

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.

Revd 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

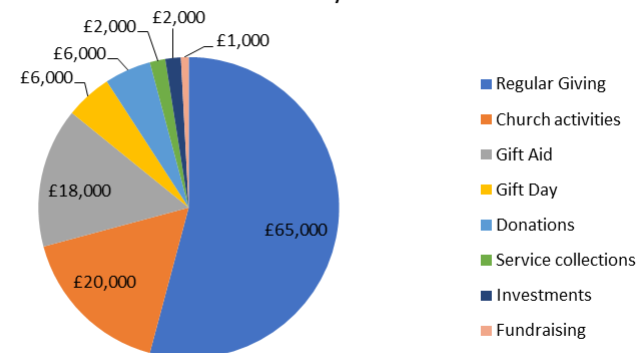
Prayer Group has again continued to uphold St John's, our community and the wider world in prayer by regularly meeting and praying together whether in person or by Zoom or other electronic means. We have felt unable to safely restart our much loved and sorely missed pre-Covid Saturday Open Church but 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:

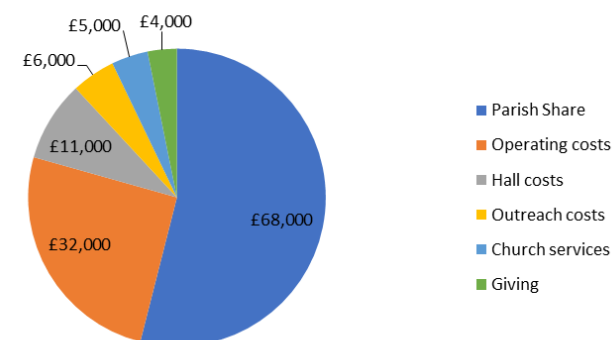
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Friday lunches restart in the Ark Online services and coffee Zoom continue
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St John's Magazine becomes free (now funded by donations) 40 days of giving for the Foodbank Lent reflections Lent activities for the 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

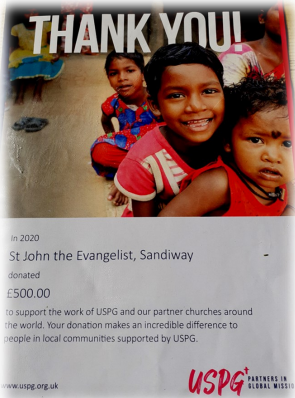
At St John's, we take extremely seriously our duty and obligation to protect all. We have adopted the Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines, and in all our activities have given due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. You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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

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.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

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
	124,372	122,048
Current liabilities		
Creditors	8,454	8,363
Net assets	115,918	113,685
Unrestricted funds	44,142	41,846
Restricted funds	71,776	71,839
Total funds	115,918	113,685

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
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
	22,723	23,133

Current Liabilities

Creditors	0	0
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