



St John the Evangelist, Whittle-le-Woods

Annual Report 2020

Charity Number 1134259

**The Annual Report on the proceedings of the
Parochial Church Council
And the activities of the Church
To be received by the Annual Parish Meeting**

Received and adopted by the PCC on 8 March 2021

Rev Philip Venables, Chairman

Lyndon Wright & Gill Menhennet, Churchwardens

Legal and Administrative Information

The full name of the church is St. John the Evangelist, Whittle-le-Woods.

We are a Church in the diocese of Blackburn of the Church of England, with two worship centres, the Parish Church (St. John's) and Clayton Brook Community Church. Each worship centre has a group of ministry co-ordinators who are responsible to the Parochial Church Council, which keeps one set of accounts. This Annual Report covers the activities of the Parish during the year 2019, referring to the parish as a whole with its two congregations and including the parish accounts.

Incumbent: Revd Philip Venables
The Vicarage
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Whittle-le-Woods
Chorley PR6 7PS

Correspondence Address: Mr Lyndon Wright
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Chorley PR6 7RR

Parish Church Location: Preston Road
Whittle-le-Woods
PR6 7PS

As a church in the Diocese of Blackburn, we are a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commissioners. Charity number 1134259

Bankers: TSB Bank plc
Chorley Branch
PO Box 373
LS14 9CG

The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc
56 Market Street
Chorley
PR7 2SD

The Parish of St John the Evangelist PCC Report

The vision of the Church is as follows:

We Seek Revival through: -

Speak Out

Reach Out

Gather in for Christ

During the year 2020 the following served as members of the PCC:

Rev Philip Venables – Vicar & Chair

Rev Paul Davies – Curate

Gill Menhennet – Churchwarden

Lyndon Wright – Churchwarden

Deborah Green – Deputy Churchwarden

David Barlow – Treasurer & Secretary

Kathy Bigio – Reader

Tony Cliffe – Deanery Synod Representative (Resigned 27 October 2020)

Diane Jones – Reader (Resigned 14 September 2020)

Les Jones – Reader and Deputy Churchwarden (Resigned 14 September 2020)

Gill Lancaster – Reader

Roland Orr – Reader

Alison Wynne – Deanery Synod Representative (Appointed 27 October 2020)

Chris Wynne – Deanery Synod Representative (Appointed 27 October 2020)

Nick Brake

Stuart Cross

Chris Dawson

Frances Grieve (Resigned 27 October 2020)

Peter Grieve (Resigned 27 October 2020)

Anne Harris

Gill Menhennet

Cath Orr

Susan Parkinson

Julie Summers

Chris Watts

Val Whittle

Chris Woolham

Throughout 2020 the PCC met seven times, the majority of meetings on Zoom. A co-ordinator report from each church was given at the meetings and a report from the various PCC teams as applicable. The Standing Committee, consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens, were required to meet three times throughout the year to make necessary decisions before the next meeting of the PC

Electoral Roll report 2020

After deletions and additions, the total number of people on the electoral roll in 2020 was 171. 144 resident in the parish and 27 non-resident
134 from St John's and 37 from Clayton Brook

Vicar's Report for 2020

2020 started in a very exciting way for me, with a week's visit to Uganda Martyr's Seminary straight after New Year. Then it was back to strange news coming out of China. Then a few weeks of 'will we/won't we?' (go into lockdown), and the rest . . . you all know.

So this is a shorter report than usual, as I am sure you will understand. Let me make mention of some of what happened during the year:

Before lockdown we saw three of our young people confirmed. It is a joy when those who have expressed faith in Jesus as children wish to continue to do so as they grow up, and how we pray that this might be true for all our young people.

Having expected a huge number of deaths and funerals when the pandemic started (massive preparations were being made by crematoria all over the country), it wasn't the flood it might have been. However, each death has, of course, brought great sadness to the families concerned. Sometimes, understandably, there has been bitterness too as Covid made death and bereavement even more difficult. From our own church family we were saddened to say goodbye to David Bould, Vera Houldgreaves and Maurice Wrennal early in the year, and Diane Jones just before its end. They were much loved and are fondly remembered.

It was wonderful to see a small group at Clayton Brook use the week of 'Thy Kingdom Come' to walk and pray the streets of their patch and deliver invitations to our services. That has borne fruit for which we thank God.

We delayed the appointment of a new head teacher for Clayton le Woods Primary School, but in September we were able to conduct interviews in person, which was a relief. We were unanimous, and delighted, in appointing Sara Bashora to the school. Let me pay tribute, too, to Sue Pennington who did so much to bring the school forward through some very significant challenges.

Paul's ordination to the presbyterate (also called priesthood) went ahead in very reduced fashion in June. It was a shame it couldn't have been the big-crowd celebration we should have loved, but we are delighted to see him going forward in his ministry.

Churchwardens, coordinators and PCC members have continued to be a great team and I thank you all for working with me and Paul as we have had to keep learning and reinventing through the year. You have a marvellous ministry. Thank you, too, to Caroline for producing an online Junior Church session almost every Sunday without fail. It is a big task.

We had times of no church building open, some weeks with both open, and some with St John's only, open. We are trying different service times to make a combination of live and online possible. We are getting things right, making mistakes, and hopefully learning as we go along. Please continue to bear with one another in love as we seek the best way in the months to come.

For me, the highlight of 2020 was seeing everyone pull together and carry on as God's family in circumstances that were totally new for us. Online is very definitely second best, but it has been a brilliant substitute for the regular weekly meeting which is our normal calling. Many people have done all they can to make it possible, and I thank you all for that. Most of all, I thank you for holding together and continuing to be a church family of which it is a real delight to be a member.

Philip

St John's Churchwarden Report 2020

This must be the most unusual, innovative and in many ways the most difficult report I have had to address in considering the year we have had in the life of St Johns.

In January we were first becoming aware on our news channels of a possible pandemic emanating from Wuhan in China, now as we all know identified as COVID -19.

It quickly spread around the world and consumed and restricted our personal lives culminating in a National Lockdown of the country on 16.3.20. Will we ever forget, **"STAY HOME - PROTECT THE NHS - SAVE LIVES"**? With schools closing, parents were introduced to home schooling and all the joys and difficulties that those posed.

For the first time in my experience our places of worship were closed. I believe this was the first time in the history of the Church in England that churches were closed in Holy Week. This has culminated in a very difficult period for our congregation, lay ministry and especially for Philip, Caroline, Paul Katie and family. Thankfully, step in, **Operation You Tube and our online Services.**

Although we were not able to meet together in person and share fellowship, we had the opportunity to feel in some way united every Sunday at 10.30am. This clearly has been a massive operation on behalf of Philip and Paul and supported by our church family, through our prayers, readings and worship songs. Unfortunately it was identified that some of our congregation were not able to access on line services and other measures were necessary. Alongside this there was a network of calls, emails and text communication to all our church family, making sure that no one felt isolated, unsupported or unloved in any way. These measures were vitally important to express our love for one another, to ensure the unity, fellowship and collective responsibility we have as a family of God. It is heartening to know that it will continue throughout the pandemic.

How did we communicate on line before we had Zoom meetings? Thankfully these have been utilised to great effect in being able to proceed with PCC, Coordinators, Prayer meetings and importantly to maintain our weekly growth groups.

The lockdown ended on 23.6.20 and on the 5th July the government decided that places of worship once again were allowed to open.

Our thanks to Paul and others, who were instrumental, following clear advice from the Diocese, in securing the safety of all our church family who felt able to attend on a Sunday morning. Risk assessments were necessary in particular to the resumption of Junior Church. The continued involvement of the congregation is central to the life of the church, which has helped to make St John's a vibrant and welcoming church community.

Throughout the year work has continued on our building at St Johns. The necessary work on the West wall was completed and the identified roof repairs were in progress. This unfortunately was delayed following the identification of Dry Rot, which has proved be extensive and months in the planning to be able to properly and safely address the issue. Those that are able to attend church will have experienced the scaffolding structure necessary for Robinsons, the specialist company appointed to deal with the problem. Progress has been made and it is envisaged that the work will be completed in the New Year 2021.

Just as we were getting into a routine of regular Sunday services, in November the Government announced a further lockdown and once again church buildings were closed.

This meant that the Remembrance Sunday service was on line, to include the laying of wreaths by only a few local dignitaries at the cenotaph.

November now became a period of planning and preparation for Philip and Paul and others in order to finalise the busy schedule for our December services. It was decided that our Christmas Day, communion service would take place in church; all other services would remain on line.

In early December the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine was approved by the regulatory body and on 8th December Margaret Keenan was the very first recipient of the vaccine, (remember that fact for our next quiz opportunity).

Given all that has occurred throughout the year we do remember those of our Church family that have died, more recently the sad loss of Diane Jones. A Lay Reader someone who had a strong presence in the life of the church, all of whom will be greatly missed by their families and friends. In acknowledgement, of the restrictions surrounding Funeral services and the inability for many, to show their love and support.

Once again Gill Lancaster led from the front in encouraging and facilitating the shoe box campaign, which I know was supported by both churches and other family participants. The video clips produced, which were shown of the children receiving their boxes were truly joyful.

An enormous amount of hard work went into producing our Carol and Nativity Services. Little did Paul know when he was training at Oakhill that he would become a proficient music/video editor?

It was great to see so many collaborations of our church family coming together to realise two rewarding services, given that we were not able to meet in person. On a personal note it was a sheer delight in singing Carols in our front rooms with no masks and other restrictions.

Philip thank you greatly for your regular uplifting emails with words of encouragement through scripture, which I am sure, has been a source of encouragement to many. Despite the last twelve months being variously such a busy and difficult period, the underlying belief and witness of St John's has remained steadfast. As a church community we have faced challenges and the need for a Christian perspective on a changing world remains, but St John's is well placed to meet them.

The deeper the darkness, the more brilliant will be the radiant glory of the sun of righteousness, Christ the Lord.

Finally on 30.12.20 the OxfordUni-Astra Zeneca vaccine has been approved.

God Bless, Lyndon, Church Warden

Clayton Brook Churchwarden Report

2020 started with plans in place for our weekly church services and outreach events e.g. fundraising evenings, Summer Festival, prayer breakfasts as well as CONNECT get togethers. Our community building was booked up with church user groups Tots, Café life, luncheon club, Friday club as well as non church groups. In January, after years of prayer, our main hall was finally redecorated and very smart it looked too. With the paint hardly dry we welcomed Bishop Philip on Sunday 19th January. He was enthusiastic about what was happening at CB church so feeling encouraged we looked forward to serving the Lord with renewed energy.

Sadly, with the spread of a deadly virus sweeping the world we were instructed to close our doors. Since it was built in the early 1980's our church had never been closed. Throughout the confusion and worry that followed, God was there to sustain us. He gave us wisdom to think differently about reaching out to others. If people couldn't come to church then we would go to them. Philip and Paul quickly learned new skills which enabled our services to be watched online. We enjoyed our usual fellowship each Sunday morning, albeit virtually. We then wrestled with the challenge of reaching those who don't have access to the online services. Thankfully, Gill Wright volunteered to transcribe the weekly sermons and prayers. We delivered the printed copies to those who don't have online access every week. Praise the Lord. Our Pastoral team had already been in regular contact with each church member to ensure they were well and had everything they needed and we continue to provide this vital role. In May, we were again involved with the worldwide prayer initiative, Thy Kingdom Come. Some of us walked around the Clayton Brook estate praying for our neighbours and other got together to pray online. We continued our prayer walking throughout the summer and autumn, delivering invites to our online services as well as UCB daily devotionals. These were delivered to every house on the estate and beyond, to Clayton Green and Woodend.

Our doors reopened in July and although restrictions were in place it was wonderful to worship together again (at a distance). In November, our government announced a 'circuit break' so our services ceased again although we opened for a short time of private prayer each Sunday afternoon during this time.

Just as we reopened again in December, our church family was shaken by the death of our larger than life sister in Christ, Diane Jones. She was a reader in the parish and much much more. We thank God for all she did at Clayton Brook church, her rock solid faith remained as strong as ever during her illness, a faithful witness right to the end.

2020 was a year filled with God's blessings. He blessed us with new members who are eager to serve him here in this parish. Another, is the weekly Growth Group led by Les Jones which has been a wonderful time of Zoom fellowship and study during lockdown. Please read Les's separate report to find out more.

God has been good to us again this year, as He always is. How wonderful to know that whatever we face, even a pandemic, He is with us. Hallelujah!

Gill Menhennet
Churchwarden

Diane Jones

'Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.' (1 Timothy 3:13)

Diane, along with Les, (to whom, he often said, she was joined at the hip!) was so much part of the warp and woof of Clayton Brook Church that it is still hard to believe that she is no longer with us. I have known Diane only during my 8 years here, during which time she was a deeply committed licensed Reader, but of course she was active in a number of other roles, serving and leading in the church, for many years before that. She was a gifted and able woman and she used those gifts to serve her Lord so wholeheartedly. There was never any question about her commitment.

We all know that Diane had strong views, and sometimes those views could be expressed forcefully, but there was no doubting her love for people and for God. I particularly appreciated the fact that although she and I felt quite differently on some things—and

occasionally that was difficult for both of us—she never held grudges and we were always friends. In particular, I will always be grateful that I saw Diane at home just before she went into hospital for the last time and although she was in a wheelchair and her thinking was a bit slow and her speech was a bit slurred, she was absolutely the same Diane with the same sense of humour, her very recognisable smile, and absolute trust in the goodness of God. We had a lovely last prayer time together.

More than once she said that she didn't think she would live to be old, but it didn't worry her unduly because she had no doubt whatsoever about her destination. How lovely to express such confidence in the finished work of Christ. As Diane would certainly wish, to Him be the glory.

Philip

Report on Clayton Brook Community Church Bible Study Growth Group

I suppose all the reports this year could begin with 'what a year it has been' well this group has truly been a wonderful year of fellowship, growth and edification.

We began the bible study group in lockdown April looking at the Gospel of John. We followed the sermon series each week.

Because of the lockdown, the usual number of approx. 8 who met regularly soon grew to 12 then 16 then around 18/19. On average I would think that 14- 16 sign in to the Zoom meetings each week....normally we would have had a rest between topics or maybe at half term. These times were different, everyone wanted to carry on...

After the series on John we travelled back in time to the life and times of Samuel, King Saul and King David which took us from May to July.

New members, who had only been to church service for a few weeks before lockdown joined the group and began to input and take part. We always encouraged everyone to do the study which was sent out in advance of the meeting. We were sent study notes to whet our appetite for study.

Some members were happy just to watch and learn, just being with others and that too is okay but eventually they too began to give input and share what they had learned.

We took a decision to begin a study the book Proverbs, (July to September) using a study guide book which was invaluable. The narrator Joshua Ng. took us on a journey of discovery...of self and relationships with church, family and the wider community, and last but not least with God.

We noticed that everyone was now taking part at some level which was very encouraging. It was becoming obvious that the group wanted to begin to dig deeper into the scriptures.

September to November took the group back to the Gospels where we studied the continuing sermon series on Luke 15.

Still the group wanted to carry on though Advent, we took the decision to do the sermon series on Advent which was again very challenging, studying (Isaiah, Psalms and the New Testament) readings and theme of the week.

Sadly, we lost a founding member and greatly valued mentor and leader to the group...Diane

After the Christmas break (yes we did have some time out) we leapt into the 'come to me series' and changed the way we sent out the study.

Throughout last year we sent out study notes, now, as the group are hungry to study deeper no notes were sent out, just some questions. We asked for volunteers to come forward and bring commentary to each question... The group responded marvelously, and as well, people who had previously taken a back seat and just watched and learned began to take part. Bringing new minds and hearts and opinions to the study really did swell the activity and focus everyone. What a difference when a group gels and trust one another.

To date we are continuing with Jonah and whatever is planned after ...
Well done the 'Clayton Brook bible study growth group'...what a blessing, what a fellowship.

I would like to thank Ed & Gill M for hosting most weeks. For Kathy and Gill M stepping in to lead at times and to all the members who constantly sent e mails, texts and what's app supporting one another through personal support, prayerful support, and just simply being in fellowship along with the Lord. Thank you to our Trinitarian support, our Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father.
And All God's children say Amen - Les Jones

St John's – Prayer Report

During January, February and early March, intercessions were offered each Sunday at 10.30am by a small group of dedicated lay people. Since the end of March intercessions have still been given during services in church, when possible, and in the online service on youtube. Thank you to everyone who does this important ministry. The prayer chain remains faithfully active for urgent or emergency prayers. An increased number of prayers have been requested during the year. Thank you to every member who prays so fervently. Tuesday evening parish prayer meetings were held once a month by zoom, numbers attending vary between 10 and 16. Small prayer groups continue to meet regularly, again by zoom.

Clayton Brook Church – Prayer Report

Something lockdown has taught us is the value of Prayer, because every day someone needs prayer whether it is for the virus, cancer or some other problem that only God can help with. Our Prayer Chain is being kept busy with prayer requests coming in regularly. My prayer group that normally meet at my house, we now meet on Zoom. It was great to do a parish prayer on Zoom instead of in the vicarage like normal which we cannot do because of lockdown. We have some groups on WhatsApp that keep us up to other's needs . Our woman's prayer group, Church family, Street Pastors. We were praying for them when they went out on patrol in Chorley, and now for Chorley and Area until they do. I thank God for Zoom and Phones that keep us in touch with everyone.

I thank God that he is there with us always keeping us strong and that we will come out of this bad time again soon. The best thing we can do is just talk to God – June Summers.

St John's Young People Report

We enjoyed a happy January and February with Junior Church and Pathfinders, but March saw everything change as live church and children's work stopped overnight. While online services were up and running quickly, Junior Church took a couple of months to catch up, but by May we were able to record and broadcast a Junior Church Sunday Special 3 out of 4 weeks. We were pleased to see that between 30 and 50 families were tuning in, but later

discovered that some of these 'families' were actually some of our older members who were also enjoying the lessons!

We were able to re-start the Pathfinder after school club for a few weeks in September and October until another lockdown put a stop to our meeting together. Happily though, Paul was able to continue his zoom meeting with the older pathfinders for several weeks.

Junior Church started in October in a large marquee in the garden. The children (a maximum of 15) bravely shivered through October and November until we were shut down again.

Thanks especially to Sue Mackintosh who shivered with us and shared the teaching.

The highlight of December for the children was the Advent Boxes. Many thanks to Nick and Jen for organizing this imaginative and beautiful craft activity for 100 families. Thanks too to all those who delivered them to the families. It was great to be able to organize an on-line service to celebrate Jesus and his Advent using these boxes.

Our greatest thanks and praise go to our Heavenly Father for sustaining us and helping us to keep going 'onwards and upwards' during this long pandemic. Thank you Father, thank you Jesus.

Junior Church Report for Clayton Brook Community Church

Our Sunday and Friday groups started the year as normal, with the encouragement of some new leaders joining us.

In January, 6 leaders attended an excellent training course in Darwen focused on understanding children with additional needs.

In mid-March however, we were subject to the restrictions of the Covid lock-down and all groups stopped.

Sadly, due to the ongoing pandemic, it has not been possible to recommence work with the children, although this situation is kept under regular review by the Coordinators, with guidance from Philip and Paul.

We have tried hard to maintain contact with the children on our registers, and have sent out a number of video and written messages to children and parents via our Facebook page. This has been supplemented with telephone calls to some households.

All our Sunday Kings Kids attenders received a hand-embroidered name / initial fridge magnet (thanks to Frances).

As we approached Christmas, we delivered over 20 Advent boxes to homes, which were very well received. Also in December, we took chocolate Santas along with some nativity activity sheets to around 60 children on our registers.

We await the time when we can safely meet face to face with the children to recommence our teaching, but until then we continue in prayer for their safety and well-being. We pray for children to trust Jesus as Saviour, and to grow in faith.

Finally, thanks to all who have served in ministry through Sunday teaching / assisting, in resourcing and supporting Friday Club, and through prayers and financial support.

. Stuart Cross

Safeguarding Report 2020

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Safeguarding Team which oversees safeguarding policy and practice within the parish did not meet during the year and unfortunately a training session of Domestic Abuse, arranged for the PCC, had to be cancelled.

The team consists of the Vicar, Curate, two Safeguarding Children's Champions, two Adult Safeguarding Champions, the Disclosure and Barring Service Administrator and the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The team's terms of reference remain as follows:

- Completing the Parish Safeguarding Self Audit at least once a year,
- Reviewing the safeguarding needs within the parish, at least annually,
- Reviewing the Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures at least annually,
- To consider safeguarding training requirements within the parish on an ongoing basis, with particular regard to Diocesan recommendations,
- Ensuring that appropriate records are kept in a safe place,
- Signing off the Annual Safeguarding report to the PCC and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Activity

There were no safeguarding incidents during the year.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer reviewed the Parish Safeguarding Self Audit completed in 2019 and noted that the small number of minor issues outstanding had been progressed.

Social & Outreach Team

Our first meeting was in January 2020. We had some lovely plans—a women's garden party again in the summer; an outreach meal (or two) in the Bay Horse opposite church; parish visiting during the week of 'Thy Kingdom Come'; and of course the Clayton Brook Festival was in our sights. No need to say more about that.

The first few months of lockdown were really a matter of surviving and learning fast. SOT did meet again in September to plan towards Christmas, as a result of which we enjoyed the Jesse Tree, Advent in a Box, the Online Family Nativity Service, carol singing and the Carol Service. We have had number of people reach out to us, online, so there have been those real encouragements. 2020 felt rather limited, inevitably, but we are grateful for what we were able to do. - Philip Venables.

St John's – Pastoral Team

There are 4 members on the pastoral team & up to the restrictions placed upon us due to the global Covid pandemic in March we continued to identify those who were ill, bereaved or were missing from church, contacted them by phone & followed up with a visit if requested.

We administered communion in the first 2 months of the year to 8 house bound members of the parish. Three elderly ladies are now living in Residential Care so we took communion to Arrowsmith Lodge, Hoghton & visited a lady at Jasmine Court, Chorley. We visited a very poorly man in Meadowbank Care Home who later died and a further person was given communion at home because they weren't well enough to attend church.

We visited the local care homes, (Highcliffe & Brookside), from January to March where we offered a short communion service. The residents took part by reading the Bible & singing a song or hymn they were familiar with. The co-ordinators of both these homes are very supportive of this ministry. We alternated this service with the vicar.

Unfortunately, during the course of the year 3 people on the housebound list and 1 lady living in care have died, another lady has gone to live at Highgrove House Care Home in Chorley.

From April onwards we have kept in touch with the afore mentioned care homes by sending cards of encouragement, birthday cards where appropriate & a copy of the monthly Gazette.

As we were unable to carry on with this ministry in its present format, on the 25th March it was decided to split the people on the electoral roll between 7 of us with a view to keeping in touch, (by phone, email or text), with the whole congregation. This list was added to when it became apparent there were people attending church who weren't on the electoral roll. At the end of the first lock down when several of the 7 returned to work their allocation of people was split again between those of us not working.

Clayton Brook Church – Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team met on 29th January 2020 to discuss any concerns we were aware of and make plans for the year. Les suggested starting a community arts & crafts group as a number of the congregation enjoy painting, knitting etc. Events overtook our plans!

In March the Pastoral team responded to the closure of our church by quickly expanding the team to ensure we kept in regular contact with the congregation during lockdown. We were keen to make sure everyone still felt connected and had everything they needed.

This regular contact continued throughout the year and as the lockdown continued we started to deliver weekly sermons, prayers and the monthly Parish Gazette to church family with no access to the online Sunday services.

In December Gill Wright volunteered to be our Pastoral Coordinator. We thank God for her enthusiasm and vision for this essential work. Throughout a difficult year God has guided us and given us hearts of love and compassion to serve Him.

- Gill Menhennet

Mission Team Report

The Mission Team works on behalf of the PCC to make decisions about how the 10% tithe of church income should be distributed. This amounts on average to ~£10k per year. The 10 ministries that we regularly support are Barnabas Fund, Churches Ministry among Jewish People, Church Missionary Society (CMS – Alf and Hilary Cooper in Chile), Crosslinks (Alex and Kate Phillips in East Asia), Compassion (through individual sponsorship), Open Doors, Street Pastors, Tearfund, The Salvation Army, Wellfield Church in Leyland. These were selected on the basis that they are on the whole well-established, working alongside local churches worldwide, and that we have advocates within our churches willing to speak out and pray on their behalf. Intercessors are asked to pray for our mission partners regularly throughout the year, and we have dedicated noticeboards outlining the work of our supported ministries in St Johns and Clayton Brook churches.

In January Philip gave a short report on his mission trip to Uganda with Crosslinks in church and at a mid-week evening meeting. In February we held two Compassion Sundays, one at each church, speaking about the work of the Compassion child sponsorship programme. A prayer breakfast was also held in February with a speaker from Barnabas Fund. Then due to COVID-19 our activities were restricted and went online. This year harvest donations were directed to the Bishop's harvest appeal for Tearfund, and Stuart updated us on the work of the Foxton Trust which had taken over Fox St Mission. In October/November we took part in Operation Christmas Child supplying 90 shoeboxes (8 online) to children overseas. In November we held one online service dedicated to World Mission with several short video clips and Paul preached, and another dedicated to the Suffering Church with Kathy Bigio

preaching. During the online services this year we held a few focus spots with video clips on the work of the various ministries we support including Open Doors, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse and a message from our Crosslinks partners.

The mission team met three times during the year. In February we presented a Diary of Mission Team events (held between 2015-2019) to the PCC overseeing all the activities that had taken place over the past 5 years. Several people wrote Gazette articles to highlight mission activities. Kathy Bigio provided an overview of the Mission Fund for the March Gazette, feedback on mission outreach for the April Gazette, and an article on the harvest appeal for the October gazette, and Gill Lancaster one on Operation Christmas Child. David Barlow continued writing articles highlighting the plight of persecuted Christians worldwide. During the year we had four applications to the Mission Fund (Acorn International, Sasca, Torch Trust, Foxton Trust) amounting to £1k. We also supported the local food bank at Living Waters Church in Chorley making a year-end donation of £500, and a donation of ~£150 to the Salvation Army in Blackburn. Susan Parkinson continued to collect stamps for the Leprosy mission.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported Mission within our two churches over the past year, and encourage everyone to get involved. Please see our mission leaflet for more information (available online or in church).

Mission Team: Gillian Lancaster (chair), Kathy Bigio, Stuart Cross, Hetti Johnson, Philip Venables

Communications Team

At the start of 2020, the website was updated with a series of blog articles from Philip's Uganda trip.

A 'Prayer Request' website page was set up during the first lockdown, which resulted in over 40 requests being posted on the site (the same format was also used as an online Book of Condolence when Diane Jones sadly passed away later in the year, with over 50 memories and personal reflections of Diane added)

A YouTube link was added to the home page, enabling viewers to access the recorded services directly from the website.

And a video camera was purchased later in the year (with a grant from the Diocese) in preparation for the live streaming of services in 2021.

-Chris Dawson

Parish Gazette

The gazette continues to maintain its content and quality and produces at least 16 A4 pages per issue. It is a good source of communication and information for the parish. From March onwards the gazette has been emailed out to 130 people each month. These copies have been produced in colour and are greatly appreciated by many. Several large print copies are produced each month for church members who prefer larger print. For those who are not on email 18 copies are distributed either by post or by pushing through letterboxes. Thank you to Susan Parkinson for helping with this task. The Parish Gazette is also available on the church website. Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles throughout the year.

Café Life Report

This ministry takes place at Clayton Brook Community Church every Monday from 9am-2pm except during statutory holiday periods.

There is a team of 7 volunteers who work in pairs to offer a friendly welcome to whoever walks through the door. It is a place where people can come for a friendly chat. We offer a selection of beverages, soup, bacon sandwiches & cakes at low prices just to cover costs. Our aim is to offer a safe space with a friendly smile & show the love of God. Due to Covid restrictions the last meeting took place on the 16th March, however since then Sue Lillie has kept in touch with 12 of the regular customers on a monthly basis sending seasonal cards or small gifts as encouragement.

Tots at Church

The tots group (tots at church) has been closed since the beginning of March 2020.

Beehive Report

This year is a very short report owing to the Coronavirus restrictions.

We started the year with approximately 25 – 30 children with their parents and grandparents etc.

The bible story with the craft activity has been going well and the children really enjoy it. We were going to use some of the grant money to invite various people to come and do different activities at the Beehive with the children but then the Pandemic arrived and we had to close down in March at the beginning of the first lockdown, and we haven't been able to open all year. We are praying that we will be able to re-open sometime in 2021.

Christine Whiteside

Treasurers Report – 2020

A massive thank you again to all those who have contributed financially over the year, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are especially grateful to those people giving regularly either by envelope or standing order, with a substantial number also gift aiding their donation. This allows us to claim an additional 25% from the HMRC (over £18,000 in 2020) which goes a long way to pay our bills. **Thanks to everyone who does gift aid and to Marion Barlow** for her very efficient work in making the claims.

Income

Encouragingly planned giving increased by 3% over 2019 with a number of new Standing Order givers, and remarkably total giving of £84,214 was slightly up on 2019; as in previous years over 95% of our income comes from our congregation in the form of weekly giving, donations and gift aid.

During the year a Love Fund was established to help people in the parish who were suffering hardship; thank you to those who contributed ££4,147 during the year of which £1,156 was distributed.

We had budgeted a deficit of some £11,000 in 2020; thanks to careful management of expenditure in this most unusual of years and the modest increase in giving above we managed to achieve a small surplus of some £4,600, leaving us with unrestricted reserves of £30,475 at December 2020.

The PCC have agreed a deficit budget for 2021 of some £12,500 which leaves us with reserves of just under £18,000 at December 2021.

We anticipate that finance will continue to be a test of our faith. However, we worship a generous God and praise Him and our congregation as we have always been able to pay our bills.

Expenditure

The largest areas of expense were again:

- Our Parish Share to the Diocese of £66,342. The Parish Share paid for Philip and Paul, together with support for ministry in many poor areas of our Diocese.
- Utilities and services were £17,233 covering electricity, gas, oil, water, Council Tax, and insurance, down £5,415 on 2019.
- Repairs at Clayton Brook were minimal again this year, with major expenditure at St Johns, noted above.
- Ministry and outreach spend was some £2,194 not surprisingly £3,200, down on 2019.
- Finally, even in these challenging times, the church remains committed to giving 10% of its unrestricted income to charity which this year amounted to some £10,450.

Whilst the major refurbishment work at St Johns was delayed, over £86,000 was spent on the major repair to the west wall and roof of the church and stopping the dry rot in the roof. It is estimated that the work required to finish the dry rot work will be some £25,000 in 2021, with some £8,000 to be reclaimed for VAT. This leaves £448,000 in the restricted St Johns Refurbishment Fund. Thank you to those who continue to give to the Fund.

Independent Examiner's Report

Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods, year ended 31 December 2020.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention of a material nature.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under S145(5) (b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

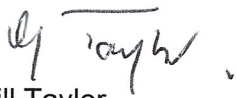
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

1. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
2. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;

have not been met; or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed: Gill Taylor

Dated: 12 February 2020

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	2019 Total £
Income from:					
Planned Giving	2	73,402	750	74,152	72,160
Other Giving		10,812	4,827	15,639	20,862
Legacies Received		2,300	0	2,300	0
Grants Received	3	0	250	250	49,628
Tax recovered through Gift Aid		18,103	158	18,260	16,298
		<u>104,616</u>	<u>5,985</u>	<u>110,601</u>	<u>158,948</u>
Income from fundraising activities		0	0	0	0
Fees retained by P C C for weddings and funerals etc		3,422	1,660	5,082	4,948
Magazine and rental income	4	40	1,144	1,184	1,970
		<u>3,462</u>	<u>2,804</u>	<u>6,266</u>	<u>6,918</u>
Investment Income	5	264	0	264	326
Other Income	6	0	10,396	10,396	548,691
TOTAL Income		<u>108,343</u>	<u>19,185</u>	<u>127,528</u>	<u>714,883</u>
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds		0	0	0	0
Charitable Giving	7	10,450	140	10,590	11,687
Church Activities					
Parish Share and Assigned Fees paid to Diocese	8	66,342	1,794	68,136	61,152
Salaries and honoraria		0	0	0	0
Parish Clergy Costs	9	7,455	0	7,455	5,316
Ministry costs	10	2,194	2,108	4,302	9,998
Regular church running expenses	11	9,690	1,145	10,835	15,489
Church heating and lighting costs		7,543	0	7,543	8,359
		<u>93,224</u>	<u>5,046</u>	<u>98,271</u>	<u>100,314</u>
Governance costs		0	0	0	0
TOTAL Revenue Expenditure		<u>103,674</u>	<u>5,186</u>	<u>108,861</u>	<u>112,001</u>
Major Capital Expenditure					
Major repairs to church	12	0	86,876	86,876	26,783
New Building work		0	0	0	57,694
		<u>0</u>	<u>86,876</u>	<u>86,876</u>	<u>84,477</u>
TOTAL Expenditure		<u>103,674</u>	<u>92,063</u>	<u>195,737</u>	<u>196,478</u>
Loss (Gain) on investment assets		<u>0</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>835</u>
NET outgoing resources and movement in funds		4,668	-72,510	-67,842	519,241
Reconciliation of Funds					
Transfer between Funds		0	0	0	0
Total Funds brought forward		<u>25,807</u>	<u>531,890</u>	<u>557,697</u>	<u>38,456</u>
Total Funds carried forward		<u>30,475</u>	<u>459,380</u>	<u>489,855</u>	<u>557,697</u>

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Note	£	2019 £
Investments	13	5,760	5,392
Current Assets:			
Deposit with CCLA		403,394	401,689
Cash at Bank and in Hand		80,701	150,616
Total Net Assets		<u>489,855</u>	<u>557,697</u>
The Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		30,475	25,807
Restricted Funds	14	459,380	531,890
Total Charity Funds		<u>489,855</u>	<u>557,697</u>

Approved by the PCC on 8 March 2021

Philip Venables

Rev. Philip Venables
P C C Chair

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention on the receipts and payments basis, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, „Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (January 2015) and applicable accounting standards

Donations and legacies

Donations are accounted for in full in the accounts in the year in which they are received. Income from legacies is accounted for when received in view of the uncertainty up to the point the amounts are received.

Investment income

Incoming resources from investments, including interest received, is included when received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when paid, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered, other than on certain repairs to the Parish church. Resources expended, where directly attributable, are allocated to charitable activities and governance costs. Charitable expenditure includes all expenditure incurred in the provision of charitable services, together with support costs, in pursuance of the charity's objectives.

Pensions

The charity does not have a pension scheme as there are no eligible employees.

Investments

Investments held by the Dioces on behalf of the charity are stated at their market value. All movements in values are shown in the statement of financial activities.

Fund Accounting

The charity has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure as follows:

Restricted and endowment funds:

Donations or legacies received which are earmarked by the donor for specific purposes within the overall aims of the charity. These funds may be income only (where the capital must be retained) or income and capital (where the donation and income deriving therefrom may be utilised).

The charity has no endowments

Unrestricted funds:

Funds which may be spent at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The PCC may designate some of the unrestricted funds for particular purposes, these funds may be undesignated at the trustees discretion.

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

2. Planned Income

	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2019
Income received through Standing Orders giving	59,406	0	59,406	51,855
Income received through other regular giving	13,996	0	13,996	20,305
	<u>73,402</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>73,402</u>	<u>72,160</u>

3. Grants Received

In 2019 The Church received a grant of £48,148 from Biffa for further refurbishment work at Clayton Brook Community Church, and £1,480 from the Diocese of Blackburn from their Vision 2026 fund to further ministry in the parish.

4. Magazine and rental income

Income from the Parish Gazette	40	0	40	116
Rental Income from Clayton Brook	0	1,144	1,144	1,854
	<u>40</u>	<u>1,144</u>	<u>1,184</u>	<u>1,970</u>

5. Investment income

Bank interest	102	0	102	168
Investment income and dividends	162	0	162	158
	<u>264</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>326</u>

6. Other income

In 2019 the Church, under the terms of the title deeds, received £545,722 from the sale and closure of the Parish Club on Preston Road. The proceeds from the sale can only be used for the renovation, refurbishment and maintenance of St John's Church.

7. Charitable giving

Acorn International Ministries	300	0	300	200
SASCA	200	0	200	200
Barnabas Fund	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Bishops Harvest Appeal	0	130	130	0
Bishops Ordination Fund	0	0	0	321
Chorley Street Pastors	600	0	600	600
Clayton Brook Festival	0	0	0	0
Christian Ministry to the Jews	600	0	600	600
Church Missionary Society	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Crosslinks	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Derian House	0	0	0	148
Foxton	300	0	300	0
Freedom Pioneer Church Blackpool	0	0	0	500
LW Storehouse	700	0	700	0
Open Doors	1,200	0	1,200	1,200
Salvation Army	950	0	950	750
Tearfund	1,200	0	1,200	1,263
Torch	200	0	200	0
Uganda Mission	0	10	10	1,505
Waterways Chaplaincy	0	0	0	200
Wellfield Church	600	0	600	600
	<u>10,450</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>10,590</u>	<u>11,687</u>

The P C C allocate 10% of all unrestricted giving and donations for charitable giving.

8. Parish Share paid to Diocese

The Parish Share paid to the Diocese of Blackburn covers the cost of the Vicar's stipend (salary), Clergy housing and training. In addition the Parish Share also contributes to the cost of running the Diocese and a contribution to the costs of running the National Church. In 2020 68% of the Parish Share was allocated to Ministry costs, 26% for Diocesan costs and 6% for National Church costs.

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

9. Parish clergy costs

2019

Clergy Expenses	1,249	1,762
Council Tax	4,828	3,190
Water Rates	1,378	364
	<u>7,455</u>	<u>5,316</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	2019 £
10. Ministry Costs				
Children's Work	54	0	54	1,567
Candles, Communion wine etc	19	0	19	174
Licences etc	667	0	667	809
Clayton Brook Festival	0	-75	-75	725
Lay Ministry costs	170	0	170	807
Outreach	332	1,027	1,359	2,658
Books	188	0	188	72
Parish Awayday	0	0	0	668
Safeguarding	281	0	281	29
COVID 19	108	0	108	0
Love Fund	0	1,156	1,156	0
Other	375	0	375	2,489
	<u>2,194</u>	<u>2,108</u>	<u>4,302</u>	<u>9,998</u>

11. Regular church running expenses

Minor Repairs	1,281	1,145	2,425	1,779
St Johns Repairs	0	0	0	0
Cleaning - Clayton Brook	1,334	0	1,334	1,632
Insurance St John's	4,112	0	4,112	4,196
Insurance Clayton Brook	709	0	709	693
Professional Fees	839	0	839	1,244
Grounds	0	0	0	768
Portaloo	594	0	594	3,534
Administration Costs	366	0	366	764
Parish Gazette Costs	262	0	262	682
Other Costs	194	0	194	197
	<u>9,690</u>	<u>1,145</u>	<u>10,835</u>	<u>15,489</u>

11. Major repairs to St Johns church

0	86,876	86,876	0
<u>0</u>	<u>86,876</u>	<u>86,876</u>	<u>0</u>

12. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year; two were reimbursed with a total of £1,249 mainly travelling expenses (2019: two were reimbursed £1,762).

13. Investments

The Investments are held with the Diocese of Blackburn in a number of their central funds which produce a better rate of return than if the Church invested separately. They are the result of legacies left over the years where the capital was to remain in order to produce income to help maintain the church. The value is shown in note 14 below.

St John the Evangelist P C C, Whittle le Woods

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

14. Restricted Funds

The funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Movement in Funds Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer between Funds £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
St Johns Refurbishment Fund	523,996	10,994	86,878		448,112
Assigned Fees paid to Diocese	134	1,660	1,794		0
Bell Tower Fund	0	500	0		500
Bishops Harvest Appeal	0	130	130		0
Café Life	888	124	364		648
Childrens Gifts	66	5	0		71
Christmas ADVENTure	0	250			250
Clayton Brook Fabric Fund	0	1,144	1,144		0
Clayton Brook Festival	639	148	-75		862
Clayton Brook Luncheon Club	112	0	0		112
Love Fund	0	4,147	1,156		2,991
New Gazebo	630	0	630		0
Pathfinders	23	50	0		73
Prayer Breakfast	0	34	34		0
Uganda Fund	10	0	10		0
Investments	5,392	368	0		5,760
	<u>531,890</u>	<u>19,553</u>	<u>92,064</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>459,380</u>