

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN'S SANDIWAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1135082

Details

Other names SANDIWAY PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-22

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

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: Provision of a church building for Christian worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals, occasional exhibitions & concerts etc. Provision of a separate parish hall which is largely used by the wider & secular community for various community group activities. Pastoral support. The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos. Donations to UK based charities which help the disadvantaged.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£129,336	£134,187	-	-
2023-12-31	£138,399	£132,937	-	-
2022-12-31	£167,724	£124,019	-	-
2021-12-31	£120,061	£126,610	-	-
2020-12-31	£110,493	£126,527	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Ruth Elizabeth Mock	Chair	2019-10-01
Alison Mary Fletcher		2014-06-02
Andrew William Carter BSC		2014-06-02
Ann Lucas		2023-05-21
Benjamin Patrick Fletcher		2024-05-19
ERIC WRIGHT		
Heather Margaret Williams		2021-05-19
Jane Green		2017-04-23
Janet Elizabeth Buttanshaw		2026-01-01
John Goulden		2021-05-19
Nicola Ellen Cowie		2019-05-13
Paul Gerrard Stevenson		2013-10-29
Peter Westwood		2022-05-29
SUE HADDEN		2012-10-27
Stewart Hadden		2014-04-27
Susan Amanda Shaw		2021-05-19

Accounts



*St John's Church,
Sandiway
Activities in 2024*

Vicar's Report

In October 2024 I celebrated 5 years as Vicar of St John's – it's remarkable how quickly time has flown and conversely how long it seems since I took up the post! As I look back over my time as Vicar and the last year in particular, it seems to me that 2024 was a year of consolidation, both in terms of worship and development of the Heritage Building Project in Sandiway.



Worship

We were delighted that Dr Emma Morley joined us as Director of Music in January 2024 and quickly settled in to leading the choir and accompanying our morning and evening services on piano and organ.

Our weekly and monthly pattern of worship continued with a range of traditional and informal services in the church and church hall:

1st Sunday of the month: Breakfast Church/ Muddy Church
Evensong from Book of Common Prayer

2nd Sunday of the month: Morning Praise with Sunday Club
Celtic Communion

3rd Sunday of the month: Holy Communion with Sunday Club
Take 40 – a reflective service on a theme

4th Sunday of the month: Morning Praise with Sunday Club
Celtic Communion

5th Sunday of the month: Holy Communion
Open House – a café style evening service with an invited guest

In 2024 our Open House guests were Rt Rev Sam Corley, and Councillor Gillian Edwards.

Thursdays: 9.30am Holy Communion in church followed by refreshments
6.15pm Night Prayer in church

Since the pandemic we have worked hard to rebuild our work with children and families, and it has been good to see a number of new families at Breakfast Church and Muddy Church and a small group of children who now regularly attend Sunday Club. I am grateful to Janet Buttanshaw and Alison Harris for leading our work with children and young families.

Festival Services and Occasional offices

The Easter and Christmas services were well attended in 2024. It was wonderful to see regular members of the congregation alongside visitors at our Christingle service, the Carol Service and Christmas Communion. The church was full for each of these services with approximately 100 people in church for our Communion services and 130 adults and children attending the Crib service.

There were 13 baptisms and 6 weddings at St John's in 2024. There were 10 funerals conducted by the Ministry Team during the year: 7 were held at St John's, and 3 took place at the crematorium.

A House of Prayer

Weekday opening of the church continued in 2024 allowing people to drop in and enjoy the peace and quiet of the building, say a prayer or look around at the John Douglas architecture. Comments in the visitors' book show how valuable people have found the opportunity to come in and look around, and many appreciate the opportunity to spend time at St John's.

Our annual Prayer weekend in September drew people together to explore the theme of "Unity and Light" through crafts and music. Sandra Stevenson once again coordinated a brilliant weekend and also invited different groups within the community to contribute to a display that filled the church for Advent. Sandra's gift for reaching and inspiring so many different groups, from Nurseries to Nursing Homes, came to fruition in artwork displayed in church throughout December.



Changes to the Leadership and Ministry Teams

We said goodbye to John Fraser, one of our Church Wardens in February as he and Marian relocated to North Wales. It was sad to see them leave and I am very grateful for their contribution to so many areas of church life.

We are fortunate to have a team of people who lead worship, preach, preside and lead the congregation in prayer. In April 2024, Rev Lorraine Reed joined the Ministry Team and now regularly preaches, presides and leads worship at St John's alongside other members of team. In September 2024 Ben Fletcher began training to be a Reader and has begun to preach and lead services too.



Heritage Building Project

In 2024 we consolidated work on Phase 1 of the Heritage Building Project by installing new lighting in church. A sympathetic design by Brent Sansom was installed in church in August and September 2024 by the contractors. The difference has been stunning – the sandstone walls now glow under the new lighting and the baptistry, nave and chancel are beautifully lit. Phase 1 has now been completed thanks to the hard work of John Goulden, our project manager and the fundraising efforts coordinated by Julie Westgate and the Social and Fundraising Team who continued to work very hard throughout the year. I am very grateful to everyone who gave generously to the lighting fund and helped us complete Phase 1.

In the summer the PCC took steps towards selling the Vicarage Field so that the profits can be invested in the next Phase of our Building Project. The legalities of this have been very slow to complete, but we hope that the sale will be completed early in 2025.

Work with schools

I continued to offer Experience Easter and Experience Christmas sessions for local Primary schools in 2024. The church was decorated with displays that help to explain why Easter and Christmas are significant festivals for Christians and I led interactive visits for 120 children in March and December.

We also welcomed the Beavers and Brownies to church in December and enjoyed spending time with them as they gained their Faith badges.

I have taken assemblies at Cuddington Primary and Sandiway Primary School and also welcomed children into church for talks about John Douglas and the history of Sandiway.

Eco Church

In 2024 we were awarded a Silver Eco Church award as we continued to address issues of sustainability within our buildings and in our practices. Thanks to Alison Harris, Bev Goodger and Jane Green for coordinating and championing this work.

Vicar's Report

Governance

I am very grateful to our trustees who meet regularly in our Parochial Church Council (PCC) to oversee our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington and those who represent us within the wider Deanery. As Charity Trustees when planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In August, members of the PCC and other team leaders gathered for an away day where we looked to the future. We had plenty of time to talk and share ideas, focusing on the things we celebrate as a church as well as our fears for the future. We recognise that there are significant challenges in the years to come, both in the demographic make-up of our congregations and the responsibility of caring for our buildings. The rising cost of Parish Share (monthly payments to the Diocese of Chester) is also a cause for concern as it is not clear how we can meet the sharp increase demanded of us in 2025.

Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2025 and beyond

- ◆ Launching Phase 2 of the Heritage Building Project to add a purpose-built annexe to the south side of the church
- ◆ Exploring grant funding for the Heritage Building Project
- ◆ To recruit new members to the leadership team – particularly finding a second church warden.
- ◆ To find a sustainable way to meet the rising cost of our monthly Parish Share payable to the Diocese
- ◆ Developing Heritage materials, including videos to focus on the history of St John's
- ◆ Develop work with children through music

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time and talents to support our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. Particular thanks go to Ali Fletcher, who has been the sole church warden since February 2024 and has worked very hard throughout the year, spinning numerous plates. There are so many people who use their gifts and talents at St John's that it's impossible to name them all individually but thank you to the lay ministers, the members of the PCC and the dedicated teams whose creativity and skills enhance our life together.

Rev Ruth Mock





The Ark

The Ark is a café founded by the church for the benefit of the community, run by volunteers. All profits are donated to local causes. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and customers who help make the Ark THE place to eat in the village on a Friday. We had a busy year. As a result we were able to help: Sandiway Rainbows by providing funds to train and insure 4 new volunteers; St Luke's new dementia care unit; the North West critical care unit; Sandiway Primary school's quiet outdoor space; Cuddington Primary school for pupil iPads; the Joshua Tree therapy kits, Northwich Salvation Army for their work with local homeless people.

During the year we also supported Rosebank Special School, MacMillan nurses and the Children's Society. In all a total of £3,500 from the year's profits.

In the summer holidays, each Friday we supplied over 30 free packed lunches to the Library for local families to pick up. This was all the result of many coffees and cakes enjoyed, lunches shared, new friends made and a lot of therapeutic chat along the way,

Arts in the Ark

Arts in the Ark continued to meet throughout the year with just short breaks for Christmas and the pantomime season. The weekly drop-in session has offered people in the church and wider community a friendly space in which to meet, paint or craft. For the first part of 2024 we continued to meet in the church hall and thanks go to John Palin helping to set up the trestle tables which he has done for many years. Julie Westgate, along with some group members, kindly stepped up and ensured the weekly session continued to run in the second half of the year. It was decided to move the sessions back into the Ark; setting up is easier and members enjoyed the change. Julie's dedication and kindness is much appreciated and she continues to set up whenever she can. Her support is invaluable. Artists and crafters alike now look forward to our tenth anniversary of creativity and friendship.



Book groups

Our book groups continue to meet to discuss a wide range of interesting and sometimes challenging texts.

Charitable giving

There is an annual meeting to discuss possible charitable causes to support through our outward giving.

Suggestions made by members of the church are considered and a list of possible good causes drawn up to reflect a balance of worldwide, national and local charities to be finally approved by Ruth and the PCC.

Examples of chosen charities include Mercy Ships and A Rocha, a global family of conservation and environmental organisations. Funds are also set aside for the Vicar's discretionary hardship fund. A file containing current information, newsletters and acknowledgments is compiled annually and placed in the church for reference.

Christian Aid

One of the charities we support every year is Christian Aid, which helps some of the poorest people in the world, campaigns for justice and responds with immediate help to the victims of natural disasters. In 2024 the theme of Christian Aid Week (12th – 18th May) focused on their work in Burundi where over 70% of the population suffer from poverty and malnourishment putting them on the edge of survival. One example was Aline who, after suffering abuse, became homeless and separated from her children. Her life was turned round through help from Christian Aid which gave her a loan and access to business training. As a result she was able to set up as a grocery wholesaler and now earns enough money to support herself and her children who are now back living with her. Together we raised £822 (+ Gift Aid) through a sponsored walk, lunches in the Ark and direct donations. At Sunday morning worship we celebrated and prayed for Christian Aid's work. This is one way in which we help to put God's love into action and contribute to the growth of God's kingdom. We are grateful to everyone who was involved in any way.

Eco Church

We are delighted that Jane Green has joined the team and we have really appreciated her involvement and contribution.

Wildlife gardening in the church garden has seen further developments:

- ◆ Relocating the bug hotel
- ◆ Planting English bluebells, primroses, violets and stitchwort along the holly bank
- ◆ Planting meadow perennials like ox eye daisies and red campion in the pollinator zone
- ◆ Planting meadow buttercups, birds foot trefoil and orange knapweed in the No Mow May zone.



Activities at St John's



The Eco team have continued meeting twice a year with Ruth, Ali and John Goulden to consider ways in which we as a church can reduce our carbon footprint. We have been particularly mindful of the limited life of the heating systems and have been considering possibilities for replacing them. Brian Harris completed the annual Energy Footprint return to the Church of England. Our poor rating in 2022 meant that we qualified for a free energy audit conducted

in December 2024 which gave advice about reducing our carbon footprint in the medium term. Advice was also given for the church hall where potential gains are greater.

We continued to contribute a monthly article to the parish magazine, and we maintained a noticeboard in the church hall to share updates of the work we do. We also offered quarterly 'walk and wander' events in our local area, open to all. Bev Goodger led these and provided interesting information about the habitat at stopping points along the way.

Muddy Church at 10.15 on the first Sunday each month between May and August offered outside worship with a more distinctly eco theme. We also had a Creation Tide evening service (Creation Tide is a season in the church year which starts on September 1st and finishes on October 4th) which the Eco team lead.

In the past year a diocesan eco team has been formed to offer help and advice: Alison Harris joins their on-line meeting to share information.

In December 2024 we were awarded the Arocha Eco Church Silver award. We are now working towards the Gold award though the requirements will be significantly more challenging.



Home groups

We currently have four Home Groups which meet regularly. The groups continue to follow different paths but each offers an opportunity to explore our faith, the Bible and our role as Christian people in an informal and pastorally supportive way.



Activities at St John's

JIMS

JIMS continued to meet on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from February to November playing songs from a huge range of musical styles. Average attendance at each session is 15/16 people. We welcomed several new members during 2024 - we are always looking for more. Typically we comprise acoustic guitars, ukeleles, piano and cajon but any musician or singer is welcome to come along and see what we do. It's all very relaxed and informal.



Lunchtime concerts

The 2024 season of lunchtime concerts opened with a welcome return by the Laiton Trumpet Quartet and ended with the Aaben Duo of harp and saxophone. A wide variety of instrumental combinations broadened our musical horizons throughout the year and there was something for everyone.

We had vocalists, instrumentalists, soloists, a sextet, trio, quartet. The young musician starting out on their chosen profession and the experienced. We are grateful to the RNCM for their cooperation in helping us to promote young talented musicians. It's a pleasure to see these artists asking to return to us when they've finished their student days and remember 'the friendly audience and excellent soup lunch'!

Mothers' Union

St John's branch continues to meet monthly; meetings usually comprise a short service, a guest speaker, tea, an update on MU matters and ends with the Grace. In May we met in church for a service followed by Vicar Ruth exploring some facts on church history. Marian Harris kindly hosted a 'bring and buy' coffee morning and over £100 was raised for MU funds. June saw us enjoying the blooms as Heather Pope from Wettenhall gave us a talk on gardens. In July we held our Summer Lunch in the Ark which was enjoyed by everyone.

The autumn season began in September with a meeting where members brought along (and explained) 'Something I couldn't live without'. We took to the canals in October with a talk from Stuart Tabart about his life as a Waterways Chaplain. November brought us a woman of courage when Brenda Beesley described the life and times of 'Kitty Wilkinson, a noblewoman of Liverpool.' We finished the year in December with our annual Christmas Celebration and Tea; Sandiway School and Paul and Jenny from Delamere Folk Club provided the singing and musical backing during the afternoon. During the year we also sent representatives to both Deanery and Diocesan meetings and these were reported back to the members.

Activities at St John's



Music

Emma writes: This report marks my first year as Director of Music having taken over from Kathryn in January 2024. Since then there have been some changes to the church's music. Several new hymns and songs have been introduced in the morning services to broaden the repertoire base. The morning congregation continues to worship enthusiastically and has embraced all the new songs. They are aided by our fabulous collection of percussion instruments and bolstered by instrumentalists who have played alongside me throughout the year. The Breakfast Church band goes from strength to strength playing and singing to a very high standard and enriching worship.

The choir leads worship at the majority of evening services. We have seen a few choristers move on to pastures new and have also welcomed new/returning members to the ranks, The choir has enjoyed getting to grips with a new anthem book and has learned many pieces from it. They have built up a collection of motets and hymns sung a cappella during communion. This provides an opportunity for the congregation to listen and to reflect. The choir has been working hard to improve vocal technique and choral blend. The choir has continued to lead the wonderful tradition of Evensong. The canticle settings have been fixed for a period of time to aid congregational participation. The choir has sung an anthem at Evensong regularly. The liturgical music in the Celtic Communion service has been changed and now includes more pieces by John Bell of the Iona community. New songs/hymns have been introduced to the evening services and the St John's songbook has been updated. It is now common practice for the choir to sing before the start of the Take 40 service creating a settled space for worship. It was wonderful to be part of St John's for Easter and Christmas 2024. It is fair to say that the choir favourite for Christmas was 'Immanuel' by Michael Card arranged by Paul Leddington Wright. The choir sang carols at Toolerstone at their Christmas market and were spoilt with mince pies, mulled wine and seeing real reindeer. We also took part in the carol service at Sandiway Lodge, leading worship alongside Ruth.

I have now done over a year as Director of Music and feel very much at home at St John's. My thanks to Ruth, the ministry team, instrumentalists and choristers for their continuing fellowship, kindness and encouragement.



Activities at St John's

Praise and Play

Praise and Play has continued throughout 2024. This is a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. We meet in the church hall on Thursday afternoons in term time from 1.45 – 3,00pm.

Our aim is to create an informal, friendly space where everyone can be supportive of one another and where adults and children can feel comfortable as we gently explore some things about church and the Christian faith.

We follow the same pattern each week – a short time of play as families arrive, then we gather in the Ark for a song (with actions, instruments or the parachute); a story which could be from the Bible or a children's story from which we can draw some Christian significance; a sharing of news and a celebration of a special time such as a birthday. We then return to the hall for 'snack time' and time to enjoy the activities set around the hall.

Overall the number of families coming to Praise and Play has been very much 'up and down', sometimes only having 2 or 3 families. The WhatsApp group has continued and has helped families to keep in touch and support one another and it has been encouraging to see how Praise and Play helps some families maintain their contact with the wider church family, particularly Breakfast Church, after they have moved on from Praise and Play.

Grateful thanks go to the great team of adults who help set everything up, supervise activities when needed, make the tea, chat with adults and children and help clear away at the end.

Prayer Support

The focus for Prayer Support over the past year has been 'Unity and Light'. It has been central to our meetings and our prayers.

The annual Prayer Weekend was well attended both on the Saturday with live music, crafts and refreshments and on the Sunday for the special services. 300 bags were distributed far and wide. The wonderful display of 'Unity and Light' in the church during December brought together people of all ages (spanning 100 years!) from all parts of our community. It was visited and enjoyed by many.

The annual Advent Ribbons were much appreciated as always and Saturday Sanctuary continues to offer a warm welcome every Saturday morning with a new Prayer Point with resources to use or take away. This is also available to those visiting when the church is open during the week.

Many people have been prayed for and with. We will continue to seek to support everyone in prayer in the coming year.



Activities at St John's



Social and fundraising events

2024 was another busy year. Having helped raise the funds needed for the installation of the beautiful ramp, we turned our attention to assisting fundraising for the LED lighting in church which has made such a difference.

As always we have tried to vary the events to appeal to as many people as possible within the church and the wider community. 2024 saw us quizzing, singalongs, pie eating, spring wreath making, ceilidh dancing and murder mystery solving. Together with other musical, craft and food themed events we have raised £8,120 from 17 events. We also helped at other events for Christian Aid, Gift Day, Prayer Weekend and Harvest which raised a further £2,175 for other charities and St John's building fund.

We are always incredibly grateful to all those who support us at our events, particularly those who make cakes or wait on tables; as a small team of 4, we couldn't achieve what we do without these amazing volunteers including those who organise and run events without charge. This year we will do all we can to support the PCC in raising funds. We love what we do and hope you enjoy the array of social events we have planned. We are only a team of 4 and are always very keen for others to join us and become involved.

Sunday Club

We have provision for children during the morning services, Breakfast church once a month and Sunday Club the other weeks where we have different activities to help us explore the Bible passage. We are a small team (Janet Buttanshaw and Alison Harris helped by Janet Hammond, Penny Hardy and Jill King) but would welcome others to join us.

Youth group

Youth Group met throughout 2024 on a monthly basis, usually on the 4th Sunday of the month in the church hall. We've done Night Walks, helped with Christingle, played wacky games and many games of Werewolves (I still don't understand the rules). Pizza is our favourite meal together though toasted marshmallows come a close second. Dave Mock is group leader but the sessions could not happen without the wonderful team of Nicola Cowie, Ben Fletcher and Ellie Rushworth. Hitherto the group has met monthly but is currently paused for the rest of 2025.

St John's Heritage



Our 3rd Heritage Day was held on Saturday 14th September 2024. There were 10 sparkling treasure chests to find and treasure to keep to remind the children (and adults) of St John's: wooden eagles and golden feathers for the lectern, little egg cups to decorate for the font, tiny baby dolls wrapped in swaddling bands for Jesus on the carved Nativity litany desk, toy dogs for the dog in the window in the porch, and many more. New Heritage information booklets were given out and there were crafts and refreshments free to all.

Several weeks before we had joined the National Churches Trust who advertised our event with an illustrated description of St John's. This brought in several new visitors armed with cameras on the day.

There has been a monthly "Heritage Snippets" page in our Parish Magazine throughout 2024. This covers many new facts that have been discovered about John Douglas, our church's architect, and about St John's past generally.

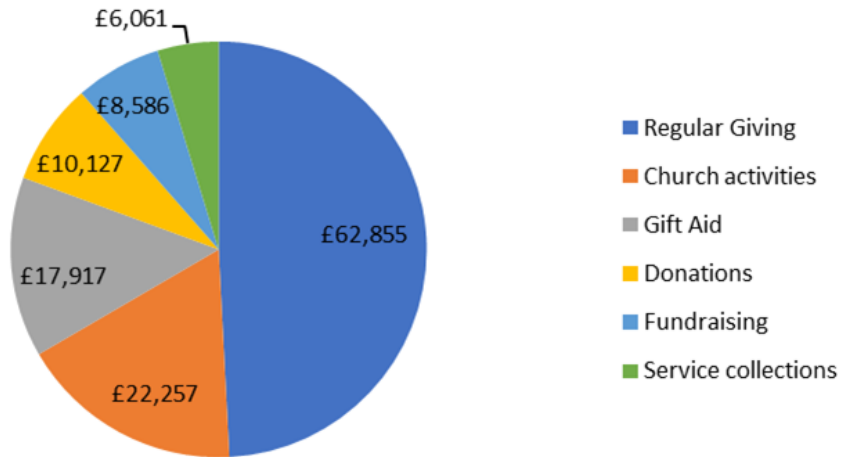


The book *St John's Church Sandiway 1902-2022: Its History and a Myriad of Memories* was published in 2022 and bought by many within and outside the parish. Well over 100 people contributed and 30 were interviewed in their own homes. In 2024 the book was revised and a small number published. One was specially bound by Chester Bookbinders and is left on display for all to read in the Baptistry.

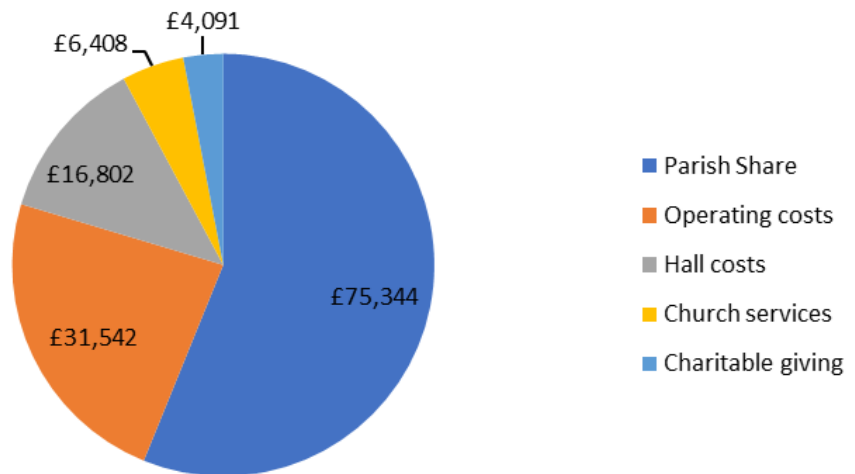
An illustrated history of the interior and exterior of St John's was added to the Heritage tab on the church website. The two videos *Welcome to St John's Church Sandiway* and *A new ramp for Sandiway* have also been a welcome addition to the Heritage tab.

Finance Summary

Where does our money come from?



Where does our money go?



Please see appendices for financial report and accounts.

Safeguarding Statement

2024 was a very busy year for the Church of England as a whole. It was not a particularly good one for the hierarchy after the release of the Makim Report into the activities of the late John Smyth, a serial abuser within the Church of England. This only highlights the importance of our vigilance as a church community in keeping those around us safe and happy in their contact with the church.

Our PCC have made a fabulous effort in ensuring compliance with the requirement for all to be checked on national databases (DBS) and to be up to date with safeguarding training. There has been 100% compliance!

The new Safeguarding Dashboards were introduced for all parishes within Chester Diocese. We have been completing our action plan slowly and are doing very well. It is a slow process but it has made us more aware of how to recruit staff and volunteers more safely and focused our thoughts around ensuring our activities with children and young people are run safely. Our Youth Group, Praise and Play group and Sunday Club now all have risk assessments in place and role profiles for their leaders.

Most important for us, though, is that we all look out for each other and for those who come as visitors to our church community. We must not be afraid to speak out if we are not comfortable with something someone has said or done.

Thank you all for making St John's church community a safe place to meet.

Julie Westgate, Parish Safeguarding Officer



St John the Evangelist, Sandiway

2024 Annual Report Appendices

The Annual Report of Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC) 2024

Objective and Activities of the PCC

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Sandiway the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is charged with good stewardship of finances and has maintenance responsibilities for the church and church hall both in Norley Road, Sandiway.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, parish representatives on the Deanery Synod plus a number of elected and co-opted lay members. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules and all church members who are on the electoral roll are encouraged to stand for election.

Parochial Church Council, following the APCM on the 19th May 2024, was as follows:

Vicar	Reverend Ruth Mock Vicar / Chair	Vicar and PCC Chair From 1 st October 2019
Churchwarden	Alison Fletcher	Elected 19/5/2024
Churchwarden	Vacancy	
Reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Paul Stevenson	Licensed 21/10/2017
Reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Sue Hadden	Licensed 21/10/2017
Deanery Synod Rep	Ben Fletcher	Elected 19/5/24
Elected Member	Ann Lucas	Elected 21/5/23
Elected Member	Eric Wright	Elected 21/5/23 & 14/10/20
Elected Member	Jane Green	Elected 21/5/23 & 14/10/20
Elected Member	Nicola Cowie	Elected 21/5/23 & 14/10/20
Elected Member	John Goulden	Elected 19/5/2021 & 19/5/24
Elected Member	Cherry Jackson	Elected 19/5/2021 & 19/5/24
Elected Member	Heather Williams	Elected 19/5/2021 & 19/5/24
Elected Member	Jim Wren	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Helen Lilley	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Stewart Hadden	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Peter Westwood	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member/ PCC Secretary / Deanery Synod Rep	Mandy Shaw	Elected 19/5/2021 & 19/5/24
Treasury Team Leader	Andy Carter	Co-opted 29/5/2022

PCC Contact and location information

Vicar: Reverend Ruth E Mock, The Vicarage, 50 Norley Rd, Sandiway CW8 2JU
Email: vicar.stjohnsandway@gmail.com telephone 01606 883286

Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)
Care of The Vicarage, 50 Norley Rd, Sandiway CW8 2JU

Electoral Roll Report

As per Church Representation Rules, Spring 2025 a new Electoral Roll was prepared and at the close of the revision period the new roll stood at 177.

The revised Electoral Roll will re-open after the APCM to receive further applications throughout the year. Please contact Gill Carter, Electoral Roll Officer, via Reverend Ruth.

Note: The last occasion where was a completely new electoral roll was for the APCM in 2019. All PCCs are required to produce a new roll every 6 years and in between a formal revision has to be made ahead of the APCM. All members of the congregations are encouraged to register for the Electoral Roll to enable them to take part in the governance of the parish.

Churchwarden's Report of the Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments 2024

Fabric

Phase 1 of the Heritage Building Project was completed in 2024, with the installation of new lighting to provide better visibility for congregations and enhance the heritage features of the church.

Electrical checks prior to the installation identified some deficiencies in the electrical system, and work was undertaken to correct these. There were significant issues with the electrics outside the building, and the floodlights have been disconnected pending a decision about a way forward on external lighting: this will need to be considered in the context of the Phase 2 plans.

Other maintenance of the church and hall has continued. During 2024, work has been completed to address dry rot in the church tower, and emergency work has addressed leaking gutters and downpipes on the north side of the building.

At the hall, following evidence of rodents, work has taken place to secure the building against future incursions and we have entered a contract with Rentokil to monitor and respond to any further incidents. Policies and practices were changed.

Thanks to the Eco Team and their volunteers and our gardener, the grounds are subject to continued improvement.

The vicar, John Goulden and other volunteers undertook an audit of the Terrier in early 2025 and reported as follows:

Goods and Ornaments

No change

Inventory

No significant change in the inventory (Bibles, prayer books, service books, hymn books, etc)

Ali Fletcher, Churchwarden

Deanery Synod Annual Report 2024

Deanery Synod met three times in 2024, at Winnington, Moulton and Davenham.

The Guest Speaker in February at Winnington was Rev Peter Froggatt (Diocesan Director of Outreach). Rev Peter reminded us that we are 'together in Christ' and have a responsibility to share that hope. We are aiming to make a difference to the 1.5million people in the Diocese who have no meaningful church connections. It is important that we believe in the Gospel and that we are local and transformational.

In June, Synod met at Moulton for a service of "songs of praise" followed by tea, cake and chat.

In October, Katy Herrera, Diocesan Families, Children and Youth Advisor was the guest speaker at Davenham. Katy pointed out that we worship a creator God who has a big heart for children and that children are a part of the church of today. By 2030 we aim to double the number of children and young people in our churches, but we will need faith to do this, and faith comes from God.

We need to link church, home and school as we live in a different society than previous generations.

At the end of 2024, Revd Ruth Mock, incumbent at Sandiway remained as Rural Dean and Paul Stevenson, Reader at Sandiway remained as Lay Chair.

Paul Stevenson
Deanery Synod Representative and Lay Chair of the Middlewich Deanery

Safeguarding Statement

At St John's, we take extremely seriously our duty and obligation to protect all.

We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines, and in all our activities, have given due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Julie Westgate
Mobile: 07713813147
Email: safeguarding.stjohnsandway@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can contact the Chester Diocese Safeguarding Team on 01928 718834 or email safeguarding@chester.anglican.org

If a child or adult is at immediate risk please contact Cheshire Police on 101 (or dial 999), the local Safeguarding Children's Board on 0300 123 7047, or Adult Social Care on 0300 123 7034. The Emergency Duty Team for concerns about children or adults out of normal working hours can be contacted on 01244 977 277.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY: PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy St John's Church Sandiway is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Julie Westgate as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

This policy was reviewed, updated and agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on the 6th May 2025.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

FINANCIAL REVIEW

by the Treasury Team 6th May 2025

Background

This report covers the financial statements and balance sheet for the year which ended 31st December 2024, copies of which are included with other APCM papers.

Financial administration

The treasury team manages the parish finances on a day-to-day basis. The PCC members scrutinise the actions of the treasury team and the committee provides information and advice to the PCC on financial matters.

Commentary

The accounts for 2024 show a loss of £4,851, which with a profit on revaluation of investments of £524 is reduced to £4,327. We are very fortunate that our parishioners continue to contribute either by monthly standing orders or by making regular donations to the Church. We are also thankful for the Social and fundraising team who do a magnificent job in reducing the deficit, as well as putting on some great events.

In 2023 we decided that we should simplify our Accounts by transferring reserves in Restricted Funds, and all income and expenditure on the Heritage Building project to the Building Fund account. The Ark Account also has a separate Bank account. These changes have made the Accounts very much clearer.

During the year we completed work on new lighting for the church. We are very grateful for the many donations made for this project and for the funds raised through events. The lighting in the church is a vast improvement.

We are constantly looking at ways that people can give to St John's. We already have online giving; donations can be made via St John's website or via our card reader or our tap and go system in church.

Where does the money come from?

St John's does not receive any government grants or other funding towards its running costs.

The primary source of income for general funds continues to be the planned regular giving of members of our worshipping community, in addition to donations and collections in services. Gift Aid is collected where possible.

Additional sources of regular income are derived from fundraising events, weddings, funerals, church hall hire and investments.

Where is the money spent?

The biggest item of expenditure is the Parish Share due to the Chester Diocese which was £75,344 in 2024 and takes most of our Giving (including Gift Aid Tax Recovery). The Parish Share is the amount of money we are asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, specifically for clergy stipends and housing, and for providing central services such as safeguarding, legal and financial services. Through the Parish Share we also contribute to supporting other parishes that are in a worse financial position than our own. We have been advised that our Parish Share will be increasing by 5% per annum plus inflation over each of the next 4 years, a total increase of 20% – if inflationary increases remain at 3%, then we will be facing a Parish Share of more than £100,000 in 2028.

All other costs must be met from other income, including Fundraising, which is vital to us and the efforts of the Social and Fundraising team are appreciated. Other costs include the upkeep of the church and grounds, church hall (net of rental income) and part of the costs of the Vicarage. It also

includes the cost of all services, relief clergy, clergy expenses and administration. After these costs have been met there is little income to cover other repairs that are needed. Our outward giving from PCC funds is based on a percentage of the receipts from planned giving. The PCC is determined that our outward giving promise should be maintained as it is a fundamental Christian principle to help others. We have kept control of both church and church hall running costs during the year, and it is gratifying that the Buildings Management Team continues to examine how best to manage our resources.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy focuses on the level of unrestricted reserves we need to maintain cashflow. The PCC have reviewed the reserves policy and taking account of the increase in Parish Share required, the age of many regular givers and considering the risks that the Church faces have agreed a range of unrestricted reserves. This range is currently £27,000 to £92,000. On 31st December 2024 we had unrestricted reserves of £46,266, which is within the range set.

Thank you

To everyone who so generously contributed to our finances, by planned giving or by donations during the year.

To all the people who work so hard to make applications for any grants available for our projects. To our Gift Aid Officer, for keeping our claims with HMRC up to date.

To our Independent Examiner, Harry Stephenson, for the work he has put in to satisfy himself that St John's has a set of accounts that satisfy all statutory requirements and in which the PCC and the parish can have confidence.

To the Treasury Team, for dealing with receipts and payments efficiently and promptly.

To the Buildings Management Team for their understanding of the Church finances.

The continuing challenge

The PCC has set a budget for 2025, which shows that we will be showing a loss of approximately £24,000; this projected loss assumes no income from social events or other fund-raising activities and is also before we address the maintenance schedule arising from the 2020 quinquennial inspection. The PCC acknowledged that the challenge for us therefore remains the same as it has in previous years, and as it does in all other parishes. We, as members of the worshipping community of St Johns, Sandiway, need to give freely and generously if we are to continue to meet our aims of:

- Spreading God's word within the parish.
- Providing a diverse range of religious services and other opportunities for worship through the week.
- Providing a sacred space for worship.
- Supporting members of our worshipping community within their homes.
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people.

Please continue to give all the help that you can and as often as you can

Andy Carter, Treasury Team Leader

On behalf of the PCC

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 23 to 28, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records.

It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
 - requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

H Stephenson
Independent Examiner

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming Funds			
Planned Giving, Gift Day, Tax claim, donations and cash collections	2	96,960	100,987
Operating activities			
Fundraising activities	2	8,586	10,762
Church activities	2	22,257	23,928
Investment income	2	1,533	2,722
Total Incoming funds		129,336	138,399
Expenditure			
Donations made	3	4,091	4,580
Church activities	3	124,172	121,715
Administration	3	5,924	6,642
Total expenditure		134,187	132,937
Transfer from (to) Restricted Funds	4	0	230
Net Incoming (outgoing) General funds		(4,851)	5,692
Gain (loss) on revaluation of investments	5	524	1,985
Net movement of funds		(4,327)	7,677
Funds b/fwd. at the start of the year		50,593	42,916
Adjustments in respect of prior years		-	-
Funds c/fwd. at the end of the year		46,266	50,593

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of income and expenditure.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**BALANCE SHEET**

	2024	2023
Assets	£	£
Investments		
Ministry Fund	23,429	22,904
Current assets		
Debtors	12,844	8,751
Cash at bank	25,876	32,889
	62,149	64,544
Current liabilities		
Creditors	9,397	7,143
Net assets	52,752	57,401
Unrestricted funds	46,266	50,593
Restricted funds	6,486	6,808
Total funds	52,752	57,401

The accounts on pages 22 to 30 were approved by the PCC on the 29th of April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

AW Carter – Treasury Team Leader

Reverend R Mock – Vicar and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council

6th May 2025

The accompanying notes, on pages 25 to 28 are an integral part of these accounts.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied, consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Charities 2005. The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds.

- Restricted funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust and bequest and donations or grants received for specific objects or invited by the PCC for a specific object. As the funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given, any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
- Unrestricted funds represent moneys in general funds, which are used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming funds.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming funds to which they relate are received.
- Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued.
- All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
- All incoming funds are accounted for Gross.

Expenditure.

- Giving is accounted for when due.
- The Parish Share is accounted for when due.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

- Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts as they are treated as inalienable property as are moveable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.
- Expenditure on equipment has been written off.

Investments.

- Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2024.

2 Incoming funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations		
Planned giving:		
Standing orders and pink envelopes	61,676	61,398
Blue giving envelopes	1,179	925
Tax recovery	17,917	17,970
Collections (open plate)	6,061	4,429
Gift Day	0	5,788
Donations and legacies	10,127	10,477
	96,960	100,987
Fundraising events		
Concerts, social and other activities	7,638	8,709
Christmas Raffle and Gala Day	948	2,053
	8,586	10,762
Church activities		
Hall rents	12,458	13,278
Magazine sales and advertising	3,447	3,462
Wedding & funeral fees	6,352	7,188
	22,257	23,928
Investment income		
Field rent	215	850
Trust income - School Fund	471	473
Dividends and Interest	847	1,399
	1,533	2,722
Total Incoming funds	129,336	138,399

3 Expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Giving		
To secular charities	1,740	3,335
To Christian charities	2,351	1,245
	4,091	4,580
Church activities		
Parish Share to diocese	75,344	71,757
Vicarage costs	4,646	4,407
Clergy expenses	1,070	1,125
Church Services	6,408	8,216
CDBF Assigned Fees	2,327	3,094
Junior church & youth group	127	125
Church operating costs	7,093	5,421
Church maintenance	5,298	7,521
Magazine production costs	4,082	4,038
Outreach	975	975
Hall operating costs	14,724	13,410
Hall maintenance	2,078	1,626
	124,172	121,715
Administration		
Administration costs	3,934	4,247
Photocopying	706	1,206
Bank charges	1,013	979
Telephone	271	210
	5,924	6,642
Total outgoing funds	134,187	132,937

4. Transfers from (to) Restricted Funds

As explained in the Report moneys raised and spent on Building Projects is now shown in the Building Fund Accounts. There are no longer any transfers of income through the General Fund Accounts

	2024	2023
Transfers from Restricted Funds	0	(230)
Transfers to Restricted Funds	0	0
Transfers to The Ark	0	(8,733)
Transfers to The Building Fund.	0	(68,091)
Net Transfer	<u>0</u>	<u>(77,054)</u>

5. Gain / (Loss) on revaluation of Investments

	2024	2023
Unrestricted funds – Ministry Fund	524	1,985

6. Related party transactions:

PCC members have during the year received reimbursement of items of expenditure properly incurred upon the business of the PCC.

7. Related trusts:

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the school fund set up on the sale of the premises which were originally the Church school. The school fund comprises 762 income shares in the CBF Church of England Investment fund; the shares originally cost £5,073 and have a current market value on 31 December 2024 of £17,619 (2023 £17,225). The capital is not shown on the Balance Sheet as under the terms of the trust only the dividends from the fund are mandated to the PCC and must be used for “Youth and Junior Church” purposes only.

8. The Ark Café

The Ark Café is non-profit making with any surplus being used to help the community. Ark funds are held outside of the General Church Funds. Reserves at the end of 2023 were £11,086 and £1,750 was paid to local good causes. During 2024, the Ark turned in a Net Profit of £2,268, giving reserves of £13,354 at the end of the Year. Donations of £3,000 are scheduled to be paid out in 2025.

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I have examined the Building Fund Financial Statements for 2024 which are set out on page 30.

No matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
- requirements of the Act and the Regulations

Have not been met; or

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

H Stephenson
Independent Examiner

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income and Expenditure		
Income		
Funds transferred from Church restricted Funds.	0	68,091
Fundraising and Donations	9,829	44,602
Gift Day	13,339	0
Bank Interest Received less paid	<u>0</u>	<u>449</u>
Total Income	<u>23,168</u>	<u>113,142</u>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on Tower	0	53,108
Expenditure on Ramp	0	70,357
Expenditure on Lighting	29,504	0
Bank charges	2	0
Retentions Due	<u>(18)</u>	<u>4,001</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>29,488</u>	<u>127,466</u>
Profit / (Loss) in Year	(6,320)	(14,324)
Funds B/fwd.	8,656	22,980
Funds C/fwd.	<u>2,336</u>	<u>8,656</u>
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Debtors	3,385	2,923
Bank Balances	<u>345</u>	<u>9,734</u>
Total Current Assets	3,730	12,657
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	1,394	4,001
Net Assets	<u>2,336</u>	<u>8,656</u>

Note: The Building Fund was transferred to its own set of accounts in 2010.

Accounts

St John's Church Sandiway Activities in 2023



Vicar's Report

2023 was a year when we made significant progress on transforming our church building at St John's. In January and February, essential repairs to the tower roof were completed and the problems that had been identified decades earlier were finally rectified. Funds had been raised in 2015, but the rising cost of materials meant that we had to supplement these with money from our reserves and a grant from the Brian Wilson Trust to cover the cost of the work. From the ground it is impossible to see any difference, but it is good to finally get the work done and know that the roof is now fit for purpose. During the work loose stones were also found on the merlons at the top of tower and timely repairs were made to these to prevent further deterioration and damage to the rest of the building.



Since taking up the post of Vicar of St John's in 2019, I have been working with the PCC and wider congregation to improve access to the church building. 2023 was the year when remarkable progress was made on Phase 1 of our Heritage Building Project. By the end of February, £56,000 had been raised and all necessary permissions secured so that work could begin on building a ramp and making alterations inside the building to allow access for visitors and regular members of the congregation who attend in wheelchairs or on mobility scooters. The work began on 31st July and was finished in time for Advent. The transformation has been amazing. A beautiful sandstone ramp now allows easy access to the front door, a new glass door and porch light are welcoming and friendly, and the removal of four pews inside gives space for visitors with restricted mobility to sit alongside their family and friends at the front of the chancel. New carpeting in the nave and the restoration of tiles in the chancel has brought the interior of the church back to its former glory and improved the acoustics. The new space in church was well used at our Christmas services and also offers an enlarged performance space for our regular lunchtime concerts. On several occasions, it has brought a lump to my throat to look out at the congregation who have gathered for worship and see visitors in wheelchairs and mobility scooters sitting beside their family and friends at the front of the church, knowing that they didn't have to struggle to get into the building. The local Funeral Directors have also commented on how the revamped space offers greater comfort and dignity for grieving families who are now able to sit together when the next of kin attend funerals in wheelchairs.

Vicar's Report

The work came together under the skilled and patient organisation of John Goulden, our project manager; it was only possible with the support of the Social and Fundraising Team who worked very hard throughout the year and with Ali Fletcher's tireless dedication to fundraising and grant applications. I am also very grateful to everyone who gave generously to the project and to the members of the congregation who put up with the disruption to our weekly services and other activities when the church was closed for several weeks at the end of the summer. The effort has been worth it. One of the greatest compliments that I've heard, is from people who see the ramp and say that it looks as though it's always been there. It is a sympathetic alteration that celebrates the heritage of our John Douglas building whilst improving the facilities and the welcome that we can offer.

During 2023 we piloted a scheme to leave the church open on weekdays, to allow visitors to drop in and enjoy the peace of this beautiful building. This was very successful and we plan to continue this in 2024.



Weekly Worship

Our weekly Thursday morning service of Holy Communion continues with a regular average congregation of 23 people. Sunday morning worship in Church Hall at 10.15am includes Breakfast Church, Morning Praise and Holy Communion whilst Sunday evening worship in church includes services of Choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer, Celtic Communion and Take 40, a reflective, thematic service. We have also held 3 Open House services, where a guest comes to talk to the congregation. Guests in 2023 were Millie Woodhead, Paul Stevenson & Janet Buttanshaw, who all shared something of their life story.



Vicar's Report

Festival Services and Music at St John's



The Easter and Christmas services were well attended in 2023. It was wonderful to see regular members of the congregation alongside visitors at our Christingle service, the Carol Service and Christmas Communion. Our worship in church was led by the choir under the direction of Kathryn Holmes, our organist and Director of Music. At the end of the year, we said goodbye to Kathryn, who retired after serving the church faithfully for 30 years as our Director of Music. We are very grateful to her for her dedication and passion for music and for playing such a significant part in leading worship and directing the choir during this time. Kathryn was adamant that she didn't want a leaving collection, but at the Music Weekend in November, donations of £2,292 were made to the Heritage Building Fund in honour of

her contribution to St John's! We wish Kathryn well in her retirement, but we're glad that she will remain as part of our congregation here and will continue to manage the Ark Café.

Music remains an important part of our worship and I'm delighted that Dr Emma Morley was appointed as our new Director of Music and took up the post in January 2024.

Special Services

In September we welcomed Rt Revd Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport, to lead our evening service as we celebrated 120 years of worship at St John's. Bishop Sam used the story of Moses and the Burning Bush to encourage us as we look to the future. (His sermon can be viewed on our YouTube channel, St John's Sandiway Stay Connected, by following this link: https://youtu.be/IZu_libaJ5k.)



Vicar's Report

Weddings, Baptisms, Confirmations and Funerals

There were 11 baptisms and 2 weddings at St John's in 2023. There were 21 funerals conducted by the Ministry Team during the year: 12 were held at St John's, 2 were held at St Mary's Weaverham whilst building work took place at church in September, and 7 took place at the crematorium. There was also one candidate for confirmation. Ali Odlin joined the congregation at St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath, for a service of confirmation by the Bishop of Birkenhead in November.

Changes to the Ministry Team

In 2023 two of our Readers stepped back from preaching and leading worship. We are very grateful to Andrew Hardy and Hilary Chambers for their contribution to the Ministry Team and wider life of the church community for many years.



Rev Graham Buttanshaw joined the team after gaining permission to officiate in Chester Diocese. Graham served as Vicar of Otley Parish Church, and we welcome Graham and Janet to our community. At the end of May we said goodbye to Margaret Byrne who was at St John's on placement whilst training to be a vicar. She was ordained on 1st July and is now a curate at churches in Whitegate and Little Budworth.

Work with schools

It is always a privilege to welcome local school children on visits to St John's. Classes from Sandiway and Cuddington Primary came to Experience Easter and Experience Christmas - seasonal sessions where I explained why these major festivals are at the heart of the Christian Faith.

Other classes came during the year to look at the history of the building and I was invited to lead assemblies at Sandiway Primary School during the Autumn term.



Vicar's Report cont.

Governance

I am very grateful to our trustees who meet regularly in our Parochial Church Council (PCC) to oversee our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington and those who represent us within the wider Deanery. As Charity Trustees when planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In 2023, the trustees devoted considerable time to discussing the redevelopment of the church as work on the tower and ramp progressed. We also discussed Living in Love and Faith – a national church initiative addressing attitudes towards sexuality. The debate at a national level has often been acrimonious, but as a PCC we were able to listen to differing views and ask questions of ourselves and our attitudes as we sought to understand what it means to be inclusive and welcoming.

Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2024 and beyond

- Continuing work on our Heritage Building Project, improving the lighting, and embarking on the feasibility study for a modern extension to the church;
- Developing Heritage materials;
- Considering how to welcome everyone in the name of Jesus Christ so that barriers to inclusion are removed;
- Developing work with children through music.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time and talents to support our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. The church wardens, John Fraser and Ali Fletcher, worked very hard throughout the year along with the many teams who take on responsibility for different aspects of our life together. There are so many people who use their gifts and talents at St John's that it's impossible to name them all individually but thank you to the lay ministers, the members of the PCC and the dedicated teams whose creativity and skills enhance our life together.

Revd Ruth Mock



Activities at St John's



The Ark

We welcomed several new members to the team at the annual open coffee morning. Most give half a day once a month and we are very grateful for this. No-one is paid and the work is rewarding even when there are demanding customers.

Thanks go to all our customers who supported the Café. Last year we were able to give almost £3,000, our profit for the year, to local good causes:

- St Luke's Hospice for a specialist wheelchair;
- Sandiway Primary School PTA for development of a forest school amenity;
- Cuddington Primary School PTA for iPads;
- 2nd Sandiway and Cuddington Rainbows for assistance with subscription to the Guiding Association;
- A sum to assist in the extension of the path across the British Legion memorial corner.

We also provided 30 packed lunches every Friday through the summer school holidays for anyone to collect from the Library. Thanks to all who helped us do this.

We also raised £230 at the MacMillan coffee morning and £100 for Save the Children at the Christmas jumper morning.

So please support us again this year and do remember we are all volunteers from the community, working hard to provide a happy, reasonably-priced facility with the bonus of financially helping our community.



Activities cont.

Arts in the Ark

Arts in the Ark has had another good year with consistently healthy numbers attending. Our hours doubled so that we were meeting from 12.30 until 4.00pm which allowed people to bring sewing machines or other equipment and work on more complicated projects. A risk assessment process was conducted to ensure that potential hazards as a result of bringing a wider range of equipment had been anticipated and steps taken to mitigate any risk. We held two exhibitions in the Ark Café with a spin-off exhibition in Sandiway Library which was very well received. Feedback from members shows that the relaxed, supportive and creative atmosphere is much appreciated.



Book Groups

The Book Groups continue to meet and are enjoying interesting and sometimes challenging recommendations.

Charitable Giving

A meeting was held to discuss possible charitable causes to receive bimonthly donations of £500 representing a percentage of our outward giving for the year. Suggestions from the congregations were considered and a list drawn up reflecting a balance of worldwide, nationwide and local charities to be finally approved by the Vicar and PCC members.

Examples of chosen charities include:

- Student Christian Movement (S.C.M.) – a community of students past and present, deeply committed to putting faith into action, seeking justice and celebrating diversity.
- The Bible Society – translating the Bible and making it accessible in people's own language around the world, focusing on China and some of the toughest regions in Africa where they support literacy programmes and provide study materials.
- A Rocha – a global family of conservation and environmental organisations working together to live out God's calling to care for Creation and to equip others to do likewise.

A file containing current information, newsletters and acknowledgements is compiled annually and placed on the shelf at the back of church for reference.

Activities cont.

Christian Aid

One of the charities we support every year is Christian Aid, which helps some of the poorest people in the world, campaigns for justice and responds with immediate help to the victims of natural disasters.



In 2023 the theme of Christian Aid week was 'The Big Pea Challenge' highlighting the plight of mothers in Malawi struggling to grow crops and pay for their children and grandchildren to go to school. With Christian Aid's help, they have found an answer in the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop!

Together we raised significantly more than £1,000 (£1,034 + Gift Aid) through a sponsored walk, lunches in the Ark, and direct donations – and at the Sunday Morning Worship for Christian Aid we enjoyed delicious biscuits made from pigeon peas! Once again, a magnificent effort, supported by very many people!

Eco Church

During 2023, as a church, we have continued through reflection and action, to develop our church buildings and our church community so that we are more environmentally aware. Having achieved the Bronze Eco Church Award in May 2022, we are now working towards the Silver Eco Church Award.

We continue to include regular articles in the Parish magazine to (hopefully!) encourage and challenge readers to make their own lives and the life of the Church more environmentally friendly.

In March, we planted 30 saplings of hedgerow shrubs in front of the holly hedge on the western boundary of the church garden. These were provided free by the Woodland Trust and will increase the biodiversity of the hedge.



Activities cont.



In May, we participated in No Mow May. In the summer, we all appreciated the now well-established pollinator zone at the back of the Church garden. In June, we surveyed the church grounds as part of the “Churches Count on Nature”.

Also in June, the PCC meeting centred on Eco issues as they relate to our church and it was agreed that, as a church, we would seek to reach Net Zero by 2030 in accordance with the wider Church of England aim. To aid this, we have agreed to have twice yearly meetings between members of the Eco Team and a small group from the PCC to identify how we might achieve this. This will also help us in our efforts to achieve the Silver Eco Church Award.



In September, we joined in with the Gift of Peace weekend by creating a sacred space in the Church Hall garden and encouraging participants to find peace there. As September is also part of Creationtide, we also led the evening Take 40 service for the month, which focused on the ethics involved in our food choices.



Relations with those involved in Eco matters within the wider village community are developing. In October, we were invited to share in the opening of the new Allotment area on the Eden Grange estate, and in November our Eco team were invited to a village meeting, organised by Councillor Gillian Edwards and attended by local eco groups and representatives from CWAC.

In December, we started the monthly Wildlife Gardening group, to develop specific areas of the church garden in a more eco-friendly way. The group meets on the second Saturday morning each month, and is open to all, both within and beyond the church community.



We continue to encourage church members to join in events such as the Big Garden Bird Watch and the Big Butterfly Count, as well as making seasonal scavenger hunt sheets available.

Activities cont.

Godly Play

During 2023, Godly Play usually took place in The Ark twice a month, alongside the 10.15 Sunday service that takes place in the church hall. It is intended for children aged 3 and over, but parents are welcome to bring younger children as long as they stay to look after them. During this time, children are given space to explore either a story from the Bible or a story about an aspect of church life. The story is told using 2 or 3 dimensional materials after which there is a time of “wondering” – open-ended questions which encourage children to explore the story with no expectation that the adults are looking for “right answers”. There are certainly times when they challenge the leaders with their insights and questions! The children continue their exploration through a selection of practical activities available in the room, e.g. painting, craft, clay modelling or lego. We finish with a short time of prayer before we re-join the rest of the congregation for the final hymn.

Numbers vary from week to week! On occasions we have just had 1 child, but on other occasions we have had up to 8 children. We have always been ready to work with however many come.

Our grateful thanks go to a really helpful team of adults who assist in all kinds of ways – setting up the room and clearing away afterwards, sharing in conversations in the whole group or with individual children if they want to talk, and just generally helping as needed!



Home Groups

Our Home Groups have continued to meet, following different paths as they provide opportunity to explore faith and offer pastoral support and fun. Some groups looked particularly at “The Bible Course”, a big-picture view of the whole Bible in just a few months.

Activities cont.

JIMS (Music Group)

JIMS met twice a month from February to November. It remains a relaxed environment in which to play/sing at the level each individual is comfortable with. In 2023, we maintained an average attendance of 12-14 players/singers each session. For the first time a JIMS group played at the 10.15 service during the Gift of Peace weekend and this was well-received all round. New singers/players are always welcome.



Mothers' Union

St John's MU has had a good year with many interesting and inspiring speakers and our continued prayer and worship. There was some doubt that we could continue in our present form but our Secretary has organised an excellent programme for 2024.

We have kept membership steady which is very reassuring; although we have lost some members we have gained several others. We are a happy and welcoming group so please think about coming to join us.



Activities cont.

Music – a final note from Kathryn



In 2023, the choir sang at all 6.30 services and festival events, as well as performing Christmas carols at The White Barn and Toolerstones.

Something a little different came our way when the Eurovision Song Contest was on; we joined with an online flash mob singing 'All you need is love' both as a choir and a congregation, offering support for Ukraine. Many online midweek reflections have also included the choir from previous recordings. I have always said that we are very fortunate to have an 'in-house' choir and not need to borrow choristers or use professional CDs. On this theme it was a great pleasure to see the whole church take part in enjoying the November Music Weekend one way or another, from the Sophie Rosa & Peter Liang concert, to St John's choir, JIMS, the VRRRC and more all sharing a love of music. The Saturday social evening brought past and present choristers together, an amazing array of talent creating a very happy event.



The Lunchtime Concert series in church, always followed by a soup lunch, seems to meet a need for easily accessible (especially now we have the ramp!), high quality live music at a reasonable price, in a beautiful venue. Lunch provides the perfect opportunity for informal social interaction after the concert. The extra space at the front of church opens up greater possibilities and we will have our first larger ensemble in 2024. Many thanks to all who support these events. Although I have retired from the role of Music Director, I am continuing with the concert organisation as a separate role.

My thanks to all who support church music, and my good wishes to my successor Emma. Please all continue to sing up!



Activities cont.

Praise and Play

Praise and Play is a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers. We meet in the church hall on Thursday afternoons in term time from 1.45-3pm. Our aim is to create an informal, friendly space where everyone can be supportive of one another and where adults and children can feel comfortable as we gently explore some things about church and the Christian faith.

We follow the same pattern each week – a short time of play as families arrive and catch up with one another, then a gathering together when we sing (with actions, instruments, or the parachute); we have a story which could be from the Bible or a children's story from which we can draw some Christian significance. After a short prayer, a sharing of news and a celebration of a special time (such as birthdays) families enjoy the play activities set around the hall and continue to catch up over a cup of tea/coffee.

In the last year, a newly created WhatsApp group has helped families to keep in touch and support one another, and it has been encouraging to see how some families have maintained their contact with the wider church family (particularly through Breakfast Church) after they have moved on from Praise and Play.

Grateful thanks go to the good team of adults who set everything up, supervise activities when needed, make the tea, chat with adults and children and help clear away at the end.



Activities cont.

Prayer Support

The focus for Prayer Support over the past year has been 'The Gift of Peace' and how we can share it with as many people as possible. It has been at the centre of our meetings and our prayers for everyone.

The Prayer Weekend this year was in two parts, which was a real blessing and enabled us to welcome people along to the hall in September for a day of music, crafts, fellowship and refreshments. This was followed by special services on the Sunday. Gift of Peace boxes were distributed far and wide!



Then in December we were able to have the church open for an incredible display of peace provided by individuals and groups, of all ages, from our community. This was visited and enjoyed by many.

The annual Advent Ribbons were much appreciated as always, and Saturday Sanctuary continues to offer a warm welcome every Saturday morning.

We will continue to seek to support everyone in prayer in the coming year.



Activities cont.

Social and Fundraising Team (SFRT)

2023 was a busy year for the SFRT. Having said goodbye to our chair, Kathryn Holmes, at the end of 2022 after over 20 years of incredible energy and enthusiasm for fundraising, it was a daunting task to fill her boots. The team also lost Ali Fletcher in March due to the enormous amount of other commitments she has with the church. Both were huge supporters of St John's SFRT and will no doubt continue to assist whenever they can.



We started 2023 with a huge task of supporting all efforts to raise the required money for the new ramp. With this in mind, we threw ourselves into 4 events with help from our supporters and managed to quiz, craft, sing and dine in French style to raise £2,246 for the ramp appeal in just over 5 weeks.

Throughout the rest of the year we have tried a variety of different social events in order to appeal to as many people as possible, including military talks, a family board game café, various musical groups, the gala day and themed dining experiences. This has resulted in raising an additional £2,396 for the building fund and £3,309.64 for general funds – in total, the SFRT have assisted in raising £7,951.64 for St John's in 2023.

We have also assisted at other events such as the Christian Aid weekend, the summer fairs for both primary schools in the village, the Harvest festival lunch in aid of the Tearfund and Kathryn's Music Weekend.

It has been hard work at times but also incredibly rewarding. We are always indebted to our dedicated volunteers who may not be on the SFRT but are always willing to help.



Activities cont.

Early in 2024 we will be saying goodbye to another member of our team, Marian Fraser, who has been on the team for many years. She is full of ideas and always keen to crack on with the task, no matter how big. She will be sorely missed and we as a team will be reduced to 3! Our plea is for anyone out there who feels they could bring something to the team, whether that be with ideas, organising abilities or just an extra pair of hands, to give it a try.

We have already started 2024 with a bang at the amazing quiz night on 5th January, which Sue and Stewart Haddon deserve a medal for putting together. This raised £661 for general funds so fingers crossed that this bodes well for our fundraising efforts in 2024.

More than anything though, these events are a great platform for socialising with our fantastic church community and the wider village community, bringing happiness and company to many.



Youth Group

Youth Group has been meeting throughout 2023 on a monthly basis. We've done Night Walks, helped with Christingle, played wacky games and even done our own episode of Taskmaster. We have an enthusiastic group of kids with very supportive parents. Pizza is our favourite meal together, though toasted marshmallows come a close second. Dave Mock is the group leader but our sessions could not happen without the wonderful team of Nicola Cowie, Ben Fletcher and Ellie Rushworth.

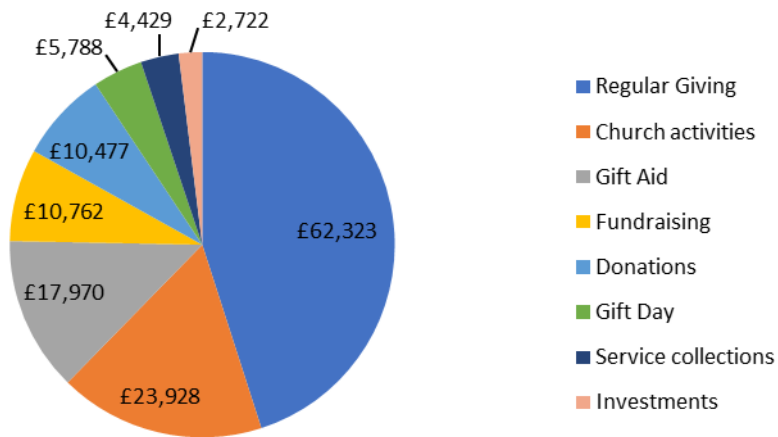
The group usually meets on the 4th Sunday of the month in the church hall, however this can vary. The best way to find out what is going on is to text or ring Dave on 07591 757126 for more details.

Events in 2023:

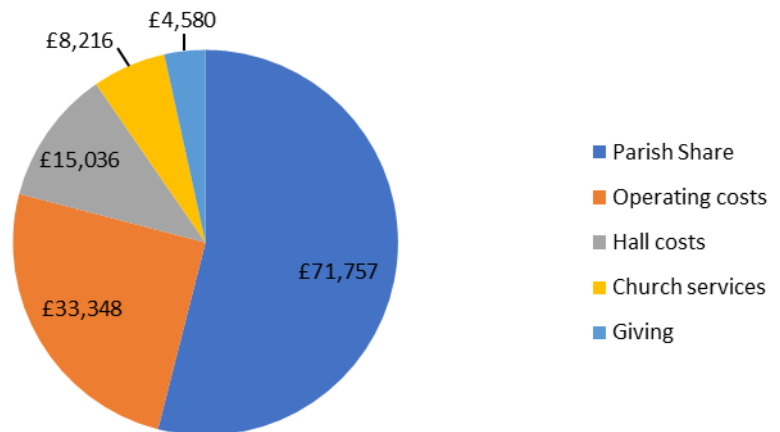
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Year Quiz• Work starts on church tower
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini-market & brunch• Lunchtime concerts restart• Valentine Singalong• Parisian Evening
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ark's 7th birthday
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter services• Marcus & friends concert• Spring Singalong
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coronation celebrations• Christian Aid sponsored walk• Spitting Feathers concert
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanksgiving service for pets• Naval history talk• Church open on weekdays
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheshire Chord Company
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Social Evening• Heritage Day• Summer Singalong
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gift Day & Family BBQ• Sanctuary tiles restored• Gift of Peace weekend
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harvest celebration• Greek evening
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramp opening ceremony• Music Weekend• Autumn Singalong
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gift of Peace display in church• Christmas mini-market & brunch• MU Magical Christmas afternoon• Christmas services

Finances

Where does our money come from?



Where does our money go?



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our finances this year, through planned giving, donations, collections, or events.

For more financial information, please see the Appendices.

Safeguarding Statement

At St John's, we take extremely seriously our duty and obligation to protect all. We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines, and in all our activities have given due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Julie Westgate on 01606 301972.

Alternatively, you can contact the Chester Diocese Safeguarding Team on 01928 718834 or email safeguarding@chester.anglican.org

If a child or adult is at immediate risk please contact Cheshire Police on 101 (or dial 999), the local Safeguarding Children's Board on 0300 123 7047, or Adult Social Care on 0300 123 7034. The Emergency Duty Team for concerns about children or adults out of normal working hours can be contacted on 01244 977 277.



St John's registered charity no. 1135082

St John the Evangelist, Sandiway

2023 Annual Report Appendices

SAFEGUARDING POLICY: PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was reviewed, updated and agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on the 11th March 2024.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Julie Westgate as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Churchwarden Alison Fletcher.

The Annual Report of Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)

1st January to 31st December 2023

Objective and Activities of the PCC

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Sandiway the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is charged with good stewardship of finances and has maintenance responsibilities for the church and church hall both in Norley Road, Sandiway.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, parish representatives on the Deanery Synod plus a number of elected and co-opted lay members. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules and all church members who are on the electoral roll are encouraged to stand for election.

Parochial Church Council, following the APCM on the 21st May 2023, was as follows:

Vicar	Reverend Ruth Mock Vicar / Chair	Vicar and PCC Chair From 1 st October 2019
Churchwarden	Alison Fletcher	Elected 21/5/2023
Churchwarden	John Fraser	Elected 21/5/2023
Reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Paul Stevenson *	Licensed 21/10/2017
Reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Sue Hadden *	Licensed 21/10/2017
Elected Member	Ann Lucas	Elected 21/5/23
Elected Member	Eric Wright	Elected 21/5/23 & 14/10/20
Elected Member	Jane Green	Elected 21/5/23 & 14/10/20
Elected Member	Nicola Cowie	Elected 21/5/23 & 14/10/20
Elected Member	John Goulden	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Cherry Jackson	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Heather Williams	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Jim Wren	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Helen Lilley	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Stewart Hadden	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Peter Westwood	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member/ PCC Secretary /Deanery Synod Rep	Mandy Shaw	Elected 19/5/2021
Treasury Team Leader	Andy Carter	Co-opted 29/5/2022
Director of Music	Kathryn Holmes	Co-opted 29/5/2022

PCC Contact and location information

Vicar: Reverend Ruth E Mock, The Vicarage, 50 Norley Rd, Sandiway CW8 2JU

Email: vicar.stjohnsandway@gmail.com telephone 01606 883286

Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Care of The Vicarage, 50 Norley Rd, Sandiway CW8 2JU

SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR ST JOHN'S SANDIWAY 2023

Nearly 2 years in post, my word, where does the time go?? I have been working without a deputy, which has not really been a problem up to now.

In line with the Safer Recruitment part of my role, I have ensured all members of the current PCC have had DBS checks completed for PCC members, which is good news for the team and fulfils the wishes of Bishop Julie Conalty. Safer Recruitment is an essential part of safeguarding. There are guidelines available which set out the roles within the church family that are eligible for a DBS check which are available on the Diocese website.

The Safeguarding training for the PCC has gone very well and most members have completed either the Basic Awareness or the Foundation course.

Sean Augustin was successful in his application for the post of Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. He had been the deputy for some time and I have received both training and advice from him.

Safeguarding remains a standing item at all PCC meetings and safeguarding updates are shared, which thankfully continue to be very few and far between.

If anyone has any questions about Safeguarding, or would like to speak to me in confidence, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Julie Westgate, Parish Safeguarding Officer, 6th March 2024

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Changes since the 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At the 2023 APCM the Electoral roll stood at	183
Names added up to 29 th April 2024 (end of revision period)	7
Names removed up to 29 th April 2024	0
On the 29 th April (following the revision period) the 2019/2025 Electoral roll stands at	190

The revised Electoral Roll will re-open after the APCM to receive further applications throughout the year. Please contact Gill Carter, Electoral Roll Officer, via Reverend Ruth.

Note: The last occasion where was a completely new electoral roll was for the APCM in 2019. All PCCs are required to produce a new roll every 6 years and in between a formal revision has to be made ahead of the APCM. All members of the congregations are encouraged to register for the Electoral Roll to enable them to take part in the governance of the parish.

Churchwarden's Report of the Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments 2023

Fabric

The long-anticipated tower roof repair is now successfully completed, the crumbling concrete slab having been replaced by a lead covered timber roof.

Phase 1 of the Heritage Building Project is now almost also complete:

- Two rows of pews at the front have been removed, the frontals brought back and the forward radiators re-sited against the side walls.
- The carpets have been removed from the nave and the exposed tiles refurbished to their original condition. New handrails have been fitted to the nave approach.
- The back of church and the aisle and the nave approach have been re-carpeted.
- A permanent all-access ramp in matching stone design and handrails has been constructed to the front of the church providing much greater access into the building. A new glass door has been fitted to the outside of the porch.

The remaining element of Phase 1 of the Heritage Building Project is to address issues with poor and uneven lighting in the church building, with insufficient lighting to show off the heritage features of the church. A number of temporary light fittings have been put in place to improve light levels in the short term whilst fundraising continues for a more permanent resolution.

Works to repair the church clock were undertaken.

A Collectin sum up device was installed together with a wireless internet router. This set up is operating successfully and some donations are now made this way.

The vestry door locks were refurbished and period keys manufactured to enable us to secure the vestry when Open Church was introduced.

The church floodlights which are energy saving LED types are supplemented by a new light installed on the outside of the porch.

The church boundaries have been generally tidied, and with the help of our Eco Team and their volunteers and our gardener, the grounds are subject to continued improvement.

At the hall, we have installed a Hive heating controller which affords us greater and remote control of the thermostat and timer.

As usual various minor maintenance has been carried out during the year involving a combination of contractors and DIY as appropriate. The work of our small dedicated in-house team is much appreciated.

The Fabric Team undertook an audit of the Terrier in mid-2023 and we can report thus:

Goods and Ornaments

No change

Inventory

We are satisfied that there has been no significant change in the inventory (Bibles, prayer books, service books, hymn books, etc)

John Fraser and Ali Fletcher, Churchwardens

Deanery Synod Annual Report 2023

Deanery Synod met three times in 2023. Twice at St Johns, Sandiway and once at Holy Trinity, Northwich.

The February meeting was almost entirely devoted to the new Diocesan vision and so, well attended.

Guest speaker, Harriet Roberts explained the process to collect views from parishes across the diocese which would all be fed into the creation of a Diocesan vision.

Harriet led various activities on the Vision theme with the aim of summing up where we are as a diocese (good and not so good points), what things need to improve and where we want to go. There were many opportunities to feedback ideas to Harriett to inform future work on the vision for the diocese.

In June, Archdeacon Ian Bishop was the guest speaker shortly before his move to become Bishop of Thetford. Ven.

Ven. Ian's topic was to consider the church's response to Net Carbon Zero. He stressed that he is neither a scientist nor an environmentalist but just someone concerned about how we treat God and our world. He also noted that Middlewich Deanery has an active representative on the Diocesan Environment Forum and that Care of Creation is the 5th Mark of Mission.

Ven Ian noted that when asking young people what is important to them it is emphatically environment and that we don't care enough about what is happening. Global temperature rise of +1.5C will be exceeded this year and that our link diocese of Melanesia is gradually disappearing under the sea. There is concern that Government is not doing enough. In 2021 the CofE agreed a Route map to Net Zero which is available on the CofE website.

In October, Bishop Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport was the guest speaker. Bishop Sam asked what are deaneries for? His own answer was they should be where brothers and sisters in Christ can be joyful, full of thanksgiving and in solidarity with one another.

+Sam spoke of his experiences as an incumbent in Yorkshire. His parish rallied once it became brave enough to acknowledge its problems. His message was Do not be afraid of change, be resilient. God is with us where we are and will be with us into the future. We may feel in exile, but we must continue to serve because that is our Christian identity. We are chosen, loved and redeemed.

For +Sam, the biggest challenge to address is the lack of engagement with children and young people. These days mixing with young people is complex and costly but, we must take it seriously.

At the end of 2023, Vicar Ruth Mock, incumbent at Sandiway, was also Rural Dean of Middlewich deanery and Paul Stevenson, Reader at Sandiway was Lay Chair of Middlewich deanery.

Paul Stevenson
Deanery Synod Representative and Lay Chair of the Middlewich Deanery

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

FINANCIAL REVIEW

by the Treasury Team 29th April 2024

Background

This report covers the financial statements and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2023, copies of which are included with other APCM papers.

Financial administration

The treasury team manages the parish finances on a day-to-day basis. The PCC members scrutinise the actions of the treasury team and the committee provides information and advice to the PCC on financial matters.

Commentary

The accounts for 2023 show a profit of £5,692 and with a profit on revaluation of investments of £1,985 this increased to £7,677, an encouraging result for the parish and increases reserves to £50,593. We are very fortunate that our parishioners continue to contribute either by monthly standing orders or making regular donations to the Church.

In 2023 we decided that we should simplify our Accounts by transferring reserves in Restricted Funds, all income and expenditure on the Heritage Building project to the Building Fund account – we have also transferred the Ark Account to a separate Bank account and out of Restricted Funds. These changes will make the Accounts easier to understand.

During the year we completed work on the Church Tower, carried out some work reordering in the Church and completed the the installation of a Ramp to the Church, we are very grateful for the many donations made to enable these projects to be completed and for the funds raised through Church events,

We are constantly looking at ways that people can give to St John's. We already have online giving, donations can be made via the Church website, by text or via our card reader. We have now introduced a tap and go system in church.

Where does the money come from?

The church does not receive any government grants or other funding towards its running costs.

The primary source of income for general funds continues to be the planned regular giving of members of our worshipping community together with donations and collections in services together with Gift Aid

Additional sources of regular income are derived from fundraising events, weddings, funerals, church hall hire and investments.

Where is the money spent?

The biggest item of expenditure is the parish share due to the Chester Diocese which was £71,757 in 2023 and takes most of our Giving (including Gift Aid Tax Recovery) The parish share is the amount of money we are asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, specifically for clergy stipends and housing. Through the parish share we also contribute to supporting other parishes that are in a worse financial position than our own.

All other costs must be met from other income, including Fundraising which is vital to us and the efforts of the Social and Fundraising team are appreciated – other costs include the upkeep of the Church and grounds, Church Hall (net of rental income) and part of the costs of the Vicarage. It also includes the cost of all Church services, relief clergy, clergy expenses and administration. After these costs have been met there is little income to cover other repairs that are needed. Our outward giving from PCC funds is based on a percentage of the receipts from planned giving. The PCC is determined that our outward giving promise should be maintained as it is a fundamental Christian

principle to help others. We have kept control of both Church and Church Hall running costs during the year, and it is gratifying that the Buildings Management Team continues to examine how best to manage our resources.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy focuses on the level of unrestricted reserves we need to maintain cashflow. The PCC have reviewed the reserves policy and considering the risks that the Church faces have agreed a range of unrestricted reserves. This range is currently £27,000 to £57,000. On 31st December 2023 we had unrestricted reserves of £50,593 which is within the range set.

Thank you.

To everyone who so generously contributed to our finances, by planned giving or donations, during the year.

To all the people who work so hard to make applications for any grants available for our projects. To our Gift Aid Officer, for keeping our claims with HMRC up to date.

To our Independent Examiner, Tim Vincent, for the work he has put in to satisfy himself that St John's has a set of accounts that satisfy all statutory requirements and in which the PCC and the parish can have confidence.

To the Treasury Team, for dealing with receipts and payments efficiently and promptly.

To the Buildings Management Team for their understanding of the Church finances.

The continuing challenge

The PCC has set a budget for 2024, which shows that we will be showing a loss of approximately £18,000; this projected loss assumes no income from Fund raising and is also before we address the maintenance Schedule arising from the 2020 quinquennial inspection. The PCC acknowledged that the challenge for us therefore remains the same as it has in previous years, and as it does in all other parishes. We, as members of the worshipping community of St John's Sandiway, need to give freely and generously if we are to continue to meet our aims of:

- Spreading God's word within the parish.
- Providing a diverse range of religious services and other opportunities for worship through the week.
- Providing a sacred space for worship.
- Supporting members of our worshipping community within their homes; and
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people.

Please continue to give all the help that you can and as often as you can

Andy Carter, Treasury Team Leader

On behalf of the PCC

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 9, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records.

It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
 - requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Tim Vincent
Independent Examiner

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming Funds			
Planned Giving, Gift Day, Tax claim, donations and cash collections	2	100,987	136,705
Operating activities			
Fundraising activities	2	10,762	9,436
Church activities	2	23,928	19,110
Investment income	2	2,722	2,473
Total Incoming funds		138,399	167,724
Expenditure			
Donations made	3	4,580	4,826
Church activities	3	121,715	113,070
Administration	3	6,642	6,123
Total expenditure		132,937	124,019
Transfer from (to) Restricted Funds	4	230	(42,122)
Net Incoming (outgoing) General funds		5,692	1,583
Gain (loss) on revaluation of investments	5	1,985	(2,809)
Net movement of funds		7,677	(1,226)
Funds b/fwd. at the start of the year		42,916	44,142
Adjustments in respect of prior years		-	-
Funds c/fwd. at the end of the year		50,593	42,916

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of income and expenditure.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**BALANCE SHEET**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Assets		
Investments		
Ministry Fund	22,904	20,919
Current assets		
Debtors	8,751	6,380
Cash at bank	32,899	103,636
	64,544	130,935
Current liabilities		
Creditors	7,143	4,515
Net assets	57,401	126,420
Unrestricted funds	50,593	42,916
Restricted funds	6,808	83,504
Total funds	57,401	126,420

The accounts on pages 4 to 11 were approved by the PCC on the 29th of April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

AW Carter – Treasury Team Leader

Reverend R Mock – Vicar and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council

29th April 2024

The accompanying notes, on pages 6 to 9 are an integral part of these accounts.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied, consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Charities 2005.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds.

- Restricted funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust and bequest and donations or grants received for specific objects or invited by the PCC for a specific object. As the funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given, any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
- Unrestricted funds represent moneys in general funds, which are used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming funds.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming funds to which they relate are received.
- Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued.
- All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
- All incoming funds are accounted for Gross.

Expenditure.

- Giving is accounted for when due.
- The parish share is accounted for when due.
- Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

- Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts as they are treated as inalienable property as are moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.
- Expenditure on equipment has been written off.

Investments.

- Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2023.

2 Incoming funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations		
Planned giving:		
Standing orders and pink envelopes	61,398	64,440
Blue giving envelopes	925	1,666
Tax recovery	17,970	17,562
Collections (open plate)	4,429	3,416
Gift Day	5,788	19,222
Donations and legacies	10,477	30,399
	100,987	136,705
Fundraising events		
Concerts, social and other activities	8,709	7,309
Christmas Raffle and Gala Day	2,053	2,127
	10,762	9,436
Church activities		
Hall rents	13,278	11,001
Magazine sales and advertising	3,462	4,965
Wedding & funeral fees	7,138	4,044
	23,928	19,110
Investment income		
Field rent	825	825
Trust income - School Fund	471	466
Dividends and Interest	1,406	1,182
	2,722	2,473
Total Incoming funds	138,399	167,724

3 Expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Giving		
To secular charities	3,335	2,971
To Christian charities	1,245	1,855
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,580	4,826
Church activities		
Parish Share to diocese	71,757	69,667
Vicarage costs	4,407	4,898
Clergy expenses	1,125	1,247
Church Services	8,216	6,177
CDBF Assigned Fees	3,094	2,459
Junior church & youth group	125	122
Church operating costs	5,421	4,883
Church maintenance	7,521	3,888
Magazine production costs	4,038	3,416
Outreach	975	81
Hall operating costs	13,410	11,665
Hall maintenance	1,626	4,567
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	121,715	113,070
Administration		
Administration costs	4,247	4,406
Photocopying	1,206	450
Bank charges	979	982
Telephone	210	285
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,642	6,123
Total outgoing funds	<hr/>	<hr/>
	132,937	124,019

4. Transfers from (to) Restricted Funds

Moneys raised for Specific Projects are transferred to Restricted Funds. This year money raised and spent on Building Projects is transferred to and shown in the Building Fund Accounts. Ark funds previously shown in Restricted Funds is also transferred out. For Revenue expenditure it is included in the Income & Expenditure, and this then results in a transfer from Restricted Funds.

	2023	2022
Transfers from Restricted Funds	(230)	0
Transfers to Restricted Funds	0	42,122
Transfers to The Ark	(8,733)	0
Transfers to The Building Fund.	(68,091)	0
Net Transfer	<u>(77,054)</u>	<u>42,122</u>

5. Gain / (Loss) on revaluation of Investments

	2023	2022
Unrestricted funds – Ministry Fund	1,985	(2,809)

6. Related party transactions:

PCC members have during the year received reimbursement of items of expenditure properly incurred upon the business of the PCC.

7. Related trusts:

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the school fund set up on the sale of the premises which were originally the Church school. The school fund comprises 762 income shares in the CBF Church of England Investment fund; the shares originally cost £5,073 and have a current market value on 31 December 2023 of £17,225 (2022 £15,744). The capital is not shown on the Balance Sheet as under the terms of the trust only the dividends from the fund are mandated to the PCC and must be used for “Youth and Junior Church” purposes only.

8. The Ark Café

The Ark Café is non-profit making with any surplus being used to help the community. The Ark had another very successful year, the café is now outside of the General Church Funds, Reserves at the end of 2022 were £8,733 and these were transferred out to the Ark Account, £1000 was paid to local good causes during 2023, the Ark turned in a Net profit of £2354, giving Reserves of £11086 at the end of the Year, donations of £2,250 are scheduled to be paid out in 2024.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income and Expenditure		
Income		
Funds transferred from Church restricted Funds.	68,091	0
Fundraising and Donations	44,602	0
Bank Interest Received less paid	<u>449</u>	<u>257</u>
Total Income	<u>113,142</u>	<u>257</u>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on Tower	53,108	0
Expenditure on Ramp	70,357	0
Retentions Due	<u>4,001</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>127,466</u>	<u>0</u>
Profit / (Loss) in Year	(14,324)	257
Funds B/fwd.	22,980	22,723
Funds C/fwd.	<u>8,656</u>	<u>22,890</u>
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,923	0
CCLA Deposit Account	0	19,756
Bank Balances	<u>9,734</u>	<u>3,184</u>
Total Current Assets	12,657	22,980
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	4,001	0
Net Assets	<u>8,656</u>	<u>22,980</u>

Note : The Building Fund was transferred to its own set of accounts in 2010

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I have examined the Building Fund Financial Statements for 2023 which are set out on page 11.

No matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
- requirements of the Act and the Regulations

Have not been met; or

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

Tim Vincent
Independent Examiner

Accounts

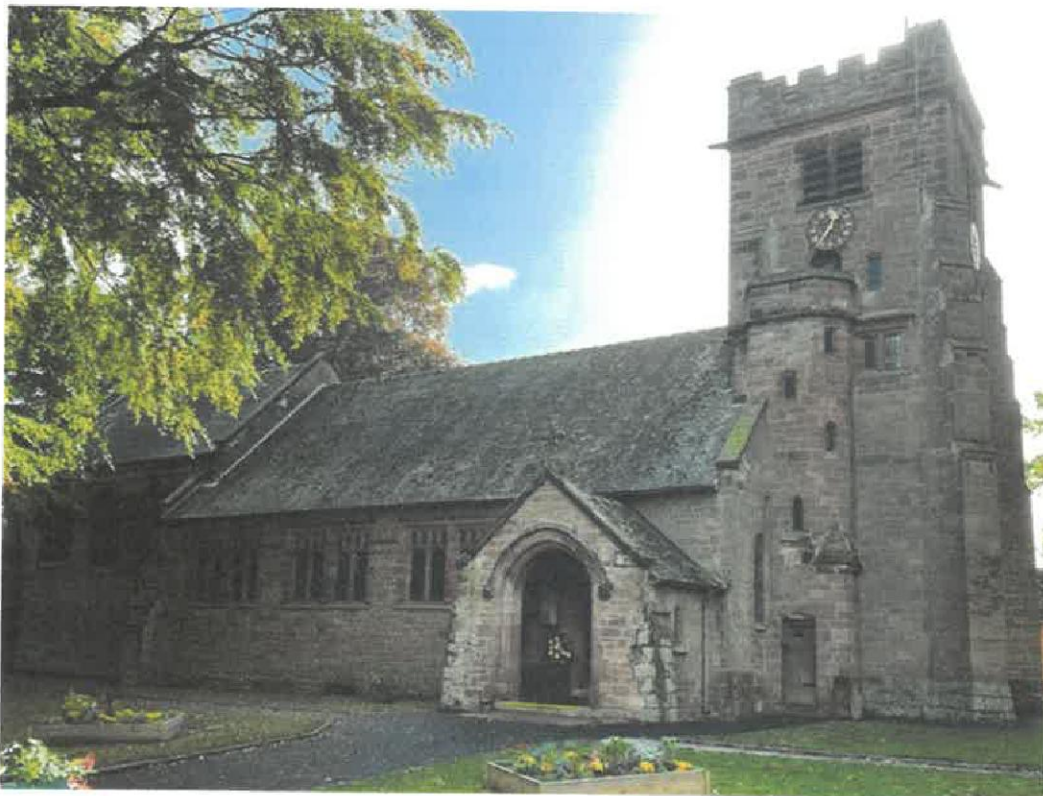
St John the Evangelist, Sandiway

Diocese of Chester

Parochial Church Council

Annual report and Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st December 2022



Registered Charity No 1135082



**The Parish of St John the Evangelist, Sandiway
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 7th March 2022

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Julie Westgate as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Churchwardens: Alison Fletcher and John Fraser

Date: 7th March 2022

Reviewed and updated: 28th April 2023

The Annual Report of Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)

1st January to 31st December 2022

Objective and Activities of the PCC

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Sandiway the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is charged with good stewardship of finances and has maintenance responsibilities for the and church hall both in Norley Road, Sandiway.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, parish representatives on the Deanery Synod plus a number of elected and co-opted lay members. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules and all church members who are on the electoral roll are encouraged to stand for election.

PCC following the APCM on the 29th May 2022 were as follows:

Vicar and Chair of PCC	Reverend Ruth Mock	From 1 st October 2019
Churchwarden	Alison Fletcher	Elected 29/5/2022
Churchwarden	John Fraser	Elected 29/5/2022
Reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Paul Stevenson	Licensed 21/10/2017
Reader & Deanery Synod Rep	Sue Hadden	Licensed 21/10/2017
Elected Member	Marian Fraser	Elected 14/10/2020
Elected Member Deanery Synod Rep	Eric Wright	Elected 14/10/20
Elected Member	Jane Green	Elected 14/10/2020
Elected Member/ Secretary /Deanery Synod	Susan Shaw (Mandy)	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Nicola Cowie	Elected 14/10/2020
Elected Member	John Goulden	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Cherry Jackson	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Heather Williams	Elected 19/5/2021
Elected Member	Jim Wren	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Helen Lilley	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Stewart Hadden	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Peter Westwood	Elected 29/5/2022
Elected Member	Tony Grand	Elected 29/5/2022
Treasury Team Leader	Andy Carter	Co-opted 29/5/2022
Director of Music	Kathryn Holmes	Co-opted 29/5/2022

PCC Contact and location information

Vicar: Reverend Ruth E Mock, The Vicarage, 50 Norley Rd, Sandiway CW8 2JU

Email: vicar.stjohnsandway@gmail.com telephone 01606 883286

Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Care of The Vicarage, 50 Norley Rd, Sandiway CW8 2JU

SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR ST JOHN'S SANDIWAY Annual meeting May 2023

I have been in post for almost a year now and can safely say we at Sandiway are keeping a pretty tight ship. As you all know, Margaret Denton stepped down from the Parish Safeguarding post last year of many dedicated years and we wish her well in her move to the other side of the country with Steve.

I successfully completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Leadership course online in June 2022. It was very strange being in a virtual classroom, but interesting to hear some of the challenges other safeguarding officers were facing. Mandy Shaw, who has been my very able deputy while I have been finding my feet in the role, has decided to step down from the role. Hopefully not a reflection on my performance, but more a necessity due to her other many commitments. There has also been a change in the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor as Pauline has moved on. The acting advisor is Sean Augustin until the post has been filled on a full time basis. I have spoken to Sean who is very approachable and keen to assist where he can.

Safeguarding remains a standing item at all PCC meetings and safeguarding updates are shared, which thankfully are very few and far between. Between us, Mandy and I have managed to ensure nearly all of the current PCC members have had an enhanced DBS check. This was following a request from Bishop Julie Conalty requesting all PCC members should have this check. We have not been quite so successful with the safeguarding training. Online safeguarding courses are available through the Safeguarding area of the Diocesan website and I have been encouraging PCC members to take up the Basic Awareness and Foundation training courses, which are both really interesting. I might have to use more persuasive skills to get the rest to take up the training; either that or bribery!

If anyone has any questions about Safeguarding, or would like to speak to me in confidence, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Julie Westgate, Parish Safeguarding Officer, 27th April 2023

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Changes since the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At the 2022 APCM the Electoral roll stood at	181
Names added up to 11 th May 2022 (end of revision period)	9
Names removed up to 11 th May 2022	7
On the 11th May (following the revision period) the 2019/2025 Electoral roll stands at	183

The revised Electoral Roll will re-open after the APCM to receive further applications throughout the year. Please contact Gill Carter, Electoral Roll Officer, via Reverend Ruth.

Note: The last occasion where was a completely new electoral roll was for the APCM in 2019. All PCCs are required to produce a new roll every 6 years and in between a formal revision has to be made ahead of the APCM. All members of the congregations are encouraged to register for the Electoral Roll to enable them to take part in the governance of the parish.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY. Please see the separate illustrated colour section.

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT

Churchwarden's Report of the Church Fabric, Goods and Ornaments 2023

Fabric

Following successfully obtaining a Faculty and securing the necessary funding the long awaited tower repairs are now underway and expect to be complete by April.

The Baptistry has been tidied and brought back to its intended appearance, with the floor tiles being exposed and cleaned.

The footpath from the lych gate to the porch has been resurfaced.

The church boundaries have been generally tidied, a new hedge planted and one of the oak trees polarded.

In conjunction with our Eco Team, many of our laurel bushes have been extensively trimmed back and wild flowers planted instead.

The church floodlights have been replaced by energy saving LED types.

At the church work continues with phase 1 of the Heritage Building Project with the ramp being the next focus of attention.

At the hall, the inside has been painted, the broken manhole cover by the kitchen has been replaced and the outside lights have been upgraded to LEDs

As usual various minor maintenance has been carried out during the year involving a combination of contractors and DIY as appropriate. The work of our small dedicated in-house team is much appreciated.

Goods

No change

Ornaments

No change.

Inventory

We are satisfied that there has been no significant change in the inventory (Bibles, prayer books, service books, hymn books, etc)

**John Fraser and Ali Fletcher.
Churchwardens**

PROCEEDINGS OF MIDDLEWICH DEANERY SYNOD 2022

In 2022 Sandiway St John's had four lay representatives (Mandy Shaw, Eric Wright, Susan Hadden and Paul Stevenson) to Middlewich Deanery Synod plus our Vicar, the Revd Ruth Mock, in the House of Clergy. This provides the PCC with a link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The laity representatives are elected directly to the synod and by virtue of this are automatically members of the PCC. Susan Hadden and Paul Stevenson are also Readers.

Our vicar Revd Ruth Mock was also appointed to the post of Rural Dean for Middlewich Deanery since October 2022.

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2022, in February, June and October.

We heard reports from deanery officers and received copies of reports from the Diocesan and General Synods. Parish news was also shared. Minutes of the Deanery Synod are available on request.

In addition to the formal business each meeting focuses on a different topic with invited guest speakers.

The Guest Speakers in 2022 were as follows:

1st February 2022 – Rt Rev Julie Conalty (Bishop of Birkenhead)

+Julie spoke of her family connections to the mid-Cheshire area having had relatives in both Hartford and Acton Bridge and then spoke of her school days in Ormskirk and her experiences of church and Spring Harvest.

Work in the Probation Service in London preceded her ordination. +Julie's ministry until being appointed Bishop of Birkenhead has been mainly in Southeast London in the dioceses of Southwark and Rochester before being appointed as Archdeacon of Tonbridge.

As Bishop of Birkenhead, she has a particular responsibility for Safeguarding and Outreach.

14th June 2022 – Rev Peter Froggatt Diocesan Director of Outreach.

Rev Peter noted that Middlewich Deanery is right in the middle of the Diocese of Chester and that it is the intention of the Outreach Department to visit each deanery.

He outlined his career as a parish priest in various parishes within the Chester Diocese since being ordained as Deacon in 1995. He also noted that the Outreach Department was formed about 2 years ago with the amalgamation of the former Mission and CSR Departments. He outlined the structure of the Department and stressed their enabling role; i.e., they can't do it for us!

22nd October 2022 – Rev Simon Chesters Diocesan Director of Ministry.

Revd Simon is from the Wirral and lives in Chester. He worships at St Mark's, Saltney where he is also a self-supporting Assistant Priest. He succeeds the Revd Canon Dr Christopher Burkett.

Simon spent five years as the Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Liverpool. Prior to this, he worked for five years as Liverpool's Director of Studies for Readers and Ordinands.

Simon is no stranger to Church House, Daresbury either as he used to be the Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese of Chester for a period of seven years, having been a parish priest in Runcorn and a curate in Birkenhead.

Eric Wright, Deanery Synod Representative.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

FINANCIAL REVIEW

by the Treasury Team 12th April 2023

Background

This report covers the financial statements and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2022, copies of which are included with other APCM papers.

Financial administration

The treasury team manages the parish finances on a day-to-day basis. The PCC members scrutinise the actions of the treasury team and the committee provides information and advice to the PCC on financial matters.

The headlines

Following the Covid19 pandemic, 2022 was a better year than we might have expected for St John's - the accounts for 2022 show a small profit of £1,583 but following a loss on revaluation of investments a deficit of £1,226 resulted, which compared with many Churches is very satisfactory. We are very fortunate that during a difficult year for everyone our parishioners continued to contribute either by monthly standing orders or making regular donations to the Church. In 2022 we also embarked upon our heritage building project, this includes some reordering in the Church, a permanent ramp at the front of Church and, eventually, an annexe to the Church. We had a Gift Day for the heritage building fund and this raised a magnificent £19,222 including Gift Aid tax recovery. Some other fundraising was directed at the heritage project including a very successful secret auction, we also received some very generous donations for both the heritage and Tower Fund which resulted in £42,122 being transferred to Restricted funds for these 2 projects.

Expenditure came in below budget, the Parish share remained at the budgeted figure of £69,667 but there were savings in other areas – the cost of Church services continued to show a saving against pre pandemic levels due to us not requiring as many visiting clergy as previously. The repair work to the Tower was started at the end of the year and should now be complete, the repairs have been funded from donations received with any balance coming from the building fund. However, we still need to find ways to increase our income so that we can meet, not only our regular expenses but also start to address the maintenance schedule arising from quinquennial reviews.

We are constantly looking at ways that people can give to St John's. We already have online giving, donations can be made via the Church website, by text or via our card reader. We are hoping to introduce a tap and go system in church very soon.

Where does the money come from?

The church does not receive any government grants or other funding towards its running costs.

The primary source of income for general funds continues to be the planned regular giving of members of our worshipping community together with donations and collections in services together with Gift Aid

Additional sources of regular income are derived from fundraising events, weddings, funerals, church hall hire and investments.

Where is the money spent?

As already indicated the biggest item of expenditure is the parish share due to Chester Diocese which was £69,667 in 2022 and was just about covered by planned giving and open plate collections (excluding Gift Aid Tax Recovery) The parish share is the amount of money we are asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, specifically for clergy stipends and housing. Through the parish share we also contribute to supporting other parishes that are in a worse financial position than our own.

All other costs must be met from other income (including our Gift Aid Tax Recovery) – these costs include the upkeep of the Church and grounds, Church Hall (net of rental income) and part of the costs of the Vicarage. It also includes the cost of all Church services, relief clergy, clergy expenses and administration. After these costs have been met there is little income to cover other repairs that are needed. Our outward giving from PCC funds is based on a percentage of the receipts from planned giving. The PCC is determined that our outward giving promise should be maintained as it is a fundamental Christian principle to help others. We have kept control of both Church and Church Hall running costs during the year, and it is gratifying that the Buildings Management Team continues to examine how best to manage our resources.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy focuses on the level of unrestricted reserves we need to maintain cashflow. The PCC have reviewed the reserves policy and considering the risks that the Church faces have agreed a range of unrestricted reserves. This range is currently £27,000 to £57,000. On 31st December 2022 we had unrestricted reserves of £42,916, which is within the range set.

Thank you.

To everyone who so generously contributed to our finances, by planned giving or donations, during the year.

To all the people who work so hard to make applications for any grants available for our projects. To our Gift Aid Officer, for keeping our claims with HMRC up to date.

To our Independent Examiner, Tim Vincent, for the work he has put in to satisfy himself that St John's has a set of accounts that satisfy all statutory requirements and in which the PCC and the parish can have confidence.

To the Treasury Team, for dealing with receipts and payments efficiently and promptly

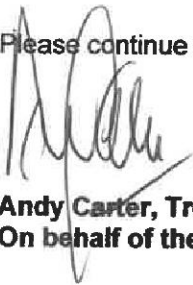
To the Buildings and management Team for their understanding of the Church finances.

The continuing challenge

The PCC has set a budget for 2023, which shows that we will be showing a loss of approximately £15,000; this projected loss assumes no income from Gift Day or Fund raising and is also before we address the maintenance Schedule arising from the 2020 quinquennial inspection. The PCC acknowledged that the challenge for us therefore remains the same as it has in previous years, and as it does in all other parishes. We, as members of the worshipping community of St Johns, Sandiway, need to give freely and generously if we are to continue to meet our aims of:

- Spreading God's word within the parish.
- Providing a diverse range of religious services and other opportunities for worship through the week.
- Providing a sacred space for worship.
- Supporting members of our worshipping community within their homes; and
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people.

Please continue to give all the help that you can and as often as you can



**Andy Carter, Treasury Team Leader
On behalf of the PCC**

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 15, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records.

It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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.

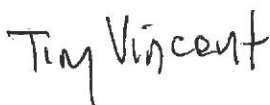
Independent Examiner's statement

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

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
- requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

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



Tim Vincent
Independent Examiner

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

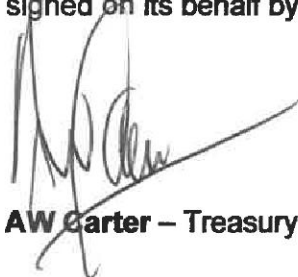
	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming Funds			
Planned Giving, Gift Day, Tax claim, donations and cash collections	2	136,705	97,025
Operating activities			
Fundraising activities	2	9,436	694
Church activities	2	19,110	20,311
Investment income	2	2,473	2,021
Total Incoming funds		167,724	120,051
Expenditure			
Donations made	3	4,826	4,223
Church activities	3	113,070	117,775
Administration	3	6,123	4,192
Total expenditure		124,019	126,190
Transfer from (to) Restricted Funds	4	(42,122)	5,465
Net Incoming (outgoing) General funds		1,583	(674)
Gain (loss) on revaluation of investments	5	(2,809)	2,970
Net movement of funds		(1,226)	2,296
Funds b/fwd. at the start of the year		44,142	41,846
Adjustments in respect of prior years		-	-
Funds c/fwd. at the end of the year		42,916	44,142

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of income and expenditure.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**BALANCE SHEET**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Assets		
Investments		
Ministry Fund	20,919	23,728
Current assets		
Debtors	6,380	5,595
Cash at bank	103,636	95,049
	<u>130,935</u>	<u>124,372</u>
Current liabilities		
Creditors	4,515	8,454
Net assets	<u>126,420</u>	<u>115,918</u>
Unrestricted funds	42,916	44,142
Restricted funds	83,504	71,776
Total funds	<u>126,420</u>	<u>115,918</u>

The accounts on pages 10 to 15 were approved by the PCC on the 9th of May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



AW Carter – Treasury Team Leader



Reverend R Mock – Vicar and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council

9th May 2023

The accompanying notes, on pages 12 to 15 are an integral part of these accounts.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied, consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Charities 2005.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds.

- Restricted funds represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust and bequest and donations or grants received for specific objects or invited by the PCC for a specific object. As the funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given, any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
- Unrestricted funds represent moneys in general funds, which are used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming funds.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming funds to which they relate are received.
- Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued.
- All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
- All incoming funds are accounted for Gross.

Expenditure.

- Giving is accounted for when due.
- The parish share is accounted for when due.
- Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

- Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts as they are treated as inalienable property as are moveable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.
- Expenditure on equipment has been written off.

Investments.

- Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2022.

2 Incoming funds

	2022 £	2021 £
Donations		
Planned giving:		
Standing orders and pink envelopes	64,440	63,064
Blue giving envelopes	1,666	1,549
Tax recovery	17,562	17,806
Collections (open plate)	3,416	2,415
Gift Day	19,222	6,432
Donations and legacies	30,399	5,759
	136,705	97,025
Fundraising events		
Concerts, social and other activities	7,309	694
Christmas Raffle and Gala Day	2,127	0
	9,436	694
Church activities		
Hall rents	11,001	5,103
Magazine sales and advertising	4,065	5,130
Wedding & funeral fees	4,044	10,078
	19,110	20,311
Investment income		
Field rent	825	660
Trust income - School Fund	466	454
Dividends and Interest	1,182	907
	2,473	2,021
Total Incoming funds	167,724	120,051

3 Expenditure

	2022	2021
	£	£
Giving		
To secular charities	2,971	2,571
To Christian charities	1,855	1,653
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,826	4,223
Church activities		
Parish Share to diocese	69,667	67,283
Vicarage costs	4,898	4,199
Clergy expenses	1,247	917
Church Services	6,177	5,449
CDBF Assigned Fees	2,459	4,676
Junior church & youth group	122	340
Church operating costs	4,883	5,956
Church maintenance	3,888	7,067
Magazine production costs	3,416	3,560
Outreach	81	5,905
Hall operating costs	11,665	8,833
Hall maintenance	4,567	3,589
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	117,896	121,998
Administration		
Administration costs	4,406	1,359
Photocopying	450	1,783
Bank charges	982	868
Telephone	285	182
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,123	4,192
Total outgoing funds	<hr/>	<hr/>
	124,019	126,190

4. Transfers from (to) Restricted Funds

Moneys raised for Specific Projects are transferred to Restricted Funds. When this money is spent on agreed Capital Projects it is not included in the Income and Expenditure Account. For Revenue expenditure it is included, and this then results in a transfer from Restricted Funds.

	2022	2021
Transfers to Restricted Funds	42,122	0
Transfers from Restricted Funds	<u>0</u>	<u>5,465</u>
Net Transfer	<u>(42,122)</u>	<u>5,465</u>

5. Gain / (Loss) on revaluation of Investments

	2022	2021
Unrestricted funds – Ministry Fund	(2,809)	2,970

6. Related party transactions:

PCC members have during the year received reimbursement of items of expenditure properly incurred upon the business of the PCC.

7. Related trusts:

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the school fund set up on the sale of the premises which were originally the Church school. The school fund comprises 762 income shares in the CBF Church of England Investment fund; the shares originally cost £5,073 and have a current market value on 31 December 2022 of £15,744 (2021 £17,845). The capital is not shown on the Balance Sheet as under the terms of the trust only the dividends from the fund are mandated to the PCC and must be used for "Youth and Junior Church" purposes only.

8. The Ark Café

The Ark Café is non-profit making with any surplus being used to help the community. Following the Covid pandemic the Ark was open for most of the year in 2022 and had another very successful year, reserves at the end of 2022 were over £8,000, £800 was paid to local good causes during 2022 and a further £1,000 paid out in early 2023.

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I have examined the Building Fund Financial Statements for 2022 which are set out on page 17.

No matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the
- requirements of the Act and the Regulations

Have not been met; or

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

Tim Vincent

Tim Vincent
Independent Examiner

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

Income and Expenditure

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	257	10
Expenditure	0	(420)
Net Incoming (Outgoing) funds	257	(410)
Funds b/fwd. At the start of the year	22,723	23,133
Funds c/fwd. At the end of the year	22,980	22,723

Represented by:

Current Assets

Debtors	0	0
CCLA Deposit account	19,796	19,539
Bank balances	3,184	3,184
	22,980	22,723

Current Liabilities

Creditors	0	0
Net Assets	22,980	22,723

Note: The Building Fund was transferred to its own set of accounts in 2010



*St John's Church,
Sandiway
Activities in 2022*

Vicar's Report

Looking back at 2022 the overriding themes for me are “connections” and “rebuild” as we sought to live out our mission to worship God and share his love. It was a year when I was reminded of the wider connections and the privilege we hold as a state church as we joined with the wider village to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June. At St John’s we hosted a joyful ecumenical Songs of Praise Service and provided refreshments from our stall at Gala Day. A few months later, in September we joined with the village to mourn the Queen’s death as we opened the church doors for 10 days to offer people the opportunity to sign a condolence book or simply come and sit in the quiet church and light a candle in moments of grief. We also held special services to remember and give thanks for the Queen’s life. We had over 200 visitors who took the opportunity to visit during the period of mourning – many shared their own stories of grief and loss with our volunteers on duty. At moments of national significance, we are here to support and reassure, not just our regular congregation but anyone within the wider parish who needs us.



Worship Services

As the threat of Covid receded, we reviewed our worship and looked for opportunities to rebuild our congregations. Like many churches, our work with families and children had been severely disrupted during the pandemic and whilst many families were bringing children for baptism, we wanted to ensure that there were also Sunday services where children and their parents felt comfortable.

Vicar's Report

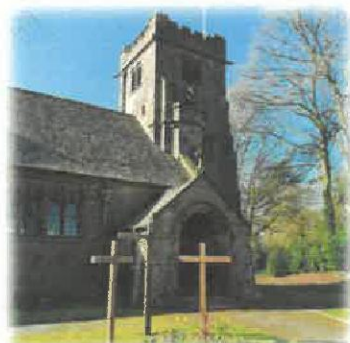
In February we started a new monthly service called Breakfast Church, aimed specifically at families with children, but open to all who were happy to worship in a relaxed café style environment. We meet around tables in the church hall joining in with creative worship, including crafts and discussion whilst our Breakfast Band led our worship. During the summer months we moved outside for Muddy Church, an open-air service making the most of the church grounds, retaining a pattern that had been developed during the Covid lockdowns. Both these services attracted new families and other individuals who felt comfortable worshipping at a relaxed, intergenerational service.



At 10.15am services in the church hall we have been able to re-introduce sessions for children that run alongside our Morning Praise services. Alison Harris has led Godly Play, a creative and child centred session that encourages children to ask their own questions as they listen and respond to Bible stories.

At 6.30pm on Sunday evenings we trialled a Celtic Communion service, using liturgy from the Iona Community as we shared bread and wine together. The choir lead our worship with hymns and Taize chants and the service has been well received.

Open House – an evening café style service that takes place on the 5th Sunday of the month. This year guests included Archdeacon of Chester, Ronya Macleod and Rev Derek Guest.



Vicar's Report

Festival Services

This was the first year since 2019 that our festival services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas were well attended by regular congregation and other visitors. We welcomed people to our carol service, crib service and Christmas Communion services where the choir sang beautifully as they led us in seasonal worship; once again I am grateful to Kathryn Holmes as Director of Music for her ongoing enthusiasm and dedication to music here at St John's.

Special Services



We welcomed Bishop of Chester, Rt Revd Mark Tanner to lead a service of Confirmation and Baptism in September and the Bishop of Birkenhead visited in early October as I was licensed as Rural Dean for Middlewich Deanery.



Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals.

There were 18 baptisms and 1 wedding at St John's in 2022. There were 13 funerals conducted by the Ministry Team during the year: 10 were held in church, and 3 took place at the crematorium.

Vicar's Report

Maintaining and Redeveloping St John's Church

In 2022 we developed a clear, phased plan for ongoing redevelopment of the church called the **Heritage Building Project**, that was launched at our Annual Meetings in May. This is a two phased plan, that will retain and enhance many of the original features of the John Douglas building whilst also offering the facilities to make the church more welcoming and accessible.

Phase 1 –

- Installation of a ramped access at the main door to facilitate access.
- Removing the front 2 rows of pews at the front of the nave to create space for wheel-chairs, and enhance the space available for concerts, weddings & funerals.
- Adding pew cushions to make the pews more comfortable to use
- Installing hand rails on the chancel steps



Phase 2 –

- Building a new annexe on south side of the church that will include a kitchen/ servery, a toilet with baby changing facilities, and a meeting space.
- Glass doors from the annexe that will open out to the Church Garden
- Internal access via a new door at the back of the nave along with permanent disabled access ramp into the annexe.

The plans have been welcomed and supported by our congregations and our annual Gift Day in July raised £18,000 for the project. I am very grateful to John Goulden for leading the project along with a small team that reports to the Parochial Church Council.

Vicar's Report

There has been considerable progress already:

- In June the Baptistry was cleared and restored for use
- Cushions fitted to make the pews more comfortable
- The sound system has been upgraded and improved
- New tarmac on path from Lych Gate
- In December scaffolding was finally put in place for much needed repairs to the Tower.



Our listed building status is both a joy and a challenge to work with; cost of work is often much higher than anticipated and there have been set backs as we work through the permissions needed from the Diocese and the Local Authority.

For example, we were not successful in securing permission to install a temporary ramp at the main church door and have had to look at more expensive solutions for permanent ramped access. In November we began a fundraising campaign specifically for this. I am very grateful for the dedication of our Social and Fundraising Team and the generosity of so many people in our congregations and beyond who support the maintenance and redevelopment of the building.

Work with schools

I have enjoyed welcoming children from our local primary schools to visit St John's during the year. Some classes came to learn about the history of the building and it is always exciting to share information with children as they learn about St John's. This year we also offered special sessions to help children understand why Christians celebrate at Easter and Christmas. The children who visited Experience Easter in March and Experience Christmas in December, showed an eagerness to listen and participate in the interactive learning.



Vicar's Report cont.

Governance

Two new church wardens were appointed at the Annual Meetings in May and I'm very grateful for the support of John Fraser and Alison Fletcher as they took up these positions. They have both worked with energy and enthusiasm and have been a great addition to the leadership team. I am also grateful to our trustees who meet regularly in our Parochial Church Council (PCC) to oversee our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. As Charity Trustees when planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In 2022, the trustees devoted considerable time to discussing the redevelopment of the church as we revised our plans for the church building and developed a phased plan of work.

Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2023 and beyond

- Continuing work on our Heritage Building Project with the internal re-ordering of the church
- Installing permanent ramped access to the main door of the church
- Developing Heritage materials to celebrate the John Douglas Building
- Considering how to welcome everyone in the name of Jesus Christ so that barriers to inclusion are removed

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time and talents to support our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. There are so many people who use their gifts and talents at St John's that it's impossible to name them all individually but thank you to the lay ministers, the members of the PCC and the dedicated teams whose creativity and skills enhance our life together.

Revd Ruth Mock



Activities at St John's



The Ark

It was great to have The Ark back after lockdown. Customers and volunteers alike had missed Friday's chats and refreshments particularly Jane's cakes. We hosted a photographic exhibition 'Life in Lockdown' which is touring the country. Through the year we were able to support Ukrainian families in the locality with free meals on Fridays plus three hospitality events which included a meal. In December, Father Christmas visited with gifts.

We supported both Macmillans, with a coffee morning raising £255, and one for Save the Children which raised £80. At the year end we were able to give Cuddington and Sandiway 2nd Guide Company £500 for camping equipment and £500 for St John's ramp appeal. We also paid for The Ark to be decorated.



Arts in The Ark



Arts in the Ark has grown and thrived this last year. We have new members and a wide variety of arts and crafts take place each week. In summer we had extension activities during the school holidays including a visit to a cottage garden for sketching and photography, a course for making crochet bowls and two days on textile art. Our thanks go to our accomplished guitarist playing each week to enhance the peaceful atmosphere that people like so much.



Book groups

Three book groups continue to meet and are enjoying interesting and sometimes challenging recommendations.

Activities cont.

Charitable Giving

A meeting was held to discuss possible charitable causes to receive bimonthly donations of £500 representing a percentage of our outward giving for the year. Suggestions from the congregation were considered and a list drawn up reflecting a balance of worldwide, nationwide and local charities to be finally approved by the Vicar and PCC members.

Examples of chosen charities include United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), a major Anglican missionary agency, Mary's Meals, working in 19 countries providing life changing meals for some of world's poorest children everyday they attend school and Asylum Link Merseyside, an organization dedicated to assisting asylum seekers and refugees in Liverpool.

A file containing current information, newsletters and acknowledgements is compiled annually and placed in Church for reference.

Christian Aid

One of the charities we support every year is Christian aid, one of the largest British aid charities which helps some of the poorest people in the world, campaigns for justice and responds with immediate help for the victims of natural disasters: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods etc. It works with other charities with similar aims and is supported by most church denominations in this country.

In 2022 Christian Aid Week highlighted its work with people increasingly affected by drought in Zimbabwe as a result of climate change which has made it more of a struggle for the poorest people to grow crops and provide for their families. Christian Aid has helped people like Jessica (pictured) to grow drought-resistant crops, to provide a water supply to her farm and to farm in a more fruitful way.

Our morning worship on Sunday 15th May focused on Christian Aid and featured Jessica in particular. People were invited to give on line or by cash/cheque and/or to support by taking part in a sponsored all-age walk and lunch after church on Sunday 22nd May. The response was magnificent and we raised £1040 for Christian Aid work with £115 to add through Gift Aid.

Activities cont.

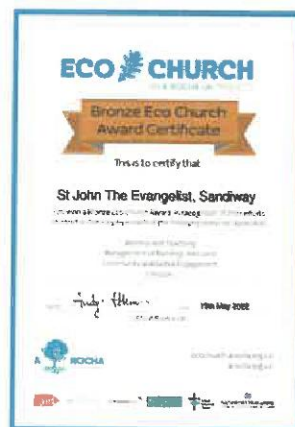
Choir

It was good to be back in the choir stalls. All had missed singing as a choir. We said goodbye to Jess Boot Cowie and Jess Lilley who both moved on to University but managed to get back for Christmas Eve. The choir sing at 6.30pm services, once a month at Choral Matins and at Festival services. We are very fortunate to have a four-part choir, a rare thing these days. New members are always welcome.

Eco Church

In May 2022 St John's gained a Bronze Eco Church Award. Our church registered with the scheme in May 2021 and the whole church community spent the next twelve months working through the questions in the on-line survey to assess our progress towards an award. The survey covers five key areas of church life: worship and teaching, management of church buildings, management of church land, community and global engagement, lifestyle. Completing the questionnaire enabled our church to record what we are already doing to care for God's earth and to reflect on what further steps we can take and then act accordingly.

Achieving Bronze Eco Church Award has been made possible by the wholehearted support and commitment of our church community. We will continue to work together as a church to complete further actions to care for our precious earth progressing towards a Silver and, hopefully (eventually), a Gold Eco Church Award.



Activities cont.

Godly Play

In Godly Play sessions which usually take place in The Ark twice a month alongside the 10.15 service the children aged 3 and over are given space to explore either a story from the Bible or a story about an aspect of Church life. The story is told using either 2 or 3 dimensional materials after which there is a time of 'wondering conversation' – *I wonder which part of this story you like the best? I wonder which part of this story is most important? I wonder where you are in this story?* The children are given space to explore and there is no expectation that we are looking for right answers. They certainly challenge the storyteller with their insights and questions. The group continue their wondering through the practical activities we have set out; there is then a short time of prayer before we rejoin the rest of the congregation.

Our grateful thanks go to a good team of adults who help set up the room and clear away afterwards, who share in conversations with the whole group and with individual children if they want to talk.

Home Groups

Our six Home Groups (3 afternoon and 3 evening) welcomed meeting again in person following the restraints caused by Covid. The groups continue to follow different paths as they provide opportunity and exploration of faith as well as pastoral support and fun.



JIMS

The group met twice a month from April onwards playing songs from different eras and various genres. It remains a very relaxed atmosphere to come and play in. All players and instruments are welcome. Numbers are very encouraging with an average attendance of 14 players and singers.



Activities cont.

Mothers' Union

We have had a very happy and successful year with a wide range of excellent speakers and fruitful fund raising events. We have continued to give small children's Bibles to all children baptized at St John's. We have also continued to send as much as we can to Mothers' Union charity funds. Although we have lost four members this year we have happily gained five and membership now stands at 22. Many thanks to our Secretary, Treasurer and committee for all their hard work and to the members for their faithful attendance and support.

Music

For over twenty years we've had an evening concert series at St John's with a wide variety of musicians and ensembles. After lockdown we decided to try a monthly lunchtime series followed by a soup lunch. The last two years have been particularly hard for young musicians starting out on their careers and RNCM were very appreciative of the opportunity for students to perform at St John's. We've also had established musicians.

The venue is perfect, new people see St John's, a high standard of musicianship is enjoyed at a low ticket price and much needed funds are raised.

The audience support has increased monthly and a wide variety of ensembles and soloists has performed for us: harps, violin, piano, singers, bassoon to name a few. The soup lunch has been an opportunity for people to meet and to socialize. Thanks to all the soup makers.



Activities cont.

Praise and Play

The group for babies, pre-school children and their parents/carers meets each Thursday afternoon in term time (1.45 – 3.00); in an informal, friendly space where everyone feels comfortable we gently explore some things about church and the Christian faith. After an informal time of 'catching up' and free play we gather for songs with instruments, actions or parachute; we have a story which could be from the Bible or a children's story from which we can draw some Christian significance. After short prayers and a celebration of a special time (birthdays perhaps) families enjoy the play activities set around the hall and continue to catch up over a cup of tea/coffee.



Grateful thanks go to the good team of adults who set everything up, supervise activities when needed, make the tea, chat with adults and children and help clear away at the end.

Prayer Support

Hilary Chambers stepped down as leader of the Prayer Group this year; we are very grateful for her inspiration and guidance for over 10 years. Hilary is still a valued member of the renamed 'Prayer Support' alongside Sue Haddon, Jill Carter, Margaret Byrne, Fiona Goulden and Sandra Stevenson.



Our aim is to support and encourage individuals, the church and the community in prayer.

Our 'Recycled Love' weekend in September 2022 achieved just that with the amazing display of over 700 hearts in church, 300 visitors and 200 bags distributed.

The 200 Advent Ribbons that were distributed were as popular and as encouraging as ever.

Saturday Sanctuary which has now returned to two hours is proving popular for both prayer and company and hot drinks.



Social and fundraising events
These have been particularly well supported as people wanted to stay local in as safe a place as possible and gradually get used to going out again. Thanks to all who have entertained us with singalongs, musical evenings and quizzes. Amazing high quality meals have been enjoyed, all made by St John's church family, Funds have been raised and with several different congregations worshipping, the social events help keep us together and are an opportunity to bring friends along too.



Youth Group

Dave Mock took over leadership of the group in Autumn 2022. There is an experienced volunteer team of leaders who all help to make the sessions safe, properly resourced and, most importantly, fun! The group meets each month usually on the 4th Sunday and activities are planned on a termly basis. No two sessions are the same. The aim is for the kids to have a good time and learn a little about the Christian faith as they go along. Every session includes lovely food including 'doorbells'. Our thanks to all involved in any way.



If you are interested in coming along to any of these activities or groups, you would be very welcome! Please see the magazine or website for details, or contact **XXX**

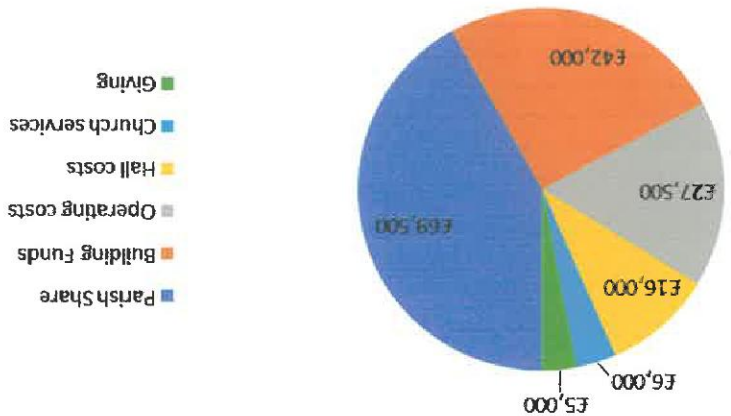
Events in 2022:

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services continued
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast Church started • Godly Play started • Monthly Lunchtime Concerts restarted • Monthly Family Wildlife Activities started
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lent group • Lent reflections • Lent appeal for Afghanistan & Ukraine
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Easter • Easter services in church
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come & Sing Joseph & the Technicolour Dreamcoat • Christian Aid sponsored walk • Annual Meeting - launch of Heritage Building Appeal
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platinum Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Panama Jazz Band Concert • Heritage Gift Day & Family BBQ • Parish Social
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Morning
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation Service • Church open for commemoration • Prayer Weekend "Recycled Love"
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest Festival • Harvest Soup Lunch raises money for Middlesbrough Foodbank • Commissioning of Ruth as Rural Dean • Clothes Swap • Italian Evening
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Warmer with the Three Mojitos
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir sang carols at White Barn, Blue Cap & Toolerstones • Christmas with JIMS • Saturday Sanctuary renamed • Experience Christmas • Christmas Singalong • Christmas Services

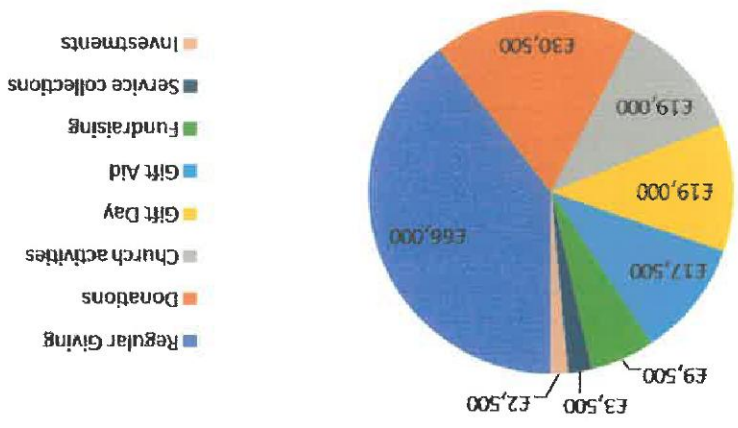
Thank you to everyone who has continued to contribute to our finances through planned giving, donations and collections, despite another difficult year for so many.

For more financial information, please see the 2022 Business & Financial Annual Report.

Where does our money go?



Where does our money come from?



St John's registered charity no. 1135082



Safeguarding Statement
At St John's, we take extremely seriously our duty and obligation to protect all. We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines, and in all our activities have given due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Julie Westgate (07713 813147) or Mandy Shaw, our Assistant Safeguarding Officer (07504 504087).

Accounts

St John's Church, Sandiway Activities in 2021

Vicar's Report

2021 began with our buildings closed as we were once again in a period of lockdown to tackle the health emergency caused by Covid 19. It was 21st March 2021 before we gathered in person, but meeting to pray and worship God remains at the heart of everything that we do at St John's. We offered weekly online services via Youtube and Facebook, honing our expertise with new technologies to enable us to worship and to reach out beyond our parish boundaries. When we re-opened our buildings in the Spring, like many churches, we found that the numbers returning to worship in person had declined significantly when compared to pre-pandemic levels, as people remained cautious. There were signs of a gradual growth in confidence towards the end of the year, until the Omicron Covid variant brought a fresh wave of anxiety in December. Fortunately, we were able to celebrate in church at Christmas, although our Crib Service on Christmas Eve had to be moved outdoors at short notice. This turned out to be a wonderful open air re-telling of the Nativity story – and something that we hope to repeat in 2022 (weather permitting.)



We have made good use of our buildings to offer a range of different worship services at St John's throughout the year. We continue to meet at 10.15am in the church hall on Sunday mornings as well as worshipping in church on Thursday mornings, Sunday evenings and for major festivals. We also enjoyed worshipping outdoors in the church garden on the first Sunday of the month, and held our first Thanksgiving for Pets service in September.



Vicar's Report cont.

Our 8.30am Sunday morning service was reintroduced on the first Sunday of the month in September and in July we trialed a new evening service called "Open House" meeting in the church hall on the 4th Sunday of the month. This was an informal service that included refreshments and an interview with a guest speaker in the place of a sermon.

Changes to the Ministry Team

At St John's we are fortunate to have a large team of people who lead worship, preach and work with our children and families. In 2021 Marian Harris stepped down from this team after many years of service. We are very grateful to Marian for her valued contributions as a Reader and in so many aspects of church life. However, I'm pleased that Marian, in her "retirement" is continuing to lead a home group at St John's. Andrew Hardy also became a Reader Emeritus in 2021, but has retained permission to preach and lead worship and will still be involved in these aspects of church life.



Nicola Boot had been employed as the Children and Families' Team Leader at St John's since January 2019 but decided to return to full time teaching in the Autumn of 2021. Nicola brought great creativity and warmth to her role and will be much missed. However, I am delighted to say that Nicola took on the post of Youth Group Leader from September and continues to lead our work with young people from the age of 10 – 18 years successfully. At present we have decided not to employ a children and families' worker, until we are able to assess our needs following the disruption of the Covid pandemic.

We thanked Nicola, Andrew and Marian for their work at a social evening in July. We also used this occasion to raise a toast to Dug Harris who had served St John's as Reader until his death in August 2020 and is still much missed.

Vicar's Report cont.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

As Covid restrictions eased, I conducted 8 wedding ceremonies and 14 baptisms in church between May and December. It was wonderful to be able to open our doors to families who had postponed these special occasions and to welcome them to church.

There were 23 funerals conducted by the Ministry Team during the year: 8 were held in church, 12 took place at a crematorium and 3 were held at the graveside in Gorstage Cemetery.

Offering a warm welcome

Since taking up the post of Vicar in 2019, I have encouraged us to look at the ways that people are welcomed to church and to think about any barriers to inclusion. In November we ran the Living in Love and Faith Course to discuss material produced by the Church of England, looking at issues of sexuality and identity. This prompted in-depth discussions as we talked about attitudes and Biblical teaching.



Governance

I am very grateful to our trustees who meet regularly in our Parochial Church Council to oversee our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. As Charity Trustees when planning the objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In 2021, the trustees reviewed arrangements for worship, discussed ways to keep our congregations safe and managed our buildings as the Pandemic continued and restrictions changed.

Vicar's Report cont.

We also dedicated considerable time to discussing the redevelopment of the church. Plans were drawn up for a permanent ramp to provide access to the building (although this has yet to be approved by the Diocese) and the go-ahead was given for repairs to the roof of the Church Tower that I hope will be completed in 2022. Many of you will know that wider discussions about the redevelopment of the church have been on-going for years, but there are considerable challenges in balancing the heritage of our beautiful building whilst providing the necessary facilities to make it accessible and welcoming. It has been difficult to make headway, so in December I put together a new team who could examine different possibilities and take the project forward in the hope of finding a solution.



Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2022 and beyond

- Making the church more accessible by pursuing our plans for redevelopment
- Ensuring that the plans for repairing the Tower are expedited as quickly as possible
- Considering how to welcome everyone in the name of Jesus Christ so that barriers to inclusion are removed
- Reviewing our worship so that all generations are welcome.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time and talents to support our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. The church wardens, Kathryn Holmes and Steve Denton worked very hard throughout the year along with the many teams who take on responsibility for different aspects of our life together. There are so many people who use their gifts and talents at St John's that it's impossible to name them all individually but thank you to the lay ministers, the members of the PCC and the dedicated teams whose creativity and skills enhance our life together.

Rev'd Ruth Mock



St John's Groups



The Ark

Despite all the complications resulting from Covid regulations it has still been a very busy year for The Ark. The Ark team supplied lunches during the second lockdown made possible by generous local donations and further funding from the Cheshire Community Foundation. The Ark also provided packed lunches on a daily basis to 20 Acton Bridge households affected by the flooding along the A49. Funding for this initiative came from Acton Bridge Parish Council, local councilors and a Weaverham business individual. When allowed to open again all Covid mitigations were in place, the garden area was open and we invested in a card machine to reduce handling cash. And we acquired a Hotel Chocolat hot chocolate machine....great fun!

The Community Café has been a real bonus for the village allowing the cautious to meet friends safely and locally. In December table top sales were held at The Ark for The Joshua Tree and St. Luke's. It is good once more to be able to donate our profits to the organisations that support our community. This time £400 went to both Visyon (a charity supporting the mental health of young people) and £400 to the newly reformed Cuddington and Sandiway Y (previously known as 69ers).



Arts in The Ark

We were finally able to relaunch our weekly Wednesday afternoon sessions in the Church Hall on 4th August 2021 with strict social distancing, mask wearing and ventilation. For some it was the first time they had met people other than family since the long months of the second lockdown. Nearly all members submitted pieces of work to the Finding Hope exhibition in late September. The sessions have continued successfully ever since and remain relaxed, friendly and vibrant creative occasions.

Book groups

For most of 2021 book groups were unable to meet but they have recently reconvened.

Groups cont.

Choir and Music

Having become used to singing as trios or quartets often outside in Kathryn's garden (now famous to all viewers) it was great to meet for choir practice in the church nave albeit masked and distanced once regulations were relaxed. The experience of being recorded was both scary and humbling. Most of the choir have felt able to return to singing and, with numbers reduced to 10 for services, it has been a positive realization that every individual matters. We all appreciate the confidence we get from each other and feel blessed to be part of the group. Thanks to all the choir.



After the break for the 'Covid years' we were able to start a lunchtime concerts series in December with music in Church and a soup lunch in the hall. It was great to hear Sophie Rosa and Peter Liang, the violin duo who had been cancelled at the start of lockdown.

Home Groups

Although unable to meet face to face for most of this very difficult year groups managed to 'meet' electronically or otherwise to explore faith, the Bible and be mutually supportive.

JIMS

We were finally able to meet fortnightly again in September albeit for just one hour with social distancing in place and no refreshments. Nonetheless it was great to see everyone again and to play some music together. In 2022 we hope to return to two hour fortnightly sessions with a refreshment break in the middle. New players are always welcome.

Groups cont.

Youth Group

The Youth Group didn't have in-person meetings for the first half of the year, although they did make it to an online 'Taskmaster' competition and an online Pancake Party, as well as taking part in a Christian Aid sponsored walk.

They reformed in September, however, with a keen group of young people doing what they do best - playing games, having fun and eating pizza! They also went on a Christmas trip to the bowling alley with their families.



Mothers' Union

No meetings were held for much of the year but we started off by celebrating MU's 100th birthday with a communion service in church led by Rev Ruth Mock followed by tea kindly catered for and provided by the Social & Fundraising team: probably the first event we have not had to cater for ourselves in the whole 100 years! It was very welcome. Thank you so much. Meetings were held in November (sharing favourite photographs) and December (Bingo and an entertaining short story kindly read by David Bruce). A full programme has been arranged for 2022 including a rescheduling of January's lunch.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, you would be very welcome! Please see the magazine or website for details, or contact Kathryn on 01606 889879 or Steve on 01606 883976.

St John's Teams

St John's continues to be grateful to the many teams and individuals who do so much to keep St John's running. The formal teams are sub-committees of the PCC and carry out work on its behalf.

However there are so very many other people who work tirelessly either individually or with others to make St John's what it is: warm, welcoming, prayerful. Even during a very difficult year there are those who clean the church and the brass, those who move furniture about, those who make and serve refreshments, those who arrange flowers and other decorations, those who write and deliver the parish magazine, those who edit online services. There are also those who maintain the buildings, manage our finances, handle our publicity and organise our worship. The pastoral responders (a team established to keep in touch with members of St John's community during lockdowns) have also continued to disseminate news and notices. They have all been very much appreciated.



Children and Family Team

This is the year in which we said goodbye to Nicola as our Children and Families team leader. She has worked tirelessly to enhance the experience of parents and children at St John's and we are very grateful to her for all she has done.

Although very many activities were disrupted by Covid again this year we did have an online Pancake Party, take part in Wild Lent activities with families, distribute takeaway bags on Mothering Sunday and enjoy Christingle and Crib services outdoors.



Teams cont.

In September we began to review the activities we could offer for children and families. Ruth and Alison, working with volunteers, began a new initiative called Praise & Play; a group for babies and toddlers accompanied by a parent or carer, meeting weekly in term-time on Thursdays to enjoy a Bible story, songs, crafts and playtime. Ruth also trialled an after school club on Thursdays for Primary school children but there wasn't enough interest to keep this going.

We were unable to offer Junior Church during the Autumn term following Nicola's departure but plans are in place to re-start this in 2022 in a new format. There have been many changes to the CAF team with people stepping down after many years of hard work and we are grateful to everyone who has been involved in the past few years. We are also delighted that Nicola has taken on the role of Youth Group Leader from September and continues to lead monthly sessions for young people aged 10-18.



Prayer Group

Prayer Group has again continued to uphold St John's, our community and the wider world in prayer by regularly meeting and praying together whether in person or by Zoom or other electronic means. We have felt unable to safely restart our much loved and sorely missed pre-Covid Saturday Open Church but from September we have offered 'Prayer Hour' in church on Saturdays 10.00 – 11.00am, giving opportunity for prayer, the lighting of candles and quiet conversation with welcomers. The Group has again continued to highlight prayer through weekly prayers on the website and newsletters and our prayer page in the parish magazine, This year's Lent Reflections were also available via the Church website. Our annual Prayer Weekend in September (this year on the theme of Finding Hope) was our most ambitious to date involving many individuals and groups in a full programme of

activities in church and hall and with the addition of our Takeaway Prayer Bags. During Advent our traditional sets of Advent Ribbons were distributed and weekly Advent reflections were held in Church.

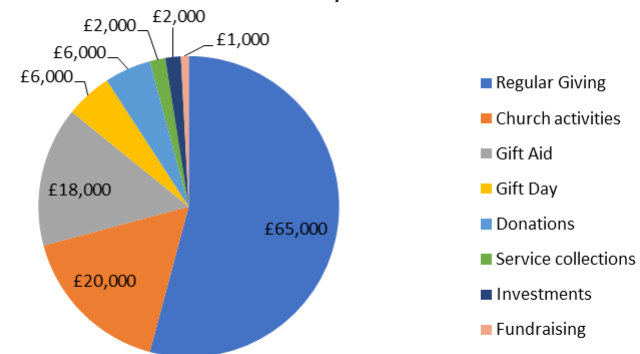


Events in 2021:

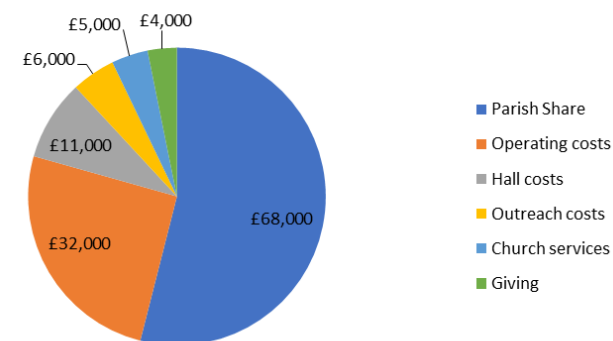
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Friday lunches restart in the Ark Online services and coffee Zoom continue
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St John's Magazine becomes free (now funded by donations) 40 days of giving for the Foodbank Lent reflections Lent activities for the environment Begin hosting the Food Hub run by Northwich Community Support
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person services restarted Eco ambassadors appointed
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Day outdoor service
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ark reopened Christian Aid online quiz Christian Aid sponsored walk Annual Meeting online
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House started Thank You Evening celebrates contributions from some volunteers Holiday club
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Day
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding Hope prayer weekend Thanksgiving for pets service Praise & play started Thursday Club started Youth Group restarted Gift Day
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest festival Living in love and faith course MU 100th birthday celebration Harvest Soup Lunch raises money for Vaccinaid Saturday prayer hour restarted
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Hour November Hotpot with winter raffle and quiz
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunchtime concert Christmas services

Finances

Where does our money come from?



Where does our money go?



Thank you to everyone who has continued to contribute to our finances through planned giving, donations and collections, despite another difficult year for so many.

For more financial information, please see the 2021 Business & Financial Annual Report.

Safeguarding Statement

At St John's, we take extremely seriously our duty and obligation to protect all. We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines, and in all our activities have given due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Julie Westgate (07713 813147) or Mandy Shaw, our Assistant Safeguarding Officer (07504 504087).

Charitable Giving

St John's continues to care about giving outwards. A meeting was first held to discuss possible charitable causes to receive donations, including suggestions from the congregation. A list was drawn up, aiming to have a balance of worldwide, nationwide and local charities, and this was then approved by the PCC. This year these charities received £500 each, representing a significant percentage of our giving for the year.

Examples of this year's charities include the United Society Partners in the Gospel, a major Anglican missionary agency, Church Homeless Trust, working with schemes and churches to bring about an end to homelessness in the UK and St Luke's Cheshire Hospice providing a safe refuge during a sometimes difficult journey.

A file containing current information, newsletters and acknowledgements is compiled annually and placed in the Baptistry for reference.



St John's registered charity no. 1135082



St John's Sandiway
www.stjohnsandway.org.uk

Sandiway Parochial Church Council

Annual report and accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2021

for presenting to the 2022 APCM



Sandiway PCC registered Charity No 1135082:

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Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its annual report on its business and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.

OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Sandiway the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is charged with good stewardship of finances and has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall, both in Norley Road, Sandiway.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, parish representatives on the Deanery Synod plus a number of elected and co-opted lay members. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules and all church members who are on the Electoral Roll are encouraged to stand for election.

The following have served on the PCC and therefore as trustees from 1 January 2021 until the date this report was approved. They are:

Vicar	The Revd. Ruth E Mock	Vicar & PCC Chairman from 1 st October 2019	
Churchwardens	Kathryn Holmes	Elected on 1st July 2018	And subsequently re-elected each year.
	Steve Denton	Elected on 1st July 2018	
Readers	Hilary Chambers	Licensed 19/10/2013	
	Paul Stevenson	Licensed 21/10/2017	
	Sue Hadden	Licensed 21/10/2017	
Deanery Synod Members	Eric Wright	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	
	Sue Hadden	Elected by PCC on 25/01/2021 to the APCM 2023	Both are also Readers.
	Paul Stevenson		
Elected Members	Aileen Alford	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	Moved out of the area
	Margaret Denton	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Stewart Hadden	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Alison Fletcher	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Stanley Mendham	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	Resigned due to ill health
	Marian Fraser	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	
	Jane Green	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	
	Nicola Cowie	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	& previously co-opted at PCC meeting on 13/05/19.
	John Goulden	Elected 19/5/2021 to APCM 2024	
	Susan (Mandy) Shaw	Elected 19/5/2021 to APCM 2024	
	Cherry H Jackson	Elected 19/5/2021 to APCM 2024	
	Heather M Williams	Elected 19/5/2021 to APCM 2024	
	Helen Lilley	Elected 19/5/2021 to casual vacancy to APCM 2022	
Co-opted members	Co-opt 1	Andrew Carter at PCC meetings of 28/04/19, 16/11/20 and 19/7/2021	Treasury Team leader.
	Co-opt 2	This co-option not used.	
Advisers (non-members)			

ELECTORAL ROLL

CHANGES SINCE 2021 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM).

At the 2021 APCM the E/R stood at	185
Names added up to 4 th May 2022 (end of revision period)	1
Names removed up to 4 th May 2022 (end of revision period)	<u>5</u>
On 4 th May 2022 (following the revision period) the 2019/25 electoral roll stands at	181

The revised Electoral Roll will be available for inspection at the APCM.

The Electoral Roll will re-open after the APCM to receive further applications throughout the year.

NOTES:

The last occasion when there was a completely new electoral roll was for the APCM in 2019. All PCCs are required to produce a new roll every 6 years and in between a formal revision has to be made ahead of each APCM. After such preparation of a new E/R or its revision in intermediate years no further applications are permitted until after the APCM.

All congregation members are encouraged to register for the Electoral Roll to enable them to take part in the governance of the parish.

PCC CONTACT AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Vicar Revd Ruth E Mock, The Vicarage, 50 Norley Road, Sandiway, Northwich. CW8 2JU.
Email vicar.stiohnsandway@gmail.com, telephone 01606 883286.

Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Correspondence address:

Sandiway PCC, c/o The Vicarage, 50 Norley Road, Sandiway, Northwich. CW8 2JU.

Sandiway St John the Evangelist Church is located on Norley Road, Sandiway in between the junctions with Hadrian's Way and Weaverham Road.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY.

Please see the separate illustrated colour section.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Margaret Denton completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Leadership course at the end of April 2021 and Mandy Shaw completed the same course in October 2021. Mandy has also completed a Safeguarding Adults course through her workplace and Margaret has completed a Child Protection course as a school governor.

Safeguarding is a standing item at all PCC meetings and safeguarding updates are shared. All PCC members have received a copy of the pocket guide to safeguarding which includes contact details for St John's Safeguarding Officer, the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and regional agencies. We have undertaken a short safeguarding training audit amongst PCC members to further raise awareness. Online safeguarding courses are available through the Safeguarding area of the Diocesan website.

The new Vergers have had basic DBS checks and received copies of the pocket guide to safeguarding. Volunteers who will be helping at the new Thursday Club, Youth Group or at Godly Play sessions have all had enhanced DBS checks.

Please see the outer back cover of this report for our full Safeguarding & Vulnerability Policy on Children, Young People & Adults at risk.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

FINANCIAL REVIEW

by the Treasury Team 12th April 2022

Background

This report covers the financial statements and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2021, copies of which are included with other APCM papers.

Financial administration

The treasury team manages the parish finances on a day-to-day basis. The PCC members scrutinise the actions of the treasury team and the committee provides information and advice to the PCC on financial matters.

The headlines

With the Covid19 pandemic continuing, 2021 was another tough year for St John's - the accounts for 2021 show a small deficit of £674 but following revaluation of investments a profit of £2,296 which compared with many Churches is a good result - as reported in 2020 the deficit could have been a much higher because we have received very little in Hall hire and fundraising. However, we are fortunate that our parishioners continued to contribute either by monthly standing orders or making regular donations to the Church. We also had a Gift Day in 2021 and this gave the Church a further £6,432 to offset costs and enable us to put in place some planned improvements.

Expenditure was also below budget, although the Parish share remained at the budgeted figure of £67,624 there were savings in other areas - with the Church buildings being closed for much of the time our Gas and Electricity usage was down, and other costs associated with Church Services were not required. We continued to accrue some benefit from the Government furlough scheme; this saved the Church £2,283. There are several provisions made, mainly under Church Maintenance a provision has been made for some bush pruning in the Church grounds, some lighting improvements and part of the cost of the sound system - these accruals were made because the funds were allocated from Gift Day income to cover these improvements. The largest project is still the repair of the Tower, for which we are currently seeking up to date costs, at the time of these accounts we have raised approximately £54,000. In addition, there will be other maintenance requirements identified in the 2020 quinquennial review. However, we still need to find ways to increase our income so that we can meet, not only our regular expenses but also start to address the maintenance schedule that will be produced.

Online giving has increased in the year and has been used both for donations to St John's and for donations to the Magazine, we have also introduced a card machine and hope to upgrade this at some stage to make it easier for people to give, but this will not happen until we feel we are back to normality.

Where does the money come from?

The church does not receive any government grants or other funding towards its running costs.

The primary source of income for general funds continues to be the planned regular giving of members of our worshipping community together with donations and collections in services together with Gift Aid

Additional sources of regular income are derived from fundraising events, weddings, funerals, church hall hire and investments. As already indicated, in 2021 a number of these sources provided reduced income.

Where is the money spent?

The biggest item of expenditure is the parish share due to Chester Diocese which was £67,283 in 2021 and was just about covered by planned giving and open plate collections (excluding Gift Aid Tax Recovery) About 90 per cent of the parish share and other income (for example, from diocesan property or land) is used by the diocese to pay for the parish clergy and other diocesan ministries. That is the costs of stipends, pensions and National Insurance, parsonage housing, and training expenditure for ordinands. It also includes money spent on diocesan ministries that support the parishes, such as children's and youth work, stewardship and communications. Through the parish share we also contribute to supporting other parishes that are in a worse financial position than our own. In addition, in 2021 approximately 46% of income from Weddings and Funerals was paid to the Diocese. We have no choice but to continue to pay these if we wish to continue to benefit from a full-time vicar to lead us in spiritual and numerical growth.

All other costs must be met from other income (including our Gift Aid Tax) - these costs include the upkeep of the Church and grounds, Church Hall and part of the costs of the Vicarage. It also includes the

cost of all Church services, relief clergy, clergy expenses and administration. After these costs have been met there is little income to cover other repairs that are needed. Our outward giving from PCC funds is based on a percentage of the receipts from planned giving. The PCC is determined that our outward giving promise should be maintained as it is a fundamental Christian principle to help others. We have kept control of both Church and Church Hall running costs during the year, and it is gratifying that the Buildings Management Team continues to examine how best to manage our resources.

Thank you

To everyone who so generously contributed to our finances, either by planned giving or donations, during this difficult year.

To all the people who work so hard to make applications for any grants available for our projects. To our Gift Aid Officer, for keeping our claims with HMRC up to date.

To our Independent Examiner, Tim Vincent, for the work he has put in to satisfy himself that St John's has a set of accounts that satisfy all statutory requirements and in which the PCC and the parish can have confidence.

To the Treasury Team, for dealing with receipts and payments and without whose effort there would be no accounts!

To the Buildings and management Team for their understanding of the Church finances.

The continuing challenge

The PCC has set a budget for 2022, which shows that we will be showing a loss of approximately £8,000; this projected loss assumes no income from Gift Day or Fund raising and is also before we address the maintenance Schedule arising from the 2020 quinquennial inspection. The PCC acknowledged that the challenge for us therefore remains the same as it has in previous years, and as it does in all other parishes. We, as members of the worshipping community of St Johns, Sandiway, need to give freely and generously if we are to continue to meet our aims of:

- Spreading God's word within the parish.
- Providing a diverse range of religious services and other opportunities for worship through the week.
- Providing a sacred space for worship.
- Supporting members of our worshipping community within their homes; and
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people.

Please give all the help that you can as often as you can.



Andy Carter, Treasury Team Leader

On behalf of the PCC

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 16, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

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

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Incoming Funds			
Planned Giving, Gift Day, Tax claim, donations and cash collections	2	97,025	88,582
Operating activities			
Fundraising activities	2	694	1,156
Church activities	2	20,311	17,445
Investment income	2	2,021	1,851
Total Incoming funds		120,051	109,034
Expenditure			
Donations made	3	4,223	3,797
Church activities	3	117,775	119,517
Administration	3	4,192	3,213
Total expenditure		126,190	126,527
Transfer from (to) Restricted Funds	4	5,465	10,995
Net Incoming (outgoing) General funds		(674)	(6,498)
Gain (loss) on revaluation of investments	5	2,970	1,379
Net movement of funds		2,296	(5,119)
Funds b/fwd. at the start of the year		41,846	46,965
Adjustments in respect of prior years		-	-
Funds c/fwd. at the end of the year		44,142	41,846

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of income and expenditure

Tim Vincent

Tim Vincent

Independent Examiner

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET

	2021 £	2020 £
Assets		
Investments		
Ministry Fund	23,728	20,758
Current assets		
Debtors	5,595	6,696
Cash at bank	95,049	94,504
	<u>124,372</u>	<u>122,048</u>
Current liabilities		
Creditors	8,454	8,363
Net assets	<u>115,918</u>	<u>113,685</u>
Unrestricted funds	44,142	41,846
Restricted funds	71,776	71,839
Total funds	<u>115,918</u>	<u>113,685</u>

The accounts on pages 9 to 16 were approved by the PCC on the 8th of May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:


AW Carter – Treasury Team Leader

 29/5/22
Reverend R Mock – Vicar and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council

8th May 2022

The accompanying notes, on pages 11 to 14 are an integral part of these accounts.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied, consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Charities 2005.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds.

- **Restricted funds** represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust and bequest and donations or grants received for specific objects or invited by the PCC for a specific object. As the funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given, any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
- **Unrestricted funds** represent moneys in general funds, which are used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming funds.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming funds to which they relate are received.
- Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued.
- All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
- All incoming funds are accounted for Gross.

Expenditure.

- Giving is accounted for when due.
- The parish share is accounted for when due.
- Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

- Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts as they are treated as inalienable property as are moveable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.
- Expenditure on equipment has been written off.

Investments.

- Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2021.

2 Incoming funds

	2021 £	2020 £
Donations		
Planned giving:		
Standing orders and pink envelopes	63,064	61,822
Blue giving envelopes	1,549	1,441
Tax recovery	17,806	16,603
Collections (open plate)	2,415	1,813
Gift Day	6,432	0
Donations and legacies	5,759	6,903
	97,025	88,582
Fundraising events		
Concerts, social and other activities	694	1,156
Christmas Raffle and Gala day	0	0
	694	1,156
Church activities		
Hall rents	5,103	4,498
Magazine sales and advertising	5,130	4,915
Wedding & funeral fees	10,078	8,032
	20,311	17,445
Investment income		
Field rent	660	660
Trust income - School Fund	454	437
Dividends and Interest	907	754
	2,021	1,851
Total Incoming funds	120,051	109,034

3 Expenditure

	2021 £	2020 £
Giving		
To secular charities	2,571	1,672
To Christian charities	1,653	2,125
	4,223	3,797
Church activities		
Parish Share to diocese	67,283	67,624
Vicarage costs	4,199	4,220
Clergy expenses	917	794
Church Services	5,449	5,104
CDBF Assigned Fees	4,676	4,286
Junior church & youth group	340	335
Church operating costs	5,956	4,570
Church maintenance	7,067	6,398
Magazine production costs	3,560	3,988
Outreach	5,905	11,565
Hall operating costs	8,833	7,184
Hall maintenance	3,589	3,449
	121,998	119,517
Administration		
Administration costs	1,359	1,176
Photocopying	1,783	1,961
Bank charges	868	841
Telephone	182	235
	4,192	3,213
Total outgoing funds	126,190	126,527

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I have examined the Building Fund Financial Statements for 2021 which are set out on page 12.

No matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

Have not been met; or

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

Tim Vincent

Tim Vincent

Independent Examiner

4. Transfers from (to) Restricted Funds

Moneys raised for Specific Projects are transferred to Restricted Funds. When this money is spent on agreed Capital Projects it is not included in the Income and Expenditure Account. For Revenue expenditure it is included and this then results in a transfer from Restricted Funds.

	2021	2020
Transfers to Restricted Funds	0	0
Transfers from Restricted Funds	<u>5,465</u>	<u>10,995</u>
Net Transfer	<u>5,465</u>	<u>10,995</u>

5. Gain / (Loss) on revaluation of Investments

	2021	2020
Unrestricted funds – Ministry Fund	2,970	1,379

6. Related party transactions:

PCC members have during the year received reimbursement of items of expenditure properly incurred upon the business of the PCC.

7. Related trusts:

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the school fund set up on the sale of the premises which were originally the Church school. The school fund comprises 762 income shares in the CBF Church of England Investment fund; the shares originally cost £5,073 and have a current market value at 31 December 2021 of £17,845 (2020 £15,611). The capital is not shown on the Balance Sheet as under the terms of the trust only the dividends from the fund are mandated to the PCC and must be used for "Youth and Junior Church" purposes only.

8. The Ark Café

The Ark Café is non-profit making with any surplus being used to help the community. During 2021 the Ark Café because of covid was only open sporadically with repeated lockdowns – however £800 has been donated to local good causes from reserves. The Ark also continued to provide a Friday lunch service to the vulnerable in the parish during lockdown – this was funded by donations from the community and foundations funding local initiatives. The Ark also provided lunches for 20 Acton Bridge residents affected by flooding on the A49, again all funded locally.

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

Income and Expenditure	2021	2020
	£	£
Creditors written off	0	1,376
Interest receivable	10	83
Expenditure	(420)	0
Net Incoming (Outgoing) funds	(410)	1,459
Funds b/fwd. At the start of the year	23,133	21,674
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Funds c/fwd. At the end of the year	22,723	23,133

Represented by:

Current Assets

Debtors	0	0
CCLA Deposit account	19,539	19,529
Bank balances	3,184	3,604
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,723	23,133

Current Liabilities

Creditors	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets	22,723	23,133

Note: The Building Fund was transferred to its own set of accounts in 2010

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT

Churchwarden's Report of the Church Fabric goods and ornaments for the year 2021

Introduction

The Church and Churchyard have been inspected both internally and externally at least once per week during lockdown.

Fabric

A church architect carried out a quinquennial inspection in November and December 2020 although we did not receive the report until March 2021. The report identified a number of issues that we had to deal with in the short term and a number of other issues to deal with in the medium and longer term. The report suggested that the tower roof slab might be repairable; however, a structural engineering inspection in effect ruled this out. The cost of replacement and other tower works were estimated by a quantity surveyor to be over £80k at the end of 2021. Since that time John Fraser and Jim Wren have worked with the architect to reduce the replacement costs to a more affordable figure.

A full test and inspection of the electrical circuits in January 2021 identified several issues which were dealt with immediately and some lesser, non-safety related issues that will be dealt with progressively as and when the opportunity arises.

The lighting conductor was tested and passed after some remedial work to improve the earth current. The church gas boiler was served by a manufacturer-approved contractor.

We made some temporary arrangements to improve the sound system in December which seem to have cured most of the issues we had and have also allowed us to boost the hearing loop. We are thankful for a donation that cover the cost of this work. A mixing unit was on order at the end of the year.

The organ continues to be serviced and tuned regularly.

A significant amount of tree surgery was carried out in the churchyard in accordance with the tree maintenance plan drawn up by a tree risk assessor in 2020. A number of rhododendron and laurel bushes were also removed to the west of the churchyard to expose the boundary hedge, which was then laid during the Autumn. We also removed some laurels from the southern side as part of an Eco plan to improve diversity.

Goods

The silver and brass goods were physically checked and tallied with the inventory.

Ornaments

No change

Inventory

No change

And finally.....

We continue to be blessed with volunteers who regularly clean the church, polish the brasses, tend the plants in the churchyard and undertake many other tasks. The Fabric Team continues to oversee routine maintenance and arranges service contracts for gas and electrical work etc. We thank everyone for their work and dedication throughout the year and also those who have supported both in giving financially and labour. As ever, we always need more volunteers, so if you can help with any job in any way then please let us know.

Steve and Kathryn Churchwardens

PROCEEDINGS OF MIDDLEWICH DEANERY SYNOD 2021

In 2021 Sandiway St John's had three lay representatives (Eric Wright, Susan Hadden and Paul Stevenson) to Middlewich Deanery Synod plus our Vicar, the Revd Ruth Mock, in the House of Clergy. This provides the PCC with a link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The laity representatives are elected directly to the synod and by virtue of this are automatically members of the PCC. Susan Hadden and Paul Stevenson are also Readers.

The Deanery Synod met three times in 2021, in February (by Zoom), June and October.

We heard reports from deanery officers and received copies of reports from the Diocesan and General Synods. Parish news was also shared. Minutes of the Deanery Synod are available on request.

In addition to the formal business each meeting focuses on a different topic with invited guest speakers.

The Guest Speakers in 2021 were as follows:

3rd February 2021 - Canon Jane Brookes, Vice Dean and Canon Missioner at Chester Cathedral.

Jane spoke about the varied work of the cathedral.

She explained how the cathedral was able to continue its ministry in various ways during the Covid 19 restrictions and lockdowns.

Finally, she outlined the cathedral's future aspirations.

8th June 2021 - Bishop Mark

+Mark spoke of his own call to faith from being a youngster aged 8 in Coventry, living in a Christian (Baptist) family, developing into various leadership roles around the age of 14 including the school CU, Youth Group and preaching his first sermon aged 14 then feeling the call to ministry.

Following school, +Mark read maths at university before experiencing a "crisis" and becoming a Youth Pastor in Coventry and involvement with Youth for Christ.

At the time of his talk +Mark was still working on his vision for the diocese and the appointment of the two new suffragans would help to move this forward.

His talk concluded with questions and answers.

13th October 2021 - Revd Dr Joe Kennedy - "The Environment Issue - How can we respond?"

The Revd Dr Joe Kennedy is Co-chair of the Diocesan Environmental Forum.

He described some of the changes which have taken place in the earth's environment over the past 70 years, including global warming, release of excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and loss of biodiversity.

Joe noted three approaches that Christians have taken to the environmental issue since the 1970s: an anthropocentric response; a biocentric response; and a theocentric response. He suggested that only a theocentric response is adequate to the challenges we face, and that therefore the church has a key part to play in responding to the environmental crisis. He commended to us Dr Calvin DeWitt's Seven Biblical Principles of Stewardship.

THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SANDIWAY SAFEGUARDING & VULNERABILITY POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS AT RISK.

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 7th March 2022

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and a named Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer (APSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Julie Westgate as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Mandy Shaw as the Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Churchwardens: Kathryn Holmes and Stephen Denton

Date: 7th March 2022

Accounts



St John's Sandiway
www.stjohnsandway.org.uk

Sandiway Parochial Church Council

**Annual report on business and
accounts**

for the year ended 31 December 2020

for presenting to the 2021 APCM

CONTENTS

Pg	3	Contents.
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Pg	5	Electoral Roll. Contact information.
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Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its annual report on its business and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

OBJECTIVE AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Sandiway the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is charged with good stewardship of finances and has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall, both in Norley Road, Sandiway.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Readers, parish representatives on the Deanery Synod plus a number of elected and co-opted lay members. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules and all church members who are on the Electoral Roll are encouraged to stand for election.

The following have served on the PCC and therefore as trustees from 1 January 2020 until the date this report was approved. They are:

Vicar	The Revd. Ruth E Mock	Vicar & PCC Chairman from 01/10/19.	
Churchwardens	Kathryn Holmes	Elected on 1st July 2018	And subsequently re-elected each year.
	Steve Denton	Elected on 1st July 2018	
Readers	Hilary Chambers	Licensed 19/10/2013	
	Paul Stevenson	Licensed 21/10/2017	
	Sue Hadden	Licensed 21/10/2017	
Elected representatives to the Deanery Synod	Eric Wright	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	PCC Secretary
	Sue Hadden	Elected by PCC on 25/01/2021 to the APCM 2023	Both are also Readers.
	Paul Stevenson		
Elected representatives of the laity	Christine Cartwright	Elected 29/4/2018 to APCM 2021	
	Elizabeth Hughes	Elected 29/4/2018 to APCM 2021	
	Cherry Jackson	Elected 29/4/2018 to APCM 2021	
	James Wren	Elected 29/4/2018 to APCM 2021	
	Aileen Alford	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	Resigned after 22 nd March 2021 PCC meeting – moved away.
	Margaret Denton	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Stewart Hadden	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Alison Fletcher	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Stanley Mendham	Elected 28/4/2019 to APCM 2022	
	Marian Fraser	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	
	Jane Green	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	
	Nicola Boot	Elected 14/10/20 to APCM 2023	& previously co-opted at PCC meeting on 13/05/19.
	Co-opted members	Co-opt 1	Andrew Carter at PCC meetings of 28/04/19 and 16/11/20.
Co-opt 2		This co-option not used.	
Advisers (non-members)			

ELECTORAL ROLL – CHANGES SINCE 2020 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM).

At the postponed 2020 APCM on 14 th October 2020 the E/R stood at	186
Names added since the 2020 APCM up to 22 nd April 2021 (end of revision period)	3
Names removed since the 2020 APCM up to 22 nd April 2021 (end of revision period)	<u>4</u>
At 22 nd April 2021 (following the revision period) the 2019/25 electoral roll stood at	185

The revised Electoral Roll will be available for inspection on the church website for the APCM.
The Electoral Roll will re-open after the APCM to receive further applications throughout the year.

NOTES:

The last occasion when there was a completely new electoral roll was for the APCM in 2019. All PCCs are required to produce a new roll every 6 years and in between a formal revision has to be made ahead of each APCM. After such preparation of a new E/R or its revision in intermediate years no further applications are permitted until after the APCM.

All congregation members are encouraged to register for the Electoral Roll to enable them to take part in the governance of the parish.

PCC CONTACT AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Vicar Revd Ruth E Mock, The Vicarage, 50 Norley Road, Sandiway, Northwich. CW8 2JU.
Email vicar.stjohnsandway@gmail.com, telephone 01606 883286.

Sandiway Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Correspondence address:

Sandiway PCC, c/o The Vicarage, 50 Norley Road, Sandiway, Northwich. CW8 2JU.

Sandiway St John the Evangelist Church is located on Norley Road, Sandiway in between the junctions with Hadrian's Way and Weaverham Road.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY.

Please see the separate illustrated colour section.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Please see the summary statement on page 15 of the above item.

Please see the outer back cover (page 20) of this report for our full Safeguarding & Vulnerability Policy on Children, Young People & Adults at risk.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PCC

FINANCIAL REVIEW

by the Treasury Team 22nd March 2021

Background

This report covers the financial statements and balance sheet for the year ended 31st December 2020, copies of which are included with other APCM papers.

Financial administration

The treasury team manages the parish finances on a day-to-day basis. The PCC members scrutinise the actions of the treasury team and the committee as a whole provides information and advice to the PCC on financial matters.

The headlines

With the Covid19 pandemic it is not surprising that the accounts for 2020 show a deficit, the loss incurred amounted to £6,498 before revaluation of the Ministry fund and £5,119 after – the deficit could have been a much higher because we have received very little in Hall hire, fundraising and with the Church being closed for a lot of the time reduced contribution from Weddings and Funerals. However we are fortunate that our parishioners continued to contribute – some regular givers increased their monthly standing orders and others made regular donations to the Church – the Diocese also contributed with a grant of £2,000.

Expenditure was also below budget, although the Parish share remained at the budgeted figure of £67,624 there were savings in other areas – with the Church buildings being closed for much of the time our Gas and Electricity usage was down and other costs associated with Church Services were not required. We also benefitted from the Governments furlough scheme; this saved the Church £3,419. Finally some costs were accounted for in the 2019 accounts, including the repair and painting of the Church Hall windows – this prudent accounting meant that the figures are considerably better than they could have been. There are a number of projects underway, for example the flat roof on the Church Hall needs to be repaired and provision has been made in these accounts, under Church Maintenance a provision has been made for tree surgery required, both in the Church grounds and on the Church field. The largest project is still the repair of the Tower, which will cost in excess of £60,000, at the time of these accounts we have raised approximately £54,000. In addition there will be other maintenance requirements identified in the 2020 quinquennial review. However we still need to find ways to increase our income so that we can meet, not only our regular expenses but also start to address the maintenance schedule that will be produced.

During the year we introduced online giving which has made it easier for many to make their donations to the Church. In an ever-increasing cashless society this must be the way to move forward and we hope to introduce card machines in both the Church and the Church Hall when we get back to normality

Where does the money come from?

The church does not receive any government grants or other funding towards its running costs.

The primary source of income for general funds continues to be the planned regular giving of members of our worshipping community together with donations and collections in services together with Gift Aid

Additional sources of regular income are derived from fundraising events, weddings, funerals, church hall hire and investments. As already indicated, in 2020 these sources provided reduced income.

Where is the money spent?

The biggest item of expenditure, is the parish share due to Chester Diocese which was £67,624 in 2020 and was just covered by planned giving, open plate collections and donations (excluding Gift Aid Tax Recovery) About 90 per cent of the parish share and other income (for example, from diocesan property or land) is used by the diocese to pay for the parish clergy and other diocesan ministries. That is the costs of stipends, pensions and National Insurance, parsonage housing, and training expenditure for ordinands. It also includes money spent on diocesan ministries that support the parishes, such as children's and youth work, stewardship and communications. Through the parish share we also contribute to supporting other parishes that are in a worse financial position than our own. In addition in 2020 approximately 53% of income from Weddings and Funerals was paid to the Diocese. We have no choice but to continue to pay these if we wish to continue to benefit from a full-time vicar to lead us in spiritual and numerical growth.

All other costs have to be met from other income (including our Gift Aid Tax) – these costs include the upkeep of the Church and grounds, Church Hall and part of the costs of the Vicarage. It also includes the cost of all Church services, relief clergy, clergy expenses and administration. After these costs have been met there is little income to cover other repairs that are needed. Our outward giving from PCC funds is based on a percentage of the receipts from planned giving. The PCC is determined that our outward giving promise should be maintained as it is a fundamental Christian principle to help others. We have kept control of both Church and Church Hall running costs during the year, and it is gratifying that the Buildings Management Team continues to examine how best to manage our resources.

Thank you

To everyone who so generously contributed to our finances, either by planned giving or donations, during this difficult year.

To all the people who work so hard to make applications for any grants available for our projects. To our Gift Aid Officer, for keeping our claims with HMRC up to date.

To our Independent Examiner, Roslynn Ralston, for the work she has put in to satisfy herself that St John's has a set of accounts that satisfy all statutory requirements and in which the PCC and the parish can have confidence.

To the Treasury Team, for dealing with receipts and payments and without whose effort there would be no accounts!

To the Buildings and management Team for their understanding of the Church finances.

The continuing challenge

The PCC has set a budget for 2021, which shows that we will be showing a loss of approximately £12,000; this projected loss assumes no income from Gift Day or Fund raising and is also before we address the maintenance Schedule arising from the 2020 quinquennial inspection. The PCC acknowledged that the challenge for us therefore remains the same as it has in previous years, and as it does in all other parishes. We, as members of the worshipping community of St Johns, Sandiway, need to give freely and generously if we are to continue to meet our aims of:

- Spreading God's word within the parish;
- Providing a diverse range of religious services and other opportunities for worship through the week;
- Providing a sacred space for worship;
- Supporting members of our worshipping community within their homes; and
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people.

Please give all the help that you can as often as you can.

Andy Carter, Treasury Team Leader
On behalf of the PCC

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 9 to 16, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or

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

Roslynn Ralston

Independent Examiner

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Incoming Funds			
Planned Giving, Gift Day, Tax claim, donations and cash collections	2	88,582	96,049
Operating activities			
Fundraising activities	2	1,156	6,562
Church activities	2	17,445	20,779
Investment income	2	1,851	2,255
Total Incoming funds		109,034	125,645
Expenditure			
Donations made	3	3,797	6,361
Church activities	3	119,517	124,772
Administration	3	3,213	4,959
Total expenditure		126,527	136,042
Transfer from (to) Restricted Funds	4	10,995	9,407
Net Incoming (outgoing) General funds		(6,498)	(990)
Gain (loss) on revaluation of investments	5	1,379	3,056
Net movement of funds		(5,119)	2,066
Funds b/fwd. at the start of the year		46,965	44,899
Adjustments in respect of prior years		-	-
Funds c/fwd. at the end of the year		41,846	46,965

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of income and expenditure

GENERAL ACCOUNTS**BALANCE SHEET**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Assets		
Investments		
Ministry Fund	20,758	19,379
Current assets		
Debtors	6,696	11,388
Cash at bank	94,594	95,217
	122,048	125,984
Current liabilities		
Creditors	8,363	8,573
Net assets	113,685	117,411
Unrestricted funds	41,846	46,965
Restricted funds	71,839	70,446
Total funds	113,685	117,411

The accounts on pages 9 to 16 were approved by the PCC on the 4th May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

AW Carter – Treasury Team Leader

Reverend R Mock – Vicar and Chairman of the Parochial Church Council

4th May 2021

The accompanying notes, on pages 11 to 14 are an integral part of these accounts.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied, consistently throughout the year and the preceding year, are set out below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Charities 2005.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds.

- **Restricted funds** represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust and bequest and donations or grants received for specific objects or invited by the PCC for a specific object. As the funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given, any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
- **Unrestricted funds** represent moneys in general funds, which are used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming funds.

- Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming funds to which they relate are received.
- Dividends are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued.
- All other income is recognised when it is receivable.
- All incoming funds are accounted for Gross.

Expenditure.

- Giving is accounted for when due.
- The parish share is accounted for when due.
- Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds.
- All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

- Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts as they are treated as inalienable property as are moveable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.
- Expenditure on equipment has been written off.

Investments.

- Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December 2020.

2 Incoming funds

	2020 £	2019 £
Donations		
Planned giving:		
Standing orders and pink envelopes	61,822	59,083
Blue giving envelopes	1,441	1,813
Tax recovery	16,603	18,397
Collections (open plate)	1,813	6,791
Gift Day	0	6,570
Donations and legacies	6,903	3,215
	88,582	96,049
Fundraising events		
Concerts, social and other activities	1,156	6,300
Christmas Raffle and Gala day	0	262
	1,156	6,562
Church activities		
Hall rents	4,498	11,036
Magazine sales and advertising	4,915	5,034
Wedding & funeral fees	8,032	4,709
	17,445	20,779
Investment income		
Field rent	660	966
Trust income - School Fund	437	425
Dividends and Interest	754	864
	1,851	2,255
Total Incoming funds	109,034	125,645

3 Expenditure

	2020	2019
	£	£
Giving		
To secular charities	1,672	3,271
To Christian charities	2,125	3,090
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,797	6,361
Church activities		
Parish Share to diocese	67,624	65,975
Vicarage costs	4,220	6,671
Clergy expenses	794	99
Church Services	5,104	10,647
CDBF Assigned Fees	4,286	956
Junior church & youth group	335	257
Church operating costs	4,570	6,567
Church maintenance	6,398	6,419
Magazine production costs	3,988	3,760
Outreach	11,565	10,397
Hall operating costs	7,184	9,547
Hall maintenance	3,449	3,427
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	119,517	124,722
Administration		
Administration costs	1,176	2,392
Photocopying	961	1,169
Bank charges	841	1,054
Telephone	235	344
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,213	4,959
Total outgoing funds	<hr/>	<hr/>
	126,527	136,042

4. Transfers from (to) Restricted Funds

Moneys raised for Specific Projects are transferred to Restricted Funds. When this money is expended for Capital Projects it is not included in the Income and Expenditure Account. For Revenue projects expenditure is included and results in a transfer from Restricted Funds.

	2020	2019
Transfers to Restricted Funds	0	(50)
Transfers from Restricted Funds	<u>10,995</u>	<u>9,457</u>
Net Transfer	<u>10,995</u>	<u>9,407</u>

5. Gain / (Loss) on revaluation of Investments

	2020	2019
Unrestricted funds – Ministry Fund	1,379	3,056

6. Related party transactions:

PCC members have during the year received reimbursement of items of expenditure properly incurred upon the business of the PCC.

7. Related trusts:

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the school fund set up on the sale of the premises which were originally the Church school. The school fund comprises 762 income shares in the CBF Church of England Investment fund; the shares originally cost £5,073 and have a current market value at 31 December 2020 of £15,611 (2019 £14,574). The capital is not shown on the Balance Sheet as under the terms of the trust only the dividends from the fund are mandated to the PCC and must be used for "Youth and Junior Church" purposes only.

8. The Ark Café

The Ark Café is non-profit making with any surplus being used to help the community. During 2020 the Ark Café was only open for a few weeks due to Covid 19 – however £1,150 was donated to local good causes from reserves. The Ark also provided a Friday lunch service to the vulnerable in the parish during lockdown – this was funded by donations from the community and foundations funding local initiatives.

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I have examined the Building Fund Financial Statements for 2020, which are set out on page 12.

No matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

Have not been met; or

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

Roslynn Ralston

Independent Examiner

BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT APPEAL FUND

Income and Expenditure	Notes	2020	2019
		£	£
Creditors written off		1,376	0
Interest receivable		83	186
Net Incoming (Outgoing) funds		1,459	186
Funds b/fwd. At the start of the year		21,674	21,488
Funds c/fwd. At the end of the year		23,133	21,674
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Debtors		0	0
CCLA Deposit account		19,529	19,447
Bank balances		3,604	4,186
		23,133	23,633
Current Liabilities			
Creditors		0	1,959
Net Assets		23,133	21,674

Note: The Building Fund was transferred to its own set of accounts in 2010

ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT

Churchwardens' report of the church fabric, goods and ornaments for the year 2020.

Introduction

The church and churchyard has been inspected both internally and externally at least once per week during lockdown.

Fabric

A roof leak developed at the rear of nave during the first Coronavirus lockdown in March/April. The cause was a combination of degraded lead flashing and age-related damage to the tower downspout. Our church architect drew up a repair specification and approved specialist contractors carried out the work in June. In September, the mineral salts that had been leached out of the mortar high on the back wall of the nave had dried out and were removed in accordance with English Heritage guidance.

Otherwise the fabric remains largely as described in the architect's 2015 Quinquennial Report (QR 2015) with little further deterioration. The latest Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in stages during the last quarter of 2020 but we had not received the report as 2020 drew to a close.

The organ continues to be services/tuned regularly. The hand wash heater in the toilets was replaced in October, and in December new locks were fitted to both the front and rear doors to improve security. The church boiler was serviced by a manufacturer-approved contractor. A sound system survey took place in March but has not progressed as the contractor suspended operations the following week and had not resumed by the year end.

In the churchyard a Red Chestnut tree blew down in unseasonably high winds in May, damaging a neighbour's garage, car and fence. A tree risk assessor subsequently carried out a survey to our tree stock, which showed that the other trees in the churchyard were not at risk. Based on this we have also drawn up a tree maintenance plan the first part of which was implemented after the period covered by this report.

Goods

The silver and brass goods were physically checked and tallied with the inventory. All bibles, books and booklets etc were stored in boxes within the baptistery as part of our Covid-safe protocols prior to the church reopening after the first lockdown. These were not physically checked.

Ornaments

No change

Inventory

No change

And finally...

Even in these unprecedented times we continue to be blessed with volunteers who regularly clean the church, polish the brasses and undertake many other tasks. The Fabric Team continues to oversee routine maintenance and arranges service contracts for gas and electrical work etc. We thank everyone for their work and dedication throughout the year. As ever, we always need more volunteers, so if you can help with any job in any way then please let us know.

Every blessing

Steve and Kathryn

PROCEEDINGS OF MIDDLEWICH DEANERY SYNOD 2020

In 2020 there were three lay representatives (Eric Wright, Barbara Daniels and Mary Greenwood) plus our Vicar in the House of House of Clergy and our Pastoral Worker at the time. This provides the PCC with a link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The laity representatives are elected directly to the synod and by virtue of this are automatically members of the PCC.

All Pastoral Workers are ex officio on the Deanery Synod and therefore on the PCC of the parish where they are licensed.

The Deanery Synod met only once in 2020, in February 2020 due the Covid19 outbreak. We hear reports from deanery officers plus receive copies of reports from the Diocesan and General Synods. Parish news is also shared at synod.

In addition to the formal business each meeting focuses on a different topic with invited guest speakers.

The Guest Speaker in February 2020 was Emily Allen, Church Buildings Missioner.

Emily gave an interesting talk on the challenges and opportunities for our church buildings.

- What were church buildings for?
- In addition to Sunday worship their use throughout the week including by the local community.
- Raising funds to run and maintain our buildings.

THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SANDIWAY SAFEGUARDING & VULNERABILITY POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS AT RISK.

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 1st April 2019

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and a named Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer (APSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it Occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Margaret Denton as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Mandy Shaw as the Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Churchwardens: Kathryn Homes and Stephen Denton (who have signed copies for display in St John's Church and Church Hall).

Diocesan Vulnerability & Safeguarding Officer: Pauline Butterfield, 01928 718834 ext 221 or 07703800031

Cheshire West & Chester Children's Services: 01606 275 099 or out of hours, 01244 977277

Cheshire West & Chester Adult Services: 0300 123 8123 or out of hours, 01244 977277

The separate activities section (illustrated colour) is appended here:

St John's Church, Sandiway Activities in 2020



Vicar's Report

Looking back on 2020, the whole year was dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the effects are still being felt. People within our church congregation and the wider village communities have been bereaved and others suffered serious illness; others have lost their jobs or face an uncertain future. We hold in our prayers all those who are grieving and those whose lives have changed significantly. As a church, we had to adapt to restrictions of two national lockdowns and rapidly respond to the challenge of worshipping God together and offering pastoral support whilst unable to meet in person for our Sunday services and other activities.



The Covid pandemic was very disruptive but our worship and pastoral care continued throughout 2020. From March we quickly established a pattern of publishing a pre-recorded service of Morning Worship every Sunday, available via Facebook, St John's website and our YouTube channel, (St John's Sandiway stay connected). These services include music recorded by St John's choristers, sermons from myself and other members of the ministry team, as well as prayers and Bible readings led by other members of the congregation. I am amazed at the creativity that we have tapped into, and am very grateful to Kathryn Holmes, our Director of Music, for the work that she has continued to do with the choir, our Readers and retired clergy, who have also adapted to the new technology and Stewart Hadden who took on the role of editing videos for me. Working together as a team we were able to offer weekly worship and to pray and praise God together, even when confined to our own homes. In addition to Sunday worship, there was also a service of Morning Prayer on Thursday mornings at 9.30am, usually livestreamed by me from the Vicarage to Facebook. It has been heartening to hear that new people have accessed our online services, which are now available to people who live far beyond the parish boundaries.



Vicar's Report cont.

St John's Church reopened for public worship in August and the wardens and PCC introduced practical steps to reduce the risk of Coronavirus transmission before allowing services to restart. Some pews were roped off so that the congregation would be safely distanced from each other, hand sanitiser was available on arrival, a one-way system was introduced through the building and people were encouraged to wear masks (this had become compulsory in July). The number of services offered was reduced and we alternated between Holy Communion and a weekly said service of Evening Prayer in church, whilst continuing to offer opportunities to worship together online. During the second period of lockdown in November the church remained open for private prayer on Sunday mornings whilst online worship continued. We were able to reopen again on the first Sunday in December and worshipped together in church on Thursday mornings and Sunday mornings as well as offering 4 services of Holy Communion for Christmas, before closing our doors again on 27th December.



Creative Worship

The disruption to our regular services from March did not prevent us from worshipping creatively and reaching out to the wider community during the year. In August we started a weekly outdoor service taking place at 10.15am each Sunday on the church lawn. These were joyful services of Morning Worship where we praised God in the open air and marvelled at the beauty of God's creation on display around us. The services continued until early November and we plan to run outdoor services monthly in 2021.



Harvest

Limited seating in church meant that we could not host our traditional Harvest Festival but the church was decorated with jars of hope, (individual flower arrangements that were given away to people in the village), the choir recorded harvest hymns for use online and people generously donated items for Mid Cheshire Foodbank.



Vicar's Report cont.

Prayer Weekend

This was celebrated with takeaway resources to help people pray at home.

Christmas Celebrations

These also included takeaway bags for people to use at home! Christingle kits were distributed at the beginning of December to accompany our online Christingle service and donations for the work of The Children's Society were collected as usual.



Advent Sheep



Advent sheep were knitted by members of the congregation and adopted by families who sent pictures of their Advent adventures. The church was also decorated with paper sheep to help us remember our "scattered flock", those who weren't able to join us for worship in person as they continued to shield during Advent.



Choral Music

This plays an important part in our church throughout the year and we missed the opportunities to sing together. However, the choir recorded music in church in December and we hosted an online carol service with music and Bible readings recorded by members of the congregation. The children and young people put together an online Nativity service to tell the Christmas story.



Vicar's Report cont.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

There were 4 baptisms in church in January and February, but subsequent baptisms were postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. All the weddings booked for 2020 were postponed and rebooked for 2021. There were 32 funerals conducted by the Ministry Team during the year: 15 were held in church, 11 took place at the crematorium and 6 were held at the graveside in Gorstage Cemetery. The numbers allowed to attend funerals were restricted under government guidelines and the sense of loss that always accompanies the death of a loved one was often intensified by the restrictions in place.

Pastoral Support

Pastoral support continued throughout the year with weekly emails from me and regular phone calls from other group leaders to those on the electoral roll or associated with us in some way. We also embraced technology when we were unable to meet in person. Zoom coffee sessions were scheduled for 11am on Sunday mornings so that members of the congregation could share news and chat in small breakout groups.



Production of our excellent parish magazine continued without interruption in 2020 and included two months where we distributed to the whole village – this proved to be another effective way of keeping in touch with those beyond our usual congregations.

Learning Together

I created an online course called Faith MOT in the Autumn, encouraging people to think about their own faith journey. The course looked at the key points of the Christian faith, looking back in thankfulness for those who've influenced us as well as offering practical tools to help us pray.

Vicar's Report cont.

Governance

PCC meetings were disrupted by the first lockdown and meetings in March and May were postponed. Business was successfully conducted by email during this time and the Standing Committee met regularly on Zoom to monitor the situation. Zoom PCC meetings were successfully held in June, July, September and November and most of the subgroups were also able to meet at different points during the year in person, or remotely online.



Our Annual Parish Meetings were postponed from April but following the Bishop's permission to meet on Zoom, we held the meetings to elect churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members online in October.

Inevitably, the business of the PCC has been dominated this year by the need to manage our buildings and respond to government restrictions to combat the spread of coronavirus. However, when planning our objectives for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit by ensuring that public worship continued on a weekly basis.

Members of the Standing Committee also managed our employed workers: our Director of Music, vergers and church hall cleaner were furloughed for part of the year when the church was closed and activities at the church hall had been suspended. Our Children and Families leader was also furloughed for a month in May, but returned to her usual part-time hours from June onwards.

Looking Ahead

In the 2019 Annual Report I outlined the following priorities for development:

- Developing the garden at the church hall
- Making the church more accessible by pursuing our plans for redevelopment
- Considering how to welcome everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, so that barriers to inclusion are removed

Vicar's Report cont.

The garden at the church hall was cleared during the summer and new turf was laid. We look forward to continuing the development of this space in 2021 and using it for different activities.



Plans to develop the Church Building

We were able to arrange a site visit from the Diocesan Advisory Committee in early March so that we could gather feedback about our proposed plans to extend the building and remove the pews. Whilst they were supportive of plans to improve access, they raised significant questions about the proposed extension, stating that they “would prefer a scheme where an extension broke through from the tower.” This was a significant set-back after the detailed consultation work that had been carried out in 2019 and it has been very difficult to meet together to discuss the way forward due to lockdowns. Accessibility and inclusion remain important priorities and discussions will continue in 2021 with the PCC and wider congregation.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteers their time and talents to support our mission and ministry within Sandiway and Cuddington. The churchwardens, Kathryn Holmes and Steve Denton worked very hard to get to grips with rapidly changing regulations this year and have continued to work tirelessly; others embraced the challenge of ensuring that our work didn't stop even when the buildings were closed. There are so many people who use their gifts and talents at St John's that it's impossible to name them all individually but thank you to the lay ministers, the members of the PCC and the dedicated teams whose creativity and skills enhance our life together.

Revd Ruth Mock



St John's Groups



The Ark

The café opened briefly in February before the first Covid lockdown came into effect. The Ark team decided to deliver a free packed lunch each Friday to the elderly, vulnerable and shielding. This was generously funded by the Police & Crime Commission, CWAC, The Cheshire Community Foundation and Councillor Gillian Edwards. Many local people sponsored a week of lunches and many recipients also contributed. When the second lockdown was announced the service was repeated for another five months with funding from Cheshire Community Foundation, local councillors Gillian Edwards, Paul Williams and Charles Fifield and many other individuals. Village cohesion came to the fore over these 11 months. Volunteers came from all over the village. We had 38 drivers/deliverers and at the highest point 138 lunches were delivered although the average was 90. Lunches were delivered to staff in both primary schools who were in to teach children of essential workers as well as vulnerable children. Some children produced art work and messages to be included in the lunch bags and these lifted the spirits of all who received them.



People have really appreciated the chat when they ordered lunch and when it was delivered. It has been a focal point for people, a cheery time of the day to look forward to. It has also been an opportunity for us to alert family and friends when someone has not been seen. We are extremely grateful to all who have supported this venture in any way, and we look forward to reopening the Ark in May 2021.

Groups cont.

Arts in the Ark

Regular meetings continued until the imposition of lockdown at which point a WhatsApp group was established for all who wished to join; this has been very successful and continues to be a source of sharing ideas and completed work. Regular contact has been maintained with all members.

Book Groups

It has not been possible for the groups to meet in person but there have been online meetings and WhatsApp conversations during the year.

Choir and Music

Music and musicians have adapted since the move to online services. Chorister quartets have recorded in Kathryn's back garden and piano/organ solos were also recorded.

Whenever possible, combinations of choristers sang in church for Harvest, Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The cycle of the lectionary has kept going. Members of

the choir have stayed in touch but are so looking forward to being able to sing together again. Thanks go to all who made the many recordings.



The annual Christmas Singalong organised by Jenni and Pete Hardy also went ahead in an online form and was much enjoyed.

Home Groups

Our six home groups continued to provide an opportunity for exploration of faith and Bible study during this very difficult year. Although unable to meet face to face for much of the year groups found imaginative ways of 'meeting' and keeping in touch either electronically or otherwise which helped us all to cope with lockdown. However, it will be a joy to meet together next year, all being well.

JIMS

There have been no meetings since 14th March, but Paul Stevenson has kept in touch with members.

Youth Group

Youth Group have not properly met since early 2020. We are looking forward to reinventing ourselves in Summer 2021, to build on what we used to do, move forwards to try new ideas and welcome new young people to join us for fun, fellowship and food!

Groups cont.

Mothers' Union

Sadly members have not been able to meet since February although a few members did meet in the church hall garden for tea in the summer. In February many members met for a commissioning service in Chester Cathedral.

The main aim of the Mothers' Union is to support with prayer, and worldwide the MU continues with its work and ministry. We continue to contribute to central office fundraising. Many members have been knitting blankets which have been delivered to Joan Colwell, our Deanery leader. Large numbers of knitted garments have also been sent to Christian Hope International through Margaret and Robert Dickinson.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, you would be very welcome! Please see the magazine or website for details, or contact Kathryn on 01606 889879 or Steve on 01606 883976.

St John's Teams

St John's is extremely grateful to the many different teams and individuals who keep St John's running. All of the formal teams are sub-committees of the PCC and carry out valuable work on its behalf.

There are very many other people who work individually or with others to make St John's what it is: warm, welcoming, prayerful. There are those who clean the church and the brass, those who move furniture about, those who make and serve refreshments, those who arrange flowers, those who bundle and deliver the magazines, those who edit online services. There are also those teams who maintain the buildings even in lockdown, manage our finances, handle our publicity and organize our worship.

At the beginning of this very difficult year a group of people was set up to keep in touch with members of St John's community. These people – pastoral responders – disseminated news and notices and were available to help pastorally either by telephone or online or, when permitted, doorstep visits. This team has been very much valued and St John's is grateful to them. In addition, once restrictions allowed, a Chat Space was opened in the church hall garden to allow people to come together.



Teams cont.

Children and Family Team

At the beginning of the year, we enjoyed our usual Pancake Party in the church hall in February, and made bird feeders in the church hall garden in early March.



However, because of the extraordinary circumstance this year we have had to adapt and create new ways of being together. Whilst our local schools have been providing remote learning, we have been able to continue our support in a different way. Our annual July visit to talk to the children preparing to move to high school couldn't happen but we provided Scripture Union and other resources to help teachers deliver sessions as we would have normally done. We have also recorded and shared assemblies with both primary schools. We offered practical support to families struggling financially over Christmas with food and gifts, bringing comfort and pleasure to families in our community. This could only happen because of the kind and generous donations from the Ark and many individuals.

Teams cont.

(Children and Family Team cont.)

Junior Church has only met a couple of times but we have provided weekly online activities throughout: Bible stories with cartoon retellings, puzzles, activities and family prayers. Our young people have been encouraged to record readings and prayers, and junior choristers have been recorded too. The children also led the online Crib Service on Christmas Eve, The Mystery of the Noisy Neighbour, enjoyed by many far and wide.

Our “takeaway bags” full of activities to be undertaken at home have become legendary. Some were delivered to their homes (Father’s Day 2020); others have been collected from church. These have included the very popular Christingle bags to go alongside our online Christingle service.

It was wonderful to see Cuddington Primary School work so positively alongside us in our Jars of Hope event. Our Advent sheep were also a huge success with our knitted “flock” traveling far and wide last December.



Prayer Group

The Prayer Group has continued to uphold St John’s, our community and the world in prayer. The loss of Open Church each Saturday due to coronavirus restrictions was felt deeply. The team has continued to highlight prayer through weekly prayers on the website and the long established prayer page in the parish magazine. The last three of this year’s Lent Reflections were put online when lockdown came into force. Our annual Prayer Weekend in September became a “Takeaway” and 180 Prayer Bags were delivered on the theme “Let there be light”. Later in the year more than 200 sets of Advent Ribbons were distributed and the weekly Advent Reflections were posted on our website.

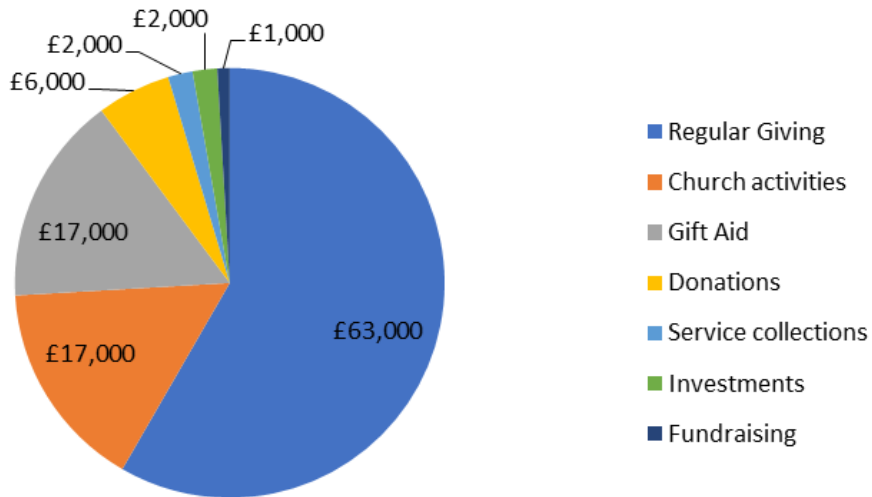
All our teams do so much to support and maintain the community that is St John’s and would welcome new volunteers. If you can spare a little time to help please contact Kathryn on 01606 889879 or Steve on 01606 883976 to offer your support.

Events in 2020:

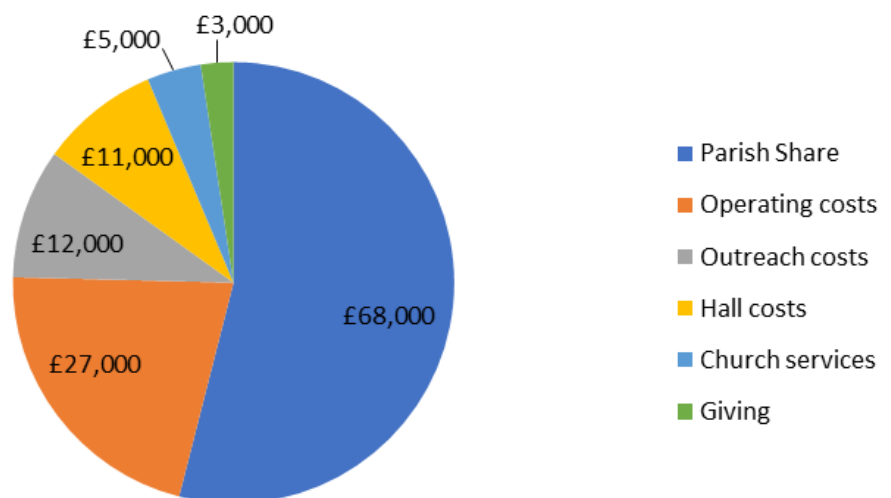
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epiphany and other services take place
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ark reopens after Christmas break • A Wine and Cheese evening is held to meet the Vicar • Entertaining Quiz Night event takes place • Pancake Party - with games and crafts • Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lent reflections begin, and move online when lockdown starts • Course Live Lent: Care for God's Creation begins (later cancelled) • Family activity - bird feeders are made in the church hall garden • First pre-recorded service is uploaded to YouTube
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services are now online • First Zoom service takes place • The Ark team starts to deliver lunches to the vulnerable and shielding • The Easter season is celebrated (online only)
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Zoom coffee morning takes place • VE Day is observed with a stay at home street party • A volunteer team starts to produce scrubs & other PPE • Online Christian Aid Quiz takes place
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Zoom PCC is held
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church is open for private prayer only
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work begins on the church hall garden, turf is laid • In-person services resume, with masks and socially distanced • Chat Space in the church hall garden is launched
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Weekend is packed into takeaway bags • Online course Faith MOT begins
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest jars of hope decorate the church • Annual Meeting takes place online
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance Sunday is observed with a small outdoor tribute • Advent Sheep are adopted by families
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent reflections are shared online • Christingle takeaway bags allow all to join in with the online service • Online Christmas Singalong is held • Christmas is celebrated with online and in-person services

Finances

Where does our money come from?



Where does our money go?



Thank you to so many who, despite all that has been happening during this very difficult year, have continued to contribute to our finances through planned giving, donations and collections.

For more financial information, please see the 2020 Business & Financial Annual Report.

Safeguarding Statement

At St John's, we take extremely seriously our duty and obligation to protect all. We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines, and in all our activities have given due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. You can find out more at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Margaret Denton (01606 883976) or Mandy Shaw, our Assistant Safeguarding Officer (01606 882312).

St John's registered charity no. 1135082

During lockdown...

While we weren't able to meet up, a number of us found time to be quite creative! Here's just some of what we did:

