

St John the Baptist Church
Baxenden



Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings
2022

Contents

Contents	2
Agenda: Annual Vestry Meeting	3
Agenda: Annual Parochial Church Meeting	3
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23 rd May 2021 in church	4
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23 rd May 2021 in church	5
Vicar's Report	10
PCC Annual Report 2021	12
Treasurer's Report for 2021	15
Fabric Report	25
Deanery Synod Report	26
Children and Youth Report	27
Safeguarding	29
Governors' Report	32

Accrington St. Paul's and Baxenden St. John's Special Parochial Church Meeting

Agenda: Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To agree the minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meetings:
 - St. Paul's on 24th May 2021.
 - St. John's on 23rd May 2021.
3. To elect two Church Wardens for each church.

Agenda: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To agree the minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meetings:
 - St. Paul's on 24th May 2021.
 - St. John's on 23rd May 2021.
3. To elect 3 Deanery Synod representatives (one year only).
4. Decisions
 - a. Whether both LLM (Readers) are ex-officio, or one and the other may stand for election if they wish
 - b. Agree terms of office for elected PCC members
 - c. To elect 6 Parochial Church Council members from each church.
5. To appoint the Independent Financial Examiner or Auditor.
6. To appoint Sides Persons
7. To consider:
 - a. Vicar's report;
 - b. Revised Electoral Roll;
 - c. Annual Report of the proceedings of the two Parochial Church Councils;
 - d. Financial Statements of the *two* Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2021;
 - e. Annual report of the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of each church;
 - f. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod;
 - g. Report of the proceedings of the Children's and Youth work of the two churches;
 - h. Report on Safeguarding provision in both churches;
 - i. Other matters of Parochial or general Church interest.

St. John the Baptist Church, Baxenden

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23rd May 2021 in church

Present (a disappointing 16):

Patricia Wilkinson (Chair), Diane Clough (Church Warden), Barry Grimes, Roger Longworth, Chris Gascoigne, Dave Finch, Sheila Finch, Mark Brockbank, Val Eland, Pete Teasdale, Joyce Teasdale, John Massey, Pat Massey, Marion Wilkinson, Dorothy Brown, Ian Rushton (PCC Secretary).

The Chair opened the meeting in prayer and with a reading from Romans 12: 3 – 8.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: Janet Robinson, David Wilkinson, Pam Stewart, Sally Knott, Paul & Rebecca Pountain, Brian & Lorraine Mercer, Paul Brown, Maureen Westwell, Cath Quinn.

2. Accuracy of the minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record as follows:

Proposal	The minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the last Annual Vestry meeting on 24 th October 2020				
Proposed by	John Massey		Seconded by	Joyce Teasdale	
For	8	Against	1	Abstained	3
Carried					

3. Election of two Church Wardens.

Diane Clough offered to continue as Church Warden for one more year, was proposed by Marion Wilkinson, seconded by Barry Grimes and elected with no objections.

Both the Chair and the Warden reminded the meeting that it was untenable and unfair to expect Diane to continue for another year without the required second Church Warden and again appealed for all members of the church family to continue praying for, and seeking out, a second Warden.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23rd May 2021 in church.

Present

Patricia Wilkinson (Chair), Diane Clough (Church Warden), Barry Grimes, Roger Longworth, Chris Gascoigne, Dave Finch, Sheila Finch, Mark Brockbank, Val Eland, Pete Teasdale, Joyce Teasdale, John Massey, Pat Massey, Marion Wilkinson, Dorothy Brown, Ian Rushton (PCC Secretary).

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: Janet Robinson, David Wilkinson, Pam Stewart, Sally Knott, Paul & Rebecca Pountain, Brian & Lorraine Mercer, Paul Brown, Maureen Westwell, Cath Quinn.

2. Accuracy of the minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record (by those who attended) as follows:

Proposal	The minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24 th October 2020				
Proposed by	John Massey		Seconded by	Dave Finch	
For	8	Against		Abstained	5
Carried					

3. Election of two Deanery Synod representatives.

The following two were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed as Deanery Synod representatives as follows:

Proposal	That Roger Longworth be elected as Deanery Synod representative				
Proposed by	Marion Wilkinson		Seconded by	Sheila Finch	

Proposal	That Marion Wilkinson be elected as Deanery Synod representative				
Proposed by	John Massey		Seconded by	Diane Clough	

4. Election of Parochial Church Council members.

Following some initial confusion regarding the number of PCC vacancies, the Chair confirmed that there were a total of six vacancies for elected members of the PCC and apologised that the agenda and "Form" stipulated four.

The following five were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed to serve on the PCC for one year:

Proposal	That John Massey be elected as Parochial Church Council member.		
Proposed by	Sheila Finch	Seconded by	Val Eland

Proposal	That Joyce Teasdale be elected as Parochial Church Council member.		
Proposed by	Marion Wilkinson	Seconded by	David Wilkinson

Proposal	That Sally Knott be elected as Parochial Church Council member.		
Proposed by	Marion Wilkinson	Seconded by	Diane Clough

Proposal	That Mark Brockbank be elected as Parochial Church Council member.		
Proposed by	Marion Wilkinson	Seconded by	David Wilkinson

Proposal	That Ian Rushton be elected as Parochial Church Council member.		
Proposed by	Patricia Wilkinson	Seconded by	Diane Clough

The first general meeting of the new PCC was noted as Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

5. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner or Auditor.

Jacqui Creig was appointed as follows:

Proposal	That Jacqui Creig be appointed as the Independent Auditor.				
Proposed by	Barry Grimes		Seconded by	Roger Longworth	
For	16	Against		Abstained	
Carried unanimously					

6. Appointment of Sides Persons.

The meeting noted that there had been a low response to the annual call for parishioners to volunteer as sides persons (although this came as no surprise to PCC members and Service Leaders). Diane Clough reminded the meeting that others, not considered here, can be co-opted at the next general PCC meeting and any interested parties should contact her beforehand.

The following were proposed, seconded and appointed to serve as sides persons until the next APCM:

Pat Massey	David Hayslop	David Wilkinson	Ian Rushton
Susan Hayslop	Val Eland	Marion Wilkinson	Lorraine Mercer
Brian Mercer	Jerard Knott	Mark Brockbank	Dorothy Brown

7. The meeting considered:

- a. the revised Electoral Roll. No questions were raised for the Electoral Roll Secretary.
- b. the Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council.

There were no comments or questions on the report and it was accepted by the meeting as follows:

Proposal	That the Annual Report of the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council be accepted				
Proposed by	John Massey		Seconded by	Barry Grimes	
For	16	Against		Abstained	
Carried unanimously					

- c. the Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2020.

The Treasurer gave an oral presentation, leading the meeting through the Treasurer's Report and the 2020 Accounts as enclosed in the APCM pack, and highlighting some key points of note for the next PCC as follows:

The church has not paid any tithes to individual beneficiaries this year (although the Parish Share is considered by the Diocese to be a tithe component).

The £5,000 bequest from the late Mrs. Hope's estate (re: Minutes from 13/8/2020) needs to be allocated to a tangible and appropriate project.

The Reserves Policy of maintaining a £14,000 balance of unrestricted funds (held to smooth fluctuations and meet emergencies, was currently £12,465.

There were no comments or questions regarding the report or accounts and the Treasurer thanked Mark Brockbank, John Massey and Roger Longworth for their support.

It should also be noted that the Treasurer will be stepping down from the role before the next APCM in 2022.

- d. the annual report of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.

Roger Longworth asked if any areas of dry rot have been stripped of plaster but not treated. Pete Teasdale replied that there was, and that they would be treated in time when the building work is able to resume.

Diane Clough commented that the dry rot appeared to have either vanished or not developed further in affected areas.

There were no other comments or questions regarding the report and the Church Warden thanked Pete Teasdale, David Gregory and the Wardens' Assistants for their support over the last year, one which has been difficult due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

e. the report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

There were no comments or questions regarding the report.

f. a report of the proceedings of the Day School Governors.

John Massey, as Chair of Governors, expressed his thanks to the staff, parents and Governors of the school for their contributions over the last year.

There were no other comments or questions regarding the report.

g. a report of the proceedings of the Children's and Youth work of the church.

There were no comments or questions regarding the report.

h. a report on Safeguarding provision in the church.

A brief discussion arose concerning the difficulties of training the Pastoral Team via Zoom and updating their DBS records during the pandemic, all of which will be done as a priority once restrictions have been fully lifted.

There were no other comments or questions regarding the report.

i. other matters of Parochial or general Church interest.

With the exception of Pete Teasdale remarking that the glass in the vicarage vestibule door is in some way illegal (Diane Clough to check with the Diocese [one wonders how he would know such a thing]), the only topic of interest was that of the process of finding a new incumbent. Here, a healthy discussion ensued where the Chair worked hard (wearing her Parish Representative hat) to clarify progress towards a joint parish with St. Paul's in response to the following questions:

Pete Teasdale: "Why is there no information coming out of St. John's regarding finding a new incumbent? I have to go to the website of St Paul's to find anything out".

The Chair replied that a report to the PCC on this was an agenda item at each business meeting and that the PCC also meet fortnightly between business meetings to receive interim reports on progress. There was a suggestion that the Signal Church Information tool be used as a means of keeping parishioners updated regularly and in a speedy manner. The Chair also gave an update on the progress of the Joint Parish Profile (JPP) which had gone to the Archdeacon for his comments and was currently with the Bishop awaiting his comments before being returned to both Parishes for editing into the final JPP when both PCCs can comment on it. There had been one early expression of interest, all five representatives had spoken with her informally and all agreed that her interest would not be "progressed" as a potential application since there was no appetite for a single applicant, as the previous two vicars had been.

John Massey: “Is there a timeline for the process of finding a new incumbent?”

The Chair replied that much depended on the speed of the Bishop’s response to the draft JPP but, once it has been received and agreed, there would be a national advertisement (allow one month for responses) then shortlisting and interviews. The Archdeacon had told the PCC (see Minutes for 7/1/21) that a new incumbent could possibly be in place between September and December ‘21 although, currently, Advent was a more realistic target than September.

Chris Gascoigne: “Why are we waiting for the Joint Parish Profile?”

Because the Bishop needs to comment on the draft that we sent.

“Can anyone push him?”

No.

Roger Longworth: “Will the new PCC see the Joint Parish Profile?”

Yes, but the Archdeacon and Bishop have to comment on it (the Archdeacon having already done so) so the draft that we currently have is likely to change.

Dave Finch: “What can you tell us about the enquirer for the post?”

The Chair repeated her earlier comments that all the representatives who met her had reservations since she might be the only candidate.

Dorothy Brown: “Which Vicarage will the new vicar live in?”

The Diocese will be making that decision.

There being no other questions or comments, the Chair ended the meeting with prayers and a reading from Ephesians 3: 14 – 21.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

Vicar's Report

I am so grateful to God for the opportunity to serve the parishes of St John's and St Paul's. Richard and I have settled here well and enjoyed our new home, the beautiful scenery and the friendly people.

Highlights for me have been working with leaders in both churches, identifying future leaders, Accrington Christians Together, the Keep Fit group at St Paul's and the opportunities to do lots of baptisms and funerals.

During the first four months my focus has been on getting to know people and I have done this mainly through home visits to as many people as possible. I have heard your stories, shared your griefs, prayed with you and hoped for the future. It has been an immense privilege to meet so many committed and godly folk.

Church Oversight

I have worked hard with both PCCs to bring the two churches together and it is hoped that this initial phase will be complete by the time this report is read. I want to pay tribute to the members of the smaller joint groups that have put a lot of time and effort in to make this happen. Thank you!

I want to create a new structure to church oversight that devolves responsibility to smaller specialist sub-groups; for example, fabric, finance, pastoral care, prayer, worship, preaching, outreach, discipleship. They will meet on an ad hoc basis reporting into the PCC. The PCC will meet less frequently and will take more of a steering/advisory role. I have also created an advisory team for each church (with the hope that in time this will be one team for both churches), who will meet regularly with myself for prayer, discernment and direction for each church. This will again report into the PCC.

Fabric and Finance are critical areas for us and without proper attention will stop us from moving forward in mission. I intend to be teaching about 'giving' and am attending a seminar with our treasurer on how to introduce the Parish Giving Scheme. I hope by forming a fabric team across both churches and by being part of the new Parish Renewal scheme launched by +Philip that we will find ways to improve our situation.

Worship

Behind the scenes I have been reviewing our services, preachers, worship leaders and liturgy and this has led to a group forming to support preachers and another group forming to support worship and service preparation across both churches. We are about to finish our first sermon series called 'The Church – the hope of the world'. It has been a great pleasure to see others preach on the series at both churches and to introduce some new worship leaders. We return to the lectionary around the major festival of Easter but hope to have a new series either over summer or in the new school year. At St John's we hope to re-start the worship band and prayer ministry very soon and are exploring re-introducing more formal communion services once a month on a Sunday and once a month during the week. At St Paul's we hope to re-launch Café Church and are considering how to draw children and families back to the church.

Discipleship

I am seeking to strengthen our discipleship – this has included organising a Lent course, setting up a group that will have responsibility for prayer in both churches (they will take a lead on ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ this year) and seeking to re-launch some of our home groups. Paul Harcourt, Head of New Wine, said last year, ‘The church of the future will not be churches that offer home groups, but churches that are made up of home groups’. I hope that every regular member of the church would be part of some sort of home group. This is the best place for discipleship, prayer, outreach, pastoral care and encouragement.

Outreach

We are seeking to find ways to share the love of God in our community in practical ways, like our excellent work in schools, the Jubilee celebrations and exploring introducing Kintsugi Hope – a Christian organisation that seeks to offer hope to those who are lonely, have mental health issues or bereaved. I hope to develop both a Wedding Prep’ day and a Baptism Prep’ day with a team from both churches that will enhance our outreach to non- church families. I want to build on our links with schools and am exploring re-starting the toddler group at St Paul’s with a small team.

I have given support to ‘Ave a Cuppa, Foodbank and hope that I can work with a team who have a heart to reach out to those who are not yet Christians. I was delighted to be part of the Hope for Hyndburn mission with five girls staying at our house for the mission and I was able to support their work in our churches, our schools, work with men and women and then being part of the evangelism on the streets, the youth event and the communications workshop and the final Comedy evening. I am organising the After Mission Enquirers course – Hope Explored.

Developing Leaders

I have come along side our present leaders and those with potential to encourage and support them. I am also identifying new leaders for PCC, to be church wardens and to lead sub-groups. I have always been involved in this role and hope to widen the base of those who are active in church. I have to pay tribute to those who have faithfully and valiantly kept the churches going through Covid and after the resignation of Tom Donaghue.

Children and Families

Our churches will only grow if we invest in attracting children and families. I am so grateful to the leaders at both churches who have given time and love to children over the last years. My priority is to find ways to disciple the parents and to ensure the services we offer meet the needs of those who may only attend church for the sake of their children.

What Next

My priority is to consolidate the work we have done to join our two churches into one parish, so that both churches can grow both numerically and in terms of their faith and discipleship. I will do this through supporting each one of you to enable you to use your gifts, grow in your love of God and share your faith through word and deed. This is my calling and my prayer.

Rev Amanda Marshall, March 2022.

PCC Annual Report 2021

Name of Church: Baxenden Saint John,

Correspondence: PCC Secretary,
Baxenden Saint John Church,
Church Avenue,
Baxenden,
Lancashire, BB5 2RQ.

Bankers: HSBC,
12 Manchester Road,
Burnley, BB11 1JH.

Independent Examiner: Jacqui Creig,
Principle Accounting Services Ltd,
Suite 1A, Ribble Court,
1 Meadway,
Padiham, BB12 7NG.

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church, although there was no incumbent until November 2021.

Every Church of England church has the same aim: “To promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”.

The church’s mission statement is “St John’s is a community church for all ages, moving in the power of the spirit.”

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of our PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the reader, two Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The following people served as members of the PCC in 2021:

Role	Name	Election date
Incumbent & Chair (appointed November 2021)	Rev. Amanda Marshall	Ex-officio
Churchwarden & Vice Chair (April 2018 to present)	Diane Clough	Ex-officio
Churchwarden & Vice Chair	Vacancy	Ex-officio
Reader	Patricia Wilkinson	Ex-officio
Deanery Synod Rep (April 2021 to present)	Roger Longworth	Ex-officio
Deanery Synod Rep (April 2021 to present)	Marion Wilkinson	Ex-officio
Member (April 2021 to present)	Mark Brockbank	Elected
Member (April 2021 to present)	Ian Rushton	Elected
Member (April 2021 to present)	Sally Knott	Elected
Member (April 2021 to present)	Joyce Teasdale	Elected
Member (April 2021 to present)	John Massey	Elected
Member (April 2019 to present)	Chris Gascoigne	Elected
Member (April 2019 to present)	Dave Finch	Elected
Member (April 2018 to present)	Barry Grimes	Elected

Kathleen Quinn stepped down from the PCC for health reasons and Naomi Taylor stepped down as non-elected PCC Secretary.

Electoral Roll

At the end of December 2021 there were 60 names on the electoral role, an increase of five on the previous year.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings. The Standing committee consisted of: The Vicar; The warden, Diane Clough; the Treasurer, Barry Grimes (then John Massey); and Reader, Patricia Wilkinson; the Secretary, Ian Rushton; and Dave Finch. The

Standing Committee met once during 2021 to agree emergency repairs to the tower.

Annual Review – Highlights

The full PCC met for 12 business meetings and three extraordinary meetings (relating to the Parish Profile and the Parish Representatives) during 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, meetings were held via Zoom in the first half of the year.

Topics covered at the meetings tended to focus on the delights of: recruiting a new incumbent (against the Diocesan embargo on information, useful or otherwise); preparations for joining with Accrington St. Paul's as a joint Benefice; the tensions and balances of maintaining a programme of worship to cater for all dietary requirements (and thanks are expressed to Rev. Steve Brown and the Haslingden Team and others for their support); falling income; and maintaining a deteriorating church building that we were, for much of the year, unable to enter.

Many events and activities that were planned or were in the process of being planned continued to be cancelled or postponed due to the corona virus pandemic. During the national lockdown services were held via zoom for the main congregation as well as a separate service at 9.00 am for the younger members of the church family (the only apparent area of church growth in 2021).

There have been a number of costly issues for the PCC to continue addressing including birds in the bell tower, the bell tower "shifting", dry rot and water ingress into both the cellar and the South entrance.

Following a 12-month interregnum, Rev. Amanda Marshall was appointed as Priest in Charge of Baxenden St. John's.

We would finally like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a friendly, lively and well-run community.

On behalf of the PCC

Ian Rushton, February 2022

Treasurer's Report for 2021

Financial Statement

1. Total receipts on Unrestricted Funds were £55,258 of which £43,378 was Unrestricted Voluntary Donations, and a further £7,589 was from Gift Aid. No Restricted Donations were received this year
2. Planned Giving through banker's orders was £9,349 down on last year
3. Total income, including tax recovered was £24,600 down on last year
4. £58,350 was spent from Unrestricted Funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. John's Church, including the contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy
5. The sum that the churches in the Deanery have to find is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a head count of the congregations. We have to find more of the sum at St. John's as our socio-economic factor is considerably higher than most churches in our Diocese
6. The PCC decided to only pay £37,500 [68.7%] of the requested £54,652 Voluntary Contribution towards our Parish Share
7. Our Giving this year was £3,075 (5.6%) of our Unrestricted Income of £55,258
8. The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £3,092 on Unrestricted Funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on Unrestricted Funds totalled £45,932 of which £25,269 has been set aside to meet the costs of building maintenance, IT equipment, mission & outreach, churchyard trees and cellar refurbishment as Designated Funds

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on Unrestricted Funds which equates to at least two months Unrestricted Payments. It is not easy to assess this figure due to undulations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a reasonable figure to work to would be approximately £10,000. This money is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies

The balance of £1,087 in the Restricted Fund account is retained towards meeting the cost of office refurbishment at future dates

Summary of Accounts (last year's figures in brackets)

St. John's holds three bank accounts and one Diocesan deposit account:

1. **General Account** - balance £17,917 (£28,029) - general day to day running of the church finances
2. **Designated Funds Account** - balance £13,750 (£7,550) - building maintenance, IT equipment, mission & outreach, churchyard trees, cellar refurbishment. Designated Funds represent sums set aside by the PCC, out

of ordinary Unrestricted Funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into General Funds at any time

3. **Restricted Funds Account** - balance £1,087 (£1,087) - churchyard, office refurbishment. Restricted Funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into General Funds
4. **Diocesan Deposit Account** - balance £14,065 (£13,245) - partly Designated
5. **Petty Cash Float** – balance £200 (£200)

Account Movements (last year's figures in brackets) [movement in square brackets]

General Account

Receipts: £54,469 (£79,007) [-31%]

- Voluntary receipts £43,378 (£54,974) [-21%]
- Gift Aid recovered £7,589 (£12,656) [-40%]
- Other income £3,501 (£11,377) [-69%] - room hire, church ministries, investment income

Payments: £58,350 (£73,354) [-20%]

- Mission, Giving and Donations £3,075 (£0)
- Diocesan Parish Share £37,500 (£54,000) [-31%]
- Salaries, wages and honoraria £300 (£0)
- Clergy & Staff expenses £499 (£4,517) [-89%]
- Church running expenses £10,726 (£9,118) [+18%]
- Church utility bills £6,043 (£5,443) [+11%]
- Cost of trading £0 (£276)
- Major Repairs to Church Building £0 (£0)
- All other payments £208 (£0)

Designated Funds Account

- Building Maintenance Fund increased by £1,200
- Cellar Refurbishment Fund increased by £5,000

Restricted Funds Account

- No change

Diocesan Deposit Account

- Increased by £820

Summary

- a. The church ended the year with £47,019 (£50,110) [-6%] - in cash funds

- b. We have one outstanding debt of £41,381. This is the Voluntary Parish Share that we give to the Diocese
- c. Our 2021 Quinquennial Report on the state of our church building, recommends that we need to undertake repairs to the value of approximately £65,000

Finally

Thank you to Barry Grimes who was our treasurer for the first half of 2021 and to Mark Brockbank who helped bank our money in 2021

John Massey (Treasurer)

Receipts and Payments

Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021	Total 2020
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Tax efficient planned giving (standing orders)	35,790	-	-	-	35,790	43,854
Other planned giving (standing orders)	4,050	-	-	-	4,050	5,335
Collections at services	1,867	-	-	-	1,867	3,773
All other giving and voluntary receipts	1,671	-	-	-	1,671	2,907
Gift Aid recovered	7,589	-	-	-	7,589	12,856
Legacies received	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds	-	-	-	-	-	149
Investment income	470	790	0	-	1,259	1,318
Church activities						
Statutory fees retained by the PCC	2,625	-	-	-	2,625	4,313
Gross receipts from trading (room hire etc.)	199	-	-	-	199	1,217
Other receipts	208	-	-	-	208	288
Total receipts	54,469	790	0	-	55,258	78,856

PAYMENTS						
Church Activities						
Mission, giving and donations	3,075	-	-	-	3,075	
Diocesan Parish Share contribution	37,500	-	-	-	37,500	54,000
Salaries, wages and honoraria	300	-	-	-	300	
Clergy and staff expenses	499	-	-	-	499	4,517
Church Expenses						
Church running expenses (incl. governance)	10,726	-	-	-	10,726	9,138
Church utility bills	6,043	-	-	-	6,043	5,443
Cost of trading	-	-	-	-	-	276
Major Repairs to Church Building	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Payments	208	-	-	-	208	
Total payments	58,350	-	-	-	58,350	73,354

NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	(3,882)	790	0	-	(3,092)	6,504
Transfers between funds	(6,200)	6,200	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan	30,744	18,280	1,087	-	50,111	43,606
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec	20,662	25,269	1,087	-	47,019	50,110

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021	Total 2020
Cash funds							
Cash at Bank	2.1	17,917	13,750	1,087		32,754	36,665
Church Deposit Funds (with Diocese)		2,546	11,520			14,065	13,245
Petty Cash		200				200	200
Total cash funds		20,662	25,269	1,087	-	47,019	50,110
(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)		OK	OK	OK	OK		
Other monetary assets							
						-	-
						-	-
Total other monetary assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets							
Fixed Interest Investments - with Diocese	7.1				6,607	6,607	7,074
Shares - Church Investment Fund with Diocese	7.2			41,914		41,914	36,645
Total investment assets		-	-	41,914	6,607	48,521	43,719
Debtors							
Income Tax recoverable (Gift Aid)						-	-
						-	-
Total debtors		-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities							
Parish Share						-	-
						-	-
Total liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-

The notes attached form part of these financial statements

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		
Name	Date	Signature
MARION WILKINSON	7/2/2022	M. Wilkinsa
MARKUS HON	7/2/2022	Markus Hon

Notes

- 1 The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payments basis. (The Receipts and Payments Basis may be used providing the total income is below £250,000)

2 Fund Movement Analysis

- 2.1 Reconciliation of funds to cash at bank. During the year funds get distributed over several bank accounts. After year end, any funds that have not been redistributed during the year, are reconciled and transferred to the correct bank accounts as shown below

Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £
Cash in funds at bank (incl. Diocese)	17,917	13,750	1,087
Funds to be transferred in following year	-	-	-
Cash in bank accounts	17,917	13,750	1,087

OK

- 2.2 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes. The movements in the fund are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account

- 2.3 DESIGNATED FUNDS represent sums set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into general funds at any time

Notes	Bal b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/f
Building Maintenance	2.3.1	3,400	1,200	-	4,600
IT Equipment	2.3.2	2,955	-	-	2,955
Mission & Outreach	2.3.3	895	-	-	895
Churchyard Trees	2.3.4	300	-	-	300
Cellar Refurbishment	2.3.5	-	5,000	-	5,000
Total designated funds		7,550	6,200	-	13,750

- 2.3.1 Designated Building Maintenance Fund - money kept in Designated Funds Bank Account

- 2.3.2 Designated Equipment Fund - for purpose of providing sound, video and computers; money kept in Designated Funds Bank Account

- 2.3.3 Designated Mission & Outreach Fund - money kept in Designated Funds Bank Account

- 2.3.4 Designated Churchyard Tree Fund - for new trees

- 2.3.5 Designated Cellar Refurbishment Fund - money kept in Designated Funds Bank Account

- 2.4 RESTRICTED FUNDS represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds

Notes	Bal b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal c/f
Churchyard	2.4.1	4	5,000	5,000	4
Office Refurbishment	2.4.2	1,083	-	-	1,083
Total restricted funds		1,087	5,000	5,000	1,087

- 2.4.1 Restricted Churchyard Fund (previously Church & School) - for purpose of churchyard upkeep; money kept in Restricted Funds Bank Account. The interest/dividends from restricted churchyard funds held by the Diocese is transferred into the General Account and used each year on churchyard maintenance, mowers and mowing etc.

- 2.4.2 Restricted Office Refurbishment Fund - for purpose of refurbishing office; money kept in Restricted Funds Bank Account

- 2.5 ENDOWMENT FUNDS are funds whose capital must be maintained: only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established

3 Reserves Policy

- 3.1 It is the policy of this PCC to hold in reserves the equivalent of two months income, that is approximately £14,000

Friday, 31 December 2021

4 Receipts Analysis

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021	Total 2020
Voluntary Receipts							
Tax efficient planned giving (standing orders)		35,790				35,790	43,854
Other planned giving (standing orders)		4,050				4,050	5,335
Collections at services		1,867				1,867	3,773
All other giving and voluntary receipts		1,671				1,671	2,007
Gift Aid recovered		7,589				7,589	12,656
Legacies received (capital value)		-				-	5,000
Grants (recurring and one-offs)		-				-	-
		50,967	-	-	-	50,967	72,625
Activities for Generating Funds							
Church lounge stalls		-				-	-
Social events		-				-	149
		-	-	-	-	-	149
Investment Income							
Interest & Dividends	7.3	470	790			1,259	1,317
Bank interest				0		0	1
		470	790	0	-	1,259	1,318
Church Activities							
Statutory fees (weddings & funerals etc.)		2,625				2,625	4,311
Gross receipts from trading (room lettings etc.)		199				199	1,217
		2,824	-	-	-	2,824	5,528
Other Receipts							
Bank - cancelled cheques		208				208	-
Insurance claims		-				-	238
Sale of assets		-				-	-
Other		-				-	-
		208	-	-	-	208	238

5 Payments Analysis

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021	Total 2020
Church Activities							
Mission, Giving & Donations							
Mission		-				-	-
Giving (Tithes)		3,075				3,075	-
Donations		-				-	-
		3,075	-	-	-	3,075	-
Diocesan Parish Share contribution							
Parish Share		37,500				37,500	54,000
		37,500	-	-	-	37,500	54,000
Salaries, Wages and Honoraria							
Wages and honoraria		300				300	-
		300	-	-	-	300	-
Clergy and Staff Expenses							
Working expenses of clergy		-				-	712
Vicarage council tax		(604)				(604)	3,211
Vicarage water rates		589				589	594
Vicarage energy bills (during interregnum)!!!		441				441	-
Clergy telephone/mobile/internet		-				-	-

Visiting clergy fees		72				72	
		499	-	-	-	499	4,517

Church Running Expenses

Building maintenance		3,195				3,195	3,590
Education		362				362	
Insurance		3,929				3,929	3,662
Church telephone & internet		309				309	210
Church CCTV		-				-	
Cleaning		625				625	514
Upkeep of services		530				530	366
Upkeep of churchyard		469				469	165
Printing, postage & stationery		201				201	
Other church running expenses		776				776	281
Governance Costs (checking accounts)		330				330	330
		10,726	-	-	-	10,726	9,118

Church Utility Bills

Electricity		2,361				2,361	2,994
Gas		3,384				3,384	2,182
Water		298				298	268
		6,043	-	-	-	6,043	5,444

Cost of Trading

Magazine expenses		-				-	276
		-	-	-	-	-	276

Major Repairs to Church Building

Not covered by insurance		-				-	
Covered by insurance		-				-	
		-	-	-	-	-	

All Other Payments		208				208	
		208	-	-	-	208	

6 Cash Funds

Year End Cash Funds - taken from bank statements etc.

		Type	2021	2020
Bank	General Account	various	18,201	28,029
	Unpresented Cheques	various	(284)	-
	Designated Funds Account	Designated	13,750	7,550
	Restricted Funds Account	Restricted	1,087	1,087
			32,754	36,666
Deposit	Treasury Stock	Unrestricted	2,108	2,108
	AM Walker	unrestricted	38	38
	J Walker	Designated	11,520	10,730
	Churchyard	Unrestricted	340	310
	Reserve	Unrestricted	59	59
			14,065	13,245
Cash	Petty Cash	Unrestricted	200	200
			200	200
			47,019	50,111

7 Investments

- 7.1 Fixed Interest Investments - held with Diocese; Joseph Walker
- 7.2 Shares, Church Investment Fund - held with Diocese; Cucknell, Joseph Walker, Kavanagh, McDonald
- 7.3 Investment income earned as interest or dividends on investment funds

Investments held by Blackburn Diocese

Purpose	Acct. Nr.	Account Name	Type	Income	Cost	Shares	Price	Dividends	Payments	Value at 31 Dec 2021
---------	-----------	--------------	------	--------	------	--------	-------	-----------	----------	----------------------

Fixed Interest Investments

Building & Repair	028F	Baxenden J Walker (Joseph Walker Trust)	Endowment	Transferred to account 756D	5,000	4,182	1.5799	186	186	6,607
					5,000					6,607

Shares - Church Investment Fund

Churchyard	030S	Baxenden Cucknell (Cucknell Legacy)	Restricted	Transferred to bank account	509	716	23.3867	426	426	16,750
Building & Repair	719S	Joseph Walker Trust	Endowment	Transferred to account 756D	5,000	1,006	23.3867	598	598	23,527
Churchyard	720S	Baxenden Kavanagh	Restricted	Transferred to bank account	101	19	23.3867	11	11	444
General	790S	Baxenden Legacy (Cucknell E200 + McDonald E200)	Restricted	Transferred to account 836D	400	51	23.3867	30	30	1,193
					6,010					41,914

Deposits held by Blackburn Diocese

Purpose	Acct. Nr.	Account Name	Type	Income	Balance at 1 Jan 2021	Transfer	Receipts	Payments	Balance at 31 Dec 2021
---------	-----------	--------------	------	--------	-----------------------	----------	----------	----------	------------------------

Church Deposit Fund

General	1189D	Baxenden Treasury Stock Redemption	Unrestricted	Transferred to bank account	2,108			2	2	2,108
General	470D	Baxenden AM Walker (Miss A M Walker Legacy)	Unrestricted	Retained	38			0	-	38
Building & Repair	756D	Baxenden J Walker (John Walker)	Designated	Retained	10,730			790	-	11,520
Churchyard	836D	Baxenden CY (Churchyard Account)	Unrestricted	Retained	310			30	-	340
General	837D	Baxenden Reserve (Reserve Account)	Unrestricted	Retained	59			0	-	59
					13,245					14,065

Friday, 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of

PCC of St John the Baptist Church Baxenden
 Charity number: 1137246

On the accounts for the year ended
 which are set out on pages

Friday, 31 December 2021
 1 to 7

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent
 Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2)
 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records

have not been met; or

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

Signed:



Date:

2/02/2022

Name:

JACQUELINE ANN CREIG

Relevant professional qualification(s)
 or body (if any):

Address:

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING LTD
 RIBBLE COURT
 1 MEAD WAY
 PADHAM BB12 7NG

Fabric Report

2021 was once again an eventful year regarding the fabric of the Church building. The year yet again began with wind causing damage to the roof tiles. This was duly repaired in one day to try and prevent a repeat of the numerous lead thefts of previous years.

The dry rot discovered in early 2020 was, and is, still an ongoing problem but we were unable to address this to due lockdowns. When lockdown ended both the Builder (Tony Carr (TC) of Tope Construction) and surveyor (Steve Fish (SF) of Fish Associates who inspected the dry rot only days before lockdown in early 2020. SF said there appeared to be water ingress probably coming from around the Bell Tower and a scaffolding would be needed in order to inspect it. The inspection was done and the outcome was that an area of leadwork had loosened over time and the cement render had been eroded leaving a large gap which would need repairing as a matter of urgency and would hopefully over time dry the rear wall out. It was also noted at the time that there was some loose stones where the render had been eroded but SF was hopeful that it would not be a factor in the immediate future and that if it became one a Faculty may be needed. The leadwork was repaired as advised and the render renewed to close the gap and seal the lead in place.

The Quinquennial Report, being due in 2020, was commissioned as this would also allow us to prioritise much needed repair and maintenance work. The Quinquennial survey was out carried out in late September by Sf. The report has not yet been received despite numerous phone calls chasing it up. John Massey has recently spoken to SF and asked for it to be with him by the 18th of January 2021.

The day after the Quinquennial inspection was carried out a large piece of plaster was found fallen from the top of the archway at the front of the Chancel. After contacting the Archdeacon and Area Dean the Church was shut down as a matter of safety. TC performed an emergency inspection of the front of the Chancel Arch, removed all loose plaster from the affected area, and checked for any other possible areas of concern. With safety being assured the Church was reopened in a matter of days. As a further safety measure plaster had to be removed from the Vestry wall.

The Archdeacons Visitation was done at the beginning of November by the Area Dean. When the Dean arrived, on a very wet and windy day rain was as heavy in the foyer as outside. The gaps due to missing cement had now become urgent. A list B Faculty was quickly applied for and we are awaiting the results of the DAC as to whether or not we can go ahead and get the repair done. At the time of the Quinquennial a further area of dry rot was identified and reported.

When the results of the survey are received we can hopefully begin work to address all latent works in order of importance, though much of the indoor work is dependent on the dry rot being treated.

Diane Clough, January 2022

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod have not met during 2021

Roger Longworth & Marion Wilkinson, February 2022

Children and Youth Report

As a church we are blessed by the number of children and young families we see in our church each week, and to have a dedicated team of volunteers to lead them.

As a group of Children's leaders, our aim is to see young people changing the world, through the love of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our mission is to help build our children into prayerful, worshipping disciples who love Jesus and want to follow Him. And who live out their faith in their communities, through their friendships and in their families. We do in this in several different ways.

Children's Church

We started the year, as we left 2020, meeting weekly on Zoom. We were pleased to welcome two families from Trinity Church who live locally, and even though they returned to Trinity when churches re-opened have kept links with St Johns by coming to Tots Praise.

We had a wonderful Zoom Easter, giving out around 25 Easter eggs.

During our time on Zoom we held Family Quiz nights which were very enjoyable. The children set some of the rounds which we adults found very difficult to answer. Well done children.

As summer approached, and churches started to open again, we felt it important to move towards meeting face to face and coming back to church. We had our first face to face meeting in Oakhill Park at the beginning of June when we met for games and a picnic lunch and a session about being part of the family of God. It was wonderful to see each other face to face again and to see how much the children had grown.

Following this the wonderful Julie, head of St Johns School offered us the use of "Gods Garden" the outdoor worship area at school. We were very blessed to be able to use this facility and remained there until the weather started to change. By this time, parents had more confidence in meeting together and we moved back into church.

The wonderful Rebecca led a Light Party at Halloween after which several members of the congregation joined us for hotdogs.

Unfortunately, due to a rise in covid cases locally, we felt we had no option but to cancel the Christmas party, but Rebecca led a Christingle and games in the lounge and "Santa" Amanda, with her trusty elves, Joyce and Rebecca, gave out 22 gifts to the children.

Tots Praise

Following lockdowns, Tots Praise started again in September, but unfortunately, we were forced to close again at Christmas, due to the rise in covid cases.

Messy Church

Due to the pandemic, we have only been able to hold one Messy Church this year, in October, to celebrate Jesus, The Light of the World.

School

Excellent links are developing with our school. In the absence of a vicar, Joyce has led weekly assemblies and has been meeting with the God Squad, a group of year six pupils who want to develop their faith.

We also welcomed the school into church to help lead the Harvest Service and the Carol Service

Training

Training from the diocese has been on hold, again due to the pandemic, but Joyce did attend the annual children's leaders conference, this year held on Zoom, the focus of which was reaching children and young people in a digital age.

A great big thank you to Rebecca, Sally, Tirzah and Sarah for their tireless enthusiasm in reaching the needs of our children every week

Joyce Teasdale, January 2022

Safeguarding

Parochial Church Council Duty

It is a formal legal obligation for the PCC in its report to the APCM to state whether or not the PCC “*has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)*”.

The statement made at the APCM is, effectively, a public statement and therefore PCC needs to be clear that in making this statement that in good conscience, they have complied with this legal duty.

To assist in this process an annual assurance report from the Parish Safeguarding Officers is attached which reviews current church practice against the national model parish safeguarding check list which aligns with the House of Bishops guidance. Members of the PCC are therefore asked to review the content of this report and either raise any concerns or confirm that they are confident that The PCC is abiding by its duty.

To aid the process an outline of PCC member duties has been included below:

Responsibilities of the Incumbent and PCC

The Incumbent and PCC have a duty of care to ensure the well-being of the vulnerable in the church community and within this are required to:

- Adopt and implement the House of Bishops’ Policy on safeguarding children or the Joint Safeguarding Principles and a Parish Policy and procedure on safeguarding children and adults who may be vulnerable. A dated copy must be sent by email to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- Adopt a Parish Safeguarding Officer(s) (the ‘Designated Person’ with special responsibility for safeguarding children and adults), to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensure that the Parish Safeguarding Officer(s) (PSO) and anyone having regular contact with children and vulnerable adults is appointed according to Diocesan Safer Recruitment Guidelines, is trained and supported, provided with a copy of the parish safeguarding policy and code of practice for church workers.
- Deal promptly with allegations or suspicions of abuse in accordance with the Disclosures and Allegations policy in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- Display the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, the contact details of the PSO(s) named person on church premises and wherever possible on the church website.
- Ensure that known offenders or others who may pose a threat to children and young people are effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.
- During an interregnum ensure that information about all safeguarding matters is securely stored before passing on to the new incumbent. The departing incumbent should give the information to the PSO(s) who will inform the new incumbent when they take up post.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children undertaken in the name of the parish.

- Review the implementation of safeguarding children and adults' policy, procedures and good practice, at least annually.

Parish Safeguarding Checklist

At Baxenden St John, we recognise that the few who are determined to harm children or adults, deliberately seek out groups or organisations where they can meet children or other vulnerable people. The Church is particularly vulnerable to these people. Creating and maintaining a safeguarding culture will discourage them from becoming involved for the wrong reasons and make it difficult for them to harm or abuse children or adults if they do.

In order to assist with the creation of a safeguarding culture we have as a PCC:

Appointed:

- An appropriately experienced designated Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) to work with the incumbent and PCC. The PSO is a lay person and is supported, has undertaken the appropriate training and has a copy of the parish safeguarding policy and procedures
- A DBS administrator for church officers who work with children or vulnerable adults.

Safer Recruit, Support and Train:

- The PSO has been trained in Safer Recruitment. During 2021 no recruitment has taken place.
- Church officers have been offered access to safeguarding training and support. However, a small number of church officers do not have computer training available and alternative training is to be sourced.
- The PCC has appropriate insurance to cover all activities undertaken in the name of the PCC which involve children and vulnerable adults.
- No Domestic Violence training this period as we are awaiting the Diocesan training package to be made available.

Display:

- There are two noticeboards with Safeguarding information displayed. One is in the public area of the lounge and the second in the South Vestry.
- In addition there is a Safeguarding page on the church website, with a link prominently displayed on the home page.
- A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement' is signed on behalf of the PCC and presented at the APCM.
- A copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is available on both noticeboards together with aide-memoires "*Safeguarding a pocket guide*" and "*Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility*"
- The noticeboard and aide-memoires contain contact details of the PSOs the Diocesan Safeguarding Team – including out of hours contact details that information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues, domestic abuse and key helplines

- Copies of our Safeguarding policies for children, vulnerable adults and domestic violence as well as whistle blowing can be found on the church website.

Responded:

- We promote an environment, which is welcoming and respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently.
- The PCC have agreed policies and procedures to deal promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse in accordance with the relevant policy and practice guidance and in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Review and report progress

- A Parish Safeguarding self-audit was completed in the summer of 2021 with the action log being part of the safeguarding report at the monthly PCC meetings.
- Copies of the Audit and subsequent action log were submitted to the DSA.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item for every PCC meeting.
- Progress has been reported on areas such as training, accident reports and risk assessments.
- The PSO has sought approval for various policies during the year. One outstanding policy is the Complaints policy, where the PCC requested some legal advice before approval. It is expected that this will be approved soon after the merger of the parishes of "Baxenden St John with Accrington St Paul".
- Room hire documentation has been updated to ensure it is aligned with Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- There has not been any safeguarding incident reported during 2021

It is expected that Baxenden St John merges with Accrington St Paul in 2022, the Parish Safeguarding audit and action logs will be revisited and reviewed, together with the roles of PSO.

John Massey

Governors' Report

"Our school helps us to walk with Jesus, to be the best that we can be. Through God's love and guidance, we create an ethos of shared behaviours, friendship, and co-operation to help us flourish academically, emotionally and spiritually"

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

The statement and verse above provide a summary of the school's vision and ethos. This short Governors' report will give you an idea of just some of the things that have happened during 2021.

Your Foundation Governors

Ian Rushton; Kirsty Freeman; Tirzah Russell; John Massey; Sarah Barrett; Jerard Knott; Rev Amanda Marshall.

During the first part of the year John Massey was chair of Governors with Jerard Knott as vice-chair. At the Autumn Full Governing Board Jerard took over the role of chair with Kirsty Freeman as vice-chair.

COVID 19

The year started with continuing and ever-changing COVID 19 conditions. Remote learning was in place with all the complexities for pupils, parents and carers, and staff. Staff continued to develop new working practices and techniques to ensure the delivery of a good level of education. The Government continued to introduce new rules and reporting information needed from schools. This resulted in a heavy burden on the HT and senior management team, with the Business team in support. The overarching focus was to provide a balance of delivering good education alongside their wellbeing.

In the spring term school opened with staff vaccinations, followed by a testing regime. However, there were many cases of COVID 19 amongst both pupils and staff, resulting in challenging staffing issues.

Church and School

During the "vacancy" in 2021, Joyce Teasdale worked hard to maintain and increase a positive relationship and involvement between church and school, leading to school involvement in both the Harvest and Carol services. Her hard work is recognised by the governors and school, thank you Joyce.

The school looks forward to 2022 and working with Rev Amanda Marshall providing the spiritual lead alongside our headteacher.

School improvements

Recovered funds from the proceeds of crime have funded the following projects

- Technical equipment such as laptops and iPads
- Beehive/Nurture room created and equipped
- Libraries for both KS1 and KS2
- Storytelling area in the KS2 playground
- Staffroom refurbished
- New entrance doors and entrance area updated
- Musical instruments and curriculum items such as books and classroom resources

A successful funding bid to the Diocese resulted in new radiators being fitted throughout the school to match the new boilers fitted in 2020, to maximise energy savings.

A storeroom was converted into a changing facility for special needs children.

Lastly a defibrillator was donated through the Oliver King Trust, who trained staff in the use of this vital equipment.

Summary

The Governing Board acknowledge and applaud the ability of our staff who have adapted to ever-changing ways of working this year and worked far beyond what would have been expected in normal times. Mrs Green has provided the strong leadership needed, supported by her senior management team and all the staff, all together a great team, thank you.

Please continue to hold the staff, children, and governors in your prayers as we move into 2022.

John Massey

Foundation Governor