always a lot of weeding and tidying to do and any help would be appreciated.

The Garden Team

STAY AND PLAY

Stay and Play is held on Thursday mornings from 9.30am - 11am. Our numbers have been slowly growing since re: opening post- pandemic.

The aim of the group is to provide families with a safe and inclusive environment where they can freely mix with other families.

We are open all year round including the school holidays.

Judith Bennett

CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship held their first meeting since March 2021 on Tuesday, 1st March 2022 at 2pm which was a new day and time for the group. Mary Bodfish came that day to talk about "The Kings Loose Box" and then in April Theresa Wilcox explained the work of Focus in Harborne. We had our annual Spring Lunch in May at The Bell in Harborne which was very enjoyable. In June we heard from Upjeet Sidhu who talked about St. Mary's Hospice and in July we heard from Henrietta Lockhart about Winterbourne House and Gardens. We always take a summer break in August and in September we held our AGM and quiz. We were greatly entertained by two speakers from the Birmingham Rep. in October and in November we were given an update on The Food Bank in Quinton by Brenda Stott and Carol. We ended the year in December with a Christmas Lunch at The Court Oak.

Special thanks go to Caroline Marshall for organising a lovely and varied programme, to Carole Mason for taking good care of the finances and Wendy Watts for looking after the raffle each month. We have a very good attendance at the meetings for which I thank the nineteen members who also provide the raffle prizes and take turns in making the teas and coffees.

We always look forward to welcoming new ladies who would be interested in any of the talks – a copy of the programme is on the Notice Board in the Lobby of the Hall. For more details please do get in touch with me.

Helen Hayward
Chairperson

Accounts



St Faith and St Laurence Annual Report and Accounts for 2021/2022



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HARBORNE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended April 2022

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Vicar:

The Reverend Canon Priscilla White
The Vicarage
115 Balden Road
Harborne
Birmingham
B32 2EL

Bank:

TSB plc
537 Bearwood Road
Warley
West Midlands
B66 4BQ

Independent Examiner:

Mr M Pearsal
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4AR

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm held in the Church**

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the 2020/2021 meeting
5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

The Annual Meeting shall receive from the Parochial Church Council and shall be free to discuss: -

- A report on changes in the roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
- An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally;
- The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2021;
- A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church, under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991;
- A report on the proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod;
- A report on the activities of Churches Together in Harborne.

6. Elections

- Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (6 for 2022-2025 plus 3 places on Deanery Synod,
- Appointment of sides people;
- Appointment of Independent Examiner;
- representatives to Churches Together in Harborne.

7. Any questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.

8. Final words from the Chair
9. The Grace

Membership of the Parochial Church Council

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Vicar	The Rev'd Canon Priscilla White (until February 2022)
Licensed Reader	Sally Griffiths Rachel Luckman
Churchwardens	Malcolm Adey Corinne Treacy
Treasurer	Loleta Atkinson
Secretary	Gill Hubble
Deanery Synod Representatives	Ruth Jeavons
Elected Members	David Arkell Laurie Deimel Alan Jones Alison Keepax Caroline Mosley Simon Palmer (co-opted 2021-2022) Helen Setchell Peter Thomson John Wadman

ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE: TASK GROUPS 2019/2020

The PCC operates through a number of Task Groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Finance & General Purposes Task Group chaired by The Vicar

It meets quarterly (with extra meetings for specific projects if needed) and its remit is to oversee finance, building issues and general policies which need legally to be in place.

Children and Young People Task Group chaired by Ruth Jeavons

To develop all aspects of worship for children and young people. Especially *Sunday Club, Messy Church, Stay and Play*.

Garden Task Group chaired by Mrs Helen Hayward

The function of this group is to plan and action the various phases of the new garden and quiet areas

Mission Task Group chaired by Mrs Pauline Sitford

Supports our Mission links overseas in Lebanon and Malawi.

Thinks creatively about Mission and outreach in the parish.

Christian Aid.

Plans and encourages Lent and Advent appeals for good causes.

Promotes social action in the parish.

Communications Task Group Chaired by Caroline Mosley

Socials Task Group chaired by Mr David Glanvill

Organises particular events, for example the Christmas Fair. Participates in and supports events suggested by other groups. Organises special refreshments after services where needed.

Worship and Education Task Group chaired by Sally Griffiths and Rachel Luckman

Matters to do with worship. Involvement in the planning of special services.

Plans courses, quiet days and Faith and Learning sessions

Giving Task Group

Allocates the amount set by the PCC for charitable giving each year. Meets once a year for this task.

Standing Committee chaired by the Vicar

This is the only committee required by law. It now meets on an emergency basis to transact urgent business which cannot wait to be dealt with at a regular meeting of the PCC. The committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, with four other members of the PCC.

Safeguarding Task Group chaired by The Vicar

The Safeguarding Task Group works in line with the Church of England Safeguarding principles. We follow Birmingham's commitment to promoting a safer church for everyone. Safeguarding is the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. We are committed to the safeguarding, care, and nurture of everyone within our community.

The Parish Church Council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm via ZOOM**

- I. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Malcolm Adey

Nominated: Geoff Bennett **Seconded:** Peter Stokes **Vote:** Unanimous

Corrine Treacy.

Nominated: Alan Jones **Seconded:** Geoff Bennett **Vote:** Unanimous

Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy were duly affirmed as wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Daisy & Magdi Obeid, Alan and Pat Jones, Mark Lawrence

4. **Minutes of the 2020/2021 meeting**

Priscilla asked if the PCC approved the minutes as being accurate

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Malcolm Adey **Vote:** Unanimous

5. **Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:**

- a. **Electoral Roll** –Judith Bennett, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that we have 129 recorded that were made up of 61 residents of the parish and 68 non-residents of the parish. Priscilla thanked Judith.

- b. **PCC Report** – had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- c. **Financial statements** – These had also been circulated prior to the meeting.

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2020** is found on pages 2 and 3.

Income: Significant reduction in income from; hall lettings, loose plate, gift aid, legacies and donations when compared to 2019. But note an increase in planned giving and Standing Orders.

Payments: Common Fund for the year was paid in full.

Donation was reduced except a small payment to home missions and church organisations.

Church and roof repairs payments increased.

As a result of COVID19 church cleaning also increased.

Designated/Restricted Funds can be found on page 4 and 5.

Church Hall and Repair Fund: decreased as hall and church repairs costs were paid.

Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.

Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship – No change.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The total cash in all funds is less than the year before but we do know why.

Ratification of Report and Accounts for 2020.

Priscilla asked if we approved the reports and Accounts

Nominated: Ruth Jeavons **Seconded:** Caroline Mosley **Vote:** Unanimous

- d. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments - A report of the above was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received.
- e. Edgbaston Deanery Synod - No meetings held during lockdown
- f. Churches Together in Harborne – No meetings held during lockdown

Before we moved on Helen Setchell said that she would like to thank Priscilla, the Wardens, and the team for the effort that has been made and how superb they have handled the Covid situation during lockdown or reopening of church. Geoff & Judith Bennett also thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

6. Elections

a. Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the PCC

There were 4 places for 2021-2024

There were two nominations as follows: -

Name: *Helen Setchell*

Proposed: Alison Keepax

Seconded: Caroline Mosley

Name: *John Woodman*

Proposed: Alison Keepax

Seconded: Geoff Bennett

As there were fewer candidates than places these were voted in on a single vote, which was unanimous. Helen and John were welcomed on the PCC.

Deanery Synod

There were 3 Places for 3 years

No nominations had been received.

Priscilla said that there were still three places to fill and if anyone came forward, they could be co-opted onto the PCC at a later date.

People can transfer from PCC to Deanery Synod if anyone is interested and again can be co-opted at a PCC Meeting. At this point Priscilla said she has not had any indication that anyone wants to do this.

b. Appointment of Sidespeople

Traditionally at St Faith and St Laurence, the appointment of sidespeople is delegated to the Churchwardens. The meeting agreed to continue this.

d. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that we continue with the current Independent Examiner:
Ark Aurora Ltd

Nominated: Helen Setchell

Seconded: Loleta Atkinson

Vote: Unanimous

e. Representatives to Churches Together in Harborne

No representative at the moment

7. Priscilla asked if anyone had any questions regarding parochial church matters. Alison Keepax flagged her concerns regarding our finances. Acknowledging that covid severely impeded our finances last year and is doing so this year too. She said that a rough forecast shows that, if our expenditure and income both remain the same, we will have just under £38,000 at the end of December 2021, and if things remain the same the following year we will be in deficit by £13,000 December 2022. She said her concerns are even more heightened by the fact that the Finance Task Group did not meet at all last year, we know our expenditure is higher now due to paying for a professional cleaning contract, and we intend to embark on a major project to replace the heating system. Alison said it needs to be a priority for PCC and it should be minuted here so that people not on PCC are also aware.

Priscilla said that we vary between surplus and deficit year on year. We hope to start letting the Church Hall in June and this will obviously bring in some money. The new heating system that is required will hopefully get massive grants but this is a long-term project. She said that it is a priority for PCC Meetings.

Alison said that her other major concern is our congregation numbers and believes that another high priority area to focus on is to consider what we can do to improve this. Priscilla said that we will be starting the Transforming Church Action Plan with mission. This will take a few months to work through as we want to do a listening exercise within the community to find out the best ways we can reach that community. This will be very much on our agenda for the next six months or so.

8. Final words from the Vicar

Priscilla said I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to the mark to offer new expertise and to share in the work of the community.

A number of positive developments have happened during the year.

We are poised to gain the Ecochurch Bronze award in our attention to our relationship with the environment and our aim, along with the rest of the Church of England, to get to carbon neutral status by 2030. We have managed to reopen the church for worship and are now gently expanding our offer. Huge thanks are due to the task Group, ably led by Caroline Mosley, who has worked incredibly hard on all of this and continue to do so. It has been very special to have music from a small group of singers, and Simon Palmer and Mark Lawrence have worked very hard to make this happen. We have appointed RT Cleaning and Maintenance for our cleaning and caretaking needs. This company is run by Royston Treacy and we are grateful to him and to Corinne for all the work done over the year, much given freely, and look forward to more normal times ahead. We now have a plan to get the hall back open. Thank you to everyone. It has been a tough year in an awful lot of ways, not just COVID but all of the other things that have gone on for lots of people in church – illness, difficulties, and tension – but we will get out of it and come through the other side.

Massive thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to anything we have been doing. Everyone has been wonderful. A reminder that we are about transformation and that is the most important thing and not only our community transformed but the world should be transformed. So, my prayer is that as we move forward, we will be people who are prepared to gird our loins, step up to the mark, take on tasks, and be part of that effort.

Thank you.

Before the meeting closed Gill said she did not know whether this was the right time to speak but said that as everyone was aware I was due to leave my role today as PCC Secretary. Priscilla has not been able to find anyone to take on this role and said that she would have to do it herself unless anyone came forward. Gill said that in a million years she would not allow this to happen and said that at the first meeting of the new year she will be attending with her Secretary Hat on and hopefully we can then discuss the way forward at that meeting. So perhaps this could go on the Agenda.

Priscilla thanked Gill for her generous offer.

Laurie said that it probably would not work but could we split the job between a few people. Gill said that is definitely something we could discuss at the meeting.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

Meeting finished at 8.05 pm

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2021/2022

The church exists to promote the Christian Religion, to offer prayer, worship, and pastoral care, and to work in such a way as to offer public benefit to all who might wish to use it or its facilities, including the church hall.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The church is currently in vacancy as on 6th February 2022, we said goodbye to our Vicar, Revd Canon Priscilla White, after 16 and a half years working amongst us. Priscilla's last service was A Service of Communion – Presentation of Christ in the Temple. After the service she was presented with gifts from the congregation and people said their goodbyes. We wish her well for the future.

Since 28th March 2021, Palm Sunday, we gradually reopened St Faith and St Laurence. Restrictions on numbers were lifted in July 2021 and the first wedding to take place was Abigail and Tim's on 25th July 2021. It was a wonderful wedding with wonderful music, so much happiness and love filled the church. We are still on that long and fastidious journey to reopen St Faith and St Laurence fully, though still making it as safe as possible for everyone.

We reopened on Palm Sunday on 28th March 2021. We are open for private prayer on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm. Our Sunday services patterns since have been 8am Communion and 10am Service of the Words on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and 10am Communion with 6.30pm Evensong on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Since February 2022, we have stopped the 'live streaming'. The Sundays Evensong at 4pm has carried on, though from May 2022 this will be only on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We were able to enjoy the Midnight Communion and the Christmas Day Communion in our church again.

The Communion of one kind was re-introduced firstly with the Priest going to give the host to the congregation and from Wednesday 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, the congregation went to the handrail of the Sanctuary. We also reintroduced in late March preaching from the pulpit if wanted.

Lent Course (March and April 2022). This Lent we have been called to reflect on the injustices of the world and to ask what God is calling us to do about them. The *LIVE LENT EMBRACING JUSTICE* booklets which were provided to anyone who took part in our Lent Course this year. The booklet is 40-day individual reflections but our Lent Course was adapted to a weekly reflection for a small group context.

Corinne Treacy and Malcolm Adey have fulfilled their roles but on 22nd March Malcolm had a hip replacement operation and has made a very good recovery and hopefully he will be fully back with us soon. We miss his cheery face. Well done to Corinne for continuing to hold the fort in his absence.

Our cleaning contract is held by RT Cleaning (Royston and Corinne Treacy) . This means that one of our PCC members has an interest in the firm. Corinne was not involved in the appointment process.

The churchwardens are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments.

The Terrier and Inventory of property owned by the church has been checked in March 2022 and it is confirmed that all items recorded are accounted for and in reasonable condition.

After the second closure of the church, we had to re-organise the church in order to make it as safe as possible for everyone. We followed the Church of England and the Government guidelines. We gradually reintroduced items and removed restrictions. In July and following the government lifting the restrictions on numbers, we removed crosses, ticks, social distancing mark on the flooring, barrier tape and booking requirements. The kneelers, bibles, music books and other literature items were reinstated.

A big thank you to the Re-opening Task Group, They have kept themselves very busy in order for everyone to be as safe as possible until they hand over in July 2021 to PCC.

For most of the past year, ministry with children has involved Messy Zoom, a form of Messy Church held via Zoom and led by Helen Setchell – many thanks to Helen for this. This has been centred round a theme with activities distributed prior to the Zoom event as worksheets and has been held once a month. However, in April we welcomed back our first Messy Church in the Church Hall since the pandemic, with great success. We have not yet managed to restart Sunday Club since stopping it due to the pandemic.

Stay and Play has restarted.

The noticeboard has still to be replaced for a 'like-for-like'. But following Royston Treacy's proposal to refurbish / upcycle the old notice board as a temporary option for only the price of the materials, an anonymous benefactor kindly paid for the materials needed.

Priscilla's communication responsibilities have been reassigned as follows:

Magazine – Peter Stokes (editor); Rachel Luckman (sub-editor); Pew Sheet – Peter Stokes; Website, Facebook, Churchsuite and the Weekly email – Caroline Mosley

We will hold our first Litter picking / working party on May 7th between 10am and 12noon and would aim to do many more. This would allow for St Faith and St Laurence to look even more beautiful. We are grateful to the gardening team, lawn cutters, bush / hedge trimmers and other volunteers for keeping the garden and grounds tidy and well maintained.

A lovely weekend for our church - We decided to bring the postponed Christmas Coffee Morning back into play and agreed to hold it on the 30th April as a Spring Coffee Morning. This was our first social event and it was a tremendous success. There was a wonderful atmosphere in the hall and much chat and laughter. We had stalls: books, bric-a-brac, cakes, children's cake making, refreshments, and a raffle. We managed to raise £234.10. whilst having a thoroughly good time. It was great to be back together. On Sunday 1st May the church was full for the Family Communion and Baptism of Lily Brigid Evans. It was a lovely occasion and all the children were delightful.

Only two meetings of the Fellowship were held in 2021, November and December. It was decided to change the meetings to an afternoon to avoid the dark nights in the winter months, therefore 2022 started on Tuesday, 1st March at 2pm. On 3rd May 2022 a group of us are off to The Bell in Harborne for lunch – happy days.

We say goodbye to Jackie Taylor this year. She has decided to retire from her voluntary role as Planned Giving Coordinator after 30 years of commitment.

Thank you to our two Readers – Sally and Ray, for all their hard work. Finally, our ongoing gratitude and thanks to all at St Faith and St Laurence for their continued willingness to give their time and offer each other encouragement and support in what is a difficult time. You are very much valued. We all must continue to work together.

Parochial Church Council

TREASURER'S REPORT

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2021** is found on pages 2 and 3.

Income: 2021 saw a reduction in income from planned giving, via envelopes and from lettings. Receipts from loose plate, gift aid, donations and weddings increased slightly towards the end of the year.

Prior to that, to ensure we met our expenses, we had to transfer £5,000 from the Church and Hall Repairs investment fund to the current account. A portion of that, £2,000, was previously owed by the Church and Hall account to the current account for hall repairs paid from the current account.

To date, 2022 is showing increases in hall let, and a continued increase in receipt from weddings when compared to 2021.

Payments: The Common Fund for the year, £44,400 was paid in full. We have negotiated a reduction from £44,400, to £36,000 (£3,000, per month) for 2022.

Church and roof repairs payments reduced significantly as completed in 2020.

As a result of continued, COVID19 church and hall cleaning also increased.

Delegated/Restricted Funds can be found on page 4 and 5.

- Church Hall and Repair Fund: decreased as hall and church repairs costs were paid.
- Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.
- Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship – No change.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The first column includes CBOF Deposit Account which is a reserve account mainly to back up the Current Account.

The first column includes CBOF Deposit Account that is a reserve account mainly to back up the Current Account.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who have helped with recording the finances, in the past and currently. In particular, to Jackie Taylor and Alan Jones, and the counters: Brenda, Hilary, Anita. and Lesley. Also, to the church wardens, Malcolm, and Corinne for their support.

Thanks to Geoff who continues to make the annual grant claims and for his continued support.

Thank you also to those who give generously to the Church. Without your support it would be impossible to continue.

Parish Giving Scheme

One last plea, **please join the Parish Giving Scheme**. This delivers the Gift Aid, (tax refund) much earlier, monthly, and it avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.

Loleta Atkinson
Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT TO APCM 2020/2021

The Churchwardens are Bishops' officers, chosen by the parish and admitted to their office by the Bishop or Archdeacon. Once admitted they have formal and legal responsibilities to fulfil.

Since 28th March 2021, Palm Sunday, we gradually reopened St Faith and St Laurence. Restrictions on numbers were lifted in July 2021 and the first wedding to take place was on 25th July 2021. We are still on that long and fastidious journey to reopen St Faith and St Laurence fully, though still making it as safe as possible for everyone.

Fabric and Building

The fabric of the Church remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard.

The state of the building is monitored and any maintenance and / or repairs needed are agreed through the Parish Church Council (PCC).

All maintenance services throughout 2021/22 were carried out in accordance with the regulations.

The Church

No works were needed this previous year.

The Hall

The hall and committee room hiring also restarted gradually. The hall had been hired only to the Queen Alexandra College (QAC) from March 2021 on a temporary arrangement for two days a week which ended at the end of May 2021. Then the Guides and the Brownies started to use the hall again from June 2021 on a term-time basis as before. Unfortunately, the Rainbows were not able to join and are still not part of the group. In September few more regular hirers reused the Hall together with some new regular hirers and some occasional ones. Finally in October, Heathercroft Bridge Club rehired the hall with few less sessions. The hiring of the hall and the committee room is not at its full capacity.

It has been a difficult transition to reintroduce the hall for hiring. Following the advice and instruction of the Church of England and the Government lot of documentation had to be created or amended i.e. Risk Assessments, Terms and Conditions and requested from the hiring Organisers or individual hirers. Thank you to the Re-opening Task Group for making this possible.

The hiring cost has increased and booking forms have been updated.

Thank you to Judith Bennett who has kindly taken the role of Booking Coordinator from Priscilla.

Heating

As part of our 'Eco Church' ethos to reduce our carbon footprint and in order to comply with the Church of England 2030 'Net Zero' carbon target, we have already sought advice and guidance on how to change our way to heat the premises, to have hot water, to use renewable energy etc. Unfortunately, the project was not followed up due to COVID.

Goods and Ornaments

The churchwardens are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments.

The Terrier and Inventory of property owned by the church has been checked in March 2022 and it is confirmed that all items recorded are accounted for and in reasonable condition.

After the second closure of the church, we had to re-organise the church in order to make it as safe as possible for everyone. We followed the Church of England and the Government guidelines. We gradually reintroduced items and removed restrictions. In July and following the government lifting the restrictions on numbers, we removed crosses, ticks, social distancing mark on the flooring, barrier tape and booking requirements. The kneelers, bibles, music books and other literature items were reinstated.

A big thank you to the Re-opening Task Group, They have kept themselves very busy in order for everyone to be as safe as possible until they hand over in July 2021 to PCC.

Grounds

The noticeboard has still to be replaced for a 'like-for-like'. But following Royston Treacy's proposal to refurbish / upcycle the old notice board as a temporary option for only the price of the materials, an anonymous benefactor kindly paid for the materials needed.

In order to re-open the back garden fully and for Health and Safety reasons, 2 numerical locks are needed one on the cellar gate and one on the garden shed.

We shall hold our first Litter picking / working party on May 7th between 10am and 12noon and would aim to do many more. This would allow for St Faith and St Laurence to look even more beautiful.

We are grateful to the gardening team, lawn cutters, bush / hedge trimmers and other volunteers for keeping the garden and grounds tidy and well maintained.

Services

We reopened on Palm Sunday on 28th March 2021. We are open for private prayer on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm. Our Sunday services patterns since have

been 8am Communion and 10am Service of the Words on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and 10am Communion with 6.30pm Evensong on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Since February 2022, we have stopped the 'live streaming'. The Sundays Evensong at 4pm has carried on though from May 2022 this will be only on the 2nd Sunday of the month. We were able to enjoy the Midnight Communion and the Christmas Day Communion in our church again. Thank you for R.T. Cleaning & Maintenance to fog the church as a gift again this year so this could be possible.

The Communion of one kind was re-introduced firstly with the Priest going to give the host to the congregation and from Wednesday March 2nd, Ash Wednesday, the congregation went to the handrail of the Sanctuary. We also reintroduce late March the preaching done from the pulpit if wanted.

St Faith and St Laurence risk assessment had to be revised and will be revised whenever necessary to reflect any changes.

On 6th February 2022, we said goodbye to our Vicar, Revd Canon Priscilla White, after 16 ½ years working among us.

We say goodbye to Jackie Taylor this year. She has decided to retire from her voluntary role as Planned Giving Coordinator after 30 years of commitment.

Thank you to Peter Stokes who compiled and copied Parish magazines, orders of service, other liturgical material, and other printing whenever necessary.

Thanks to our counting team who, since October 2021, have started again counting after the 2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday of the month.

Thank you to Helen Hayward, Julia Reid, Anita Tippin and Hilary Shaylor (flower arrangers) who ensure that the church looks beautiful and welcoming.

Thanks to the organists and the choristers who carry on filling our services with some lovely music.

Thank you to the Stewards for their assistance and support given, our Lay Readers, for their involvement at church and online.

Finally, our ongoing gratitude and thanks to all at St Faith and St Laurence for their continued willingness to give their time and offer each other encouragement and support. You are very much valued.

Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

WARLEY & EDGBASTON DEANERY SYNOD 2021

As we do not have a representative on Deanery Synod Mike Sermon sent me the following information.

Warley & Edgbaston Deanery Synod met on three occasions.

On 12th May we had our inaugural meeting as Warley & Edgbaston Deanery Synod on Zoom, previous members were thanked for their commitment and service to our deanery and our new representatives were welcomed and commissioned by the Venerable Jenny Tomlinson Archdeacon of Birmingham. There were presentations from the Church of England Birmingham covering Parish Mission Support, People and Places, Property and Mosaic. There was a discussion around the future hopes and dreams that we have for our deanery.

On 15th July we held a meeting to elect a Lay Chair, a Secretary, Standing Committee members and an Environmental Champion for our deanery. The following representatives were elected: -

- Lay Chair - Paul Martin Old Church Smethwick
- Secretary – Ian Thorley St Mary the Virgin Bearwood
- Standing Committee members – Rev. David Gould Holy Trinity Smethwick, Guy Hordern St Bartholomew Edgbaston, Ian Thorley St Mary the Virgin Bearwood, Julia Howl St Peter Harborne, Paul Martin Old Church Smethwick, Priscilla White St Faith & St Laurence Harborne, Peter Pretlove, St John's Harborne to serve alongside Rev. Mike Sermon Area Dean and Ruth Haynes Deanery Support Officer.
- Environmental Champion – Julia Howl

There were presentations covering Net Carbon Zero and the Birmingham Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship.

On 4th November we held a hybrid meeting in person at Holy Trinity Smethwick and on Zoom. There were presentations covering People and Places, our Warley & Edgbaston Deanery Project Team, Oversight Areas, communications, and the environment. We welcomed Rev Ben Baker St Mary the Virgin Bearwood and Rev Fiona Gregson Christ Church Oldbury and St John Langley to our deanery.

Mike Sermon (Area Dean)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBORNE (CTH)

No representative from SF&SL Church.

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES TASK GROUP REPORT

Membership: Loleta Atkinson (Treasurer), Malcolm Adey (Chair and Churchwarden), David Arkell (Vice Chair), Tim Hayward, Alan Jones, and Corinne Treacy (Churchwarden/Secretary)

The Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Task Group met four times in the previous year: 7th September 2021, 25th January 2022, 22nd February 2022 and 22nd March 2022

Finance

See Treasurer's report

Hall Booking

The hall and committee room hiring restarted gradually. The hall had been hired only to the Queen Alexandra College (QAC) from March 2021 on a temporary arrangement for two days a week which ended at the end of May 2021. Then the Guides and the Brownies started to use the hall again from June 2021 on a term-time basis as before. Unfortunately, the Rainbows were not able to join and are still not part of the group. In September few more regular hirers reused the Hall together with some new regular hirers and some occasional ones. Finally in October, Heathercroft Bridge Club rehired the hall with few less sessions. The hiring of the hall and the committee room is not at its full capacity.

It has been a difficult transition to reintroduce the hall for hiring. Following the advice and instruction of the Church of England and the Government lot of documentation had to be created or amended i.e. Risk Assessments, Terms and Conditions and requested from the hiring Organisers or individual hirers. Thank you to the Re-opening Task Group for making this possible.

The hiring cost has increased and booking forms have been updated.

Thank you to Judith Bennett who has kindly taken the role of Booking Coordinator from Priscilla.

Notice Board Project

Following Royston Treacy's proposal to refurbish / upcycle the old notice board as a temporary option for only the price of the materials, an anonymous benefactor kindly paid for the materials needed.

Roof Update

The roofing warranty had been received and upon receipt of a final invoice, the retained 5% would be paid.

The policy excess of £500 had been refunded.

Maintenance

- The PAT testing, the intruder alarm, the sound system, the boilers, the photocopier, and the fire extinguisher services, together with the maintenance of the bells were done in 2021.
- The broadband and landline services are now part of a package with Clear Business.
- The CD player had stopped working. Thank you to Rachel Luckman's for a replacement.
- Priscilla's tablet was no longer compatible with the card reader. Thank you to Helen Setchell for a replacement.
- From March 2022, the utility bills for the Vicarage had to be switched to the church.

Quinquennial 2017

- The work required immediately had all been done
The work required within eighteen months had all been done when and where it had been necessary.
- The work required within the Quinquennial had been completed.
Some items requiring further investigation had been completed (permanent access to allow inspection of tower roof and vestry toilet) some other items were still in need of further investigation.
- Items outside: raised bed renewed, tree removed and rockery garden well-tended.
- It was decided that the quinquennial would be monitored and revisited in September in preparation of this year quinquennial 2022.

Thanks to all the people who use their skills, time, and expertise to keep St Faith and St Laurence church and hall running and in good state of repair.

Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

ECO CHURCH REPORT TO APCM 2022

Membership: Laurie Deimel and Corinne Treacy

The Church of England General Synod has recognised the climate emergency and called on all parts of the Church to become net zero carbon by 2030. Therefore, the Eco Church Task Group was created in 2019.

The Church of England collective approach to net zero is underpinned by six principles: Well Maintained, buy renewable, waste less, electric not gas/oil and offset the rest.

We have not met many times but have discussed and carried out our following plan of action:

- SF&SL premises are checked in and out weekly and necessary repairs are done as soon as possible.
- To ensure that we are wasting less gas and electricity, all lamps have now been changed to LED or energy efficient lamp strips.
Unfortunately, we were not able, this year to pursue our project to change our way to heat the premises, to have hot water, to use renewable energy etc. This is a separate large project.
- We are using whenever possible environmentally friendly cleaning and gardening products.
- We are trying to include an environment article in our monthly parish magazine and tips in our weekly e-mail. So if you have any ideas please email them at ssfaithlaurence@gmail.com

St Faith and St Laurence is now the proud owner of the Eco Church bronze award. So we need your help as we are now aiming for the Silver Eco Church Award.

We need more volunteers, so please if you have ideas and / or if you wish to be part of the Eco Church Task Group please contact Laurie or Corinne.

Corinne Treacy (Churchwarden)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP (CYP)

For most of the past year, ministry with children has involved Messy Zoom, a form of Messy Church held via Zoom and led by Helen Setchell – many thanks to Helen for this. This has been centred round a theme with activities distributed prior to the Zoom event as worksheets and has been held once a month. However, in April we welcomed back our first Messy Church in the Church Hall since the pandemic, with great success. Messy Church is built around a theme and activities with the children, as well as some time together as a group and is held once a month, aimed at nursery and primary school aged children. It is held on the first Saturday of the month from 1030 – 1200. If you know anyone who you think might enjoy it, please let them know or ask me for more details.

We have not yet managed to restart Sunday Club since stopping it due to the pandemic. We would like to do so but lack numbers of volunteers to be able to manage to restart it. It involves taking the children out of the main service on a Sunday to do some age-appropriate activities with them on a rota coming round once a month or so, depending on numbers of volunteers. Two people work together on a theme and, along with the children, present what they have done at the end of the main service. If you are interested in having a go at this, please speak to me to find out more, thank you.

Thanks to Messy Zoom, we have managed to keep a degree of involvement as a church in children's ministry during the pandemic and now we have reintroduced Messy Church and are hoping to start Sunday Club again, this is increasing. If you would like to be a part of the Children and Young People's group, please talk to me. We would also appreciate people's prayers for this vital task, thank you.

Ruth Jeavons

COMMUNICATIONS TASK GROUP

The Communications Task Group is chaired by Caroline Mosley. Other members of the group are Rachel Luckman, Peter Stokes, and Peter Thomson. Priscilla White was a member until her retirement in February 2022.

No meetings of the Task Group were held in 2021. The arrangements made in 2020 with regards to the responsibilities for website maintenance (Priscilla White, backed up by Caroline Mosley), Facebook (Caroline and Priscilla) and ChurchSuite (Priscilla) were maintained. The exception to this was Twitter which Debbie White had offered to take on before her health declined. Priscilla maintained this in her stead.

The monthly parish magazine is compiled by Peter Stokes with Priscilla as editor until her retirement. This moved to a digital only version available on the website during the pandemic. A limited run of print versions, for members of the congregation without internet access, was restarted. The print copies for distribution at the services have now been reinstated, with increased numbers as the services have opened up during 2021.

The ChurchSuite database is used to maintain the church's contacts list. It is used for the regular weekly emails and there is also a regular Young People and Children's mailing. Priscilla was responsible for the upkeep of this and the creation of the weekly emails.

A meeting was held in early 2022 to discuss who would be responsible for Priscilla's communication responsibilities and the restarting of the weekly pew sheet. Responsibilities have been reassigned as follows:

Magazine – Peter Stokes (editor), Rachel Luckman (sub-editor)

Pew Sheet – Peter Stokes

Website, Facebook, Churchsuite and the Weekly email – Caroline Mosley

The livestreaming of services was discontinued with Priscilla's retirement. The Task Group is to investigate the costs and benefits of resuming this.

New members are urgently sought for the Task Group. If you have any interest in helping with our work, please do get in touch.

Caroline Mosley

MISSION TASK GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

The Mission Task Group has met during this session.

Pauline Sitford

SAFEGUARDING TASK GROUP REPORT

The Safeguarding Task Group fulfils a vital role at Church. Everyone needs to be able to worship and be part of Church in safety, especially if they are in some way vulnerable (as we all are at times). The Safeguarding Task Group aims to ensure this. If you ever have a safeguarding concern, please contact me or another member of the Safeguarding Team, or the Diocesan Safeguarding team directly. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Our thorough policies can be found displayed at Church. Please review these and, if you have any questions, please contact me.

For those of you who need DBS clearance for your volunteering role, the lengths of time this is valid for has changed so you may be hearing earlier than previously about renewing this.

Thank you to everyone who works hard to ensure the safeguarding of all at Church and please do raise safeguarding issues if you have them.

Ruth Jeavons

SOCIALS TASK GROUP

This year has been yet another with more twists of fate thrown in. After a lockdown of some ten months, we finally reconvened for a meeting on the 10th November 2021. We had a depleted Task Group by this time due to several of our longstanding members retiring. My personal thanks were extended for their dedicated service over many years.

We discussed what event we might hold in December to celebrate Christmas. In view of the short timescale afforded we concluded that we would hold a Christmas Coffee Morning. It seemed that this would be achievable. After some discussion we decided to use a local coffee man to provide the drinks and we would offer hot mince pies and sausage rolls. We would have a few stalls and a raffle. We proceeded to plan the publicity and seek items for the various stalls. Everything was on track until the outbreak of the Omicron variant of Corona virus. With the number of cases increasing at a worrying rate we took a decision to postpone the event.

Once again we put our meetings on hold until January 2022 when we met again to plan for the coming year. We decided to bring the postponed Christmas Coffee Morning back into play and agreed to hold it on the 30th April as a Spring Coffee Morning. We also discussed plans for other events during 2022 and drew up a timetable for the rest of the year which will be publicised in due course.

We will miss Priscilla and her invaluable contribution made over the past sixteen and a half years as she announced her resignation, effective from February 2022, and wish her well in the future

At our meeting in March, we welcomed Bronwen Jones and Vernon Fisher to the group. We firmed up an event for June to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and discussed other ideas for the rest of the year.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support we have received over the past two years during an unprecedented period of uncertainty.

Thank you all.

David Glanvill

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION TASK GROUP

Members of the Education and Worship Task Group

Sally Griffiths; Rachel Luckman; Ruth Jeavons; Pauline Sitford; Caroline Mosley; Simon Palmer; John Wadman; Michael Averill; Pat Jones; Alan Jones.

We held three meetings during the period from April 2021 – March 2022

Reporting issues arising from the Leadership Group (MA, CT, RL, and SG)

The legal responsibility for the Church will now rest with the Church Wardens, Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy supported by the PCC. In addition, the Churchwardens are required to ensure that services are maintained in the parish church and that the costs of visiting clergy are paid and that the pastoral needs of the parishioners are looked after.

In the short term we will follow the service rota from Priscilla – up until Easter Day and Ray will organise the next rota up until the end of July.

We need an understanding of what we need to focus on - in the short term and then move on to priorities for the longer term.

We also have to get use to not having an incumbent!

Remit of EWTG and Issues arising from the merger of the Education and Worship Task Groups

It was felt that we needed some ratification of the responsibility of the Education and Worship Task Group. There is a need to communicate with other Task Groups We need to ask for more people to come on different Task Groups. We will reintroduce Morning Praise and Special services which will need to be planned by the EWTG.

We will continue to plan Bible Studies; Lent and Advent Courses.

Re-opening of Church (Summer 2021)

We awaited further Cof E / Government guidance, relating to the lifting of the final restrictions on Monday 19th July.

We continued with the existing pattern of services with social distancing and restricted numbers. (All services now in church),

10am Sunday Live streamed alternating Communion with the Service of the Word

8am Communion alternating with 6.30 pm Evensong.

Weekly 4pm Zoom evening worship

Private prayer on Wednesday 1-3pm.

Bookings as before with the requirement to state which service

Review of Reading Mark Bible Study

The Bible Study was not very successful. A small number of people attended during the initial weeks. It was generally thought that the Discovery Bible Study methodology was limiting.

We needed a good momentum/ attendance at the beginning of the course and larger groups for productive discussions! It was also a very long course spanning the whole of the summer term (people tend to be busy during sunny evenings!) Shorter courses might be more encouraging.

We have to learn and to adapt and should always experiment with new ideas and approaches

We all have a part to play in encouraging people to take up some Bible Study together as part of our faith journey.

Future of Digital Church in parallel with physical church:

a) WhatsApp groups b) 4 pm Zoom service c) Live streaming

It was agreed that we should keep the WhatsApp groups.

The 4pm Zoom service has been enjoyed by the people who attend; fitting into their lifestyles and has been a safe way of worship during the pandemic. Zoom services have enabled us to reach out to a wider congregation and expand our church community. Through winter 2021/22 very few people came to the Zoom services and from May 2022 we will have one Zoom service on the second Sunday of each month.

Occasional Services – in church

ALL SOULS SERVICE (October 31st)

REMEMBRANCE (November 14th)

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE (November 28th)

CHRISTMAS

Carol Service

The Crib Service

Christmas Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Family Communion

St Steven's Day Service of the Word

Lent Course (March and April 2022)

Live Lent: Embracing Justice was the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. It invited us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray - for the church and the world far and near - that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4.24). For each day of Lent, the booklet for adults offered a daily Bible reading, a short reflection, and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge. Each week followed a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness, and salvation to all.

This Lent we have been called to reflect on the injustices of the world and to ask what God is calling us to do about them.

We used the *LIVE LENT EMBRACING JUSTICE* booklets which were provided to anyone who took part in our Lent Course this year. The booklet is 40-day individual reflections but our Lent Course was adapted to a weekly reflection for a small group context.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ~10th April - 17th April

Palm Sunday - Service of the Word in Church with a dramatised Bible Reading of The Passion

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday - Daily reflections to be communicated through WhatsApp groups; emails; website; magazine

Maundy Thursday – A 7.00 Eucharistic service in church (PCC to be consulted) A Reading of the betrayal of our Lord followed by a short silent vigil.

Good Friday –	Open Air Good Friday Service in Harborne High Street
12.00	All Age Good Friday Worship – followed by an Agape meal
2.00	Last Hour by the Cross
7.30	Stainer's Crucifixion at St Peters Church

Easter Day	Family Communion in Church
	Zoom Easter Worship
	Choral Evensong

Service Rota's

Lectionary readings for 8.00, 10.00 and 6.30 services	(Rachel)
Readers for 10.00 service (Brenda Stott) and 6.30	(Brenda Stott)
Readers for Evensong	(Diana Leadbetter)
Intercessions for 10.00	(Rachel)
Hosts/sides people	(Corinne)

Patterns of worship as we enter the Vacancy

The current pattern of worship will stay for the duration of the present service rota –
10am Sunday alternating Communion with the Service of the Word
8am Communion alternating with 6.30 pm Evensong.

Each Month from May 2022:

1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday:

10.00 Family Communion

6.30 Evensong

Sunday)

2nd and 4th Sunday:

8.00 Communion

10.00 Service of the Word

4.00 Zoom Evening Prayer (2nd

Ordinary Time (Sermon Series)

The Sundays of Green Time provide an opportunity for us to look more creatively at our patterns and content of worship. It will be a time for gently making some changes as long as we keep the momentum! Green Time gives us some freedom.

Sermon Series

The three types of sermon series: -

Expository.

An expository sermon uses biblical text to form all three elements: theme, main point, and minor points.

Textual.

Textual sermons use biblical text to form the main point and minor points of your sermon.

Topical.

Topical sermons use Biblical text to form the minor points of your sermon selection.

We hope to begin our Sermon series later in the Summer and Autumn.

Music for Services

May 22nd Water theme for Service of the Word (possible link with Christian Aid)
Children from West House School to sing and play instruments [Mark
Lawrence to liaise]

June 5th Special Service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee / Pentecost

October 4th Pet Service

We are keen to develop links with local schools particularly with Woodhouse Primary School. From September onwards we will be having All Age worship in the style of

Morning Praise with varied themes and relevant music to reflect the themes; These services will be held on the second Sunday of each month.

To develop new links, through Malcolm, with Uniformed Organisations and their possible involvement in our worship

To maintain links with the ATC

Ideas to reach out to the local community during the Vacancy

Ruth to meet with Helen Setchell (CYP) ~ to promote Messy Church and begin face to face sessions back in the Church Hall/ Church

Possibility of Involvement with Harborne Churches Together

Car park coffee and cake

To develop ways to encourage young people to join the choir and encourage their families to become involved with church worship and activities

Website and monthly magazine to be given more attention!

**Sally Griffiths
Rachel Luckman**

CHOIR REPORT 2021/2022

Over recent years it has been difficult to keep the choir and music going in church, for obvious reasons.

We have done our best with our dedicated small group of musicians, however. Special thanks to Susannah Palmer, Mark Lawrence and Sam Gray who all did so much, sometimes recording music, and then singing 'live' when circumstances allowed.

It has been wonderful to have back musical friends and family for special occasions. The Carol Service of 2021 was a real highlight, with a big choir and some wonderful music.

Last year we were delighted when we heard that Sam Gray, one of our choristers, had gained a place at Trinity College, Cambridge to study music, and a bass Choral Scholarship in the Chapel Choir. If you're ever in Cambridge, why not visit Trinity College Chapel? The Choir sings Choral Evensong on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays at 6.15 pm. If you can't get to Cambridge in person, you can go to the Trinity College Choir website, and hear them in a live broadcast. Just click 'live webcast'. The website is: <http://trinitycollegechoir.com>

Over the coming vacancy we are determined to keep high quality music going, and to extend our musical activities. For example, we have now introduced most movements of *The Salisbury Setting* by Grayston Ives. Over Holy Week and Easter we will have good music and some choir for all services, and on Easter Day are delighted to join with St Peter's Choir for Choral Evensong.

Sadly, we have lost some choristers who now have other activities on Sundays, but we are determined to re-build. I am keen to recruit new youngsters to the choir, and over the next term will be advertising locally, and going into local schools. Do you know of a boy or girl who sings well who might like to join us? If so, please let me know.

Simon Palmer
Organist & Choirmaster

CHURCH FLOWERS

Flowers have been arranged on the main altar every week except during Advent and Lent. This is made difficult as church is only open on a Wednesday afternoon for three hours and not all the flower arrangers are available on Wednesday afternoons. At festival times there have been flowers on the altar, in the porch and at the lectern. The Advent ring was decorated on the lead up to Christmas. Easter, we plan to have flowers back to normal.

Again, my thanks to the small band of ladies who now arrange flowers in church. They do an excellent job.

I am reluctant to produce a flower rota until church services are back to normal but if we are to continue to have flowers in church they must be funded and so I ask that people who like to support the Flower Fund could still give donations on celebrating a special event or remembering a loved one or a special anniversary. We would be happy to welcome more volunteers to the list, you do not need to be an award-winning arranger, a simple vase of flowers also looks good.

Anita Tippin

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Last year saw the refurbishment of the raised beds which are now looking very smart. The top two beds are planted with perennials and the lower with roses bushes. A lot of the ivy on the yew trees was removed and a lilac tree planted in memory of Bobbly Holland given by her son Robert and his wife.

The Garden Team

STAY AND PLAY

We are slowly gaining a few children and since the pandemic we have changed our timetable. The children are younger so this means they want to play and mix together to gain social skills. We are conscious of the mothers' needs as well as the children and this gives the mothers a chance to mix together whilst the children play. We now need more children to enable us to continue.

Hilary Shaylor

CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Only two meetings of the Fellowship were held in 2021, the first being in November when John Smith visited and brought a selection of Christmas music for us to enjoy. Then in December we held a short AGM which was followed by a Christmas Quiz and light refreshments.

It was decided to change our meetings to an afternoon to avoid the dark nights in the winter months, therefore 2022 started on Tuesday, 1st March at 2pm. Mary Bodfish came to this meeting and gave us a talk about 'The Kings Loose Box' and on 5th April we heard about the work of Focus, Harborne.

We have an interesting programme of talks booked for the rest of the year (please see programme on the notice board in the Hall lobby) and any lady who may be interested in any of these subjects is very welcome to join us.

Helen Hayward

VICAR'S REPORT

The church is currently in vacancy as we said goodbye on 6th February 2022 to our Vicar, Revd Canon Priscilla White, after 16 and a half years working amongst us.

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2021

ARK AURORA LTD
Chartered Accountants
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood, Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.

The Maltings
2 Anderson Road, Bearwood
Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

Mark Pearsall FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	39307		46272	
	Charities Aid/GYE	<u>-</u>	39307	<u>64</u>	46336
Collections	Loose Plate	3103		2226	
	Gift Aid	1846		1260	
	Weddings, etc	<u>3573</u>	8522	<u>518</u>	4004
Donation	General Fund	3295		2728	
	Garden Fund	-		-	
	Votive Candles Fund-	11		45	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	-		412	
	Flower Fund	<u>-</u>	3306	<u>-</u>	3185
Appeals	Advent	-		21	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	-		-	
	Disaster relief	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>	21
Income tax recovered			<u>-</u>		<u>8763</u>
			51135		62309
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			-		3000
Income from investments					
Bank interest			8		70
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		-		4167	
Magazine		-		-	
Hire of church hall		3963		6852	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		159		135	
Fund raising events		-		641	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play	-	12		245	
Printing		-		-	
Sundry		<u>522</u>	<u>4656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12040</u>
Total Receipts			£ 55799		£ 77419

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Grants/Donations		
Overseas mission and relief agencies	-	-
Home mission and other	67	115
Church organisations	-	-
Secular charities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	67	115
Operation of facilities		
Church heat & light	1774	2007
Church repairs	727	44681
Church cleaning	-	-
Church grounds maintenance	175	-
Hall heat, light & water	1326	1417
Hall repairs	1451	415
Hall cleaning	5694	2445
Hall telephone	1034	1096
Vicarage expenses	<u>447</u>	<u>320</u>
	12628	52381
Church management and administration		
Diocesan Common Fund	44400	51996
BDBF Fees	1758	3928
Affiliations	-	107
Clergy expenses	318	1173
Upkeep of services	164	710
Insurance	4054	4522
Stationery and printing	1717	1426
Bank charges	158	152
Task groups	-	-
Wages & Honorarium	6075	10617
Accountants fees	678	678
Sundry expenses	<u>685</u>	<u>499</u>
	60007	75808
Total Payments	<u>£72702</u>	<u>£ 128034</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(16903)	(50885)
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	-	39077
Transfer from Fabric Fund	-	-
Balances at 1 January 2021	<u>36816</u>	<u>48624</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2021	<u>£ 19913</u>	<u>£ 36816</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	-	411
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>18</u>	<u>207</u>
	18	618
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>39489</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	18	(38871)
Bank balance at 1 January 2021	<u>29730</u>	<u>68601</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2021	£ <u>29748</u>	£ <u>29730</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2021	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2021	£ <u>17</u>	£ <u>17</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	-
Payments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-
Bank Balance at 1 January 2021	<u>983</u>	<u>983</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>£ 983</u>	<u>£ 983</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2021	2020
					£	£
Cash in Hand	2	-	-	101	103	103
Bank Current Account	3381	-	-	882	4263	16177
CBOF Deposit Account	<u>16530</u>	<u>29748</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46295</u>	<u>51268</u>
Total Cash	<u>19913</u>	<u>29748</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>983</u>	<u>50661</u>	<u>88380</u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to be have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

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

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2021

ARK AURORA LTD
Chartered Accountants
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood, Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.

The Maltings
2 Anderson Road, Bearwood
Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

Mark Pearsall FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	39307		46272	
	Charities Aid/GYE	<u>-</u>	39307	<u>64</u>	46336
Collections	Loose Plate	3103		2226	
	Gift Aid	1846		1260	
	Weddings, etc	<u>3573</u>	8522	<u>518</u>	4004
Donation	General Fund	3295		2728	
	Garden Fund	-		-	
	Votive Candles Fund-	11		45	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	-		412	
	Flower Fund	<u>-</u>	3306	<u>-</u>	3185
Appeals	Advent	-		21	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	-		-	
	Disaster relief	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>	21
Income tax recovered			<u>-</u>		<u>8763</u>
			51135		62309
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			-		3000
Income from investments					
Bank interest			8		70
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		-		4167	
Magazine		-		-	
Hire of church hall		3963		6852	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		159		135	
Fund raising events		-		641	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play	-	12		245	
Printing		-		-	
Sundry		<u>522</u>	<u>4656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12040</u>
Total Receipts		£ 55799		£ 77419	

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Grants/Donations		
Overseas mission and relief agencies	-	-
Home mission and other	67	115
Church organisations	-	-
Secular charities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	67	115
Operation of facilities		
Church heat & light	1774	2007
Church repairs	727	44681
Church cleaning	-	-
Church grounds maintenance	175	-
Hall heat, light & water	1326	1417
Hall repairs	1451	415
Hall cleaning	5694	2445
Hall telephone	1034	1096
Vicarage expenses	<u>447</u>	<u>320</u>
	12628	52381
Church management and administration		
Diocesan Common Fund	44400	51996
BDBF Fees	1758	3928
Affiliations	-	107
Clergy expenses	318	1173
Upkeep of services	164	710
Insurance	4054	4522
Stationery and printing	1717	1426
Bank charges	158	152
Task groups	-	-
Wages & Honorarium	6075	10617
Accountants fees	678	678
Sundry expenses	<u>685</u>	<u>499</u>
	60007	75808
Total Payments	<u>£72702</u>	<u>£ 128034</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(16903)	(50885)
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	-	39077
Transfer from Fabric Fund	-	-
Balances at 1 January 2021	<u>36816</u>	<u>48624</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2021	<u>£ 19913</u>	<u>£ 36816</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	-	411
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>18</u>	<u>207</u>
	18	618
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>39489</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	18	(38871)
Bank balance at 1 January 2021	<u>29730</u>	<u>68601</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2021	£ <u>29748</u>	£ <u>29730</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2021	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2021	£ <u>17</u>	£ <u>17</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	-
Payments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		-
Bank Balance at 1 January 2021	<u>983</u>	<u>983</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>£ 983</u>	<u>£ 983</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2021	2020
					£	£
Cash in Hand	2	-	-	101	103	103
Bank Current Account	3381	-	-	882	4263	16177
CBOF Deposit Account	<u>16530</u>	<u>29748</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46295</u>	<u>51268</u>
Total Cash	<u>19913</u>	<u>29748</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>983</u>	<u>50661</u>	<u>88380</u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to be have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST.LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

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

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

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Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.

Accounts

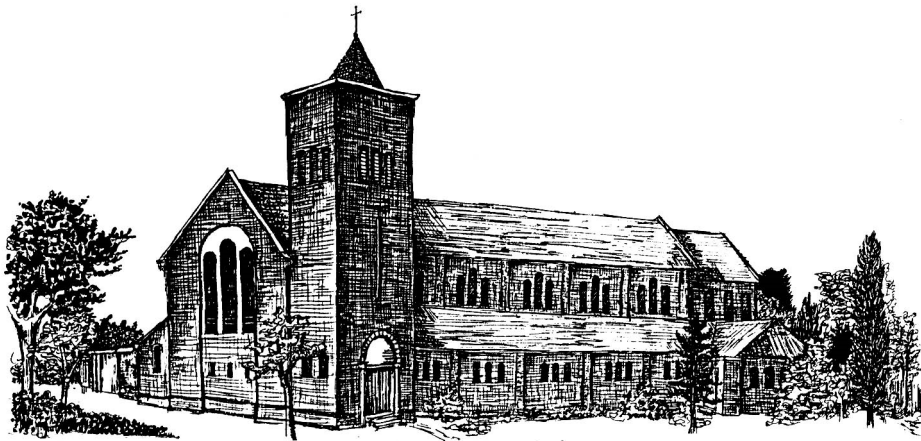


St Faith and St Laurence

Annual Report

and Accounts

for 2020/2021



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE HARBORNE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

For the year ended April 2021

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Vicar:

The Reverend Canon Priscilla White
The Vicarage
115 Balden Road
Harborne
Birmingham
B32 2EL

Bank:

TSB plc
537 Bearwood Road
Warley
West Midlands
B66 4BQ

Independent Examiner:

Mr M Pearsal
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4AR

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm via ZOOM**

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the 2019/2020 meeting
5. Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:

The Annual Meeting shall receive from the Parochial Church Council and shall be free to discuss: -

- (a) A report on changes in the roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
 - (b) An annual report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally;
 - (c) The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2019;
 - (d) A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church, under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991;
 - (e) A report on the proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod;
 - (f) A report on the activities of Churches Together in Harborne.
6. Elections
 - (a) Parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council (4 for 2020-2023 plus 3 places on Deanery Synod,
 - (b) Appointment of sides people;
 - (c) Appointment of Independent Examiner;
 - (d) representatives to Churches Together in Harborne.

7. Any questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.
8. Final words from the Vicar
9. The Grace

Membership of the Parochial Church Council

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

Vicar	The Rev'd Canon Priscilla White
Licensed Reader	Sally Griffiths Rachel Luckman
Churchwardens	Malcolm Adey Corinne Treacy
Treasurer	Loleta Atkinson
Secretary	Gill Hubble
Deanery Synod Representatives	Ruth Jeavons
Elected Members	David Arkell Laurie Deimel Alison Keepax Caroline Mosley Peter Thomson Alan Jones

ST FAITH AND ST LAURENCE: TASK GROUPS 2019/2020

The PCC operates through a number of Task Groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Finance & General Purposes Task Group chaired by The Vicar

It meets quarterly (with extra meetings for specific projects if needed) and its remit is to oversee finance, building issues and general policies which need legally to be in place.

Children and Young People Task Group chaired by Ruth Jeavons

To develop all aspects of worship for children and young people. Especially *Sunday Club, Messy Church, Stay and Play*.

Garden Task Group chaired by Mrs Helen Hayward

The function of this group is to plan and action the various phases of the new garden and quiet areas

Mission Task Group chaired by Mrs Pauline Sitford

Supports our Mission links overseas in Lebanon and Malawi.

Thinks creatively about Mission and outreach in the parish.

Christian Aid.

Plans and encourages Lent and Advent appeals for good causes.

Promotes social action in the parish.

Communications Task Group Chaired by Caroline Mosley

Socials Task Group chaired by Mr David Glanvill

Organises particular events, for example the Christmas Fair. Participates in and supports events suggested by other groups. Organises special refreshments after services where needed.

Worship and Education Task Group chaired by Sally Griffiths and Rachel Luckman

Matters to do with worship. Involvement in the planning of special services.

Plans courses, quiet days and Faith and Learning sessions

Giving Task Group

Allocates the amount set by the PCC for charitable giving each year. Meets once a year for this task.

Standing Committee chaired by the Vicar

This is the only committee required by law. It now meets on an emergency basis to transact urgent business which cannot wait to be dealt with at a regular meeting of the PCC. The committee consists of the Vicar, Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, with four other members of the PCC.

Safeguarding Task Group chaired by The Vicar

The Safeguarding Task Group works in line with the Church of England Safeguarding principles. We follow Birmingham's commitment to promoting a safer church for everyone. Safeguarding is the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. We are committed to the safeguarding, care, and nurture of everyone within our community.

The Parish Church Council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of
Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday 27th October 2020 at 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm via ZOOM**

1. Opening Prayers

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

2. Election of Churchwardens

Malcolm Adey

Nominated: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Caroline Mosley **Vote:** Unanimous

Corrine Treacy.

Nominated: Malcolm Adey **Seconded:** Caroline Mosley **Vote:** Unanimous

Malcolm Adey and Corinne Treacy were duly affirmed as wardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Sally Griffiths, Alan and Pat Jones

4. **Minutes of the 2018/2019 meeting**

The minutes were approved and seconded with the following amendments: -

a) *Minutes of the 2017/19 Meeting should read 2018/2019*

b) *Page 11*

5. Questions were asked as follows: -

..... on the electoral roll should read electoral roll

Proposed: Corinne Treacy **Seconded:** Caroline Mosley **Vote:** Unanimous

5. **Business as required by the Synodical Government Measure 1969:**

a. **Electoral Roll** –Judith Bennett, the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that we have 129 recorded that were made up of 61 residents of the parish and 68 non-residents of the parish. Priscilla thanked Judith.

b. **PCC Report** – had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A couple of amendments were reported as follows: -

Page 12 – Project Manager should read Tom Picking

*Page 26 – bottom of Socials Task Group Report –
just wouldn't exist should read would not exist*

- c. **Financial statements** – These had also been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Statement for the Current Account for 2019 is to be found on pages 2 and 3 of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019.

Income: Loose Plate, Roof, Income Tax, Legacies. All increases except claiming income tax, which is down due to inability to process a claim in time.

Payments: Donations - Decided not to pay Annual Giving as our finances were still precarious. Church Repairs increased due to increased work. Geoff said as you can see on Page 3, we paid £60,000 to the Common Fund. We have paid off the full contributions to the Diocese and paid money we owed from previous years. Priscilla said that we had completely covered that so we are up to date with what we owed over the two years. Geoff said that he thought we should applaud ourselves for paying the Common Fund in full and the previous money we owed.

Designated\Restricted Funds are to be found on pages 3 and 4
Church Hall and Repair Fund: increased income from fund raising for hall roof but obviously later on money has been spent from that but does not appear in this current year's accounts.
Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: Money was spent on the Church Tower and it was decided to leave a small amount in to keep the account open.
Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

First Column includes CBOF Deposit Account which is a Reserve Account mainly to back up the Current Account.

Thank You.

Geoff said how much we are indebted to Tom Picking (Project Manager) and he could not believe what a difference he had made and how fantastic he had been.

To all who have helped with recording the finances. In particular to Jackie Taylor and Alan Jones and the counters. Also, best wishes to Loleta Atkinson who seems to be getting on quite well with the accounts and Geoff said that they are in contact fairly regularly.

One last plea, if you are paying on a regular basis please, please pay by the Parish Giving Scheme as this saves a lot of work and delivers the Gift Aid much earlier without the work of completing and submitting claims forms.

Geoff asked if there were any questions – and there was not.

Priscilla said that Geoff has finally managed to hang up his Treasury Pen (she was not nor sure if that is correct terminology), although he is still around as the Elder Statesman to give advice if required. Priscilla said that there will be a token of our appreciation but it is a little difficult to hand it over Zoom. When Priscilla and Geoff are next in the same building there will be something to say a massive thank you in slightly more material terms. She said that we are so grateful for all the years you have done this job.

Ratification of Report and Accounts for 2019.

Priscilla asked if we agreed the reports and Accounts – Unanimous in favour

d. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments - A report of the above was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received.

e. A report on proceedings of the Edgbaston Deanery Synod was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received. Priscilla said that the work to appoint new Area Deans for Warley & Edgbaston and the two other Deaneries are ongoing.

f. A report on the activities of Churches Together in Harborne was circulated in the booklet prior to the meeting. There were no questions received.

6. Elections

Record our thanks to Perumal Anandakumar and Geoff Bennett who have come to the end of their term on the PCC and have decided not to stand again.

Christine Terry, Pauline Sitford, Alan Jones, and Gill Hubble have come to the end of their term on Deanery Synod and have decided not to stand again but Gill and Alan are standing for PCC.

a. Parochial Representatives of the Laity to the PCC

There were 4 places for 2020-2023 plus three casual vacancies be filled

There were four nominations as follows: -

Name: *Alan Jones*

Proposed: Corinne Treacy

Seconded: Caroline Mosley

Name: *Caroline Mosley*

Proposed: Corinne Treacy

Seconded: Sally Griffiths

Name: *Loleta Atkinson*

Proposed: Corinne Treacy

Seconded: Sally Griffiths

Name: *Gill Hubble*

Proposed: Rachel Luckman

Seconded: Alison Keepax

As there were fewer candidates than places these were voted in on a single vote which was unanimous.

Deanery Synod

A nomination was received from Ruth Jeavons - **Vote:** Unanimous
(3 places to fill)

b. Appointment of Sidespeople

Traditionally at St Faith and St Laurence, the appointment of sidespeople is delegated to the Churchwardens. The meeting agreed to continue this.

d. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Geoff Bennett proposed Ark Arora continue. **Vote:** Unanimous

e. Representatives to Churches Together in Harborne

Ruth Jeavons as stepped down and George Reeves has obviously left us to go to Theological College. Ruth said that she had only stepped down because she did not have the time. but that it was an interesting role.

Priscilla asked for a volunteer but no one came forward. Priscilla asked Ruth if she would write something for the Parish Magazine regarding the job and what it entails.

7. There were no questions about parochial church matters, or discussion of any matters of parochial or general church interest, or any particular recommendation to the Council in relation to its duties.

8. Final words from the Vicar

Priscilla said I want to thank everybody and my long list of people is in my report but particularly want to thank the Wardens and Readers and to those who have taken on a particular role to make things go smoothly over the last six months. She said we have had some fabulous things with people stepping up and taking on important roles within the church but wanted to say a very big thank you to Corinne without whom the last six months would have been impossible. Everyone agreed and thanked Corinne.

Priscilla said that there was going to be a collection in Tesco from 19th-21st November for the food bank, which is very much needed at this present time.

Priscilla said we have had the weirdest year but good things continue to happen and new contacts continue to be made.

Judith said a huge thank you to Priscilla for all her hard work in keeping the church going. Everyone agreed and thanked Priscilla.

The meeting ended with the Grace. Meeting finished at 8.30 pm

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2020/2021

Due to COVID the 2019/2020 APCM was actually held on 27th October 2020 via Zoom. This year's APCM for 2020/2021 is being held on 1st June 2021.

The church exists to promote the Christian Religion, to offer prayer, worship, and pastoral care, and to work in such a way as to offer public benefit to all who might wish to use it or its facilities, including the church hall.

The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The year of course has been dominated by the COVID 19 Pandemic. The PCC met in May 2020, July 2020, Extraordinary Meeting in August 2020 re church opening, September 2020, APCM in October 2020, November 2020, January 2021, March 2021 (eight meetings plus 1 APCM). All these meetings were held via Zoom.

The Church closed for Worship on 17 March 2020. The church reopened for private prayer on 22 June 2020. The original days were Monday, Thursday, and Saturday. Private Prayer was then reduced to two three-hour sessions and changed to Wednesday and Saturday on 15 July 2020, due to limited number of stewards and limited take up on the Monday. It also gave the required 72 hours between opening, removing the need for cleaning. The last Saturday private prayer was on 5 September 2020. The church reopened on Sunday 13 September 2020. Private prayer continued on Wednesdays only from 16 September 2020. The church closed for worship and private prayer on 5 November 2020. It reopened for worship on 6 December and private prayer on 9 December 2020. The church closed for worship and private prayer on 6 January 2021. The church reopened for worship on 28 March 2021 and private prayer on 31 March 2021. In order to be able to re-open St Faith and St Laurence and to make it as safe as possible for everyone, we had to re-arrange the church following the Church of England and the Government guidelines.

During the periods when the church was closed services were held at 10.00am on Sunday mornings via Zoom and video and a Sunday evening service via Zoom. When the church was open the morning services were available live via the SF&SL website or Facebook. Booking seat for the service using a booking system.

We held ALL SOULS SERVICE on 1st November 2020 via Zoom, Two REMEMBRANCE Sunday services were held on 8th November 2020 via Zoom. The church re-opened on advent Sunday and remained open until January 2021. A Christingle Service was held on 13th December 2021 without any Christingles being made for the service due to COVID. There was a Midnight Mass service on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Family Communion.

The following BIBLE STUDIES were held: In the weeks after Easter 2020 we had an opportunity to look more deeply at the resurrection appearances in the Gospels. (16th April 16th – 4th June 2020). Paul's Letter to the Philippians (11th June – 16th July 2020). These were done individually or joining with others via zoom meetings.

Advent Course (November and December 2020). Lamentation, Waiting and Hope based on a course devised by John Birch. We held weekly day and evening sessions throughout Advent.

Psalms Studies (January 2021) The set of studies took six well-known Psalms and asked us to think about them a little more deeply.

Lent Course (March and April 2021) The Lent Course focused on Julian of Norwich and with a theme of a journey through Lent. We held weekly day and evening sessions throughout Lent.

From the 9th May 2021 we have introduced additional services in the Church Hall. These will start with an 8am Communion on 9th May and will alternate weekly with a 6.30pm Evensong (except where there is a fifth Sunday), the first of which is on 16 May. Entry is through the Hall Door. Places were required to be booked following the booking procedure.

Corinne Treacy and Malcolm Adey have fulfilled their roles wherever the COVID regulations allowed. The fabric of the Church remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard.

The state of the building is monitored and any maintenance and/or repairs needed are agreed through the PCC (Parish Church Council). All maintenance services throughout 2020/21 were carried out in accordance with the regulations. The churchwardens are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments. The Terrier and Inventory of property owned by the church has been checked in March 2021 and it is confirmed that all items recorded are accounted for and in reasonable condition.

We said goodbye to Helen and Tim Hayward this year. They have decided to retire from their employment as cleaners after many years of commitment. The cleaning contract was awarded after an interview process to RT Cleaning (Royston and Corinne Treacy). This means that one of our PCC members has an interest in the firm. Corinne was not involved in the appointment process.

Our flower arrangers who, when they could, ensured that the church looked beautiful and welcoming.

A Re-opening Task Group that is chaired by Caroline Mosley and was convened by the church wardens from within the PCC to work on the safe reopening of St Faith and St Laurence for worship following the closure in March 2020 due to the Covid19 lockdown. The first meeting was in July 2020. During the initial stages of planning the September re-opening and the follow-up, the group met weekly. Meetings have subsequently moved to monthly. The TG reviews and maintains the Church of England's (CofE) required risk assessments for the reopening of church buildings.

During the past year the choir has not been able to meet for services or rehearsals. In the early days of the first lockdown, some recordings were made that could be used in 'zoom' services, but some of these were only made on a mobile phone in Simon's front room. As time went on, he managed some better recordings, and was very pleased when he was able to get into church to record, giving the pieces more atmosphere. When the church services resumed it was decided that we had space for two singers – one on either side of the choir stalls. All the normal precautions of space and use of masks when not singing were implemented and no sharing of music, and robes were taken home rather than using the small choir vestry, and sanitising things that were used by the choir.

There have been no social events during this period and therefore no meetings were held.

The Churchwoman's Fellowship had their last meeting on the 2nd March 2020. No meetings have been held since then but as soon as it is possible the meetings will resume.

There has been no Stay & Play but as soon as possible this will be resumed.

Unfortunately, no gardening in 2020 could be done in the back garden or the borders at the front of Church however before the coronavirus had taken hold David and Lesley Arkill started working on a new rockery in the front lawn by the hedge. Many thanks to them because there is now a lovely rockery filled with Spring bulbs and shrubs.

As you are all aware the church has closed and reopened and through it all so many people have worked very hard to either get the church ready for reopening or organising the Zoom services. Thanks to all the people who have made this possible but very special thanks to Priscilla and RT Cleaning for making it all possible. My hope is that everyone can return to church when we feel confident to do so.

Parochial Church Council

TREASURER'S REPORT

The **Statement of the Current Account for 2020** is found on pages 2 and 3.

Income: Significant reduction in income from; hall lettings, loose plate, gift aid, legacies and donations when compared to 2019. But note an increase in planned giving and Standing Orders.

Payments: Common Fund for the year was paid in full.

Donation was reduced except a small payment to home missions and church organisations.

Church and roof repairs payments increased.

As a result of COVID19 church cleaning also increased.

Delegated/Restricted Funds can be found on page 4 and 5.

Church Hall and Repair Fund: decreased as hall and church repairs costs were paid.

Fabric Furniture and Fittings Fund: No change.

Other Restricted Funds: Women's Fellowship – No change.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The first column includes CBOF Deposit Account which is a reserve account mainly to back up the Current Account.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who have helped with recording the finances. In particular, to Jackie Taylor and Alan Jones and the counters. Also, to the church wardens, Malcolm and Corinne, for their hands on practical help.

Thanks to Geoff for getting me started and his longer-term support.

Thank you also to those who give generously to the Church.

Without your support it would be impossible to continue.

One last plea, **please join the Parish Giving Scheme**. This delivers the Gift Aid much earlier, monthly, and it avoids the onerous task of completing and submitting the claim forms at the end of the year.

Loleta Atkinson
Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT TO APCM 2020/2021

The Churchwardens are Bishops' officers, chosen by the parish and admitted to their office by the Bishop or Archdeacon. Once admitted they have formal and legal responsibilities to fulfil.

Since March 2020, due to COVID-19, we lived and are still living in some extraordinary times with lockdowns and many restrictions. We had to close our church, stay at home, and start worshipping online. In order to be able to re-open St Faith and St Laurence and to make it as safe as possible for everyone, we had to re-arrange the church following the Church of England and the Government guidelines.

Fabric and Building

The fabric of the Church remains in a good condition and are maintained to an acceptable standard.

The state of the building is monitored and any maintenance and/or repairs needed are agreed through the PCC (Parish Church Council).

All maintenance services throughout 2020/21 were carried out in accordance with the regulations.

The Church

The wooden arch veneers have been re-fitted into position.

Following our 'Eco Church' ethos, all lamps in the premises (church and hall) are now LED lamps or energy efficient lamp strips.

The Hall

The roof repairs / replacement was completed the previous year. There are a few outstanding items of work that need addressing which have been highlighted to the contractor. Some of them have already been dealt with. As per contract, we have retained some money which will be paid when we receive the final invoice after all the outstanding issues have been rectified and we have been issued with a roofing warranty.

Thank you to Tom Picking (Senior Building Surveyor), who as the Project Manager, has monitored the work. He is no longer working for the same company, though he has kindly agreed to follow up the work.

The hall was not hired since March 2020 and this has impacted on our income.

Heating

We have had difficult and 'cold' times in the previous year when our church boiler was very temperamental and decided in the middle of the winter to go on strike. The repairs were affected and the part was replaced. Though, after a while, the pump decided to stop and had to be changed.

As part of our 'Eco Church' ethos to reduce our carbon footprint and in order to comply with the Church of England 2030 'Net Zero' carbon target, we are already seeking advice and guidance on how to change our way to heat the premises, to have hot water, to use renewable energy etc.

Goods and Ornaments

The churchwardens are responsible for all the contents of the church, including any movable furniture, books, vestments, plate, and ornaments.

The Terrier and Inventory of property owned by the church has been checked in March 2021 and it is confirmed that all items recorded are accounted for and in reasonable condition.

After the first lockdown and the closure of the church, we had to re-organise the church in order to make it as safe as possible for everyone. We followed the Church of England and the Government guidelines.

The kneelers, bibles, music books and other literature items were removed. The pews and the flooring had to be marked and some areas had to be barrier taped or closed in order to respect social distancing.

A risk assessment had to be completed and is reviewed every time the restrictions are changed. A cleaning regime and other various protocols had to be put in place and are also reviewed regularly.

Thanks to the Re-opening Task Group. They have kept themselves very busy in order for everyone to be as safe as possible.

Grounds

We are looking to replace the main church noticeboard and are investigating possibilities.

The back garden had to be closed due to Health and Safety during the repairs of the hall roof in the previous year and it is still not opened.

We are grateful to the gardening team, lawn cutters, bush trimmers and other volunteers for keeping the garden and grounds tidy and well maintained.

Services

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we had to close the church and we had to start worshipping online. We first re-opened only for private prayer on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Then we had to stop private prayer on Saturdays as we re-opened for worship on Sundays at 10am. On Sundays we have a service at church at 10am which is live streamed on Facebook and a Zoom service online at 4pm. We have kept this pattern during the periods we could be open.

We were able to enjoy the Midnight Communion and the Christmas Day Communion in our church. But sadly in January we had to close again. We finally re-opened for Palm Sunday on March 28th. What a joy to be able to celebrate Easter in St Faith and St Laurence!

We say goodbye to Helen and Tim Hayward this year. They have decided to retire from their employment as cleaners after many years of commitment.

During some periods we could not print. But thank you to Peter Stokes who compiled and copied Parish magazines, orders of service and other liturgical material etc. when he was allowed to do so.

Thank you to Helen Hayward, Anita Tippin, and Julia Reid (flower arrangers) who, when they could, ensure that the church looks beautiful and welcoming.

Thanks to the organists and the choristers who managed despite the challenge, to carry on filling our services online and at church with some lovely music.

Thank you to the Stewards for their assistance and support given, our Lay Readers, for their involvement at church and online and our Vicar, Priscilla White, for all the work she had to do to ensure that our spiritual life continues face to face at church or online despite the challenges brought by the pandemic.

Finally, our ongoing gratitude and thanks to all at St Faith and St Laurence for their continued willingness to give their time and offer each other encouragement and support. You are very much valued.

Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

EDGBASTON DEANERY SYNOD REPORT TO APCM 2021

The New area Dean for the new joint Deanery has been appointed and is Rev'd Mike Sermon. There were no Deanery Synod meetings in the period.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HARBORNE (CTH)

No representative from SF&SL Church as George Reeves has left us to go to Theological College.

There have been no meetings due to COVID.

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES TASK GROUP REPORT 2021

Membership: Priscilla White (Vicar/Chair), Loleta Atkinson (Treasurer), Malcolm Adey (Churchwarden), David Arkell, Geoff Bennett (Treasurer), Tim Hayward, Alan Jones, Graham Taylor, and Corinne Treacy (Churchwarden/Secretary)

The Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Task Group was supposed to meet on 17th March 2020 but the meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. The F&GP Task Group did not meet for the rest of the year.

Finance

See Treasurer's report

Hall Booking

Due to the pandemic the hall was not hired since March 2020 and this has impacted on our income.

Since the Beginning of March 2021, we have agreed to hire the hall to the Queen Alexandra College (QAC). This arrangement is on a temporary basis for 2 days a week when necessary.

Hall Roof Project

The roof repairs were completed the previous year. There are a few outstanding items of work which have been highlighted to the contractor and although the restrictions some of them have already been dealt with. We have retained some money as stipulated on the contract. This will be paid on receipt of the final invoice which will be issued after all the outstanding problems have been fixed and we have been issued with the roofing warranty.

Maintenance

Electrical: The PAT testing and the intruder alarm service were done in 2020. The sound system was not serviced since February 2020 and will be serviced in June

2021. All lamps in the premises have now been replaced by LED or energy efficient lamp strips.

Church boiler: The repairs needed in the previous year were done and the part needed was replaced. In addition, the pump had to be changed.

Working Parties: Due to COVID-19 there was no working party in this previous year.

Malcolm Adey & Corinne Treacy (Churchwardens)

ECO CHURCH REPORT TO APCM 2021

Membership: Laurie Deimel, Corinne Treacy and Priscilla White

The Church of England General Synod has recognised the climate emergency and called on all parts of the Church to become net zero carbon by 2030. Therefore, the Eco Church Task Group was created in 2019.

The Church of England collective approach to net zero is underpinned by six principles: Well Maintained, buy renewable, waste less, electric not gas/oil and offset the rest.

We have met, via Zoom, twice in the previous year in April 2020 and in March 2021 and have created an environment action plan.

- SF&SL premises are checked in and out weekly and necessary repairs are done as soon as possible.
- To ensure that we are wasting less gas and electricity, all lamps in the premises (church and hall) are now LED lamps or energy efficient lamp strips. In addition, we are seeking advice on how to change our way to heat the premises, to have hot water, to use renewable energy etc. This is a separate large project.
- We are using whenever possible environmentally friendly cleaning and gardening products.
- With the addition of a bird box, bug hotel and composting bin, SF&SL will be able to claim its Eco Church bronze award. Thank you to the Gardening Task Group for their donations.
- Our aims are to include an environment article in our monthly parish magazine and tips in our weekly e-mail.

Therefore, if you have ideas and/or if you wish to be part of the Eco Church Task Group please contact Priscilla.

Corinne Treacy (Churchwarden)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP (CYP)

As it has been for everyone, it has been a very different year for those involved in Children & Young People (CYP) work at St Faith & St Laurence. We have been unable to host usual activities such as 'traditional' Messy Church and Sunday Club and have had to find ways to think outside the box in order to keep families engaged. These are detailed below.

We have been hosting 'Messy Zoom' on the first Saturday of the month at 10am. This has been hosted by Helen Setchell who has been doing a wonderful job. The session involves a Bible story and various activities that are sent out to families prior to the time together. The children are engaging with Messy Zoom and enjoying it. If you know any families who would be interested in joining in, please contact me or Priscilla. We would love for them to attend and they would be made very welcome.

I have been sending out a Newsletter to families during the pandemic. This has information about events such as Messy Zoom as well as the worksheets required for this. It also contains activities for families to do together as well as music to listen to and other videos. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving this email, please speak to me or Priscilla.

As things seem to be finally changing regarding the pandemic, we look forward to being able to work with children face to face again. However, this time has also helped us to problem solve and come up with alternative options and that is a small but good thing created out of tragedy. We hope to bring what we have learnt during this time with us as we move forward.

Ruth Jeavons

COMMUNICATIONS TASK GROUP

The Communications Task Group is chaired by Caroline Mosley. Other members of the group are Priscilla White, Peter Thomson, and Peter Stokes. George Reeves was a member until his departure to theological college in September 2020. New members for the TG are sought.

The task group produced a draft communications strategy in 2019 to aid the work of the group. The key goals of the strategy are:

- *To develop effective, efficient, and consistent communication, both within the church and with the wider community*
- *To make best use of the resources and skills available*

- *To unite and grow the church*
- *To identify and agree available communication tools, what they should be used for and when*
- *To develop communication policies for the church*
- *To provide and implement template communication plans*
- *To develop and maintain the church website*
- *To create a communications team to take responsibility for overseeing communications activities*

Due to the pandemic, meetings have been held via Zoom. A number of meetings were held in 2020, but no meetings have taken place in 2021 so far. Meetings have covered a review of the use of social media (Facebook and Twitter), looking for ways to improve the use of these communication methods and increase our reach and followers. Debbie White has taken on responsibility for Twitter. Caroline Mosley and Priscilla White are responsible for Facebook. The use of Facebook to livestream services has increased contacts with this page.

A general review of the website was made and initial guidelines on content, style and formatting for the website have been drafted and discussed. The various forms of communication with church members and the wider public during the lockdown and subsequent restrictions have also been discussed. The website is maintained on a day-to-day basis by Priscilla White.

The TG produced a communications plan for the re-opening of the church in September 2020 following lockdown and this was put into place via the website, social media, and the weekly mailings. The ChurchSuite database, used to maintain the church's contacts, is maintained by Priscilla. It is being used for the regular weekly emails and there is also a regular Young People and Children's mailing.

Caroline Mosley

MISSION TASK GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

Task Group Members:

Pauline Sitford (Chair), Judith Bennett (Sec.), Priscilla White, Hilary Shaylor, Sue Glanvill, Ruth Jeavons, and Peter Stokes.

The group has kept in touch 'on-line and with zoom meetings. We have managed to maintain the usual links with Mission Societies, although unable to distribute magazines.

Colin and Audrey Gibson in Lebanon for CMS.

Instead of returning home the Gibsons were invited to join the management of A Rocha, a Christian environmental organisation, supported by CMS, in a project to reclaim an area of the Beqaa Valley not only for wildlife but for local people to enjoy. Many of them being Syrian refugees who have settled in the Beqaa area. Apart from some reforestation (including Cedars of Lebanon) the aim is to create areas for migrating birds. It is hoped that they will also be able to provide some food security for local poor people with areas they can cultivate themselves and also by setting up communal orchards. There are also plans to involve local schools.

Audrey and Colin joined our 10 am zoom worship on 7th March.

Malawi – our link with the Parish of Holy Trinity, Liwonde in the Diocese of Upper Shire continues.

Covid 19 is still a problem due to variants from South Africa.

Lucy Ward.

Has been teaching in Birmingham Primary schools for 15 years and has regularly visited Malawi with the Skills Share Programme, run by Birmingham Diocese, where groups of teachers go out and share ideas with Malawian teachers. They often have no resources, sometimes not even furniture but they are very keen to learn. Lucy wants to go out on a more permanent basis to help them provide more interactive learning experiences for the children. She will be self-funding. We are currently trying to arrange for Lucy to visit us in some way and explain in more detail.

Call in for Coffee.

Closed during the pandemic.

Pauline Sitford

SAFEGUARDING TASK GROUP REPORT

Safeguarding remains a core value for St Faith & St Laurence Church. This year I took over from Sally Griffiths as the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator. Many thanks to Sally for all her hard work in this role. We have representatives for different areas on the safeguarding team. These are as follows: -

Revd Canon Priscilla White - 07896 935798

Ruth Jeavons (Parish Safeguarding Coordinator and Children) - 07870 703304

Susan Glanvill (Vulnerable Adults)

Alison Keepax (Domestic Violence)

If you have any concerns about a safeguarding issue, please contact one of the above people.

Our safeguarding policies have been reviewed and amended and can be found on the Safeguarding page of the church website (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7166/page/43764/view/>). Do please take some time to read through these.

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, please get in touch, even if you are not sure if it is an issue or not. It is much better to err on the side of caution. Speak to someone on the team and we will take the necessary action.

Ruth Jeavons

SOCIALS TASK GROUP

We started the year with a meeting on 4th March 2020 at which we reviewed the Pancake Party the previous month and discussed events for the forthcoming year. That was the last meeting we held as the lockdown followed shortly afterwards and as I write we are just emerging from the second lockdown. As soon as we are able, we will reconvene and discuss a timetable for future events, although no one knows when that will be.

I would like to thank all of you for your support in the past and look forward to seeing you at future events whenever they are able to be held.

David Glanvill

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION TASK GROUP

Members of the Education and Worship Task Group

Priscilla White; Rachel Luckman; Sally Griffiths; Pauline Sitford; Caroline Mosley; Simon Palmer; Michael Averill; Pat Jones; Alan Jones.

We held three meetings.

DURING LOCKDOWNS

Zoom Worship

Sunday Morning Service ~ Live Stream and video; copy of service order could be downloaded

Sunday Evening Zoom Service

Wednesday morning service ~ recorded service

ALL SOULS SERVICE (1st November)

The evening Zoom service on November 1st included a time of commemoration at which names were read out. Priscilla contacted those whose relative's funerals we had taken over the past year, inviting them to the Zoom service.

Priscilla also invited names from others of anyone who had died either over the past year or longer ago who they wish to be remembered in this way. Anyone could send in a name or names.

REMEMBRANCE (8th November)

We held 2 Zoom services on Remembrance Sunday (Sunday November 8th). We held a morning Service of the Word and an Evening service.

CHURCH RE-OPENED FOR ADVENT SUNDAY UNTIL JANUARY 2021

ADVENT

A Jesse tree in place of a Christmas tree was made as a place a symbol of hope on the tree each Sunday in Advent.

A leaflet with daily family devotions and action, using the theme of the Jesse tree was available.

CHRISTMAS

Christingle Service (13th December) without the Christingle! Instructions how to make a Christingle at home was given at the end of the Order of Service.

We were unable to have a conventional carol service.

We live-streamed a service with carols in it sung by the singers in the usual way from our 10am service

Priscilla made a DVD with individuals and small groups socially distanced/ family singing a carol interspersed with some readings and prayers.

Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Family Communion

EASTER

Palm Sunday	Service of the Word in Church
Holy week	Zoom Night Prayer (Monday – Friday)
Good Friday	Last Hour of the Cross in Church
Saturday	Zoom Worship: Stations of the Cross
Easter Day	Communion in Church Zoom Worship

BIBLE STUDIES

In the weeks after Easter, we had an opportunity to look more deeply at **the resurrection appearances in the Gospels**. These were done individually or joining with others via zoom meetings. (16th April 16th – 4th June)

Paul's Letter to the Philippians (11th June – 16th July 2020)

These were done individually or joining with others via zoom meetings.

Advent Course (November and December 2020)

Lamentation, Waiting and Hope based on a course devised by John Birch.

We held weekly day and evening sessions throughout Advent.

Psalm Studies (January 2021)

The set of studies took six well-known Psalms and asked us to think about them a little more deeply.

Lent Course (March and April 2021)

The Lent Course focused on Julian of Norwich and with a theme of a journey through Lent. The revelations of Julian reveals how Julian's fresh perspectives on sin and judgement, anger and forgiveness, the Incarnation and the crucifixion can challenge and enlighten us.

We held weekly day and evening sessions throughout Lent.

**Sally Griffiths
Rachel Luckman**

CHOIR REPORT 20202021

Choir and Music

It is a great sadness that for much of the past year we have not been able to meet as a choir for services or rehearsals. Even though small groups have recorded and sung together on occasions, it has been difficult to keep the connection that we had before Covid-19. I am pleased to say that we have kept in touch to some extent, however, and the small chocolate treats for Christmas and chorister birthdays have been appreciated!

It is disappointing for youngsters at particular stages of their musical development: two of our choristers are Year 13 (Sam Gray and Ben Cusack) and so they have lost much of their singing in their final school year before they leave for University. We also have boys (Charles Frank and Rahul Sharma) who before lockdown were trebles but will surely come back to us as tenor or bass!

Over the past year whilst so many activities have been curtailed, our musicians have attempted to carry on and find new ways of working.

In the early days of the first lockdown, we made some recordings that could be used in 'zoom' services, but some of these were only made on a mobile phone in our front room. As time went on, we managed some better recordings, and we were very pleased when we were able to get into church to record, giving the pieces more atmosphere.

I am indebted to Susannah and Mark Lawrence who have helped and supported me so much. Sam Gray has also been a great help: I have been able to use him a lot as he is at Camp Hill with me, studying music. On occasions I have been pleased that we have also been able to use others nearby, such as Lilibeth Hubble.

When we were allowed back into church, it was decided that we had space for two singers – one on either side of the choir stalls. It was a joy to be back singing and playing the organ live, even if the rest of the congregation could not sing. We took all the normal precautions of space and use of masks when not singing. We also followed guidance by not sharing music, taking our robes home rather than using the small choir vestry, and sanitising things that we touched. Particular care had to be taken when 'wiping down' the organ, as you can imagine (with a non-caustic disinfectant!).

For special occasions, such as Christmas Day, and Easter we managed to amplify our musical options by using two "bubbles" – Palmers on one side (Simon & Susannah), and Lawrences on the other (Mark and Rose)!

Before Christmas we arranged recording sessions so that small groups of choristers went into church and recorded Christmas items. Priscilla then assembled this most effectively with readings and prayers into a 'recorded Carol Service' that was then

put onto the website. I am most grateful to all choristers who took part. I know that some of our choristers who did not sing would have liked to, but were prevented by illness, Covid-19 isolation, or logistics.

For those times when we were allowed into church with singers, Mark and I have also been advertising an organ voluntary before and after the service, appropriate to the service and the season. I hope that members of the congregation have enjoyed this. Over lockdown it has been good for me to be able to re-visit organ pieces which I have not played for some time and practise them.

I hope that members of the congregation have enjoyed the music that we have managed to put together. We have done our best to provide pieces to enhance our services. We accept that the recordings are far from perfect but hope that the sentiments behind them shine through the long gap at the beginning of most is a delay as I turn on the recording then dash to the organ! (On some recordings you can see “looks” towards me at the organ console...) Most of the recordings were made in just one “take” after a very brief rehearsal. Why? Well, we were short of time, and over the winter it was sometimes very cold in church...

Apart from preparing music for ‘zoom’ and live services, other musical work has been going on in the background. I am delighted to report the achievements of Sam Gray.

Sam has been a chorister with us since he was in Year 7, and I teach him music at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. A while ago Sam took up singing lessons at school as well as piano and achieved grade 8 with distinction in both. He also gained a place in the National Youth Choir. Then in the Sixth Form he decided that to put in an application to Cambridge University to study music.

I am delighted to report that before Christmas he found out that following tests and interviews on ‘zoom’ he had gained a place for music at Trinity College, Cambridge. Then more recently he was also notified that he has been awarded a choral scholarship in Trinity College Choir. This is a wonderful achievement, as it is an outstanding choir. For those of you who do not know the choir’s reputation, they were voted the fifth best choir in the world in Gramophone magazine’s “20 Greatest Choirs”!

Many of you will know of the family’s close links to our church: Sam is the grandson of Harvey Gray, one of the founder members of St Faith and St Laurence Choir, then under the leadership of Mrs Elsie Sissons, wife of the first Vicar, Rev. Sissons (St Faith & St Laurence, 1937-60).

The Royal School of Church music has been undergoing fundamental changes in structure over the past year, reconstituting the Area Committees. I am pleased to retain my links with them and remain a member of the Birmingham Area Committee. This will allow me to keep up with developments in this important organisation

supporting church music. The RSCM 'Voice for Life' Scheme has been rewritten, with new syllabuses for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and there are some significant changes in repertoire which I will be introducing this to our choristers in due course. Sam Gray has prepared his Gold Award and is awaiting an examination appointment.

One of the benefits of lockdown I have found has been the time to read, and to investigate new resources. We have not had a new musical setting of the Communion (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus & Benedictus, Agnus Dei and responses) for many years, and so I looked into those available. I found a setting written by Grayston Ives. It is uncomplicated for the congregation to sing, but not bland, and has additional choir parts which can be added for interest. Mark and I decided to trial it by using items from it in services over Lent and Easter. I was pleased by the response it got, and so we have recorded it, and Priscilla has put the recording onto the website. The links are:

Website

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7166/page/57187/view/>

YouTube

<https://youtu.be/kScru6GpXxA>

Once we are all back in church and fully able to sing together, we hope to introduce it as a new setting for all.

We are really looking forward to the time when we can get back to church and sing together again. I am aware that we will be a smaller choir than in the past: as I have mentioned we know that we're losing two, as Sam and Ben move to University.

I have been preparing new recruitment materials which I hope to use to inspire a new group of children to join us, augmenting our current small number. Do you know of any youngsters who enjoy singing who may like to join the choir?

Best wishes

Simon Palmer
Organist & Choirmaster

CHURCH FLOWERS

When possible, flowers have been arranged in church, but this has been seriously affected by the Pandemic and Lockdown.

When the church was reopened for private prayer on a Wednesday, Brenda Stott provided a simple arrangement on the altar to take away some of the hardness of a stripped-down church.

Once the service resumed on a Sunday morning a small group of ladies provided simple arrangements on the altar. The advent ring was decorated in the lead up to Christmas and at Christmas there was an arrangement on the altar. For Easter there were arrangements on the altar, in the porch and on the font.

My thanks to all the flower arrangers for their help in these difficult times. Looking forward, we will need many flower people to decorate the church, we will welcome everyone and as it has been shown a simple vase of flowers is fine and everyone can do this, so please sign up for post lockdown.

Anita Tippin

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Unfortunately, no gardening in 2020 could be done in the back garden or the borders at the front of Church because of COVID19 and the lockdown. However, before the coronavirus had taken hold, David and Lesley Arkill, part of the team, had started working on a new rockery in the front lawn by the hedge. Their hard work has certainly paid off as there is now a lovely rockery filled with Spring bulbs and shrubs and there have been many appreciative comments. Our thanks go to them both. Hopefully, the rest of the garden will be getting some attention soon, weather permitting.

The Garden Team

STAY AND PLAY

We have not met this year but hope to start up again as soon as we are able

Hilary Shaylor

CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship had their last meeting of 2020 on the 2nd March 2020 when Caroline Cobbing came to tell us about the Sambhall Charity, Jodhpur that supports women to give them employment skills. Unfortunately, because of the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic at the end of March we were unable to hold any more meetings.

We plan to start holding meetings again whenever it is possible.

Helen Hayward

VICAR'S REPORT

So, we come to another Annual meeting only a few months after the last but now back on a more normal schedule.

From March 2020 to now has been a mix of lockdowns, shielding, limited activity and a massive amount of work from many people keeping church going through the most difficult of circumstances. It seems appropriate that the reading for this evening's worship is Luke 9.28-36 which tells the story of the transfiguration when Jesus is revealed in glory to Peter, James, and John. In this event the reality of what they cannot yet see or understand is presented to them. Of the words they hear, "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him." Are words we should take firmly to heart. Through all the administrative, practical, and difficult work we are doing the primary call must be to listen to Jesus. All that work is vital, we have to do it to keep one another safe and secure, but ultimately it will be our relationship with the living God that will sustain us.

A number of positive developments have happened during the year.

We are poised to gain the Ecochurch Bronze award in our attention to our relationship with the environment and our aim, along with the rest of the Church of England, to get to carbon neutral status by 2030. In line with this we are beginning to talk about replacing the boiler and looking at ways such as ground source heat pumps and solar panels, to achieve this. This will be a project over a few years as we will need first to ascertain the best options and then to seek funding through grants and donations for the work before it can start. We are being assisted by the diocesan property team in this work.

We have managed to reopen the church for worship and are now gently expanding our offer. Huge thanks are due to the task Group, ably led by Caroline Mosley, who have worked incredibly hard on all of this and continue to do so. It has been very special to have music from a small group of singers, and Simon Palmer and Mark Lawrence have worked very hard to make this happen.

We have appointed RT Cleaning and Maintenance for our cleaning and caretaking needs. This company is run by Royston Treacy and we are grateful to him and to Corinne for all the work done over the year, much given freely, and look forward to more normal times ahead.

Our challenge now is to get the hall back open, both as an income stream, but more importantly as a way of engaging with the community and offering resource to them. There will be a huge task ahead of us in getting our missional focus back on track. To this end, over the next few months we will be creating a new Transforming Church Action Plan with mission at its centre to help us to continue to move forwards.

And so to further thanks. I want to thank everyone of course Corinne and Malcolm as Churchwardens, to Sally and Ray as Readers, and PCC members. To those involved in services, deputy wardens, sidespeople, readers, intercessors, to Simon and all the musicians, to those who print and prepare services. To those who engage with children through Messy Church. To those who keep the building beautiful, cleaners and caretakers, flower arrangers, gardeners, the people who do odd jobs which need to be done. To those who share in pastoral care telephoning people who might otherwise be on their own. To all who have taken responsibility in lockdown for people and things. To all of you thank you. Jesus is the one who calls us and enables us to grow together. Whatever the future looks like, we walk into it with him.

Priscilla White

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS

31 DECEMBER 2020

ARK AURORA LTD
Chartered Accountants
The Maltings
2 Anderson Road
Bearwood, Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF
ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees 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 Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have 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.

The Maltings
2 Anderson Road, Bearwood
Birmingham
West Midlands B66 4AR

Mark Pearsall FCA
Ark Aurora Ltd
Chartered Accountants

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
RECEIPTS					
Incoming resources from donors					
Planned giving	Envelopes & SO	46272		36836	
	Charities Aid/GYE	<u>64</u>	46336	<u>236</u>	37072
Collections	Loose Plate	2226		6257	
	Gift Aid	1260		1984	
	Weddings, etc	<u>518</u>	4004	<u>1105</u>	9345
Donation	General Fund	2728		1764	
	Garden Fund	-		110	
	Votive Candles Fund-	45		272	
	Organ Fund	-		-	
	Roof	412		54804	
	Flower Fund	<u>-</u>	3185	<u>50</u>	56999
Appeals	Advent	21		-	
	Christingle	-		-	
	Lent	-		-	
	Other	-		125	
	Disaster relief	<u>-</u>	21	<u>-</u>	125
Income tax recovered		<u>8763</u>		<u>4742</u>	
		62309		108283	
Other voluntary incoming resources					
Legacies			3000		22659
Income from investments					
Bank interest			70		123
Income from charitable and ancillary trading					
Fees		4167		6462	
Magazine		-		225	
Hire of church hall		6852		14877	
Insurance claim		-		-	
Coffee		135		941	
Fund raising events		641		1386	
Fair Trade		-		-	
Stay & Play	-	245		838	
Printing		-		-	
Sundry		<u>-</u>	<u>12040</u>	<u>2178</u>	<u>26907</u>
Total Receipts		<u>£ 77419</u>		<u>£ 157972</u>	

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER

2020 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PAYMENTS	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Grants/Donations		
Overseas mission and relief agencies	-	85
Home mission and other	115	
Church organisations	-	326
Secular charities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	115	411
Operation of facilities		
Church heat & light	2007	3256
Church repairs	44681	26502
Church cleaning	-	-
Church grounds maintenance	-	80
Hall heat, light & water	1417	1843
Hall repairs	415	538
Hall cleaning	2445	635
Hall telephone	1096	375
Vicarage expenses	<u>320</u>	<u>430</u>
	52381	33659
Church management and administration		
Diocesan Common Fund	51996	60000
BDBF Fees	3928	1706
Affiliations	107	786
Clergy expenses	1173	1852
Upkeep of services	710	1072
Insurance	4522	3978
Stationery and printing	1426	2093
Bank charges	152	195
Task groups	-	89
Wages & Honorarium	10617	13506
Accountants' fees	678	660
Sundry expenses	<u>499</u>	<u>190</u>
	75808	86127
Total Payments	<u>£ 128034</u>	<u>£ 120198</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(50885)	37775
Transfer from/(to) Church and Hall Repair Fund	39077	(36783)
Transfer from Fabric Fund	-	-
Balances at 1 January 2020	<u>48624</u>	<u>47633</u>
Cash and Bank balances at 31 December 2020	<u>£ 36816</u>	<u>£ 48624</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**CHURCH AND HALL REPAIRS FUND, RECEIPTS
& PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Receipts		
Receipts	411	54753
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>207</u>	<u>427</u>
	618	57180
Payments		
Expenses	<u>39489</u>	<u>17970</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(38871)	37210
Bank balance at 1 January 2019	<u>68601</u>	<u>31391</u>
Bank balance at 31 December 2019	<u>£ 29730</u>	<u>£ 68601</u>

**FABRIC, FURNITURE AND FITTINGS FUND, RECEIPTS &
PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – DESIGNATED FUND**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	-	-
Interest from CBF Deposit Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Payments		
Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of Payments over Receipts	(-)	(-)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2020	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>£ 17</u>	<u>£ 17</u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

The following groups are affiliated to the PCC and their funds are restricted

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Women's Fellowship		
Receipts	-	407
Payments	<u>-</u>	<u>(413)</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(6)
Bank Balance at 1 January 2020	<u>983</u>	<u>989</u>
Bank Balance at 31 December 2020	<u><u>£ 983</u></u>	<u><u>£ 983</u></u>

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets

	Church General Fund	Church & Hall Repair Fund	Fabric Furniture & Fitting Fund	Minor Restricted Funds	Total	
	£	£	£	£	2020	2019
					£	£
Cash in Hand	2	-	-	101	103	103
Bank Current Account	15295	-	-	882	16177	27360
CBOF Deposit Account	<u>21521</u>	<u>29730</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51268</u>	<u>90762</u>
Total Cash	<u><u>36816</u></u>	<u><u>29730</u></u>	<u><u>17</u></u>	<u><u>983</u></u>	<u><u>88380</u></u>	<u><u>118225</u></u>

Other assets

Parish Hall

The parish hall has not been professionally valued but is estimated to have a current market value of £510426 (and has been insured for this amount).

ST. FAITH AND ST. LAURENCE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

Funds

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

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.

Land and Buildings held on behalf of the PCC.

Other fixtures, fittings, and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

Amounts owing from the Inland Revenue where a formal claim has been made.

Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.

Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31st December by the PCC.

Investments held beneficially by the PCC.

Closing cash and bank balances are as shown in the receipts and payments account.

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Any Loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC.

Any arrears of Diocesan Common Fund.

Creditors for goods or services where the supply has been received and invoiced by 31 December.