



St Stephen's and St Wulstan's
Selly Park

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

(Accepted and approved by the PCC at a meeting on 25th March 2021)

Charity Number 1135051

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Introduction

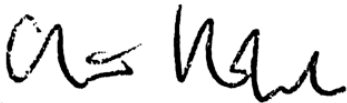
I know it seems only yesterday that we had last year's Annual Meeting. That's because it was delayed six months due to the pandemic. So we're actually getting back on track with our timing. Nevertheless this year's Annual Meeting will almost certainly be on Zoom again, to make sure that as many as possible can be there – and it seemed to work all right in November.

These reports mostly cover what happened during 2020, which was an 'unusual' year (to say the least). I've no doubt that when the books are opened at the end of time we will discover how "God's word [has not] been chained" (2 Timothy 2:9, NIV) even when we have felt chained. In these reports we get some idea of what God has been doing through the ministry of his word in many different ways (and some new ways). Enjoy!

As we look back on a wearying year, let's be encouraged by remembering that our God does not grow tired or weary and that whatever strength we have comes from him:

*Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
Isaiah 40:28 (NIV)*

Yours warmly, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hobbs', written in a cursive style.

Rev Chris Hobbs
Senior Minister/Vicar

Annual Report of PCC for 2020

Background

The parish has two church buildings, St Stephen's and St Wulstan's, with Rev Chris Hobbs serving as Vicar, Andy Martin as Associate Minister and Ben Wells as Assistant Minister.

The PCC has a duty, with the Vicar, as stated in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC also exists to co-operate with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the calendar year 2020 the following served as members of the PCC:

Clergy

Rev Chris Hobbs	Vicar
Rev Andy Martin	Associate Minister
Rev Ben Wells	Assistant Minister

Wardens

Mr Ian Butler
Mr Richard Griffith

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mr Christopher Barry	from APCM 2020
Miss Helen Buckley	from APCM 2020
Mr Matt Killen	
Mrs Judy Quaintance	until APCM 2020
Mr Andy Walker	

Elected Members

Mrs Elizabeth Barry	until APCM 2020
Mr Rob Davies	
Mrs Pamela Devas	
Mrs Virginie Hannam	
Mrs Mandy Hughes	from APCM 2020
Mr Adam Kendall	
Mr Tim Pearson	
Mr Michel Randrianandrasana	from APCM 2020
Dr Anne Ruck	
Mrs Faith Sen	from APCM 2020
Miss Naomi Stevens	until APCM 2020
Mr Thom Wilkinson	until APCM 2020

Parish Treasurer

Mr Sam Allen	until APCM 2020
Mr Matt Killen	from APCM 2020

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees, which meet between meetings of the full PCC:

Standing Committee

This is the only sub-committee required by the Church Representation Rules. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the PCC. These are set out in the Terms of Reference agreed by the PCC in January 2012.

Finance Committee

This committee prepares the annual budget and monitors overall income and expenditure in the parish.

World Mission Committee

This committee maintains contact with the Christian workers whom we support outside the parish, both overseas and at home, and keeps the church informed about missionary matters. It recommends to the PCC the payments to be made from the World Mission budget.

Fabric Committee

This committee oversees the general maintenance and repairs of all church property, including the two church buildings of St Stephen's and St Wulstan's and the property at 103 Bournbrook Road.

Financial Activities note for 2020

Financial Activities

The PCC approved a balanced budget for 2020 of £295,305, an increase of £40,234 on the 2019 budget of £255,071. This reflects the Parish's desire to ambitiously expand its ministry activities in key areas. However, the Parish was forced to dramatically alter the scope of its activities for the majority of the year, following the Prime Minister's announcement in March 2020 of a UK-wide lockdown to combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

Financial Performance

Overall, giving to the Parish increased to £245,164 (2019: £244,066), and other income increased to £20,088 (2019: £18,134). However, total income fell short of the budgeted amount by £20,720, reflecting tighter personal finances and reduced scope for room hire and other services.

The Parish was able to meet all of its financial commitments including the £64,362 (2019: £61,729) contribution to the Diocesan common fund as requested. It was also able to save in certain areas by virtue of the widespread Coronavirus restrictions, notably including clergy travel and expenses, utilities and cleaning costs. Total expenditure was £14,051 below budget.

As a result of the above, the Parish General Fund incurred a deficit of £6,669 for the year ended 31 December 2020. The balance carried forward to 2021 was £51,131.

Restricted Funds

The Parish continued to operate a number of restricted funds in 2020. The total balance of restricted funds as at 31 December 2020 was £28,870. None of the restricted funds individually had a balance exceeding £10,000 at the year end.

Two restricted funds are expected to conclude during 2021. The Youth Worker fund and Associate Minister funds are expected to be maintained by ongoing transfer from the General Fund until the current arrangements for these two roles come to an end on 31 August and 31 December respectively.

Charitable and Political Donations

The PCC continues to make gifts from its donated income and the amount given through the Missionary Fund amounted to £43,650 (2019 : £42,125).

No donations were given for political purposes.

Review of PCC Meetings in 2020

At its meetings in 2020, the PCC:

January

- agreed we could not afford to make the Admin Assistant appointment permanent
- adopted a Policy for Recruiting Ex-Offenders
- agreed to accept the Viscount Organs quotation of £32,641 for a new digital organ
- discussed 'Going for Growth': reviewing 10am service and considering a second morning service

March

The meeting scheduled for March was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

May (via Zoom)

- heard that David Li would be the Ministry Trainee for 2020/21, starting in September
- heard that there had been a small surplus for 2018
- approved the 2019 Finance, Fabric and PCC reports to be presented to the APCM
- adopted a Policy for Reporting Serious Incidents and a Policy for Video Conferencing with Children and Young People
- agreed principles for making grants from the Discretionary Fund

July (via Zoom)

- agreed a Health and Safety Policy
- agreed to spend up to £10,000 from the Building Fund on live-streaming equipment
- agreed a resolution to suspend services in church until the end of August

September (via Zoom)

- agreed the revised document 'A Vision for World Mission'
- agreed principles for 2021 budget setting
- rehearsed basic safeguarding principles, and also the latest Zoom safety guidelines
- agreed Sunday services from 4th October: 9am for households with children under 11, 10.30am (moved from 10am, also live-streamed), 6pm at St Wulstan's
- discussed ideas for celebrating St Stephen's 150th anniversary in 2021
- thanked and said farewell to those who were standing down from PCC at the APCM

November (via Zoom)

- welcomed new PCC members and elected officers for the year 2020-21
- agreed to retain Tom Bryant as Youth Worker beyond 31 August 2021
- agreed the proposed budget for 2021
- agreed risk assessments for a new Stay & Play Baby Group and for Church of the Light
- agreed a pattern for Sunday services until 3 Jan 2021, including a second lockdown in November

Fabric Committee Annual Report for 2020

The Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis, and comprises:

Tim Pearson

Sally Hill

Paul Coley

The Committee wishes to record its tribute to the immense contribution to Fabric matters over many years by David Twiss, who served on the Committee until his death in 2020.

The Spring and Autumn Maintenance Mornings did not take place in their usual form, nevertheless sessions were arranged in May and November over a number of days to reduce numbers of people present at any one time. Work took place in a Covid-safe manner. Thanks are expressed to those who helped.

The 2020 financial summary is as follows:

Budget	£12,047
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Actual expenditure	£12,194
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The largest items of expenditure in 2019 were:

- £2,640 Repair of nave ceiling near old porch, after cracks were found in plasterwork. This needed extensive scaffolding to be erected.
- £1,100 removal of large, dying Corsican Pine tree near shed at St. Stephen's
- £888 Repair to flaking paint to another part of nave ceiling earlier in 2020, together with high level gutter cleaning.
- £792 BT line used for intruder alarm monitoring
- £763 replacement of control panel for underfloor heating
- £753 supply and fitting of new lighting in foyer at St Wulstan's
- £642 Intruder alarm maintenance and 24 hours a day, 366 days a year.

All costs are inclusive of VAT, and rounded off to the nearest pound

Matters worthy of comment:

- The largest and third largest items of spending were repairs to the nave ceiling, which were necessary on safety grounds, and aesthetically desirable. Due to reduced activity levels in the nave, disruption was minimised. Although the larger of the two repairs took place in early 2021, the order was placed during 2020 but contractors were delayed due to the pandemic.
- No further progress is reported in respect of providing an organ. It is envisaged that the Fabric Committee will work with David Hoare after the pandemic to consider the various options for repair or overhaul, and for the possible introduction of an aesthetically and acoustically sympathetic electronic organ.
- No major electrical repairs took place in 2020, although electricians attended on more than one occasion to repair lighting and switches installed under 'Building for The Future.' It is becoming apparent that many electrical fittings are reaching an age where failures are starting to occur. In particular, due to low usage levels in 2020, it was not necessary to replace any uplighters in the

- nave. By contrast, in 2019 several replacements were needed. However we expect to need to replace uplighters in 2021 as usage levels increase; in fact a number of units are now noisy and one has failed entirely.
- Church of The Light, attended mainly by Christians from the Middle East, continues to use St Wulstan's when lockdown rules allow, in return for a monthly fee, and is keeping it in tidy condition. However the Parish is still responsible for repairs.
- St Wulstan's is still heated by a gas-fired, blown air heating system which is believed to be as old as the building. Its reliability in recent years has proved inconsistent, and the system may be approaching the end of its life. Replacement of the heater is likely to cost approaching £10,000.
- Experiments took place in late 2019 and early 2020 to assess the effectiveness of various shapes and sizes of acoustic baffles in various positions in the foyer, in an attempt to address complaints about excessive noise and echoing. Some configurations were found to show benefits. It is hoped during 2021 to present the data to PCC, and to discuss the aesthetics of various options, with a view to buying a number of effective but aesthetically unobtrusive panels. However this can realistically only happen when PCC is able to meet physically in the building and consider the appearance of various panel shapes, sizes and colours.
- The unsafe, dying Corsican Pine tree near the shed was felled early in 2020. Prior consent was obtained from Birmingham City Council due to the location being a in a Conservation Area.
- The ambience of the foyer at St Wulstan's is now more inviting due to new, brighter and more energy-efficient LED lighting being installed.
- We incurred the £360 cost of hiring a skip for only one of the maintenance sessions. In most years this cost is incurred at both the Spring and the Autumn Maintenance Mornings.
- Weekly inspections of St Stephen's and St Wulstan's buildings have taken place throughout the pandemic, with the dates being logged. All water outlets are regularly run to prevent the build-up of Legionnaires' Disease bacteria.

Tim Pearson

Chairman, Fabric Committee

11th March 2020

Electoral Roll Report

The electoral Roll was revised in **April 2021**.

The numbers for the last three years are shown below:

2019 : 165

2020 : 158

2021 : 170

1 person came off the electoral roll

13 people came onto the electoral roll

Safeguarding

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.

Reports on Church Life

Evangelism

We are committed to making disciples of Jesus out of those who are not yet disciples by speaking God's word to them. The pandemic has made this harder to do as a church family together, though it has opened up many opportunities for individuals with neighbours and family members.

Our services were taken online and these have been made available to the widest possible audience through YouTube and on our website. In the build up to Christmas we planned a series of services around Jesus' invitation to come to him. These were a mixture of normal services and interviews. We interviewed two members of the church family, Paediatric Palliative Consultant, Dr Yifan Liang, on grief, and Chris Stonehouse, a retired teacher, on weariness; in each case we explored what Jesus offers us as we experience these two realities. Our carol services happened partly in person and partly online so that lots of different people were able to enjoy them and hear the good news of Jesus explained.

We were also able to take our evangelistic courses online which has meant that we have had guests from much further afield. We held Christianity Explored online in June/July 2020 with a dozen guests, of whom one is now professing faith and involved in a Fellowship Group. We held CE again in the Christmas term with seven guests, five of whom continued into the Identity course after Christmas; three have now become Christians and started attending church near them (Holy Trinity, Old Hill); the other three have all grown in their faith and are part of a Fellowship Group or reading the bible with someone else. It has been tremendously exciting seeing what the Lord has done.

Andy Martin

Sunday Services

It seems appropriate to report on what happened with our Sunday services last year. It will be clear that there was a lot of change as we adapted to the changing conditions. With the first lockdown in March, we began with a pre-recorded service for people to watch from Sunday onwards. We did try a couple of weeks having Zoom services, but decided not to continue with those. We did, however, start having a Zoom gathering after the morning service, which has continued.

From Easter Day (April 12th) we resumed using a pre-recorded service. From the end of June we began posting DVD's of the service to those who did not have online access. In July we started encouraging people to watch the service with another household under the 'two household' rule. From late September we invited those who wished to watch the pre-recorded service in church, and also re-started the 6pm service at St Wulstan's.

We began live-streaming the 10.30am service from church at the start of October, with the new 9am service beginning mid-October, while we continued to open both St Stephen's and St Wulstan's to those who wished to come. For the second lockdown in November, church was closed and we live-streamed the 9am and 10.30am services, with 6pm on Zoom. When the lockdown ended in December, we went back to having a congregation present at 9am and live-streaming the 10.30am service with a congregation present, and that continued to the end of the year.

All of this shows how much change there was. It would hardly have been possible, and would certainly have been much more traumatic, without the inventiveness, effort and flexibility of all those involved in delivering, editing and live-streaming the services and the patience, adaptability and understanding of the whole congregation. Thank you.

Chris Hobbs

Fellowship Groups

Fellowship Groups remain central to our vision of 'making disciples of Jesus ... by prayerfully speaking God's word' especially with the aim of 'establishing' and 'equipping' us as God's people. They were especially important this past year in keeping people connected, cared for and prayed over during the pandemic. A few new people joined groups, and many of the women from the Tuesday Morning Group joined their husbands in evening groups, which became possible when fellowship groups started meeting on Zoom in March.

There are still 15 groups (10 meeting on Wednesday evening, the Tuesday Morning Group for women, two on Tuesday afternoon, one early morning Wednesday for men, one on Thursday evening), and over 150 people involved.

The Bible studies continued to follow the morning sermon series, with studies in Equipped to Serve, Psalms, Mark 7-8, Psalms (again), Acts 13-14 and Philippians.

Chris Hobbs

Equip

Equip is a one-year in-house training course designed to equip ordinary Christians to be 'self-starters', able to get on with gospel ministry without needing to be asked. In its first four years a total of 18 people have done the course, and they are mostly involved in some kind of gospel ministry now.

Equip did not run in 2019-20 while the Vine Project was running, and it did run during 2020-21 due to COVID-19.

Chris Hobbs

World Mission

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news....!" (Isaiah 52:7)

As a church we are committed to mission locally and globally. The task of the World Mission Committee is to keep the vision of World Mission fresh in the life of our church, and to support those the church has commissioned for the mission field.

The Committee met three times in 2020. We prepared a paper entitled "A Vision for World Mission", setting out our church's commitment to world mission, and the practical steps we need to take. This was approved by the PCC in November 2020. We were given a budget of £43,650, which we shared between our Mission Partners, although we are aware that a number of our Mission Partners are not sufficiently funded. Mark and Rebekah Fox were adopted as "Candidate Mission Partners" while they are studying at Oak Hill prior to applying to serve with OMF in East Asia.

Because of the Covid situation, we were not able to have our usual World Mission Sunday programme. Instead, we were able to host a well-attended Zoom meeting with all our Mission Partners in which they shared valuable insights. Our Mission Partners are each linked with a Fellowship Group, and each month

one of our Mission Partners is featured in the church prayer meeting. Vaughan Thomas from Open Doors spoke again at our Suffering Church Sunday in November, and we have established a regular prayer breakfast for the Open Doors and the suffering church every two months or so.

Our Mission Partners, like all of us, faced particular challenges in 2020 because of the pandemic, but this has also provided new opportunities, particularly through online platforms:

- John and Ruth McNeill, completed four years in Denmark and returned to UK, John to head up digital media strategies for Agapé Europe, Ruth to head up the Agapé support office in Birmingham.
- Phil and Ceri Keates had to shift their FamilyLife workshops online, with some encouraging results; Phil's Bible teaching for Agapé staff also went online.
- Mike and Linnet and their family have spent much of 2020 here with us as they were not able to travel back to their workplace, but this has provided opportunities to meet with Muslims here.
- Lyn and Andrew Griffin's digital media work for Agapé Italia could continue unabated, finding new ways to connect with students, and helping Agapé teams in other countries to do the same.
- Mike and Rachel Hill had to make significant changes to connect with international students online and other ways consistent with the Covid restrictions, opening ways to share the gospel.
- Jomo Nderitu's youth ministry in Kenya was also somewhat constrained but still managed to hold training and outreach activities across Marsabit Diocese.

*Nick Devas,
Chair, World Mission Committee*

Men's Ministry

Men's ministry has continued slowly this year due to the pandemic. There have been two Men's Breakfasts with everyone providing their own food, in May on Loving your body where we considered what the bible says about our bodies and the implications of that for a wide range of topics; and in July on serving God in the workplace. Some of us attended the Midlands Men's Convention online in November with John Stevens speaking on living for Christ in a changing, risky world. Blokes with Books also met online to discuss Questioning Evangelism by Randy Newman, The Good God by Mike Reeves, and Gentle & Lowly by Dane Ortlund. A couple of online gatherings for a drink and a chat happened.

Andy Martin

Children's Work

2020 has been a crazy year, full of chaos and confusion and change.

But several things have remained the same...

God is still in charge and Jesus still loves his church and the children that are part of it. It was good to remember that even though we have been separated, some of us here and some of us there, God is with us.

Our vision to partner with parents and carers to make disciples of Jesus has also stayed the same – it's just looked a bit different in lockdown!

January started off with thoughts of holiday club, plans for children moving up into Sunday Club and ideas for all sorts of activities. Then... lockdown!

We were concerned to make some sort of routine and structure for children who might be feeling a bit bewildered and confused. We also wanted to create a place where children could connect with one another. And we wanted to keep reassuring them of the unchanging and good truths of the Gospel.

Therefore, we moved Explorers (7 to 10 year olds) to Zoom (still on Thursday evenings at the usual time).

This has been a constant source of joy! The children have largely remained enthusiastic and keen to take part. We've continued to look at the Bible together, learning about King David, remembering the joy in Luke's gospel and learning skills that will help us read the Bible for ourselves. We've also played EVERY SINGLE ZOOM GAME that has ever been invented!

During the first lockdown we ran a mid-week Zoom group for the Climbers aged children. This was a lovely time of sharing news, singing together and hearing Bible stories.

As the way we did services changed we had to adapt the children's work. We started a weekly "Family Bible Time" that was available for people to watch as households at any point in the week. Christy Fung (our then Ministry Trainee) and I recorded sessions that included a Bible talk, chat, a game and something to make and do. These were great fun to put together (though the technology was a challenge at times).

As lockdown ended and we could meet in person again, we launched the gam service (aimed at households with under 11s). In order to make it COVID secure, numbers were limited and households sat on spaced out picnic blankets. This service has been really lovely. It's been a delight to see households chatting, praying and learning together. We have been looking at the same parts of the Bible as the 10.30 service.

I'd like to say a massive thank you to the Explorers Zoom team who have faithfully served this group every week. They have sung, played, made and taught the Bible with cheerfulness, enthusiasm and real love and concern for the children (even amongst difficult work and home situations themselves).

Thank you too to the wider Children's team who have hosted Zoom meetings, served as stewards and led in other mid-week or one off groups. They have been adaptable and servant- hearted.

Thank you to parents and carers who have worked hard to enable the kids to have access to devices, encouraged them to come, joined in to help their child and have persevered through really tough times.

And thank you to the kids. You've been fab! We thank God for you.

Work in schools

Unfortunately, we have been unable to go into schools to deliver assemblies. However, with Allan Ooi's help, I was able to record and package a harvest and Christmas assembly to send to schools for them to show in classrooms.

Andy Martin and I were also invited to take part in a pre-recorded Carol Service for Raddlebarn School.

Please pray that we will be able to continue with schools work in the near future.

Helen Buckley
Children's Worker

Stay and Play

In common with many other church activities Stay and Play was affected by Covid 19.

We met for the first 3 months of 2020 but closed our doors just before the lockdown in March 2020.

In the Summer term we sent out postcards to all those who were registered with us in an attempt to keep in touch.

Other than that we have relied on personal friendships to stay in contact with people. Plans for a 'baby group' were discussed in the Autumn term, but the second and third lockdowns have put those plans on hold for the time being. We are praying that it might be possible to start something up again after Easter.

Helen Hobbs

Dad's Stay and Play

This year sadly we have not managed any sessions of Dads' Stay & Play because of the pandemic. In normal times a faithful team of men serve the younger men with their children this way, providing bacon butties and coffee and tea on tap, manning the welcome desk and chatting to the men who come with little ones. We were regularly getting around 20 men with their children/grandchildren and we saw many of the same faces returning each month. Over half of these are not regular church members and we are seeing relationships growing through it. We hope to be able to pick up these relationships once lockdown lifts.

Andy Martin

Youth work

In almost every area of life, 2020 was a uniquely challenging year. Our youth work was not immune to the effects of the global pandemic, and much had to change at great pace. But through it all, God our Father has been faithful as we have continued to pursue our vision: "Partnering with parents in making disciples of Jesus".

Pathfinders began the year much as before: We met on Thursday evenings and Sunday's at the 10am service. It is strange to think back to sitting together, sharing out the Gold Bars and opening our Bibles, but we trust that we will do it again one day soon!

When lockdown started, we took a couple of weeks to ensure that we had properly considered online safety and safeguarding before launching Explorers and Pathfinders on Zoom. We have met on Thursday evenings to catch up with each other, play games and look at the Bible. We've studied The Lord's Prayer, King David (1 and 2 Samuel), 1 Peter, and Luke 1-2 (Christmas!).

Over the summer break we had chance to look at a devotional book called "Dig into Matthew" – working our way through Matthew's Gospel. We met up a few times on Zoom to chat about what we had been reading and learning, which was really encouraging.

Our leaders for Pathfinders in 2020 were Tom Bryant, Christy Fung, Charlie Robinson and Sophie Hobbs (from November).

Sadly our annual weekend away in October had to be cancelled – we hope this might be possible in 2021, so keep your eyes peeled for details!

Cross Section (for years 10-13) continued in 2020, at first meeting on Sundays before the 6pm service, when we ate toasties, studied the Bible and played bizarre games. We looked at some key doctrines of the Christian faith. We also met on Thursday afternoons for a more in depth Bible study, accompanied by cereal.

We quickly started meeting online on Thursdays for a Bible study in Lockdown #1 and into the summer term, but in September were able to meet up in-person on Sundays at 4pm, using the Cranmer Room with chairs spaced at 2m distance. It was quite a strange experience, with lots of muffled mask mishaps, but we enjoyed being able to do it. Lockdown #2 meant that this was no longer possible, and we switched to meeting online again. We still had some fun times though – a particular highlight were our "bake-along"

sessions, where we each made brownies and sausage rolls under the instruction of our most talented bakers (Thanks Naomi Bryant and Helen Hobbs!). My apologies for the mess made of kitchens... I hope you were compensated satisfactorily with the baked goods in question!

Examples of our Bible teaching this year are a series looking at the evidence for Jesus (Uncover:Luke), Genesis 1-3, Jonah, and 1 Peter.

During 2020 Cross Section was led by Tom and Naomi Bryant, Helen Buckley, and Imogen Prasad, as well as Helen Hobbs and Ruth Griffith, who helped as interpreters for one of the members.

I would like to record my thanks:

- To God our Father, who has sustained our work amongst young people through this really difficult time.
- To our leaders, who have worked so faithfully and diligently to love and serve the youth.
- To parents and carers, who have continued to encourage their young people to log-on and join in whilst juggling jobs, furlough, home-schooling and making the dinner!
- To the young people themselves, for persevering during this difficult trial, and especially to those who have continued to come despite not loving Zoom (who does!?) so that they can encourage others.

Tom Bryant
Youth Worker

Students

Life pre- COVID-19 seems a distant memory – so much has changed. 'Disruption' summarises much of our experience this year, with much happening online.

Autumn Term 2020

In September, Jess Stileman and David Li joined Ben Wells and Michael and Jill Webb as Rooted leaders, with Christy Fung stepping down.

Evening Services briefly resumed at St Wulstan's following strict COVID guidelines. Some students were able to visit during these early weeks.

Tuesday Rooted began online, due to the restrictions, looking at the book of Luke, with other seminars such as "persevering through COVID-19."

A small but faithful group of students emerged throughout the term finishing with an online Christmas party: students received special Christmas 'goodie boxes' of mince pies, sausage rolls, Christmas hats and a talk about how Jesus is our true 'comfort and joy' (Luke 2:21-38).

Spring Term 2021

At Tuesday Rooted online, students studied the book of Acts together, whilst a book group also met to discuss "Stay Salt." These envisioned and emboldened us to make Jesus known, strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Students also took part in the CU online Events Week 'Story' Birmingham (15th-19th February).

Other topics looked at were the theme of 'Suffering', whilst a 'Staycation' was booked for March – a day of talks and activities to grow and encourage us as a group.

We are unclear what the rest of the year will bring, but we trust that our Sovereign Lord will continue to grow us as Christians and use us in making Jesus known, in the power of His Spirit.

Ben Wells

International Students

In thinking about our church's forthcoming 150th anniversary, I was struck by how different the composition of our church is compared to what it must have been 150 years ago, not least in how international we are now. One of the main elements of this is international students. Over the past three decades, thousands of students from all over the world have come to study in our city's universities, and a great many of them live in our parish. This has provided a wonderful opportunity for the church to show Christian welcome and friendship, and that in turn provides opportunities for the gospel.

The main elements of our ministry in this area are the Globe Café, which (under normal circumstances!) meets weekly at St Wulstan's, and is run in conjunction with Friends International; home hospitality; and international Bible studies (mainly Chinese and Indonesian, but including internationals joining the Rooted student group). In addition, a number of international students are drawn to join our church during their time here.

2020 was, of course, unusual. Like everything else, Globe Café had to move online, but we are grateful to the Friends International team for enabling us to keep it going week by week. Home hospitality became impossible for much of the year, although new ways of connecting online and through socially distanced walks, etc. proved popular. With fewer international students arriving in the autumn, some of the regular activities were put on hold. But international Bible studies continued online, and new opportunities emerged for Bible studies with those who returned to their home countries, particularly China.

It was a joy to share in the baptism of a visiting academic (held in our garden in the summer), and of two international students during the autumn.

From September, Chris Stonehouse took on the leadership of Globe Café. We thank God for the great team of people committed to serving international students here.



Nick Devas

Music

Like many areas of church life, music ministry looked somewhat different in 2020.

As our services moved online, we had to find new ways of using music in our services – we tried various things including singing together on Zoom and pre-recorded videos from the writers of the songs themselves. In the latter part of the year, many of us really appreciated having 'live' music from our church music team again, even if we couldn't sing along in the church building.

Singing is a natural response to God's redeeming work in our lives, so being unable to sing together has been hard for many of us. How we long to be able to sing together again!

Through the difficulties of 2020, we have learnt some new songs that have really helped us reflect on our good God and all he does for us. Here are some of the words from the songs we've been learning. Can you recognise which song each lyric comes from?

*"Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh*

Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?"

*"In the longest day, know the vict'ry is won;
Do not fear the world, he has overcome,
You are safe in him covered by his love."*

*"Upon His head, a crown of thorns.
Upon His heart, a broken world.
The wage of sin, the weight of our transgressions,
Upon Him, upon Him."*

Allan Ooi

Day Centre

Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic our helpers have had weekly telephone contact with our members and report how resilient they all are. I have visited them from time to time with gifts and flowers and sent out newsletters. In these I include a brief gospel thought to encourage members to focus their thoughts on Jesus and our father God.

Sadly, Margaret Brown, a founder member of the Day Centre and a longstanding member of St Stephens, died in the last 12 months. Although none of us could attend the funeral the cortege stopped outside the church so Chris Hobbs could pray for Margaret's family and those of us who were present to mark her passing.

It is hard to imagine what the future ministry to this group will look like when we are free to meet again. We are few in number so it may be time to reflect on how the church might continue to meet the needs of older people in the church and the community.

Jean Phillips

Christians Against Poverty : Birmingham South Debt Centre

Covid has had a huge impact on the service Christians Against Poverty can provide. Clients can no longer be visited in their homes and all advice is given over the phone or internet which has proved challenging. However new systems have been put in place and the charity continues to offer the best possible service to its clients whilst adhering to Covid and FCA regulations.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a debt counselling charity which partners with local churches to tackle the root causes of poverty right in the heart of the community.

St. Stephen's is one of five local churches which finance and support the South Birmingham Debt Centre. Our centre is managed by Judy Ward, a member of Christ Church working alongside Nicky Sammons.

Each client self-refers to CAP Head Office where the appointments are allocated. Nicky then arranges to visit each client in their home to gather financial information, offer support where there often is none, and give them the opportunity to hear the gospel (95% of clients respond positively to prayer).

All information gathered goes to head office where a budgeting plan is drawn up enabling the client to become debt free if they implement the recommendations and work in partnership with CAP. The path is rarely straightforward and many clients require a lot of additional support as they go through the process as in many cases they are struggling with other issues as well as debt. These can include physical and mental health issues, job loss and abusive relationships. We have been greatly encouraged to see how God can provide even in the most difficult of situations.

Nicky is always accompanied on each visit by a volunteer from one of the partner churches, who can offer

friendship, support and prayer as appropriate. There is a constant need for more volunteers who can help in this way, especially anyone who is free during the day.

Despite Covid restrictions seven clients became debt free in the last year. And at Christmas time all our clients still received generous food and gift hampers either donated by a local business or purchased with donations. And at half term families were given vouchers to buy toys or crafting materials for their children.

This has been a challenging time for CAP and our prayer is that we would continue to look to God's strength for the best ways to serve people in our community and ultimately point them to Jesus.

If you would like to know more, or might be interested in helping with this work, do please speak to me, Richard or Helen.

Nicky Sammons

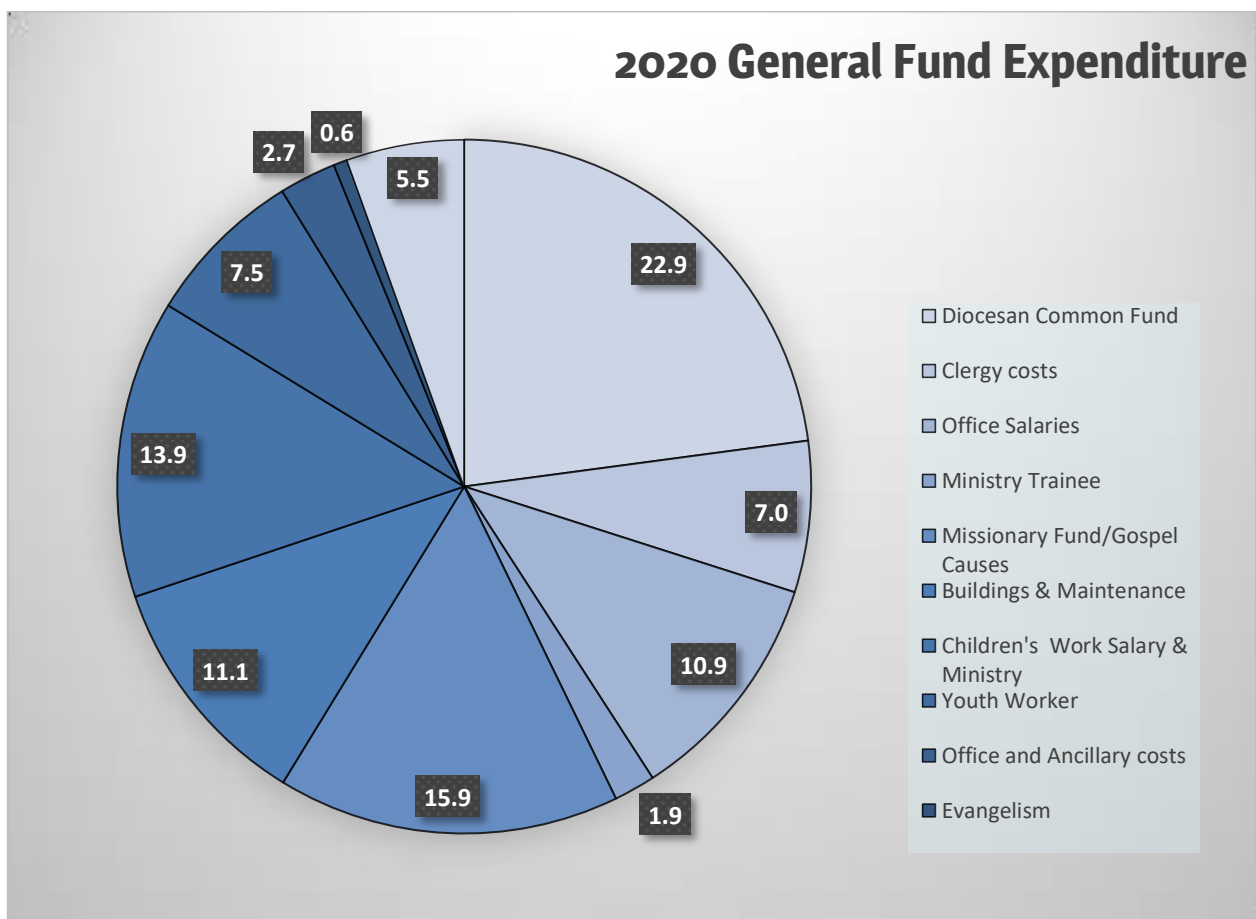
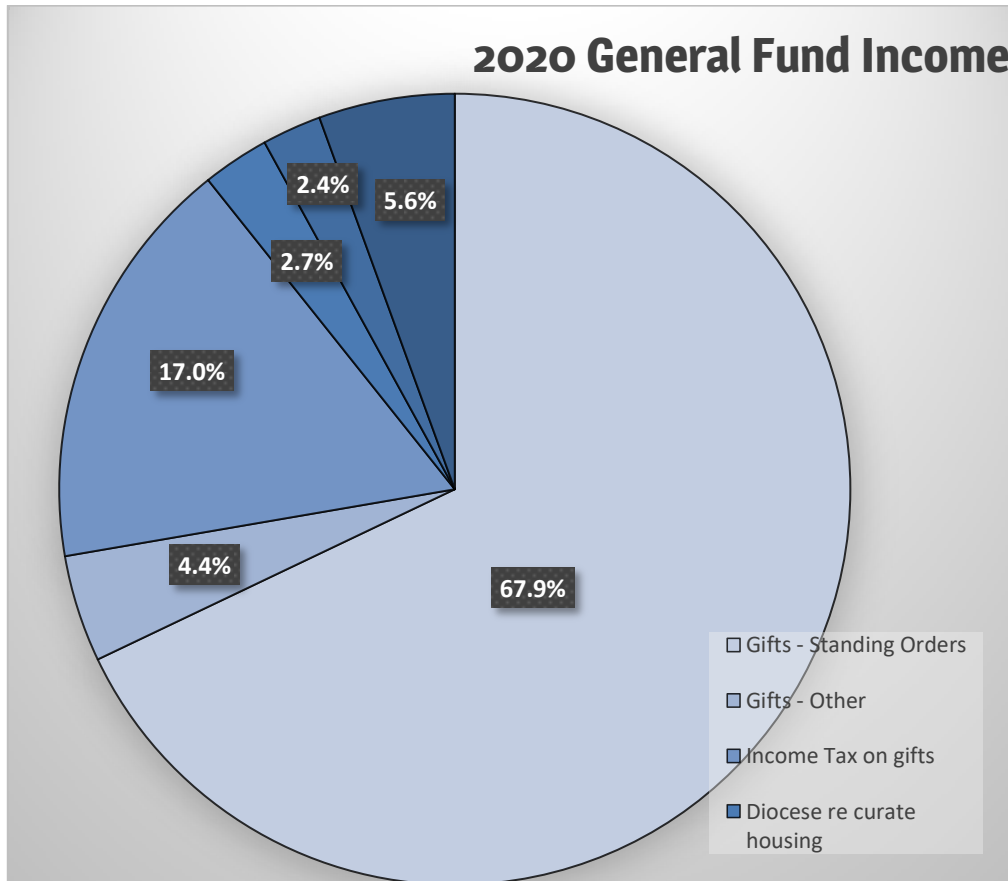
Churches Together Winter Night Shelter

The Covid pandemic has prompted national and local government to provide extra facilities for night shelter for homeless people, including those who do not qualify for benefits. The result is that there are fewer people sleeping rough although with less or no help in the evenings from volunteers.

In order for St. Stephen's to keep in touch with developments, Maurice Sinclair has continued as a member of a Churches Together committee. Current restrictions do not make it possible to create a new night shelter, and so the committee has taken the decision to transfer its funds to Birmingham City Mission, Reach Out Network Ministries and Tabor House, dividing them equally between the three. The committee will remain alert to any new possibilities of helping the homeless.

Maurice Sinclair
January 2021

Financial Statements



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 01 JAN 20 TO 31 DEC 20

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19					01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20
All Funds		Unrestrd Funds	Restrict Funds	Endowmnt Funds	Total Funds
£		£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
302,294	Incoming resources from donors	246,033	58,274	-	304,307
4,375	Grants received	7,630	-	-	7,630
19,205	Income from operating activity	12,167	1,199	-	13,366
48	Activities to generate funds	-	-	-	-
386	Income from Investment	289	-	-	289
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
326,310	Total Incoming Resources	266,119	59,473	-	325,592
Resources Expended					
461	Cost of Generating Funds	-	-	-	-
44,716	Grants	2,182	54,577	-	56,759
286,104	Expenditure on church work	214,717	67,430	-	282,147
556	Buildings development	-	391	-	391
344	Governance costs	100	-	-	100
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
332,183	Total Resources Used	216,999	122,398	-	339,397
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
(5,873)	NET RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	49,120	(62,925)	-	(13,805)
Transfers Between Funds					
-	Miscellaneous Transfers	(56,267)	56,267		-
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
(5,873)	NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES	(7,147)	(6,658)	0	(13,805)
Gains and Losses on Fixed Assets					
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
(5,873)	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(7,147)	(6,658)	0	(13,805)
495,134	Fund Balances Bt Fwd 01 Jan 20	453,730	35,530	0	489,260
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
489,260	FUND BALANCES CD FWD 31 Dec 20	446,583	28,872	0	475,455
=====		=====	=====	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DEC 2020

31 Dec 19 £		31 Dec 20 £
	FIXED ASSETS	
392,245	Buildings at Cost	392,245
	CURRENT ASSETS	
13,368	Income tax reclaimable	4,405
893	Other debtors	480
8,378	Prepayments	6,761
-----		-----
22,640	Total Debtors	11,646
	Cash At Bank and In Hand	
16,769	Lloyds Bank Current Account	8,157
10,753	Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account	16,663
1,000	St Stephens Building Fund CBF	1,000
338	Cash	80
51,000	St Stephens/St Wulstans CBF	51,000
-----		-----
79,861	Total Cash At Bank and In Hand	76,900
-----		-----
102,501		88,546
-----		-----
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
	Creditors Due Within One Year	
106	Diocesan Fees Payable	-
1,312	Other Creditors	-
251	Accruals - Missionary Giving	-
3,637	Accruals - Other	5,337
180	Lloyds Bank Credit Card	-
-----		-----
5,486	Total Creditors Due Within One Year	5,337
97,014	NET CURRENT ASSETS	83,209
489,260	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	475,454
-----		-----
489,260	NET ASSETS	475,454
=====		=====
	Represented by Funds	
	Unrestricted Funds	
57,800	Parish General Fund	51,131
392,246	Property Fund	392,246
-	PCC Reserve Fund	-
3,685	Discretionary Fund	3,207
-----		-----
453,731	Total Unrestricted Funds	446,584
	Restricted Funds	
3,542	Missionary Fund	4,887
11,664	St Stephen's Building Fund	4,045
7,255	Day Centre Fund	7,021
104	Stay and Play Fund	253
1,096	Winter Night Shelter	1,096
(2,647)	Youth Worker Fund	7,245
12,169	Associate Minister Fund	1,439
2,345	Ministry Trainee Fund	1,131
-	Maduk Fund	1,753
-----		-----
35,529	Total Restricted Funds	28,870
-----		-----
489,260	TOTAL FUNDS	475,454
=====		=====

SUMMARY OF MOVEMENTS ON ALL FUNDS 01 Jan 20 TO 31 Dec 20

BALANCE 01 Jan 20 £	FUND	INCOME £	EXPENSES £	TRANSFERS /GAINS £	BALANCE 31 Dec 20 £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
57,800	Parish General Fund	265,252	216,154	(55,767)	51,131
392,246	Property Fund	-	-	-	392,246
-	PCC Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-
3,685	Discretionary Fund	867	845	(500)	3,207
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
453,731	Totals of Unrestricted Funds	266,119	216,999	(56,267)	446,584
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
3,542	Missionary Fund	1,551	44,306	44,100	4,887
11,665	St Stephen's Building Fund	2,104	391	(9,333)	4,045
7,254	Day Centre Fund	798	1,031	-	7,021
104	Stay and Play Fund	401	252	-	253
1,096	Winter Night Shelter	-	-	-	1,096
(2,647)	Youth Worker Fund	17,328	28,436	21,000	7,245
12,169	Associate Minister Fund	27,826	38,556	-	1,439
2,345	Ministry Trainee Fund	5,962	7,176	-	1,131
-	Maduk Fund	3,503	2,250	500	1,753
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
35,528	Totals for Restricted Funds	59,473	122,398	56,267	28,870
-----		-----	-----	-----	-----
489,260	TOTALS FOR ALL FUNDS	325,592	339,397	-	475,455
=====		=====	=====	=====	=====

NET MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS IN THE YEAR

01 Jan 19- 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20- 31 Dec 20 £
3,119	Parish General Fund	(6,669)
1,628	St Stephens Building Fund	(7,620)
(4,700)	Youth Worker Fund	9,892
6,268	Associate Minister Fund	(10,730)
3,685	Discretionary Fund	(478)
(3,337)	Movement on other funds	1,800
-----		-----
(5,873)		(13,805)
=====		=====

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENTS
01 Jan 20 TO 31 Dec 20

Parish General Fund (Unrestricted Fund)			
01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		2020 Budget 12 Months £	01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
Income			
5,329	Gifts - Loose Cash/Cheques	3,040	1,765
1,206	Gifts - Envelopes	1,150	294
185,399	Gifts - Standing Orders	183,024	186,501
5,784	Gifts - CAF/UKET	4,800	4,400
45,527	Income Tax on gifts	45,489	46,664
-	Payroll giving / GYE	-	-
820	Gifts - Giving Response	35,927	5,540
470	Bookstall sales	500	53
863	Wedding/Funeral Fees	1,000	3,276
480	Other income/sales(excl books)	3,000	2,310
11,565	Room Hire Income	9,500	6,660
4,375	Diocese re Curates Housing	7,500	7,500
380	Interest	375	289
-----		-----	-----
262,200	TOTAL INCOME	295,305	265,252
-----		-----	-----
Expenditure			
61,729	Diocesan Contributions	62,799	64,362
27,357	Admin & Finance Salaries	40,478	30,762
2,356	Ministry Trainee Costs	6,600	5,436
7,240	Clergy Expenses	6,250	5,789
1,067	Staff Expenses	1,300	217
380	Speakers Expenses	700	-
5,371	Office	5,500	5,208
36,063	Children's Worker - Salary	36,922	35,847
928	Youth work	1,500	857
1,252	Children's work	1,500	1,220
6,299	Insurance	6,500	5,556
14,937	Buildings/Maintenance	12,407	12,194
10,670	Heat, Light and Power	11,000	8,869
6,068	Cleaning	6,200	4,220
344	Consultancy and Inspection	250	100
32	International Student Worker	-	-
8,679	Curates Expenses	16,000	14,020
750	Midlands Gospel Partnership	750	750
-	Weekend Away / at Home	-	-
861	Music	949	898
730	Student Work	800	913
3,521	Evangelism	2,500	1,818
1,581	Parish Computer Systems	1,060	2,178
98	PA Systems Equipment	500	9,660
461	Bookstall Costs	-	-
2,642	Miscellaneous Expenses	2,250	3,088
7,446	Unbudgeted expenditure	-	-
133	103 Bournbrook Road	900	419
935	Kitchen	1,000	121
1,531	St Wulstans restart	400	219
-	Associate Minister	-	-
2,000	CAP Contribution	2,000	1,433
41,800	Transfer to Missionary Fund	43,650	44,100
3,812	Transfer to Youth Worker Fund	21,000	21,000
-	Transfer from Building Fund	-	(9,333)
-	Contingency	2,000	-
-----		-----	-----
259,081	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	295,305	271,921
-----		-----	-----
3,119	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	-	(6,669)
54,681	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20		57,800
-----			-----
57,800	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20		51,131
=====			=====

Missionary Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		2020 Budget 12 Months £	01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income		
41,800	Transfer from Parish General	43,650	44,100
314	Specified Gifts	-	1,301
50	Income Tax on gifts	-	250
-----		-----	-----
42,164	TOTAL INCOME	43,650	45,651
-----		-----	-----
	Expenditure		
1,215	Chris Hobbs trip to Myanmar	1,000	256
2,200	Friends International re Hills	2,200	2,200
10,600	Agape re McNeills	10,800	11,000
8,700	Agape re Keates	9,650	10,000
10,300	Reach Across re Harveys	10,600	11,900
6,200	Agape re Griffins	6,500	6,500
251	Specific Gifts - Open Doors	-	(50)
-	Short term assignments	500	-
2,000	Support for Foxes	2,000	2,000
500	Crosslinks re Marsabit youth	500	500
-	Weekend at Home costs	400	-
-----		-----	-----
41,967	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	44,250	44,306
-----		-----	-----
197	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	(600)	1,345
3,345	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20		3,542
-----			-----
3,542	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20		4,887
=====			=====

St Stephen's Building Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
1,419	Donations - Cash	-
280	Donations - Standing Orders	1,691
432	Income tax reclaimed	413
48	Income from events	-
5	Bank Interest	-
-----		-----
2,185	TOTAL INCOME	2,104
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
-	Professional expenses	-
180	Storage and equipping	-
-	Transfer to Parish General Fund	9,333
377	Sundry maintenance & repair costs	391
-----		-----
557	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	9,724
-----		-----
1,628	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	(7,620)
10,036	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	11,665
-----		-----
11,665	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	4,045
=====		=====

PCC Reserve Fund (Unrestricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
-	Income	-
-----		-----
-	TOTAL INCOME	-
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
6,000	Transfer to Youth Worker Fund	-
-----		-----
6,000	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-
-----		-----
(6,000)	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	-
6,000	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	-
-----		-----
-	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	-
=====		=====

Day Centre Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
4,158	St Stephens Day Centre Income	798
12	Donations - Cash	-
-----		-----
4,170	TOTAL INCOME	798
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
1,646	Milk, Food, Cooks wages & Cake	330
-	Christmas meal	-
2,204	Shencare Transport	580
158	Other Sundry expenses	121
80	Contribution to oven cleaning	-
-----		-----
4,088	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,031
-----		-----
82	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	(233)
7,172	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	7,254
-----		-----
7,254	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	7,021
=====		=====

Stay and Play Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
1,669	Stay and Play - Income	401
-----		-----
1,669	TOTAL INCOME	401
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
1,631	Stay and Play - Expenditure	252
-----		-----
1,631	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	252
-----		-----
38	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	149
66	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	104
-----		-----
104	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	253
=====		=====

Youth Worker Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		2020 Budget 12 Months £	01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income		
295	Gifts - Loose Cash/Cheques	-	-
11,270	Gifts - Standing Orders	13,583	9,728
500	Gifts - One Off	-	4,351
1,500	Gifts - Annual	1,875	-
3,366	Income Tax on gifts	300	3,249
-	Grants received	-	-
3,812	Transfer from Parish General	21,000	21,000
6,000	Transfer from PCC Reserve	-	-
-----		-----	-----
26,743	TOTAL INCOME	36,758	38,328
-----		-----	-----
	Expenditure		
23,638	Salary and pension costs	24,198	23,655
4,894	Oak Hill Fees	5,094	4,261
1,795	Travel costs to Oak Hill	2,400	335
1,116	Other Expenses	1,175	185
-----		-----	-----
31,443	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32,867	28,436
-----		-----	-----
(4,700)	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	3,891	9,892
2,053	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20		(2,647)
-----			-----
(2,647)	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20		7,245
=====			=====

Associate Minister Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		2020 Budget 12 Months £	01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income		
125	Gifts - Loose Cash/Cheques	-	-
20,838	Gifts - Standing Orders	22,452	18,877
250	Gifts - One Off	-	466
2,000	Gifts - Annual	4,000	500
5,586	Income Tax on gifts	6,443	4,543
3,000	Gifts - Stewardship	3,000	3,440
960	Gifts - CAF	960	-
-----		-----	-----
32,759	TOTAL INCOME	36,855	27,826
-----		-----	-----
	Expenditure		
36,813	Salary and pension costs	37,804	36,738
2,213	Council tax	2,065	1,818
-----		-----	-----
39,026	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	39,869	38,556
-----		-----	-----
(6,268)	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	(3,014)	(10,730)
18,437	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20		12,169
-----			-----
12,169	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20		1,439
=====			=====

Discretionary Fund (Unrestricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
3,098	Gifts - Discretionary Fund	700
587	Income tax on gifts	167
-----		-----
3,685	TOTAL INCOME	867
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
-	Grants	845
-	Transfer to other Funds	500
-----		-----
-	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,345
-----		-----
3,685	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	(478)
-	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	3,685
-----		-----
3,685	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	3,207
=====		=====

Ministry Trainee Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
1,950	Gifts - Bank Transfers	5,030
395	Income tax on gifts	932
-----		-----
2,345	TOTAL INCOME	5,962
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
-	Disbursements	7,176
-----		-----
-	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,176
-----		-----
2,345	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	(1,214)
-	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	2,345
-----		-----
2,345	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	1,131
=====		=====

Maduk Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
-	Gifts	2,765
-	Transfer from Discretionary Fund	500
-	Income tax on gifts	738
-----		-----
-	TOTAL INCOME	4,003
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
-	Grants and disbursements	2,250
-----		-----
-	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,250
-----		-----
-	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	1,753
-	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	-
-----		-----
-	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	1,753
=====		=====

Winter Night Shelter Fund (Restricted Fund)

01 Jan 19 - 31 Dec 19 £		01 Jan 20 - 31 Dec 20 £
	Income	
-	Gifts	-
-	Transfer from Discretionary Fund	-
-	Income tax on gifts	-
-----		-----
-	TOTAL INCOME	-
-----		-----
	Expenditure	
-	Grants and disbursements	-
-----		-----
-	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-
-----		-----
-	SURPLUS (OR DEFICIT)	-
1,096	Balance brought forward 01 Jan 20	1,096
-----		-----
1,096	Balance carried forward 31 Dec 20	1,096
=====		=====

Parish of St Stephen and St Wulstan, Selly Park, Birmingham

Notes to the financial statements 2020

Accounting policies

These are given in a separate paper and are based on the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, prescribed by the General Synod.

Unrestricted, Restricted and Endowment Funds

A list of funds can be seen in the detailed balance sheet at the bottom of page 3 of the financial statements.

The Parish General Fund is used to pay for the running costs and maintenance of the two centres, non clergy staff (including Children's Worker and Administrative staff), the Diocesan common fund, buildings insurance, clergy housing and other parish expenses. All running costs associated with the Day Centre are held in a separate fund as these were in the past subject to funding from Birmingham City Council.

The PCC approved a transfer of £44.1k during 2020 to missionary and charitable causes. This giving is reflected in the Missionary Fund. To emphasise the commitment to this purpose, the PCC has deemed this to be a restricted fund. This Fund also records where individuals have made specified gifts via the parish, which have been or will be passed onto the recipients concerned.

St Stephen's Building Fund is regarded by the PCC as a restricted fund. The Fund was established for the purpose of the Building for the Future project to renovate the church building, the majority of work being completed in 2015 and a small contingency balance left to meet unforeseen requirements linked to the project. During the year, a transfer of £9,333 was made from the Building Fund to the General Fund in respect of the installation of new equipment required to live stream services during the UK Coronavirus Lockdown. Although not envisaged in the original building project plans, the PCC considered these works to be wholly within the purview of the Fund and therefore deemed it appropriate to meet this cost with restricted funds.

The Property Fund represents the purchase of 103 Bournbrook Road which took place in June 2010 as housing for the Assistant Minister.

A Winter Night Shelter Fund was created in 2013 to help with the needs of homeless people. In order to ensure donations are only used for this purpose this is deemed to be a restricted fund.

A Youth Worker Fund was created in 2017 in order to administer donations given specifically to fund the youth worker as well as his expenses. In order to ensure donations are only used for this purpose this is deemed to be a restricted fund. The PCC approved a transfer of £21.0k from the Parish General Fund during 2020 to ensure that sufficient funds were available to cover Youth Worker Fund costs.

An Assistant Minister Fund was created in 2018 in order to administer donations given specifically to fund the Assistant Minister as well as his expenses. In order to ensure donations are only used for this purpose this is deemed to be a restricted fund.

Remuneration

The PCC's employees are paid from the Parish General Fund, Associate Minister Fund and Youth Worker Fund as appropriate.

Parish of St Stephen and St Wulstan, Selly Park, Birmingham

Notes to the financial statements 2020

Fixed Assets

This represents the purchase of 103 Bournbrook Road which took place in June 2010 to provide housing for the Assistant Minister.

Debtors and Prepayments

There are no significant debtors in the current year although a significant amount of income tax recoverable in respect of Gift Aid is due relating to unrestricted giving as well as donations to the various restricted funds. This balance was claimed in January 2021.

Prepayments relate to a proportion of the annual insurance premium paid in 2020 which relates to insurance cover in 2021 together other smaller advance payments relating to Church activities in 2021.

Following the end of the financial year, the PCC was made aware that the venue for its forthcoming church family weekend away has been placed into Administration. A deposit had been made of £500 as at 31 December 2020, which is currently recognised in Prepayments. The PCC understands that the Administrators are in discussion with a third party looking to acquire the venue as a going concern, which is likely to include the purchase of the current order book and recognition of payments made on account. Accordingly, no provision is deemed necessary in respect of this amount.

Current Liabilities

This primarily consists of amounts due for sundry items relating to the Parish General Fund incurred during the final quarter of 2020.

All Parish Share (Common Fund) contributions for 2020 were paid in full during the year.

Income

Donated general income is recorded in accounts for the Parish General Fund.

The proportion of tax efficient giving has increased to 96.1% of the maximum possible on the total donated income, excluding CAF and Payroll giving (2019 : 94.5%). Efforts to maintain this high rate of tax efficient donations / giving are part of a constant process in this area.

Related Party Transactions

The following members of the PCC had the following transactions with the parish during the year (other than the reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the two churches):

C Hobbs, A Martin and B Wells received the following non specific expenses:

- mileage which was paid at Diocesan rates of 45p per mile (30p per mile outside the Diocese).
- contributions to housing and IT costs in line with PCC recommendations.

H Buckley was employed by the parish as a children's worker and received a salary of £31,469 and pension contributions of £2,674 were made on her behalf.

Parish of St Stephen & St Wulstan, Selly Park, Birmingham

Statement of Accounting Policies 2020

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

The Parish General Fund, the Property Fund and the PCC Reserve Fund represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body (e.g. St Wulstan's Brownies) nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Offerings are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under standing order is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised from the church bookstall are accounted for gross, as are donations for missionary purposes.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is paid.

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for when received except for interest due from HMR&C which is recognised when notified of the amount due.

Resources used

Grants

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

Parish of St Stephen & St Wulstan, Selly Park, Birmingham

Statement of Accounting Policies 2020

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by section 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises will be depreciated on a straight line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

A photocopier is leased by an agreement entered into in December 2016.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Vicar:

Rev. Chris Hobbs
18 Selly Wick Road
Selly Park
Birmingham

Bank:

Lloyds Bank
142 Edgbaston Park Road
Birmingham

Independent Examiner:

Dale Brusby
11 Woodstock Court
Birmingham

Chris Hobbs (Chairman)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

St Stephen's and St Wulstan's Churches, Selly Park

**On accounts for the year
ended**

December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1135051

Set out on pages

23-37

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2020.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Churches accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

D R. Brusby

Date:

26/3/21

Name:

Dale Brusby

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body**

ACMA CGMA

Address:

11 Woodstock Court, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 1DX

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Oct 2018