

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, LITTLEWORTH

England & Wales · Charity number 1138634

Details

Other names ST JOHN'S PCC, LITTLEWORTH

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-10-28

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

Contact

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Westhead Avenue
Stafford
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Activities

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

Activities: Parish Church of Church of England

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£144,852	£100,847	-	-
2023-12-31	£94,472	£99,344	-	-
2022-12-31	£84,778	£90,841	-	-
2021-12-31	£80,206	£78,072	-	-
2020-12-31	£75,974	£75,856	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Carl Rudd	Chair	2018-07-04
Anne Scott		
Anthony Paul Greaves		2024-04-28
Francis Tamba		2020-10-11
ISOBEL JOYCE WAKERELL		2013-04-17
Kevin John Brady		2025-04-27
Lynda Ryder		2024-04-28
Marianne Parkes		2025-04-27
Michael Spencer Lomas		2025-04-27
NICOLA WOODHOUSE		2023-04-30
Naomi Claire Blears		2018-04-30
Pamela Jayne Ayre		2021-04-18
Peter Fryatt		2024-04-28
Rev Susan Elizabeth Cooke		2021-08-01

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

27th April 2025

Incumbent:

The Reverend Dr Carl Rudd
The Rectory
Westhead Avenue
Stafford

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
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For the year ended 31 December 2024

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The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent Rev Dr Carl Rudd, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John the Baptist. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non church members of the community.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford, it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Achievements and Performance

APCM Rectors Report 2025

As I think back to 2024, the whole year seemed to disappear in a flash.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who serves at St Johns, some whose service is visible and some whose service is unseen by almost everyone. Each person who serves makes a difference to our family and I want to say a big thank you to all of you.

We are a safe church but to remain safe we all have to be vigilant about potential risk to the safety of the whole church family. Safeguarding is something that is essential to us all, young and old alike. Please check the notices in the foyer so we all know what to do if we see something that raises a concern.

Services, church activities and socials have all deepened the relationships in the church and grown our hunger more for God. We believe He has showed us in this year He can truly do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. Recognising we can achieve nothing for the kingdom without God's involvement we are depending on his strength for the year to come whilst continuing to remain expectant for all that He wants to do. We were blessed to see our curate Sue Cooke become our associate priest and remain with us. There have been socials that continue to draw us together more deeply as the family of Christ in this place. Our services and homegroups open the messages of the Bible week by week and then as they rest in us we are able to share it into the community. Homegroups continue to grow in number and to deepen the faith of all who come to them. Alpha gave an opportunity for some to consider the foundations of their faith again and for others it was a chance to consider the truth of the gospel for the first time.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Our youth members went to Limitless up at the Stafford showground with Megan and her team, giving them a very special experience of being with other youth and all seeking God. We pray for each of them and their continued journey with God. Throughout the year Megan with the youth and children's team prepare such good sessions for Sunday, and the weekday sessions, even preparing material for the weeks when children are not at school.

There has been the joy of new members joining the church, and the sadness of the death of old friends. Please keep praying for all that happens week by week in the church, your prayers make a big difference to all we can do with God, and our use of the Bible keeps us on God's path for his glory. The celebration of our Patron Saint St John the Baptist was enjoyed with the flower festival, and we have had good celebration as a family together. The starting of the memories group has been a great success, and we look forward to seeing its continued flourishing. We will look to be starting a new men's group in 2025.

We do need more help whether it is making tea and coffee, cleaning church, someone who is good doing ordered jobs through the year for the finance team. We were blessed with a legacy although to gain its true blessing we do need to ask us all to consider our giving in the coming year.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4 v 13

PCC Review of 2024

This has been another successful year and thanks go to Carl, along with Sue who became our Associate Minister in March, for their leadership throughout the year with the rest of the team, Isobel Wakerell, Francis Tamba & Christina Thomson. Isobel's retirement in December (from paid work!) is noted and thanks are given that she will return, after a few weeks recharging time, to her Benefice duties. Thank you also to Megan for her children's work both at church and in school where along with Carl, assemblies, reading and other activities are enjoyed by the pupils of St John's Academy.

It was rather disconcerting when Carl arrived back from his skiing holiday in the new year with a broken bone in his hand, but thankfully it didn't cause any long-lasting difficulties.

Looking back over the past year has been a reminder of all the events that have taken place at St John's and how much we have learned from the fellowship & worship we have shared.

An Alpha course began in September and was well attended, led by Carl & Sue and some of the more seasoned members of the congregation. A follow up group of some of the newcomers have continued to meet each week. A further Alpha course is planned for 2025.

Outreach continues with home visits from Carl, Sue and members of the Pastoral Group. Regular visits are now made to three local locations in the area each month taking Communion and worship to the residents.

We welcome Place of Welcome and M&M's each week as well as the many organisations and groups which use the church hall.

Home groups have been held very successfully in church on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. Books from the Bible, James, Habakkuk and Daniel have been thoroughly explored. We used the on-line Prayer Course with Pete Greig and during Lent The Prayers of Jesus. Thanks go to all for their input and leadership.

We welcomed Bishop Matthew in February when 5 people were confirmed and welcomed.

May saw the Cathedral hold a Dementia Action Service with guest Tony Christie & attended by Rev Sue Cooke to gain experience towards our aim of becoming a dementia friendly church later in the year. In July we held our own All Age Worship service to inform the congregation of our plans. Much information has been gathered since then to enable us to safely host Memories, the group name chosen for carers and those living with dementia. This was successfully launched in October and has proven a welcome event once a month for those both leading and taking part. It is hoped this will expand in 2025.

In April & June respectively, we have had a Concert given by pupils of Christina Thomson, and a Morning of Musical Fellowship led by Liz Clarke. Both very enjoyable.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2024

April saw us enjoy an Afternoon Tea provided by FftN (Food from the Nations) and in May we hosted the Christian Aid Coffee morning. We have continued to be a generous church through the World Focus Group by tithing 10% of our income throughout the year as well as supporting numerous charities in many ways including House of Bread, Stafford Women's Aid and those of our congregation who gamely cycled for Ride & Stride in support of Historic Churches in the Diocese.

A Prayer Evening was held at the end of May between 6pm & 1a.m.

We have as always been blessed by the skills and artistry of the Flower Group who marked our Patronal Festival in June with wonderful displays throughout the church as well as holding spring and Christmas workshops.

Services of Remembering for those recently bereaved and others who wished to attend were held in May and November and as always, in line with national observance, a Remembrance Service was held in November.

November was a busy month with a full reading of the Gospel of St Luke enjoyed by both listeners and readers.

We also hosted a Repair Café where people from the community were able to bring items for repair by gifted amateurs.

Sadly during the year we said a final farewell to Pat Leese & Charles Daniel, both members of our church family and to Roger Maud a faithful attender of Place of Welcome. A memorial service was held in March for Janet Eaton.

Financial Review

During the 2024 year the Church Members generously contributed £67,467 including gift aid (2023: £59,126 towards the church finances. The church also received an unrestricted legacy of £49,970 (2023: £970).

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities record that most of the cash funds are held in CCLA deposit accounts. Although the accounts are prepared using receipts and payments accounting, the Toybox plate collection of £235, the Children's Society plate collection of £93 and the £2,415 owed to the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance is shown with agency collections under liabilities.

The Restricted Funds of the Church can only be used for the purpose for which they were given.

Overall, the Restricted Funds have decreased by £1,645

The Unrestricted Funds of the church consist of the Designated funds and the General Fund.

The Designated Funds saw an overall reduction of £2,470 during the year and at 31 December the balance of the Fund was £13,329 (2023 £15,799). Although these funds have been set aside out of an unrestricted fund for a specific purpose, this would not prevent the PCC reallocating these sums for other uses or returning them to unrestricted funds.

The General Fund (Unrestricted Fund) saw an overall increase to the fund of £48,120 and had a balance at the 31 December 2024 of £61,347 (2023 £13,254)

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £25,200 (2023 £24,000). It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The balance of the free reserves at the year end was £61,347 (2023 £13,254) which is considerably higher than this target. The Trustees feel that a higher reserve is prudent in these uncertain times with Quinquennial works.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Investment Policy

The charity is granted power to invest in suitable investments under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Trustees Act 2000. As a charity, the Trustees have a duty of care to take such advice as is appropriate before investments are undertaken. This advice is sought from the Central Board of Finance (CCLA) in London.

The charity's investment policies are based on two key principles: -

- Ethical Investment – this includes ensuring that investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.
- Long-term responsibilities – the trustees are aware of their long-term responsibilities in respect of the Restricted and Unrestricted reserves and as a result follow a prudent approach to investment decisions.

Investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income, with due regard to the need for the preservation of capital value, and the possible need to realise investments to meet operational needs. The charity does not have a policy of generating income at excessive or high risk – known as “purchasing income”, where high returns are guaranteed at the expense of capital.

In summary, the charity has an overall policy to maximise income while preserving the real value of its funds. Due to the nature of the charity, an ethical investment policy is taken into consideration when investments are made:

The charity follows the Ethical Investment Advisory policy as recommended by the Lichfield Diocese which includes the following:

“We aim to invest in companies that:

- * will develop their business in the interests of shareholders;
- * demonstrate responsible employment practices;
- * are conscientious concerning issues of corporate governance, the environment and human rights;
- * are sensitive to the community in which they operate.”

Planned giving, collections and donations are the main sources of fund raising along with tax recoverable.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their 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)

Reporting Serious Incidents

A Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity's beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work, loss of the charity's money or assets, damage to the charity's property or harm to the charity's work or reputation.

The trustees are not aware of any Serious Incidents in the last year

Fundraising

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community.

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 1138634 or excepted Charity. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

The method of appointment of the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. The PCC members receive training from courses run by the Diocese. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC met 7 times in 2024.

Related Parties

There are no related parties employed by the PCC or awarded contracts for work.

Remuneration paid to Trustees

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the PCC or details of any trustee that was paid.

Expenses paid to Trustees

Two trustees were reimbursed £1,856 (2023 £900) for internet, mobile, travel costs and other actions required by the parish.

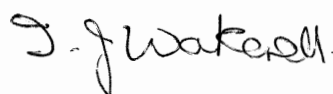
Approved by the PCC on 31 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev Dr Carl Rudd



Rector

Isobel Wakerell



Lay Chair

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Administrative Information
For the year ended 31 December 2024

PCC Members: Who Served from 1 January 2024 to the date this report was approved

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period
Ex-Officio		
Rev'd Dr Carl Rudd	Rector	
Rev'd Sue Cooke	Assistant Curate Associate Priest	To March 2024 From March 2024
Isobel Wakerell	Reader	To March 2024
Elizabeth Clarke	Deanery Synod	
Nicola Woodhouse	Deanery Synod	
Elected members		
Mrs Pam Ayre		
Mrs Naomi Blears		
Wendy Clark	Deanery Synod	
Peter Fryatt		
Christine Gawthorpe		
Tony Greaves		
Lynda Ryder		
Anne Scott	Church Warden	
Francis Tamba	Reader Church Warden	
Isobel Wakerell	Reader Assistant Church Warden	From March 2024
Ann Woodcock	Electoral Roll Officer	

Charity Name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Registered Charity Number: Number 1138634

Charity's principal address: St John the Baptist Church, Bedford Avenue, Stafford ST16 3LH

Correspondence address: The Rectory, Westhead Avenue, Stafford ST16 3RP

Website address: www.stjohnsstafford.org

Bank: Co-operative Bank,
43 Greengate Street, Stafford, ST16 2JA

Investment Managers: CCLA Investment Management.
1 Angel Ln London EC4R 3AB

Independent Examiner: Malcolm Kidd
Chestnut Close, Derrington, Stafford.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
The PCC of St John The Baptist, Stafford
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed: Mal Kidd Date: 11. April 2025

Malcolm Kidd

Chestnut Close, Derrington, Stafford.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
RECEIPTS						
Donations and Legacies	4a	115,254	46	13,820	129,120	78,845
Activities for Generating Funds	4b	520	-	-	520	1,941
Income from Investments	4c	1,537	372	299	2,208	1,239
Church Activities	4d	10,385	-	2,619	13,004	12,448
Total Receipts		127,696	418	16,738	144,852	94,472
PAYMENTS						
Raising Funds	5a	409	-	-	409	762
Church Activities	5b	79,556	2,888	17,994	100,438	98,582
Total Payments		79,965	2,888	17,994	100,847	99,344
Excess of Receipts over Payments		47,731	(2,470)	(1,256)	44,005	(4,872)
Transfer between Funds	11	389	-	(389)	-	-
Net Movement for the year		48,120	(2,470)	(1,645)	44,005	(4,872)
Net Assets at 1st Jan		13,254	15,799	13,642	42,695	47,566
Net Assets at 31st Dec		61,374	13,329	11,997	86,700	42,694

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
For the year ended 31 December 2024

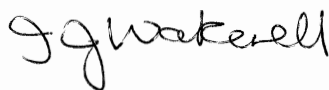
		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash Funds	6	64,116	10,454	11,997	86,567	40,758
Liabilities	9	2,743	-	-	2,743	1,389
Net assets		66,859	10,454	11,997	83,824	39,369
Other Monetary Assets	7	-	875	-	875	1,325
Assets Retained for Church Use	8	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts

Approved by the PCC on 31 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev Dr Carl Rudd

Isobel Wakerell

Rector

Lay Chair

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Income

All income is accounted for when received.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share un-paid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown.

2. Tangible and intangible fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts by s.10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements.

Other fixtures fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years for furniture, five years with residual value for musical instruments, and three years for computers. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

3. Description of Funds

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for spending on a future project.

Restricted funds

Donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

These accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or that are informal gatherings of Church members.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
RECEIPTS	4	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies						
Voluntary Receipts	4a					
Regular giving		45,070	-	3,870	48,940	43,940
Collections at services		5,881	46	-	5,927	3,759
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals		2,683	-	-	2,683	9,749
Gift Aid Recovered		11,650	-	950	12,600	11,427
Legacies Received		49,970	-	-	49,970	970
Grants (recurring and one-off)		-	-	9,000	9,000	9,000
		115,254	46	13,820	129,120	78,845
Activities for Generating Funds						
	4b					
Activities and Events		520	-	-	520	1,941
		520	-	-	520	1,941
Receipts from Investments						
	4c					
Interest Received		1,537	372	299	2,208	1,239
		1,537	372	299	2,208	1,239
Church Activities						
	4d					
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)		971	-	-	971	1,768
Church Activities		-	-	2,619	2,619	2,478
Church Hall Hire		9,414	-	-	9,414	8,202
		10,385	-	2,619	13,004	12,448
Total Receipts		127,696	418	16,738	144,852	94,472

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
PAYMENTS	5					
Raising Funds	5a					
<i>Costs of Generating Funds</i>						
Costs of Fund Raising		409	-	-	409	762
		409	-	-	409	762
Charitable Activities	5b					
<i>Church Activities</i>						
Mission Giving and Donations		6,276	-	-	6,276	8,900
Diocesan Parish Share		52,031	-	-	52,031	49,709
Salaries and Wages		10,649	-	13,610	24,259	21,479
Clergy and Staff Expenses		1,857	-	26	1,883	977
<i>Church Expenses</i>						
Church Activities Expenses		-	-	1,742	1,742	2,343
Church Expenses (Mission and Evangelism)		328	-	-	328	294
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)		5,333	2,888	585	8,806	10,814
Church Utility Bills		3,082	-	2,031	5,113	4,066
		79,556	2,888	17,994	100,438	98,582
Total Payments		79,965	2,888	17,994	100,847	99,344

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Cash at Bank and in hand

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Co-op Current Account	18,618	-	-	18,618	10,028
CBF Deposit Account	45,444	10,408	11,903	67,755	30,547
Petty Cash	54	46	94	194	183
Total	64,116	10,454	11,997	86,567	40,758

7. Other Monetary Assets

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
LDBF- Rectory Decoration Fund	-	875	-	875	1,325
Total	-	875	-	875	1,325

8. Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Piano	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Total	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000

9. Liabilities

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Parish Share Arrears	-	-	-	-	-
Agency Collections	2,743	-	-	2,743	1,389
Total	2,743	-	-	2,743	1,389

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

10. Summary of Fund Movements

Designated Funds

Fabric - A fund which pays for the essential repairs and maintenance of the church.

Office Equipment - Funds set aside for office equipment.

Rectors - A fund which the Rector uses at his discretion to help those in need.

Restricted Funds

Away Fund - Excess funds from the church family for days trips.

Energy Efficiency - Funds restricted to be used on heating used on heating.

Flower - Funds restricted for use by the flower group.

Over Sixties - Funds to be used for the benefit of those over sixty.

Places of Welcome - These funds were derestricted during 2024. The funds were used provide refreshments and a warm welcome to those in our community who might be lonely or enjoy meeting with other.

Projects - Funds restricted to start projects within the church.

Quinquennial - Funds restricted to rectify building repairs or maintenance finding from the quinquennial review.

Sunbeams - Funds restricted to the baby and toddler group, which give parents and carers a chance to socialise whilst the children have fun and learn through play.

Youth Club - Funds set aside to be used in the work of the Youth Club, Zone which caters for Year 5-7s.

Youth Worker - Restricted funds to support the youth worker with all the children and Youth Groups in the church.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

10. Summary of Fund Movements (Continued)

	Balance at 1st Jan £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec £
Unrestricted Fund	13,254	127,696	(79,965)	389	61,374
Designated Funds					
Fabric	14,874	347	(2,888)	-	12,333
Office Equipment	925	24	-	-	949
Rectors	-	47	-	-	47
	15,799	418	(2,888)	-	13,329
Restricted Funds					
Away Day	65	2	-	-	67
Energy Efficiency	950	-	(950)	-	-
Flower	491	849	(521)	-	819
Over Sixties	690	15	(98)	-	607
Places of Welcome	389	-	-	(389)	-
Projects	59	2	-	-	61
Quinquennial	135	3	-	-	138
Sunbeams	1,279	492	(248)	-	1,523
Youth Club	2,253	1,342	(876)	-	2,719
Youth Worker	7,331	14,033	(15,301)	-	6,063
	13,642	16,738	(17,994)	(389)	11,997
Total Funds	42,695	144,852	(100,847)	-	86,700

11. Analysis of Transfer between Funds

Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
389	(389)	-

During the year the funds from Places of Welcome has been derestricted and transferred to the general fund as agreed by the donor.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford
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12. Prior year R&P Account

		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
RECEIPTS					
Donations and Legacies	4a	62,639	130	16,076	78,845
Activities for Generating Funds	4b	1,089	-	851	1,941
Income from Investments	4c	890	349	-	1,239
Church Activities	4d	10,168	-	2,280	12,448
Total Receipts		74,786	479	19,207	94,472
PAYMENTS					
Raising Funds	5a	227	-	535	762
Church Activities	5b	93,200	920	4,462	98,582
Total Payments		93,427	920	4,997	99,344
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(18,641)	(441)	14,210	(4,872)
Transfer between Funds		13,304	-	(13,304)	-
Net Movement for the year		(5,337)	(441)	906	(4,872)
Net Assets at 1st Jan		18,591	16,240	12,736	47,566
Net Assets at 31st Dec		13,254	15,798	13,642	42,694

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13. Prior year Reclassification

To align with the Return of Parish Form, the 2023 income and purchases categories have been reclassified as below. There was no change to the prior year's total receipts or total payment amounts

2023 Category

2024 Category

Income

Regular Giving
Collections and Other Giving

One-off Gifts
Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Giving Legacies
Legacies
Recurring Grants-Youth Worker
Activities and Events
Income from Church Hall Lettings
Interest Received
Fees from Weddings and Funerals
Church Hall Lettings-Objectives
Restricted Receipts from Group
Funds Other Funds Generated

Regular Giving
Collections at services
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals
Gift Aid Recovered
Legacies Received
Grants (recurring and one-off)
Activities and Events
Church Hall Hire
Interest Received
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)
Church Hall Hire
Church Activities
Church Activities

Payments

Cost of generation of voluntary income
Fundraising activities and events
Charitable Giving
Parish Share
Youth Worker's Salary and Expenses
Administrator's-Salary
Church Office
Administration Expenses
Expenses of Clergy and Lay Readers
Mission and Training
Upkeep of Services
Church Running-Insurance
Cleaner's Salary and Expenses
Church Maintenance
Upkeep of Grounds
Gifts
Church Running-Utilities
Restricted Expenditure from Group Funds

Cost of Fund Raising
Cost of Fund Raising
Mission Giving and Donations
Diocesan Parish Share
Salaries and Wages
Salaries and Wages
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Clergy and Staff Expenses
Church Expenses (Mission and Evangelism)
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Salaries and Wages
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Church Running Expenses (incl Governance)
Church Utility Bills
Church Activities Expenses

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Church Reports including Groups and Committees

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Associate Priest Report 2025

This year has proved to be exciting and fruitful in so many ways, it has been hard to know where to start; there have been so many times when we have seen God at work.

One of the highlights for me was leading and being part of the Alpha Course; to see so many people every week, discussing their faith journeys and becoming increasingly closer was just a delight. I think one of the best moments was when we talked about doing Alpha again next Autumn and hearing people volunteer to help because it had been so good for them that they wanted to share it with others.

Alpha led to another group meeting in the week, so to have three midweek study groups is very encouraging – and, again, it is an opportunity to share good fellowship with one another as well as studying the Word. How good it was when we had to extend the length of the meetings because we needed more time!

Without a doubt, becoming a Dementia Friendly Church was one of the highlights and I thank you all for being so willing to agree to support me. Opening our doors and changing our ways of doing some things isn't always easy, but we embraced the changes well and I believe we are making a difference.

'Memories', of course, is very close to my heart and having such a willing team to support and help has been amazing. I love the meetings and know that our members are happy to attend; we will just have to be prayerful about how God wants us to move forward.

To see so many new faces in our services – both on Wednesdays as well as Sundays – is exciting and it has been very gratifying to see so many people respond to the 'Get Involved' booklet. As our church family grows, inevitably there can often be more preparation and more jobs needing to be done, so we are grateful to those who have offered their time and expertise.

However, the one thing that I am most grateful for has been the love and support that you have shown me over the last twelve months, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. I am so thankful that I remained in this church. I lean heavily on the words 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me', but it is made much easier when there are such good friends around, too. Thank you.

Sue Cooke

Church Wardens Report

We thank God for a year of growth and fellowship with many new members joining and staying in our congregation. Thanks go to the Ministry Team for all the hard work and outreach led by Revd Carl and Sue; along with Isobel, Francis and Christina leading and preaching in the Benefice. Meghan's work with the youth at St John's, in the community and at the Academy continues to provide most required Christian knowledge to our youth, so we continue to thank her family and husband Ben for the continued support. We also thank Roger Huddleston, George O'Brien, Gay Pye and Nick Adams for their ongoing Ministry work at St Johns.

As Church Wardens, we continue to meet with Carl regularly to offer support in various aspects of his Ministry and Church life and we thank you for his transparency in discussing governance issues that help to build and strengthen the congregation.

We have also continued to strengthen our relationship with fellow wardens from Tixall & Ingestre, while we may not have been able to share meals this year, we continue to work together to share experiences and aspects of church life for the whole Benefice such as Coffee mornings and Concerts.

Home Groups continue to meet studying and learning the Bible, an Alpha course was held this year with a follow up group led by Pete Fryatt. Thank you to all who lead and consistently continue to meet.

We also thank Aileen Rudd for her continuing contributions to maintaining and updating the computer as well as Dave Lomas, Lynn Eaton, Ian Ryder and Simon Constable who operate the sound and vision systems for services. This behind-the-scenes technical skill ensures the smooth flow of the service allowing the congregation to hear speakers clearly and read hymns and liturgy clearly from the visuals.

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For the year ended 31 December 2024

We want to express our gratitude to Ian Ryder assisted by Rajan Sambandam in attending to all the fabric needs of the building and keeping all the technical equipment in good order not forgetting Kevin who has assisted from time to time. Rajan's ongoing work in the car park and garden with the help of Mick, Teresa and Jack in keeping the lawn tidy. Thanks goes to Jane Hudson who does the bookings for the halls and sends out updated emails to all for all bookings and locking and unlocking of the premises. To Gemma Constable who does the cleaning of the church; Jackie Palphreyman remains our Benefice Administrator and Ana Raba our Safeguarding Officer who we have not had to call on for any issues this year.

We thank the Sacristy team of Anne Lyn, Helen and Peter for preparing service before worship, our worship team of musicians Jaimie, Liz, Chris (we pray for his continued recovery from illness), Christina, Suresh and Bowen who recently enchanted us with his magical rendition recently. Alan Bancroft and Ann Bolton who lead music on Wednesday.

We thank those who have volunteered to serve refreshments after service, the Flower Group led by Barbara who brighten up the church besides the various events they hold bringing people together in fellowship and learning new skills. Those who are involved in Places of Welcome along with M&M's on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, a time for Tea, coffee, conversation, friendship and crafts while having fellowship with one another. Memories for those supporting people with dementia has also been a successful role the church is playing in our community; and thanks goes to those who have been fully involved.

FftN(Food from the Nations) continue to meet to arrange events and meals that can be enjoyed and celebrated by the congregation.

WFG (World Focus Group) have continued to deal with our regular tithing by planning and deciding along with the PCC, the charities who will receive cash assistance for their work.

As Church Wardens we cannot carry out our responsibilities without the support and scrutiny of the PCC and congregation. We would like to thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. Forgive us if we have not mentioned anyone by name but know that every member of the congregation is cherished.

1 Cor 12:12a For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body

Anne Scott & Francis Tamba

Fabric Report

With no major works this year, maintenance has been carried out on the building and other areas needing attention.

Following the fitting of a new light in the disabled toilet, Ian Ryder refurbished the old light which is now installed in the entrance to the toilet area.

In April the office safe lock failed, so expert help was required to fix the problem.

The hall projector was given a new lease of life in June when Ian dismantled and cleaned it thoroughly.

To maintain a good surface on the hall floor, it was cleaned, sanded down and re-varnished during the holiday period.

Windows above the High Altar were broken possibly by youngsters and a football, or other vandals. They were speedily fixed. Thankfully this year we have had no recurrence of the trouble previously experienced in the church grounds

All the boilers have been serviced in September and in October the electrical safety checks were carried out throughout the building.

The cause of the mysterious flooding on occasions in the toilets area was located and had been successfully dealt with although this proved only temporarily. Finally in December we had to have the whole drainage inside & outside professionally flushed out. Because of the nature of the pipes inside the Gents, a local plumber cut and modified them for ease of access at no charge to the church.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

Church Reports including Groups and Committees

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In all these activities we are grateful to Ian Ryder, who as always continues to keep everything in working order and fit for purpose. So, thank you to him and others who have contributed their time and energy. We have now got names of those who will be available, and thanks go to those who have helped through the year, namely Kev Brady, Mick Lomas, Rajan Sambandam, Francis Tamba

The church grounds have been kept very smart and cared for by Jack Constable, Mick Lomas, Terese Hall grass cutting and Rajan Sambandam gardening and planting up the stone pots for each season. We are extremely grateful to them all.

The major Quinquennial building inspection, due this year will have to be tackled as soon as possible in 2025.

We thank Gemma Constable for continuing to keep our building spic and span ready for worship. Also the whole Constable family along with other volunteer cleaners, Steve Gale, Annette Hawkins, Maggi Piittard & Di Zhang for the weekly church cleaning. We would welcome more people to volunteer so we could lessen the load on these few.

The after service refreshment volunteers are very much appreciated by everyone, though once again more volunteers would be very welcome. Meantime thank you to Carol Wilkes, Noreen Pryer, Ann Raba, Christine Gawthorpe, Maureen Crowe, Patti McGleave, Vicky Huddleston, Terese Hall, Caroline Doughty, Graham Maltby, Jack, Lilly and Gemma Constable.

Anne Scott

Deanery Synod Report

One of the highlights of the last year's meetings was a talk given on 19th June by Tim Weston on Pioneering.

His key points were:

1. Be sensitive to your context eg. Is it urban or rural, new housing or cultural pioneering?
2. Listen to your community eg. Have a box in a park festival for 'Why?' questions or a brightly coloured sofa for chatting.
3. Join in with whatever is already happening eg. litter-picking or where there is excess food collection, offer to cook it for the needy/homeless as soup + whatever anyone brings and do 'Church over Food'.

Key stages to work through were:

1. Reflection - What is?
2. Dreaming - What could be?
3. Planning - What will be?

The difficulties mentioned were the same ones brought up in the September meeting ie. time, money and people

As a Church-wide focus, we need to foster a culture of vocation which includes spiritual, ordained ministry but also practical and administrative gifting. It was suggested that we should look for, recognise and encourage gifting in our friends. The December meeting included presentations on Dementia-Friendly Church; Enabling All and Places of Welcome and it is encouraging to know that St John's Church is on the right track.

The Parochial Church Council of The Parish of St John the Baptist Stafford

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For the year ended 31 December 2024

Diocesan Synod

Following elections, our representatives for Diocesan Synod are:

Laity	Clergy
Dorothy Sterling	Cath Brumfitt
Beryl Metcalf	Graham Adamson
Philip Taylor	Richard Grigson
	Fr Khushi

1. There was a motion to aim for net zero carbon for all churches, clergy houses, schools and glebe lands by 2030 and to wean the Diocese off gas completely.
2. Financially, the C of E is struggling with ongoing net loss but our diocese is in a good place.

Wendy Clark, Liz Clarke and Nicola Woodhouse

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll for 2024 had 109 names on it and sadly 2 of our friends, Pat Leese and Charles Daniel died that year.

I would like to thank our church members, who have now completed the application forms, so that they can be included on the new Electoral Roll. This roll has to be redone every 6 years and the number of applications received to date is 72.

Being on the Electoral Roll allows you to vote at the APCM (Annual Parish Council Meeting).

Please advise me of any future changes to your home address, telephone number and Email address, this ensures that the roll is kept up to date.

I am grateful for the assistance given by our clergy, Anne Scott (Church Warden) in getting the application forms completed and returned to me and of course Jackie Palfreyman, our Benefice Administrator, for updating the Master List.

If anyone requires assistance regarding this roll, I will be happy to help you.

Ann Woodcock

Pastoral Care Report

The team of Carl Rudd, Sue Cooke, Lyn Ryder, Anne Scott, Isobel Wakerell and Nicola Woodhouse have met throughout the year to pray together and bring concerns for any pastoral needs in the benefice of St John's, Tixall and Ingestre. When required visits sometimes including Holy Communion are made to homes, care /nursing/residential homes, hospitals and hospices. Monthly visits with Holy Communion continue in Weston House, Tithe Barn Court and Bradbury House. We thank Alan Bancroft who joins members of the team to provide music at some venues which is greatly appreciated by residents and attendees. The new monthly initiative of Memories started in October 2024 and provides worship, support and pastoral care for those living with dementia.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals bring contact with the wider community and pastoral needs with those who are not in regular contact with a church are brought to our attention. It is a privilege to walk alongside and pray for people often at very stressful times in their lives. We thank Carl and Sue for their ministry in these areas among many that regular congregations are unlikely to have contact with. Families who are bereaved are invited to the Remembering Services held twice a year; these provide further contact and support.

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Often pastoral needs are brought to the team's attention through your concern for someone. Please continue to contact one of the team. We recognise that a lot of pastoral care goes on among congregation members and we thank you for your care and concern for each other. We are all part of the body of Christ, his ears and eyes, hands and feet given for serving others.

Isobel Wakerell.

Worship and Baptism Report of 2024

Worship had been blessed by our musicians, their care to cover when others are ill has been a real strength of the worship team. It has also been a real blessing to have Bowen playing this year and to enjoy his talent.

The team of lay and ordained leaders and preachers continues to offer opportunities to deepen the faith of all and to explore the Bible with opportunities to apply this into daily life. The midweek communion has continued to be strongly attended alongside the growth in Sunday attendance. We are blessed to have Gaye Pye alongside Sue Cooke and myself taking midweek services and worship provided by Alan Bancroft sustaining a rich midweek service.

The midweek carol service was a special highlight with the STARS choir full of joy. The Christingle service continues to grow opening a welcome to all at Christmas.

There were 13 funerals in the year, 2 adult baptisms and 2 child baptisms which are always a reminder how good it is to see people welcomed into the Christian faith and to journey in their faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray the continued growth of the church in depth and numbers

Place of Welcome

Place of Welcome has continued to offer a welcoming community to all who visit, time to chat and enjoy each other's company over a cuppa and biscuits. With M&M's meeting alongside on a Tuesday it has been so good to see M&M's gain new members who share their creative talents together as they meet week by week. Over the year we have seen Place of Welcome grow on a Wednesday and some decrease on Tuesdays. We will need to seek new helpers for in 2025.

M&M sale was a great success during the flower festival, and new opportunities will be sorted next year.

Youth and Children's Worker Report

Children's Church

Children's church is available for those children and young people who would like to explore and understand more about God. We meet during the Sunday morning communion services, and we usually learn about the same bible readings in the service. The session usually includes the welcome chant, a dance/song, a game and lesson (which usually involves an animated video), followed by a craft. Sessions are adapted based on the lesson being learnt. Once communion has started in the service, we rejoin the church family and have an activity booklet to complete at the back or with family, as well as joining in with worship. The number of children varies week by week from 4-10.

Lego Church

During family worship on the first Sunday of each month, the children have Lego Church. Usually based on the gospel passage for that morning, the children will read the bible passage then use the Lego to create what they have read. These are displayed at the back of church whilst refreshments are held in the hall, and I will take a photo of them for my records. It's incredible to see what the children can make!

Messy Church

On the second Sunday of the month (4pm), Messy Church is a service that uses crafts to explore the bible story of that month. Beginning with shared welcome and worship, the group then crafts for approximately 50 mins, before returning together to finish in worship. Numbers for messy church are unfortunately inconsistent, but it is a joy for those who do attend.

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Lost and Found

On the 4th Sunday (term-time only) 4-5.30pm, children from year 3 and 4 sing and dance to songs, play games and do a craft related to a short bible lesson. Whilst we had good attendance for our Light Party in October, numbers are similarly inconsistent for this group.

TNT

TNT is a group for Year 6 and high school-aged young people. Meeting on a Tuesday 5-6.30pm, starting with hot chocolate, tea and toast, we tackle different and sometimes difficult topics, with help from the Bible. Over 2024, we have looked at topics such as Mothers and Father's in the Bible, sacrifice (now, Old Testament and New Testament), ethics, anxiety, God testing us, and many more. A huge thank you to Anne Scott who helps week in, week out. These young people have been even more enthused to learn more about the Bible and God since returning from Limitless festival.

Limitless

This Summer, Jamie Parkes and I took 4 young people from St John's to limitless – a five-day Christian festival hosted at the Stafford showground. With seminars, worship and activities, these young people were refreshed and renewed in God's word. To witness this was a joy and privilege. All the young people have said they want to go again and plans for 2025 attendance are underway. A massive thank you to Jamie and Ben Morris for helping organize and support this, practically, emotionally and spiritually; it couldn't have happened without you.

Please see some anonymous quotes below from our young people after their time at Limitless:

'I like the feeling of growing closer to God and Christianity as a whole'.

'The thing about Limitless is that at whatever point you are in your Christian journey; you still get new experiences, and you can still learn more. No matter where you are, you're still going to learn more and learn more ways to worship because you feel at home'.

'I like how you can worship in your weirdest way, and no one will look at you twice because you're just in the moment'

'You make friends and connect with Jesus, that's what Limitless is all about'.

Zone

Zone a 90-minute youth club, on Wednesday evenings (6-7.30pm), for young people in years 5, 6 and 7. The first half of the session is filled with games (table tennis, table football, pool, games consoles, etc.) with the second half dedicated to a planned craft activity, or games such as pizza bagels, scavenger hunts and quiz night. We also run a tuck shop during the first half of the session and finish with a quick talk based on a bible passage (usually including a video) and prayer requests from the children. The children were treated to a bouncy castle in the church garden at the end of the summer term which they enjoyed! Attendance is lower than it once was but is still between 10-20. Thank you to Pam Davies, Ben Morris and James Hunt for your help, I couldn't do it without.

Sunbeams

Sunbeams is a baby and toddler group on Monday mornings (9.15-11am). Four sets of toys are rotated, with a different set used each week. Different messy/sensory activities are also laid out each week, such as muddy dinosaurs, snowy train tracks and pasta play. At the end, after tidying up together, we sit down for Bible story and songs before we say goodbye. Our summer goodbye party was wonderful, hiring a bouncy castle, ball pool and soft play which the children loved. Our Christmas party was smaller this year, but still very much appreciated, thanks once again to Santa! Thank you to Vicky Huddleston, Nicola Woodhouse and Di Zhang for volunteering to provide much needed tea and coffee.

YNow

YNow is a group for Years 1 and 2 (usually) on the third Monday of each month after school until 4.30pm, held at St John's School. The children partake in team games such as find the character (Noah's Ark/ Nativity), over under ball game and the parachute. We also sing and dance to worship songs, with a time dedicated to teaching the children more about Jesus including a story and a short talk, followed by a snack.

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School Relationships

Each week I go into school to deliver worship to a phase of children (1&2, 3&4, 5&6) on a three-week rota. The rota of lessons is supplied by the school, of which I then create the worship based on the recommended bible story. This will be a short bible story, followed by a prayer and dance/song (year group depending). We also have different services throughout the year including Easter, Harvest, Christmas and end of the academic year, as well as the Year 6 leavers service. It is always a fun challenge to think of new and exciting ways to present these services in order for the children to learn and be engaged. The children were particularly engaged with the 2024 Easter service, as we nearly got to cover a teacher in shaving foam!

Rev Rudd and I also visited Year 1 to answer their questions concerning 'how to pray', the topic they were learning about. Whilst some of the questions were tricky, it was lovely to spend time with them. Reception also made a visit to church to have a look round and learn more about what we do. They were particularly interested in the altar, the stained glass windows and the font. We then finished with a mini talk and 'Our God is a great big God' before heading back to school. Carl and I also spend time with reception on a Monday afternoon, reading to each reception class on a two-week rota.

We have continued building on our relationship with Weston Road Academy by going into the schools to do assemblies – we try to do this once every half term. In 2024, we have covered 'what does it mean to be human', Easter and Christmas. We are already booked in for 2025, so we know this time is valued.

World Focus Group

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings of our church Tithing.

St John's as always generously been obedient to God's word by tithing 10% of our income to charities.

The role of the world focus group is to look at the needs of different charities, listen to our congregations' suggestions and then ensure those charities are registered with the charities commission. We then take our recommendations to the PCC for their agreement.

We aim to keep the congregation informed of our donations by posting on the notice board or the church notice sheet.

Focus group also supports fund raising for charities, such as Christian Aid, Children's society boxes and Women's Aid Christmas appeal.

Grateful thanks to all in the church for making 2024 so successful.

For more information our members are – Isobel Wakerell, Lyn Ryder, Eddy Chambers, Steve Gale, Pam Ayre and Kate Passey

Music Report

As we praise God together with our voices the musicians in collaboration with the ministry team have tried to provide a mix of traditional and contemporary hymns and worship songs. Different styles of music suit different people; the congregation at St John's sing well and are willing to learn new or different songs. On Sundays this was only possible through the commitment of a small number of musicians including Liz Clarke, Jamie Parkes and Christina Thomson. Bowen has played when he is home from school, and it has been a delight to hear his repertoire increasing. The children helped us out with actions for some songs and the percussion instruments have been used by all ages in worship. Occasionally recorded songs have been used which the congregation sing along with. Our grateful thanks go to all our musicians. Thank you to Alan Bancroft who played regularly on Wednesdays for the 2pm Holy Communion Service and for his playing at some of the services held in venues in the local community. Our thanks to Alan also for his continued support with his library of songs which have been used on the PowerPoint each week and the collating of songs used in services for the Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI).

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Our musicians have led worship at other services throughout the year including funerals, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Remembering services, Advent and Christmas. Liz Clarke led another excellent Saturday morning workshop in June. It was a time for anyone who enjoys singing to share in worship and sing familiar and new songs. This is one way of introducing new songs to the congregation for general use.

As mentioned earlier some recorded songs were used this year. This is likely to continue and increase with so few musicians available or able to lead worship. If you or anyone you know is gifted in this way please speak to Carl.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.” Psalm 98:4.

Isobel Wakerell

Flower Group Report

The past year has been a most enjoyable time of outreach and fellowship for the Flower Group with the Flower Festival weekend in June, the Easter/Spring workshop and the two Christmas workshop sessions to cater for the 48 attendees, in addition to the regular church flower rota, and arrangements in memory of loved ones.

The support from All members of the church family, in our endeavours has been greatly appreciated, the inclusivity with Megan and the young people decorating a window for the Flower Festival, making stars for the windows at Christmas, the M&M's Group stall with their beautiful items for sale and the amazing pianists in the church all taking an active part in the weekend, and of course the workshops.

It is a pleasure to work in this church ministry, if you feel you can assist, we would be pleased to welcome you into the group.

Barbara Maltby.

Carl, Sue and the PCC would like to thank the church family for their continued support in enabling the church in its mission to the people of the parish. To those who have contributed to the reports, who serve in unseen and visible ways and all who manage the finances of the church.

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH ST JOHN THE BAPTIST STAFFORD

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

28th April 2024

Incumbent:

The Revered Dr Carl Rudd
The Rectory
Westhead Avenue
Stafford

Independent Examiner:

Mr Malcolm Kidd
Chestnut Close
Derrington
Stafford

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE P.C.C. FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

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1. Administrative Information

The parish church of St John the Baptist is situated on Bedford Avenue, Littleworth, Stafford ST16 3LH.

The correspondence address is The Rectory, Westhead Avenue, Stafford.ST16 3RP.

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting are:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Dr Carl Rudd
Curate	The Rev'd Sue Cooke
Readers	Mrs Isobel Wakerell
	Mr Francis Tamba
Wardens	Mrs Anne Scott
	Mr Francis Tamba
Deanery	Mrs Wendy Clark
Synod	Mrs Liz Clarke
Representatives	Mrs Nicola Woodhouse

Elected Members

Mrs Pam Ayre
Mrs Naomi Blears
Mr Eddy Chambers Hon Treasurer
Mrs Christine Gawthorpe
Mrs Isobel Wakerell
Mrs Ann Woodcock

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election if they feel called to do so.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish.

Rectors Report for 2023.

Please take a few minutes to read the reports you find in this church annual report to remind yourself of some of the wonderful things you have been a part of in 2023, of the things that happened that we weren't personally able to be part of, and the activities that happen in church and on behalf of the church that we may know little about. Together these actions both seen and unseen make up our church family witness for St John the Baptist, Stafford.

I am so encouraged to say we as church family are a growing church both in depth and in number. There have been sad times this year as we have said good-bye to faithful members who have died. We have also welcomed new family members, and it is so good for each of us to take time to get to know those we don't know.

For the youngest to the oldest there are opportunities to be part of this family in worship, and in community life. We are blessed by a large group of volunteers and small number of paid staff, all of whom make a difference and together reflect the body of Christ in this place. There are few places you can go to receive such a warm welcome. Every single person has a part to play in this family, and we want to include you with all that happens. We always have space and the need of more volunteers to live out the call of God for this family.

There have been special times of fellowship with the family eating together, worshipping together in the week and on Sundays, and studying the word of God together. As we see the children in Lego church and their groups, we get a sense of the special ministry that is offered to them all. When we worship with the children from our school and talk with them we have the joy of seeing them learn about faith and Jesus. Seeing our school go through its Church of England inspection wasn't the most comfortable of experiences but showed just how the school seeks to live out God centred values.

It is a great privilege to represent the church in the community, in day centres, in hospital, with those wanting to be married, to give thanks for children, who are grieving and those we form part of their annual connection with church (for now).

We still have financial challenges to balance the accounts of the church; new members are needed for the church council, to look after activities, and the building. Most of all we would like to walk with you for you to both deepen your faith and share that faith with others. For 2024 we believe God is encouraging us to ask more of him as we seek to walk more closely with him. Our verses for the year:

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3 v20-21

PCC Review of the Year 2023

We Are Growing! It is a joy to start the review with this news. There are many new faces joining us both in worship and other activities and we extend a very warm

welcome to them all. Following the upheavals of past years, it is good to find that more people are looking to God for security and a brighter future.

We give thanks for our Ministry Team led by Carl who along with Sue, and our Readers Isobel, Christina & Francis provide worship, instruction and outreach.

Communion visits to Bradbury House and Tithe Barn Court are proving very successful as are Places of Welcome and M&M's in church.

We have had Remembrance and Remembering services at church which have been much appreciated and welcomed by those grieving the loss of a loved one.

START courses for those seeking Baptism have been held both in church or at home where needed.

We congratulated our Youth Worker Megan on her marriage to Ben Morris in October and we thank her for the excellent work she does with our children and young people. Sunbeams has now become a bespoke Christian Group, Zone also has Christian input, Lost & Found has replaced Jesus Jam so along with TnT (Teens on Tuesday) our younger members are well supported and informed.

Home groups have continued, having an evening as well as an afternoon session has been beneficial, though it has stretched our leaders. We have enjoyed John Pritchard's book Twenty Questions Jesus asked, and studied Fruitfulness on the Front Line and The Creed.

We encourage those who feel able or called to lead in some way to step forward.

A Nurture Group started up with Sue leading those who were new to or unfamiliar with the Bible and home groups. This has proved very successful with those attending, building up knowledge and fellowship as they start or continue on their faith journey.

A wonderful experience was enjoyed by those coming together to read St Marks Gospel one Saturday in November, some choosing to read while others just to listen.

Despite the subject, Funeral Talk and Legacies was a much enjoyed event over two sessions in February & March led by Carl & Sue with input, including lunch from Chris Emery, a local funeral director. A further short session was held in July for those unable to attend on the previous occasions.

With our FftN (Food from the Nations) group in full swing the congregation enjoyed a celebration meal on the Coronation of Charles III in May, followed by a splendid Harvest Meal in September.

A Benefice Picnic was held in July but due to inclement weather the venue was changed to Tixall Village Hall. Some discussion has followed on the viability of everyone getting together and in the case of a picnic, both comfort and the weather are a factor. The Benefice Wardens are considering options and if sufficient people are interested in Benefice functions at all.

We hosted a Police Community Support meeting in October for the local area with two officers in attendance to answer worries and questions. It was well attended by people who hopefully got an opportunity to air their grievances, and at least the officers got a good idea of the hopes, and to be fair, anger of some people and areas in the community.

A Musical Fellowship session was run by Liz Clarke in October which was much appreciated.

In December we were again visited by Stafford Sinfonia to give a very entertaining evening programme of music.

We have continued to host Repair Café's through the year, as well as many groups within U3A. Tuition classes, singing groups and Keep Fit, all hire the hall on a regular basis thus assisting us to continue our 10% tithe supporting charities and organisations local, national & international under the guidance of our WFG. We also supported Christian Aid and Ride & Stride on their relevant fund raising events. We were introduced to MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and its work by two fully involved members of our congregation.

Sadly we report the loss of some well-known and loved members of our congregation during the year and we give thanks for their devotion throughout their lives.

Audrey Betteridge, Iris Badger, Julie Bass, Angela Giles, Albert Leese and Janet Eaton. RIP

Anne Scott

Curate's Report 2024

Another exciting and rewarding year has nearly come to an end and I continue to thank God for calling me to this Benefice. In many ways, this year has been a time of consolidating experience – weddings, baptisms, confirmation to name but a few. Having said that, every experience is different as we meet and deal with people from all corners of life and share their joys and sorrows with them.

There is never a day when I come to work without a sense of expectation, never quite knowing what is in store and I am thankful to Carl for giving me as much breadth of experience as possible.

There have been many highlights during the year; I think the Sunbeams pop-up Nativity will always stay with me; Megan and our growing team continue to enjoy and hopefully minister discreetly to the parents and carers who attend with their little ones and this sharing of the Christmas story in such a way was a delight.

I have continued to enjoy Place of Welcome and M+Ms and this is always a source of pleasure, particularly with our growing team of volunteers. Not only are we hopefully a blessing to those who come as guests, but we, too, feel blessed by their having chosen to come.

I have continued to enjoy wedding ministry, one of the highlights being that of Megan and Ben in the autumn, and I relish the opportunity to get to know new couples – befriending them rather than simply being their priest on the day. That is the same for funeral ministry – what a privilege to walk alongside strangers in their time of grief and shock, and what an opportunity to share the love and peace of our Lord Jesus with them.

Homegroups have continued to grow as we have studied a range of subjects and I really believe that there is a growing confidence amongst the members. The ladies in the Nurture Group have done just what was hoped for; they are much more confident and willing to engage – a source of great delight for me.

Pastoral visits are also a joy although I think they should be renamed as visits with friends, as that is what they become and what an important part of parish ministry

they are – what a lot we, as ministers and befrienders, can learn from the wisdom and experience of others.

There are so many experiences and memories that I would share, but I really want to take this opportunity to thank every single one of you across the Benefice who has shown me their love and support – particularly during the last few months. I know it will become more difficult, but I also know that I can rely foremost on the love of the Lord from whom I get my strength and then on the love of you all.

Thank you.

Sue Cooke

Church Wardens Report

With another successful year of worship and fellowship we thank our Ministry Team for all the hard work and time spent bringing God's word to us through sermon's, prayers and leadership. So thank you to Carl and Sue, along with Isobel, Francis and Christina. Megan continues to provide opportunities for our young people both at church and St John's Academy. We express our appreciation to her and husband Ben Morris with congratulations on their marriage.

We have continued to meet with Carl as regularly as possible now that Francis has a new work schedule, but as always offer our full support to Carl and Sue in all the different aspects of ministry that they undertake. We also extend our appreciation to Roger Huddleston, George O'Brien and Nick Adams for their participation in worship. We offer our condolences to Gay Pye on the death of her husband Terry and we will welcome her back in 2024.

Joint meetings and social events continue with our fellow wardens from Tixall & Ingestre and we work together to share experiences and aspects of church life for the whole Benefice .

Home Groups have continued to thrive through the year with studying and learning both about and with the Bible. Thank you to all who have led and guided these sessions.

We also thank Aileen Rudd for her continuing contributions to maintaining and updating the computer as well as, Dave, Lynn, Ian & Eddy, who operate the sound and vision systems for services. Everyone is much appreciated for their skills week in and week out.

As always there are many who provide and complement the life and work of St John's. Ian Ryder with the assistance of Rajan Sambandam attends to all the fabric needs of the building. Much of the technical equipment is kept in good working order by Ian and we have to thank Rajan for his ongoing work in the car park and garden. We thank Jane Judson who deals with the bookings for the hall including times of locking and unlocking or serving refreshments. We bade farewell to Jackie Courtney who has been our cleaner but happily she will continue to worship with us in her retirement and we welcome Gemma Constable as our new cleaner. Jackie Palphreyman remains our Benefice Administrator and Ann Raba our Safeguarding Officer and we give thanks that we have had no cause to call on her for any incidents this year. Our grateful thanks to all of you.

Refreshments of any kind are much appreciated so we thank all those who serve on the tea and coffee rota's after services on Sundays & Wednesdays, and at Place of

Welcome on Tuesday & Wednesday along with M&M's providing friendship and conversations on Tuesdays with crafts of many sort. Well-deserved thanks to all who lead and attend both these gatherings of outreach and welcome.

FftN (Food from the Nations) have provided us with some much enjoyed times & meals to share.

WFG (World Focus Group) have continued to deal with our regular tithing by planning and deciding, along with PCC, the charities who will receive cash assistance for their work.

Pastoral Care have met together as a group and individually visited those who are unable, for various reasons to join us in person. Maintaining contact through visits and Home Communion is so important to the housebound.

We thank the Sacristy Team for the preparation required for services.

Without the leadership of all our musicians, Jamie, Liz, Chris, Christina and Suresh our worship would be less uplifting so we say a grateful thanks to them all. We are delighted that sometimes Alan Bancroft or Ann Bolton feel able to lead us once again in music on Wednesday afternoons.

The members of the flower group as always, provide us with floral displays as well as workshops through the year.

As Churchwardens we are fully aware of the responsibilities that lie with us and say thank you to the PCC & congregation for the love and support they give as we carry out our duties to the best of our ability.

Anne Scott & Francis Tamba

Corinthians 16: 13-14

Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong, Do all your work in love

Fabric Report

The panes in the rear stained glass window were resealed and repointed following Carl observing a gap between glass and wall in a couple of places, during Dec 22/Jan 23 and because of height & weather conditions completed in March.

This year we have had a new LED light fitting in the ladies toilet the old one having failed. This was later repaired by Ian and is now providing the light outside the toilet area. The emergency light was also replaced.

In September the projector in church was replaced and a higher specification one fitted providing excellent viewing for services with clarity to benefit everyone. The hearing loop has also benefitted from this and is now fully functional for those hard of hearing.

Two radiators in the hall were replaced in August and an upgraded pump fitted to increase the heating power in the hall.

We have had to have the sewers professionally cleaned out after they backed up and caused flooding in the kitchen. The main cause of this is wipes of any description being

disposed of down the toilet rather than in the bins provided.

Because of some external disturbances through the year with the sheltered corner above the boiler room steps being used as a hangout & for other activities unsuitable for church grounds we moved the rubbish and re-cycling bins into this space. This appears to have resolved that issue and also the bins are no longer thrown around.

Owing to an incident where refreshments were taken from the kitchen we now keep the hall and kitchen doors locked during a service. As a preventative measure and for health & safety reasons a lock has been fitted to the cleaners cupboard door as well.

We hosted a Police & Crime meeting held for residents of the local area, many complaints were raised and discussions with the officers present were helpful if not always well received. Action has been noticeably taken since the meeting and we pray that these situations will not reappear.

Thank you's are due to everyone who plays a part in maintaining the church building and surrounding area in good condition.

Special mention to Ian Ryder who carries out much of the repairs, adjustments and other needs quietly in the background thus saving us considerable expense not having to employ, pay and wait for outside assistance. Rajan Sambandam also contributes to keeping the garden in good order as well as assisting with moving furniture and other tasks.

Thanks go to our volunteer cleaners who continue to keep the church clean and tidy ready for worship, the people who serve the refreshments both on Sunday and Wednesday after services and also to our flower group ladies who provide arrangements each week.

Anne Scott

Deanery Synod Report

This year is slightly different from other years in that we not only have a new cohort of parish representatives, we have a new Rural Dean, Rev'd C Brumfitt (also minister at Bradley, Church Eaton, Derrington and Haughton), deputy Rural Dean, Rev'd G Adamson, Lay Chair, Phillip Taylor, Secretary Sue Savage, Treasurer Paul Evans and Vice Chair Stuart Hodson.

Another change is that rather than the five year cycle of service, the officers will serve for three years, like the parish representatives.

As often happens when there is a change of Rural Dean, representatives were asked why they were there, what they felt they could contribute and what they hoped to gain? The answers were very like those in previous years;

- an opportunity to serve
- be less parochial, more outward looking
- sharing news, ideas, resources, best practice
- enthusiasm and creative thinking
- hearing reports from Diocesan and General Synod
- voicing concerns which may be passed on to D & G Synod

There was general feeling that we all loved and wanted to be part of the Church of England but, particularly at the moment, the large organisation needs to hear the voice from the grass roots and being a Deanery Synod Representative was a vehicle to sound that voice.

Of some concern was hearing that some parishes, and Deanery Synod itself, were having bank accounts closed or declined. There was an immediate response to the request for suggestions of accommodating banks.

Following discussions in General Synod concerning redress and compensation for historical abuse, it was suggested that checks should be made to see if insurance would cover successful allegations. With these things in mind, Safeguarding will become a standard agenda item for the period of this Synod.

So far the meetings have had a feeling of renewed energy and a sense of hope that this Synod can affect a positive change in the Deanery.

Wendy Clark

Electoral Roll Report

The total number of people on the electoral Roll is 108.

Unfortunately both Audrey Betteridge and Albert Leese have sadly died. Both had been active members of our church community.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, please consider joining. I am always happy to discuss this and give you an application form for completion and return to me. This will allow you to vote at our annual A.P.C.M (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

Please ensure I am advised of any changes of details i.e home address, phone number & email etc. This way we can keep in contact with you.

'God always watches and protects us,

Ann Woodcock Electoral Roll Officer

Finance report for APCM 28th April 2024

Many thanks to all who have assisted with the church finances during the year.

Accounts for 2023

Despite the rising cost of living during 2023 the Church Members generously contributed £59,000 (including gift aid) towards the church finances.

The Unrestricted funds of the church consist of the General Fund and the Designated funds.

The total General Fund income for the year was £74,786 and the expenditure (after the reimbursement of the Youth and Childrens Worker's salary and expenses of £13,304) totalled £80,123. Therefore leaving the balance of the General Fund at 31 December 2023 of £13,254 (2022: \$18,591). Based on 2023 running costs averaging £8,000 a month, the above figure is insufficient to satisfy our Reserves policy of representing six to nine months operating costs. Presently it would cover only 1.5 months.

The Designated Funds are Fabric, Office, Rectory (decoration) and Piano. The income to designated funds totalled £479 and the expenses for the years totalled £920 (repairs to high windows). The Designated Funds saw an overall reduction of £441 during the year.

The PCC agreed in 2019 that the Designed Fabric Fund should be used for the Quinquennial costs, (required by the five-year survey of the building). The balance of this Fund at the 31 December 2023 was £11,548 (2022: £11,990). Expenditure over the next few years is expected to exceed this figure.

The balance of the Designated Funds as at 31 December 2023 was £15,798 (2022: £16,240). Although these funds have been set aside out of an unrestricted fund for a specific purpose, this would not prevent the PCC reallocating these sums for other uses or returning them to unrestricted funds.

The Restricted Funds of the Church can only be used for the purpose for which they were given. A summary of these can be found on the last page of the accounts.

Overall, the Restricted Funds have increased by £906.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities record that most of the cash funds are held in CCLA deposit accounts. Although the accounts are prepared using receipts and payments accounting the Shelter Christmas plate collection of £176 and amount owing of £1,213 to the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance are shown with agency collections under liabilities.

Conclusion

Our financial situation over the next few years gives cause for concern and is continuing to be addressed by the PCC.

Eddy Chambers, Hon Treasurer

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1138634
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

This report is on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

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 an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 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 Commission under 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 you as PCC members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiners Statement.

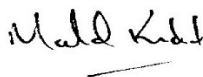
In connection with the examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed

Date 6th April 2024.



Mr. M. D. Kidd CPFA
Chestnut Close
Derrington, Stafford

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Registered Charity Number 1138634

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds General	Designated	Restricted funds	Endow- ment	Total funds 2023	Prior year total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Voluntary income	2(a)	62,639	130	16,076	0	78,845	70,908
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	9,021	0	852	0	9,873	8,631
Investment income	2(c)	890	349	0	0	1,239	487
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2(d)	2,038	0	0	0	2,038	2,098
Other incoming resources	2(e)	198	0	2,280	0	2,478	2,654
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		74,786	479	19,207	0	94,472	84,778
RESOURCES USED							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	130	0	501	0	631	203
Fund raising trading cost of goods sold	3(b)	96	0	34	0	131	109
Charitable activities	3(c)	93,201	920	2,119	0	96,239	89,129
Governance costs	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other resources used	3(e)	0	0	2,343	0	2,343	1,399
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		93,427	920	4,997	0	99,344	90,841
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS BEFORE TRANSFERS		-18,641	-441	14,210	0	-4,872	-6,063
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	4						
Gross transfers between funds - in		13,304	0	0	0	13,304	12,505
Gross transfers between funds - out		0	0	-13,304	0	-13,304	-12,505
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-5,337	-441	906	0	-4,872	-6,063
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
ALL ASSETS AT 1st JANUARY 2023		18,591	16,240	12,736	0	47,566	53,630
ALL ASSETS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023	5	13,254	15,798	13,642	0	42,694	47,567

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES - 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted funds General £	Designated £	Restricted fund £	Endow ment £	Total funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Cash funds						
Cash at bank	-6,477	1,576	14,929	0	10,028	10,846
Cash in hand	54	0	129	0	183	164
Deposit funds-CCLA	19,649	10,898	0	0	30,547	33,729
	<u>13,227</u>	<u>12,474</u>	<u>15,058</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40,758</u>	<u>44,739</u>
Other monetary assets						
LDBF-Rectory decoration fund	0	1,325	0	0	1,325	1,325
Assets retained for church use						
Piano	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liabilities						
Agency collections	0	0	1,389	0	1,389	360
Monies received in advance	0	0	0	0	0	137
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,389</u>	<u>497</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>13,227</u>	<u>15,799</u>	<u>13,669</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42,695</u>	<u>47,567</u>

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Approved by The Parochial Church Council on the 11th March 2024
Rev Dr Carl Rudd

Isobel Wakerell

Rector

Lay Chair

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2023

Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015, taking advantage of the relaxations for small charities.

These financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention using Receipts and Payments accounting.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are funds given for a particular purpose and events where the money raised was for a particular purpose.

These accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised only when the tax refund is received. Such refunds are allocated to the General Fund except for the tax refunds on donations to the Youth Worker's Fund and Project Funds for major improvements. Grants and legacies are accounted for when received. Funds raised by hospitality, soup lunches and similar events are for the most part accounted for net, unless it is practicable to account for them gross. Sales of books are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income due from letting of church premises is accounted for as income when received. Fees payable to the diocese and to organists and vergers are held in an Agency collection account until paid. In a similar manner, events not directly relating to church business where the church account is used for gathering deposits and paying out the same are held in Agency collection.

Income from CBF deposits

Interest payments are accounted for when they enter the various accounts.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share un-paid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable Church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable Church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 is not valued as an asset to facilitate comparison with previous years and as such is not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since then have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently expected useful economic life on a straight line basis.

Other fixtures fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years for furniture, five years with residual value for musical instruments, and three years for computers. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
Note	£	£	£	£	£
VOLUNTARY INCOME					
2(a)					
Regular Giving	40,045	0	3,895	43,940	44,800
Collections and Other Giving	3,753	0	5	3,758	3,453
One-off Gifts	7,625	0	2,124	9,749	3,266
Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Giving	10,246	130	1,051	11,427	10,390
Legacies	970	0	0	970	0
Recurring Grants-Youth Worker	0	0	9,000	9,000	9,000
	<u>62,639</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>16,076</u>	<u>78,845</u>	<u>70,908</u>
ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS					
2(b)					
Activities and Events	1,089	0	852	1,941	1,580
Income from Church Hall Lettings	7,932	0	0	7,932	7,051
	<u>9,021</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>9,873</u>	<u>8,631</u>
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS					
2(c)					
Interest Received	890	349	0	1,239	487
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) ACTIVITIES					
2(d)					
Fees from Weddings and Funerals	1,768	0	0	1,768	1,534
Church Hall Lettings-Objectives	270	0	0	270	564
	<u>2,038</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,038</u>	<u>2,098</u>
OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES					
2(e)					
Restricted Receipts from Group Funds	0	0	2,253	2,253	2,099
Other Funds Generated	198	0	27	225	555
	<u>198</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,280</u>	<u>2,478</u>	<u>2,654</u>
	<u>74,786</u>	<u>479</u>	<u>19,207</u>	<u>94,472</u>	<u>84,778</u>

N.B Any small discrepancy will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2023

PAYMENTS

	Notes	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
COST OF GENERATION OF VOLUNTARY INCOME	3(a)	130	0	501	631	0
FUND RAISING TRADING COSTS	3(b)					
Activities and Events		96	0	34	131	312
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) EXPENSE	3(c)					
Charitable Giving		8,900	0	0	8,900	4,766
Parish Share		49,709	0	0	49,709	47,342
Youth Worker's Salary and Expenses		11,751	0	0	11,751	11,202
Administrator's-Salary		4,762	0	0	4,762	4,499
Church Office		1,044	0	0	1,044	1,996
Administration Expenses		155	0	0	155	183
Expenses of Clergy and Lay Readers		900	0	0	900	958
Mission and Training		268	0	26	294	100
Upkeep of Services		1,612	0	2,093	3,704	1,389
Church Running-Insurance		1,937	0	0	1,937	1,830
Cleaner's Salary and Expenses		5,345	0	0	5,345	4,707
Church Maintenance		2,508	920	0	3,428	5,464
Upkeep of Grounds		116	0	0	116	0
Gifts		128	0	0	128	266
Miscellaneous expenses		0	0	0	0	275
Church Running-Utilities		4,066	0	0	4,066	4,152
		93,201	920	2,119	96,239	89,129
GOVERNANCE COSTS	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER RESOURCES USED						
Restricted Expenditure from Group Funds	3(e)	0	0	2,343	2,343	1,399
		93,427	920	4,997	99,344	90,841
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	4					
The PCC approved transfers to General Fund from:						
a Youth Worker Fund as a contribution		960	0	0	960	960
towards Overheads		0	0	-960	-960	-960
b Youth Worker Fund as a contribution		12,344	0	0	12,344	11,545
to offset salary and expenses payments made		0	0	-12,344	-12,344	-11,545
		13,304	0	-13,304	0	0

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2023

FUNDS

Note 5

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				RESTRICTED GROUP FUNDS				TOTAL	
	£	£	£	£	Designated	Flowers	Sunbeams	Over 60s	Youth Club	GROUP FUNDS
Balance 1 January 2023	18,591	16,240	195	1,060	690	2,240	3,375	4,185		
Receipts	74,786	479	1,123	543	0	1,710	3,375			
Payments	-93,427	-920	-827	-324	0	-1,698	-2,849			
Transfers	13,304	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Excess/Deficit	-5,337	-441	296	219	0	12	527			
Balance 31 December 2023	13,254	15,798	491	1,279	690	2,253	4,712			
	OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS				TOTAL OTHER RESTRICTED				TOTAL ALL RESTRICTED	
	Youth Worker	Places of Welcome	Quinquennial	Projects	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance 1 January 2023	6,371	440	135	590	15,832	8,551	12,736	47,567		
Receipts	14,264	5	0	1,563	-2,148	19,207	94,472			
Payments	0	-56	0	-2,093	-13,304	-4,997	-99,344			
Transfers	-13,304	0	0	0	-530	-13,304	0			
Excess/Deficit	960	-51	0	-530	379	906	-4,872			
Balance 31 December 2023	7,331	389	135	59	8,930	13,642	42,695			
Balance 1 January 2023	65	950								
Receipts	0	0								
Payments	0	0								
Transfers	0	0								
Excess/Deficit	0	0								
Balance 31 December 2023	65	950								

NB Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound

Youth and Children's Worker Report January- December 2023

Children's Church

Children's church is available for those children and young people who would like to explore and understand more about God. We meet during the Sunday morning communion services, and we usually learn about the same bible readings that the sermon is based on. The session includes the welcome chant, a dance/song, a game and lesson (which usually involves an animated video), followed by a craft. Once communion has started in the service, we rejoin the church family to partake in communion, and have an activity booklet to complete at the back, as well as joining in with worship. The number of children vary week by week from 4-10. It is a privilege to watch these children grow in Christ.

Lego Church

During family worship on the first Sunday of each month, the children have Lego Church. Usually based on the gospel passage for that morning, the children will read the bible passage then use the Lego to create what they have read. It is amazing to see what they create! This activity is a hit. Special thanks to Tony and Pauline Pittard for donating their Lego.

Messy Church

Moved to the second Sunday of the month (4pm), Messy Church is a service that uses crafts to explore the bible passage of that month. Beginning with shared welcome and worship, the congregation then crafts for approximately 50 mins, before returning together to finish in worship. Numbers for messy church are unfortunately inconsistent, but it is a joy for those who do attend.

Lost and Found

Whilst we offer many youth groups on a weekly or monthly basis, I realised we had no activity for Year 3 and 4. Due to inconsistent numbers, we decided to reallocate the time used for JesusJam on a Sunday afternoon to create Lost and Found. On the 4th Sunday (holiday dependent) 4-5.30pm, children from year 3 and 4 sing and dance to songs, play games and do a craft related to a short bible lesson. Whilst we are still building up our numbers, we have received positive feedback from the parents of the children attending.

TNT

TNT is a group for Year 6 and high school-aged young people. Meeting on a Tuesday 5-6.30pm, starting with hot chocolate and toast, we tackle difficult topics with help from the Bible to search for answers. As time has gone on, this has most definitely turned into a bible study group, and I am excited to witness these young people on their faith journey. A huge thank you to Anne Scott who has been a great support.

Zone

Zone continues to be great success. This is a 90-minute youth club, on Wednesday evenings (6-7.30pm), for young people in years 5, 6 and 7. The first half of the session is filled with games (table tennis, table football, pool, games consoles, etc.) with the second half dedicated to a planned craft activity, or games such as pizza

bagels, scavenger hunts and quiz night. We also run a tuck shop during the first half of the session and finish with a quick talk based on a bible passage (usually including a video) and prayer requests from the children. The children were treated to a bouncy castle in the church garden at the end of the summer term which was complete madness, but they loved it! Attendance prior to July was consistently above 20 (sometimes reaching 30). Word is spreading amongst the eligible cohorts and numbers have grown from an average of 15 in the autumn term, to 20 now. Thank you to Pam Davies, Ben Morris and James Hunt for your help, we couldn't do it without you. Thank you also to Anne Scott who stepped down from the Tuck Shop at the end of the 2023 academic year.

Sunbeams

Sunbeams is a baby and toddler group on a Monday morning (9.15-11am) and is one of our most popular groups. Four sets of toys are rotated, with a different set used each week. Different messy/sensory activities are also laid out each week, such as muddy dinosaurs, snowy train tracks and pasta play. At the end of the session, we sit down for story and song time before we say goodbye. We wanted to make it clear to parents that we are a group within this church, and therefore we now have Bible stories and include Christian nursery rhymes during our story and song time. Whilst we were apprehensive of service users' reactions, parents have embraced this and we have seen no drop in numbers or enquiries (perhaps even the opposite). We also have our Sunbeams soup mornings, usually on the second Monday of the month, where volunteers, parents and children share a meal together straight after Sunbeams. Our summer goodbye party was amazing, hiring a bouncy castle, ball pool and soft play which the children loved. Our Christmas party this year was a great success, with thanks once again to Santa! Thank you to Vicky Huddleston and Sue Cooke for giving their time for this group by volunteering - we couldn't do it without you!

School Relationships

Each week I go into school to deliver worship to a phase of children (1&2, 3&4, 5&6) on a three week rota. The rota of lessons is supplied by the school, of which I then create the worship based on the recommended bible story. This will be a short bible story, followed by a prayer and dance/song (year group depending). Myself and Rev Cooke delivered an emotional Year 6 leavers worship based on the armour of God, dressing one child as a Roman soldier. The children also received a leaving gift from the church. The whole school also attend their own church services, including Easter, Harvest and Christmas and end of academic year. Rev Rudd and I also visited Year 1 to answer their questions concerning 'how to pray', the topic they were learning about. Whilst some of the questions were tricky, it was lovely to spend time with them.

We have also recently started visiting Weston Road Academy, once per term during their assemblies, to discuss topics such as not giving up (God always being there) and the real meaning of Christmas.

YNow

YNow is a group for Years 1 and 2 (usually) on the first Mondy of each month after school until 4.30pm, held at St John's School. Planned by myself and Sue Cooke, the children partake in team games whereby the winning team get a prize (usually a chocolate bar). We also sing and dance to worship songs, with a time dedicated to teaching the children more about Jesus.

Reading to reception

As a new initiative this year, we (Rev Rudd, Rev Cooke and myself) have started going into school on a Monday afternoon to read to the reception class. We have done this to start building relationships with the children, so they recognise us when they then enter weekly worship in years 1 and above. Whilst it is only a short time with them, it is a joy to read to them and get to know them more. When Reception have not been able to attend the whole school church worship, we have gone to them, to make sure they were included. Furthermore, the reception class came to visit/explore the church, looking specifically at the altar, font and stained glass windows. This was followed by a short worship.

Megan Morris

Worship and Baptism Report.

Our worship is blessed with musicians on Sundays and in the week and draws on the gifts and talents of a mixed team of lay and ordained leaders and preachers. We are further blessed by occasional visiting preachers to bring the Bible alive to help us all meet with God and grow in our living faith.

Over the year we have had special times of seasonal celebration and national celebration with the King's coronation. There are weekly midweek communion services alongside the Sunday Holy Communion or service of the word services. There have been 7 baptisms alongside a wedding and 14 funerals which help us serve both church family and the community in which we live.

Discipleship continues to be so important in midweek services, Sunday services and in the homegroups and nurture groups that meet week by week. We seek to take opportunities to use study material to explore how with live out our faith, to look at books of the Bible and biblical themes. If you are not part of one of the groups please consider how this could enhance your own discipleship.

We continue to believe that we need to have times to make relationship within the family, and outside our current church family. We look to offer START courses to help those searching, encounter the God who is searching for them and give opportunity for them to make a commitment to God. We also look to help all who know God to continue growing in their walk with God that we all can become mature Christians able to live and share our faith.

Why not take a moment to reflect how your faith grew through 2023 and how you can take opportunities to grow with God this year.

Carl Rudd

Pastoral Care Report

Throughout the year the team (Carl Rudd, Sue Cook, Anne Scott, Lyn Ryder, Nicola Woodhouse, Isobel Wakerell) have visited and kept in contact with any across the benefice in need of pastoral support. These have included visits to homes, hospitals, hospices, and care/nursing homes; with Home Communion being offered if required. There have been regular visits to Bradbury House and Tithe Barn Court to lead

worship and Holy Communion; thank you to others who join the team to help with music at these services.

In the wider community pastoral needs have been brought to our attention through contact with families for baptisms, weddings and funerals and prayer has been greatly appreciated. The Remembering Services have also helped recently bereaved family and friends coming to terms with their loss.

As a team we meet regularly to pray for individual concerns and inform each other of any new needs. Although many concerns are brought to our attention through Carl and Sue's ministry, we also rely on members of the congregation to let us know where they feel pastoral support is required. As members of Christ's body we all have a part to play; you are His eyes, ears, hands and feet. Please, speak to a member of the team if you know of a need. We would rather be told ten times than not at all and miss the opportunity of drawing alongside someone in need of support. We know that a lot of pastoral support is given amongst and between congregation members, thank you for your care of each other.

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."— Teresa of Avila

Isobel Wakerell.

Joint Report on Place of Welcome and M&Ms

During the past year both M&M's and Place of Welcome hospitality group have met regularly. M&M's meet on Tuesday and Place of Welcome on Tuesday & Wednesday both from 10am to midday.

M&M's and Place of Welcome happen because of a team effort. Last year a rota of helpers was set up and this is working very well – an answer to prayer that there are now so many involved (Col 4: 3)

On Tuesday's M&M'S numbers range from around 6-10 and Place of Welcome from around 4-10. On Wednesday between 6-12 people meet under the Place of Welcome scheme – numbers have remained stable. All members of St John's congregation are most welcome to attend – approximately 6 people are non-attendees on Sunday's. Everyone is very supportive of one another.

When some of our members are unwell they receive visits and are contacted regarding their progress (Hebrews 13: 2)

Place of Welcome happens in church, sharing Tuesday mornings with M&M's and it is always a pleasure to see their wonderful crafting skills which encourages others to be involved and initiates some excellent conversations! One member makes very lovely greetings cards and kindly keeps us supplied as we need – a very special gesture indeed. (1 Peter 4:10).

A key passage from the Bible for us is Colossians 4, and we are very blessed by **all** who join us on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and the conversations we share. During the past year we have continued to enjoy gentle and peaceful fellowship. Although our Place of Welcome times afford an opportunity for welcoming and friendly hospitality in the safety of a peaceful sanctuary, it would be wonderful if the

church was able to open similarly on more days of the week – but we pray and trust in God to guide us in this.

Below are the words of a Graham Kendrick song which perhaps expresses the vision of Place of Welcome at St John's.

*You're calling us and so we are gathered here.....
Call the seeker, call the stranger, call the children, let's hear their praises
Call the lonely, call the broken, young and old, will sing hosannas,
Let's fill this house with praise.*

Liz Clarke

WORLD FOCUS GROUP

10% of our church income is made available to charities, every year.

The Focus group's role is to ensure that the charities we help comply with the ethos of the church and registered with the charities commission.

Decisions on which charities we choose are made by the focus group along with input from the congregation. We always try to ensure that all our donations meet local, national and international needs, as well as helping with emergency disaster appeals.

Apart from giving from our tithing, we also try to raise money for charities by means of coffee mornings for Christian Aid. Gifts and food for Women's Aid and the House of Bread. Last Christmas our church donated an enormous amount of food. This ensured every family connected to the women's refuge received a Christmas hamper of food and gifts.

We presently have 6 members in the focus group: - Isobel Wakerell, Lyn Ryder, Eddie Chambers, Pam Ayre, Steve Gale and Kate Passey.

If anyone would like more information on our group or is interested in becoming involved. Please speak to any of our members.

Lyn Ryder

Music Report

We worship God with all our senses and the gift of music can enliven our soul and the Holy Spirit within us in ways we cannot readily explain. For some singing is more important than for others. The mix of traditional and modern hymns and worship songs at St John's is our attempt to enable a diverse congregation to praise God. Interestingly some of the 'modern' hymns are now 60 plus years old!

Music has been led by a small group of musicians. Thank you to Alan Bancroft who has regularly played for the Wednesday 2pm Holy Communion service and Ann Bolton who has occasionally played at those services. A big thank you to Alan also for his faithful work behind the scenes in the use of his library of hymns/songs words which are used on the PowerPoint each Sunday, and for his tallying of usage for our licence from Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCCL).

Sunday morning worship has been led by pianists Chris Scattergood, Liz Clarke and Christina Thomson with Jamie Parkes leading on guitar/violin and Suresh Rajbhandari on bass guitar. We have been extremely blessed this year with young Bowen joining us to lead on piano. An incredibly gifted young man, many have sat at the end of Sunday worship to listen to him playing Mozart, Liszt, Chopin and Glinka

(to name but a few). The team met on a regular basis to prepare and plan music for services. In addition to Wednesday and Sunday worship the musicians have played for extra services throughout the year including Ash Wednesday, some Holy Week worship, funerals, Remembering services and extra services over the Christmas period including Christingle.

In October Liz Clarke led an excellent Saturday morning of musical fellowship when congregation members and the musicians shared singing, Bible readings and prayers. We learnt a new song together which has been used in Sunday morning worship. Songwriters over the last twenty/thirty years have created a vast repertoire. Please let us know of songs/hymns we could use; we are open to suggestions. Thank you for your words of support and encouragement to all the musicians.

"I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." Psalm 104:33. **Isobel Wakerell**

Flower Group Report

It is a privilege to write this report on behalf of the Flower Group and to serve in this ministry with such an amazing set of like-minded ladies, each one of us thankful to our Lord for his amazing creation, and the talents he has bestowed upon us.

We are a friendly inclusive group, and we are blessed and delighted during the year to have welcomed Beverley Dunn back into the group and two new members Di Zhang and Kate Greatholder.

In addition to the regular weekly church, and festival flowers, in the past year we have decorated the church for a wedding, flowers for funeral services and in memory of loved ones. Held two workshops and a demonstration evening all great occasions of friendship, fellowship, fun and outreach.

We are thankful to Megan and the young people who kindly created the amazing angels for the window displays at Christmas a great example of integration and inclusivity.

Planning is ongoing for a Flower Festival and for more workshops, diary dates will be posted in the weekly notice sheet.

Barbara Maltby

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH ST JOHN THE BAPTIST STAFFORD

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

30th April 2023

Incumbent:

The Revered Dr Carl Rudd
The Rectory
Westhead Avenue
Stafford

Independent Examiner:

Mr Malcolm Kidd
Chestnut Close
Derrington
Stafford

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE P.C.C. FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER 2022**

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1. Administrative Information

The parish church of St John the Baptist is situated on Bedford Avenue, Littleworth, Stafford ST16 3LH.

The correspondence address is The Rectory, Westhead Avenue, Stafford. ST16 3RP.

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting are:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Dr Carl Rudd
Curate	The Rev'd Sue Cooke
Readers	Mrs Isobel Wakerell Mr Francis Tamba
Wardens	Mrs Anne Scott Mr Francis Tamba

Deanery Mrs Wendy Clark
Synod
Representative

Elected Members

Mrs Pam Ayre	
Mrs Naomi Blears	
Mr Eddy Chambers	Hon Treasurer
Mr Suresh Rajbhandari	
Mrs Isobel Wakerell	
Mrs Ann Woodcock	

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election if they feel called to do so.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish.

Rectors Report

The last few years have not been easy and I want to thank everyone who has pushed themselves to keep coming out each week to church, and for the many varied acts of service each person brings to the family of St Johns. Every single

person is a brother or sister in Christ, loved by God and by the family here and it is together that we are the church in this place.

It was a joy to go through 2022 and see our worshiping heart grow. We have seen increasing joy throughout the year as groups have met to read and share God's word together both during the day and in the evening. We can hear God's voice more, share with one another and grow in relationship with God and each other.

This year we have been able to return over time to communion using the common cup at the communion rail.

Places of Welcome and our Mary and Martha group (M and M's) have both seen growth this year sharing God's love with our wider community. These relationships breakdown barriers for people coming into church and give a weekly purpose to those for whom each day is the same and may experience an isolated existence.

Groups for youth and children have continued and a new group has begun for children in school on the first Monday of each month.

We will only grow with God and see the church grow in number when we give time to intentionally make new relationships, to help those who God is speaking too to ask him into their life and then to mature their relationship with God. Together we are Gods hands and feet in this place and are seeing his blessing by making these choices. Please take time to pray for what happens in church and through church in our wider community.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37 v2-4.

PCC Review of the Year 2022

We give thanks that we are beginning to enjoy a more normal pattern of life and worship now that the worry of covid has lessened. We have, in accordance with Diocesan advice and the agreement of PCC returned gradually to the use of the Common Cup for Communion. In stages we have ceased the intinction of wafers followed by a return to the altar rail. This has been welcomed, along with some trepidation, by most of the congregation.

We thank Carl, Sue, Isobel, Christina and Francis for their ministry during the good and the not so good times along with others who have provided worship during the year, including Gay Pye, George O'Brien, Nick Adams and Roger Huddleston.

During the summer Dawn Walker spent placement time with us as an ordinand in training. We also enjoyed having Revd. Garry Higgs with us during Advent and Christmas for extended experience in the third year of his curacy at his training Benefice.

Megan Davies has continued to provide activities and worship for the younger generations.

Some of us were able to share in Sue's priesting ceremony at St Mary's, Uttoxeter in June followed by a Benefice lunch the following week. Sue's contributions to church services, pastoral care and children's work are much appreciated.

We were able to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee along with the rest of the nation followed far too soon by her Majesty's death and funeral. To commemorate the Jubilee, we contributed to a collection of £230 for The Queen's Green Canopy which enabled us to purchase 23 trees through the Woodland Trust.

As a Benefice we enjoyed an Away Day at Shallowford in May and have presented candidates for Confirmation to the Bishop in February at St John's and November in Gnosall.

The hall is once again being hired regularly by different groups as well as for private parties and other events such as a Repair Café held in the hall with all manner of broken items brought for repair & refurbishment. Thanks to Jane Judson for her dedicated and reliable management of the bookings.

Home groups conducted in church have continued throughout the year thanks to leaders Carl, Sue, Francis, Isobel & Christina. We have explored and studied Sharing the Easter Story by Sally Welch during Lent and the Book of Hosea during Advent.

In November we spent a Saturday in church reading St Matthews Gospel chapter by chapter. Quite an experience for everyone who attended which also included a shared meal at the point of Communion in the Bible reading.

Those who read during services undertook some practice with both reading and managing the microphone to improve the experience for listeners.

Some members of the congregation have undertaken defibrillator training.

Throughout the year we have continued to tithe 10% of our income through the World Focus Group. We have also supported the people of Ukraine where possible. Christian Aid, House of Bread are among regular recipients along with other local, national & international charities.

Sadly during the year, we have lost some long serving members of the congregation but we can rejoice in the increasing number of new faces coming into church to worship.

Anne Scott
April 2023

Curate's Report

I see that I began my last report by thanking the Ministry Team, Churchwardens and, especially Carl. I begin this report by doing the same – for their encouragement, support and friendship – and I thank the whole church family, too, for the same. It has been an even busier year in that I've been licensed to do more and I love it that no two days are ever exactly the same. Since July last year when I was priested

in Uttoxeter, I have been allowed to share Communion across the Benefice, take weddings and I began my independent baptism ministry.

Sharing Communion has been really special and I have enjoyed it in less formal environments other than simply in church; taking it to Bradbury House is a privilege as is sharing Communion with those unable to come into church. Being part of the 'Wednesday Team' is also a pleasure.

I have continued to find funeral ministry a privilege and am looking forward to sharing the leading of our Funeral Planning events. Baptisms, too, are increasing in number and I enjoy leading families through the START course; this is another opportunity to build relationships with families which I believe is fundamental to our ministry.

Wedding preparation provides the same opportunity and it has been a joy to lead two couples in their journey to the altar and I look forward to many more.

As we think of relationships, a part of every week is spent at Place of Welcome, where we really are seeing the fruit of sitting and being and spending time with those who come through the doors each week. I am still amazed at the impact of those boards on the pavement!

Sunbeams continues to thrive under Megan's leadership, and I enjoy the company of the grown-ups who attend along with their children. This provides opportunity again for conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. We also provide a homemade soup lunch once a month now for anyone in the group and this is becoming increasingly popular. Homegroups continue to succeed with numbers growing and I enjoy the leading of these groups.

Attending training events and studying is important as well as obligatory; sharing the result of this has been rewarding, too – the Matthew's Gospel Reading Day was enjoyed by all who attended.

School ministry has been rewarding, too; sharing worship in church as well as at school has been exciting – as has the beginning of an after-school club once a month. My work as a governor continues, too.

So, no two days are the same but all, I hope, will bear fruit in sharing the love of our Lord Jesus.

Sue Cooke

Church Wardens Report APCM 2023

It has been another busy year and although the pandemic had slowed down, many people were still nervous of infection and mixing too closely. But slowly we have returned to worshipping as near as possible to normal. We share The Peace by waving to each other as it is important that everyone feels comfortable in church. Towards the end of the year, we made step by step changes to Holy Communion and returned to using the common cup with no intinction.

We thank Carl for his continuing leadership of the ministry team, Sue, Isobel, Christina & Francis along with Megan and her valuable contribution working with the children & young people both in church and at St John's school. Sue has become an important part of the team and is enthusiastic in her ministry, pastoral work in the Benefice & with Sunbeams. In the summer Dawn Walker spent six weeks with us as part of her Ordinand training and for a short time during Advent & Christmas, we welcomed Revd. Garry Higgs gaining experience during his curacy.

We meet regularly with Carl as wardens to work closely together on different aspects of church life and to ensure that he, Aileen & Lydia have the support that is needed at St John's.

We also meet with our fellow wardens from Tixall & Ingestre for both social and business reasons. It is good to share common events or problems and to maintain awareness of other churches in the Benefice.

It is wonderful to note many new members of the congregation and to feel that God is giving us His blessing to move forward.

We look forward to the APCM and hope that anyone who feels called to become more involved in church life will step forward to join PCC or any of the other groups working to keep St John's functioning as a living growing church family.

We thank those who are already involved in World Focus Group, Pastoral Care, Sacristy team, on the cleaning and refreshment rota's or who provide lovely floral arrangements, not forgetting M&M's and Place of Welcome leaders and participants. We are thankful that during the year there have been no safeguarding incidents & thank Ann Raba for continuing in the role of safeguarding officer.

To Jane Judson for managing the hall & church bookings, an important role in these days of the church building being used by us and other groups in the community, you are much appreciated.

We also thank Jackie Palphreyman and Jackie Courtney as administrator and cleaner respectively.

Music is a large part of worship, so we thank Jamie, Chris, Liz, Isobel, Christina and Suresh for their diligence throughout the year providing accompaniment to our singing. Sadly Alan, Margaret and Ann have had to step back for now, so we wish them well and thank them for their years of valuable service.

To those who welcome, read, pray, record and manage the sound and vision equipment we say thank you for your contribution to services.

We also express our thanks to Ian Ryder and Rajan Sambandam for their unstinting work maintaining the building and the gardens along with Steve Gale's litter picking.

We bade farewell to our most gracious Queen, Elizabeth II during the year and thanked God for her many years of unbroken and faithful service. We pray for the new King, Charles III as he takes on the task and ask for God's blessing on him.

We pray for the families of those in the congregation who have lost loved ones this year and commend those who have died to our Father's care.

John 15: 12

My command is this; Love each other as I have loved you.

Anne Scott & Francis Tamba

Fabric Report APCM 2023

All maintenance to the boilers and the annual servicing has been carried out.
PAT testing of all electrical equipment in use has been completed.
The lightning conductor has been inspected.

Numerous repairs have been carried out including a new main door lock being fitted & keys distributed.

A lock has been fitted to the cleaner's cupboard door for safety reasons with a key being kept in the kitchen.

The drainpipe on the exterior wall has been fitted with new brackets.

The lighting in the gentlemen's toilets has been upgraded & some tiles in the ladies had to be replaced. Extra notices have been placed near the light switches urging people to turn off the light on leaving. This is particularly important in the gentleman's toilets as the fan continues to run.

We have been monitoring the water taps and asking key holders to ensure no taps are left running before leaving the building. Taps have been left on at times overnight, so consideration is being given to replacing with self-closing taps.

Quinquennial advisory repairs to the dormer windows have been done enabling the buckets catching drips to be removed from the church aisle. The rear stained-glass window has had parts of the sealant replaced, the remainder will be completed in 2023.

The lobby between the rear exit, meeting room & office has been refurbished and painted by Rajan Sambandam. So grateful thanks to him.

Thanks to Francis and Rajan for their work keeping the garden and surrounding area mown and tended especially during the summer months, and to Steve Gale for regular litter picking.

Without the constant attention by Ian Ryder much of this work and maintenance would have to be carried out by outside companies so we are indebted to Ian for all that he does at St John's as well as ensuring that the heating is controlled & timed for users both in church & the hall.

Anne Scott

Deanery Synod Report

Few meetings have been held this year, but one in Stafford gave us a chance to get to know our three curates: Iain from Castle Church; Danny from St Mary's and our own Sue. Through a series of questions posed by the host, they were able to describe their experiences since becoming curates and the aspects which surprised them.

The wearing of the dog collar gave Iain more of a burden for people, gave Sue more confidence in God and made Danny feel the responsibility more. Other people's reactions towards them changed - either to avoidance or friendliness and respect. The dog collar opened doors and gave possibilities like freedom to go into hospital.

The lack of curate's houses in the local area meant that Danny, living 10 miles away in Stone, feels a disconnect with his parish. Sue questioned whether her lengthy travel, sometimes 3hrs in one day, was a good use of her time.

They shared a little of the breadth and variety of work in their parishes. Danny spoke about the vulnerable people who came when St Mary's was open for signing the book of condolence and of his work at the House of Bread. Iain struggled with more houses, more people but fewer facilities, no shared history or sense of community.

Sue spoke about working with children in the school, the elderly in Bradbury House and those in the villages. Stuart Hodson from Mid-Trent pointed out that half our parishes are rural and that we should be more outward-looking.

The overriding sense which we got from all the curates was the joy they found in their service, whether it was crying at weddings and baptisms, seeing believers' joy in their suffering, sitting with someone at the end of their life or taking a funeral. None showed any doubt about their calling to ministry. With these things in mind, let us be sure to pray for our curate and offer support in whatever ways we can.

Wendy Clark - Deanery Synod Rep

Electoral Roll Report

The total number of people on the Electoral Roll is 99 as opposed to 98 last year.

The figures are as follows-

Age Group	Inside Parish	Outside Parish	Total
Under 25	2 2.04%	1 1.02%	3 3.06%
25-44	11 11.22%	6 6.13%	17 17.35%
45-59	16 16.32%	3 3.07%	19 19.39%
60+	37 36.73%	23 23.47%	60 60.20%
Totals	66 66.31%	33 33.69%	99 100%

Sadly two of our friends have died, Keith Pearson and Audrey Betteridge during the year, both are sadly missed.

If you are a regular visitor to St John's and are not already on our Electoral Roll, please consider completing an application form for enrolment.

You will be able to vote at our Annual Parish Council Meetings and this allows you to have a more active roll in our Church community.

" The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed"

Ann Woodcock
Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurers Report

Finance report for APCM 30th April 2023

My thanks, as usual, to all who have assisted me -Treasury Team members and sides people.

As last year, I have used Receipts and Payments accounting as allowed by The Charity Commission. This means that I have not allowed for amounts outstanding and receivable at the 31st December as well as not apportioning amounts paid in the

year that refer to 2022 (prepayments) and calculations of expenditure to 31st December that will be included in 2023 bills (accruals).

Accounts for 2022

This is the first set of “normal” accounts after 2 years of being affected by Covid. You, the Church members, contributed around £57,000 (including gift aid) towards church finances and I thank you all for your generosity.

The Unrestricted funds of the Church are the General Fund and the Designated Funds.

The total General Fund income for the year was £67,314 and expenditure £84,607 giving a deficit of £17,293. This deficit included a full year of our Youth and Childrens Worker’s salary and expenses paid out of the General Fund. After transferring £12,505 from the Youth Worker Restricted Fund the deficit was reduced to £4,788.

The Designated Funds are Fabric, Office, Rectory (decoration) and Piano.

Income to Designated Funds was £675. The funds were reduced by £4,781 (£3,741 for repairs to windows, £900 to replace the office photocopier and £140 for a cartridge printer). At the year-end Designated Funds totalled £16,240, an overall reduction of £4,105 in the funds.

The Restricted Funds of the Church can only be used for the purpose for which they were given. A summary of these funds can be found on the last page of the accounts.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities record that most of the funds are in deposit accounts, our bank current account and a small amount in cash balances.

Adjustments were made for amounts paid in advance and monies held for third parties. (Liabilities)

The church tithes 10% of its General Fund income. I have noted as a liability the amount still to be distributed at the year-end being £5,457.

Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission dictate that it is only the General Fund that is “readily available”. At the 31st December 2022 the balance of the General Fund totalled £18,591.

Based on 2022 running costs averaging £6,000 a month, the above figure is insufficient to satisfy our Reserves policy of representing six to nine months operating costs. It would only cover 3 months.

Quinquennial Survey

PCC agreed in 2019 that the Designated Fabric Fund should be used for Quinquennial costs, (required by the five-year survey of the building). The balance of this Fund at the year-end is £11,990. Expenditure over the next few years is expected to exceed this figure.

Conclusion

Our financial situation over the next year or so gives cause for concern and is continuing to be addressed by the PCC.

Eddy Chambers, Hon Treasurer

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1138634
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

This report is on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2022.

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 an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 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 Commission under 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 you as PCC members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

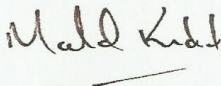
Independent Examiners Statement.

In connection with the examination, no matters have 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 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not be met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed



Date 25th March 2022.

Mr. M. D. Kidd CPFA
Chestnut Close
Derrington, Stafford

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted funds		Restrict ed funds	Endow - ment	Total funds	Prior year total funds
	Not e	Gener al	Designat ed			2022	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Voluntary income	2(a)	55,748	521	14,640	0	70,908	68,557
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	8,631	0	0	0	8,631	3,813
Investment income	2(c)	332	155	0	0	487	21
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2(d)	2,098	0	0	0	2,098	1,872
Other incoming resources	2(e)	506	0	2,148	0	2,654	5,944

TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		67,314	675	16,788	0	84,778	80,206
RESOURCES USED							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	203	0	0	0	203	0
Fund raising trading cost of goods sold	3(b)	109	0	0	0	109	133
Charitable activities	3(c)	84,295	4,781	53	0	89,129	77,396
Governance costs	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other resources used	3(e)	0	0	1,399	0	1,399	543
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		84,607	4,781	1,453	0	90,841	78,072
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS							
BEFORE TRANSFERS		17,293	-4,105	15,335	0	-6,063	2,135
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
Gross transfers between funds - in	4	12,505	0	0	0	12,505	10,080
Gross transfers between funds - out		0	0	-12,505		-12,505	-10,080
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-4,788	-4,105	2,830	0	-6,063	2,135
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
ALL ASSETS AT 1st JANUARY 2022		23,379	20,345	9,906	0	53,630	51,495
ALL ASSETS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022		18,591	16,240	12,736	0	47,567	53,630

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

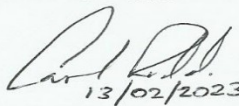
STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES - 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Endow	Total	Total funds
	General	Designated	fund	ment	funds	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
Cash at bank	- 4,419	1,446	13,820	0	10,846	8,907
Cash in hand	888	0	-724	0	164	116
Deposit funds-CCLA	22,259	11,469	0	0	33,729	41,983
	<u>18,728</u>	<u>12,915</u>	<u>13,096</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>44,739</u>	<u>51,006</u>
Other monetary assets						
LDBF-Rectory decoration fund	0	1,325	0	0	1,325	1,325
Assets retained for church use						
Piano	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	0	0	0	0	0	350
Liabilities						
Agency collections	0	0	360	0	360	969
Church tithe	5,457	0	0	0	5,457	3,423
Monies received in advance	137	0	0	0	137	83
	<u>5,594</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,954</u>	<u>4,475</u>

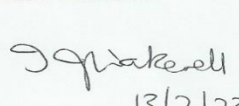
N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Approved by The Parochial Church Council on the 13th February 2023

Rev Dr Carl Rudd


13/02/2023.
Rector

Isobel Wakerell


13/2/23
Lay Chair

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2022

Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2008 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015, taking advantage of the relaxations for small charities.

With effect from the 1st January 2020 the church has adopted Receipts and Payments accounting.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also available to the PCC. Restricted funds are funds given for a particular purpose and events where the money raised was for a particular purpose.

These accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised only when the tax refund is received. Such refunds are allocated to the General Fund except for the tax refunds on donations to the Youth Worker's Fund and Project Funds for major improvements. Grants and legacies are accounted for when received. Funds raised by hospitality, soup lunches and similar events are for the most part accounted for net, unless it is practicable to account for them gross. Sales of books are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income due from letting of church premises is accounted for as income when received. Fees payable to the diocese and to organists and vergers are held in an Agency collection account until paid. In a similar manner, events not directly relating to church business where the church account is used for gathering deposits and paying out the same are held in Agency collection.

Income from CBF deposits

Interest payments are accounted for when they enter the various accounts.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share un-paid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable Church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s10(2) (a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable Church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 is not valued as an asset to facilitate comparison with previous years and as such is not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since then have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently expected useful economic life on a straight line basis.

Other fixtures fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years for furniture, five years with residual value for musical instruments, and three years for computers. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS

	Note	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
VOLUNTARY INCOME	2(a)					
Regular Giving		40,920	0	3,880	44,800	37,272
Collections and Other Giving		3,453	0	0	3,453	2,305
Gift Days Covid-19 Giving		0	0	0	0	9,392
One-off Gifts/Grants		1,795	521	950	3,266	1,059
Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Giving		9,580	0	810	10,390	10,033
Legacies		0	0	0	0	0
Recurring Grants-Youth Worker		0	0	9,000	9,000	8,496
		55,748	521	14,640	70,908	68,557
ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS	2(b)					
Activities and Events		1,580	0	0	1,580	556
Income from Church Hall Lettings		7,051	0	0	7,051	3,258
		8,631	0	0	8,631	3,813
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	2(c)					
Interest Received		332	155	0	487	21
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) ACTIVITIES	2(d)					
Fees from Weddings and Funerals		1,534	0	0	1,534	1,567
Church Hall Lettings-Objectives		564	0	0	564	305
		2,098	0	0	2,098	1,872
OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES	2(e)					
Grants-Corona-Virus Job Retention Scheme		0	0	0	0	5,163
Restricted Receipts from Group Funds		0	0	2,099	2,099	781
Other Funds Generated		506	0	49	555	0
		506	0	2,148	2,654	5,944
		67,314	675	16,788	84,778	80,206

N.B Any small discrepancy will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

PAYMENTS

	Note s	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
COST OF GENERATION OF VOLUNTARY INCOME	3(a)	0	0	0	0	0
FUND RAISING TRADING COSTS	3(b)					
Activities and Events		312	0	0	312	133
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) EXPENSE	3(c)					
Charitable Giving		4,766	0	0	4,766	4,087
Parish Share		47,342	0	0	47,342	43,397
Youth Worker's Salary and Expenses		11,202	0	0	11,202	10,321
Administrator's-Salary		4,499	0	0	4,499	5,324
Church Office		956	1,040	0	1,996	1,191
Administration Expenses		183	0	0	183	305
Expenses of Clergy and Lay Readers		958	0	0	958	742
Mission and Training		99	0	1	100	150
Upkeep of Services		1,389	0	0	1,389	1,017
Church Running-Insurance		1,829	0	0	1,830	1,761
Cleaner's Salary and Expenses		4,707	0	0	4,707	4,214
Church Maintenance		1,671	3,742	53	5,464	1,895
Upkeep of Grounds		0	0	0	0	20
Gifts		266	0	0	266	230
Miscellaneous expenses		275	0	0	275	60
Church Running-Utilities		4,152	0	0	4,152	2,219
Re-ordering of Church		0	0	0	0	462
		84,295	4,781	53	89,129	77,396
GOVERNANCE COSTS	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER RESOURCES USED						
Restricted Expenditure from Group Funds	3(e)	0	0	1,399	1,399	543
		84,607	4,781	1,452	90,841	78,072
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	4					
The PCC approved transfers to General Fund from:						
a Youth Worker Fund as a contribution		960	0	0	960	860
towards Overheads		0	0	-960	-960	-860
b Youth Worker Fund as a contribution		11,545	0	0	11,545	9,220
to offset salary and expenses payments made		0	0	-11,545	-11,545	-9,220
		12,505	0	-12,505	0	0

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

FUNDS

Note 5

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				RESTRICTED GROUP FUNDS						TOTAL	
	General	Designated	Flowers	Sunbeams	Over 60s	Youth Club	GROUP FUNDS		TOTAL			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
2022												
Balance 1 January	23,379	20,345	277	884	690	1,635						
Receipts	67,314	675	178	461	0	1,460						
Payments	-84,607	-4,781	-260	-286	0	-854						
Transfers	12,505	0	0	0	0	0						
Excess/Deficit	-4,788	-4,105	-82	176	0	606						
Balance 31 December 2022	18,591	16,240	195	1,060	690	2,240						
										</		

NB Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound

Youth and Children's Worker Report January- December 2022

Children's Church

Children's church is available for those children and young people who would like to explore and understand more about God. We meet during the Sunday morning communion services, and we usually learn about the same bible readings that the sermon is based on. The session includes the welcome chant, a dance/song, a game and lesson (which usually involves an animated video), followed by a craft. This year we have been learning about the book of Hosea. Once communion has started in the service, we rejoin the church family to partake in communion, and have an activity booklet to complete at the back, as well as joining in with worship. The number of children varies week by week from 4-10. It is a privilege to watch these children grow in Christ.

Messy Church

Messy Church was put on hold in the previous year due to the pandemic. Consequently, the re-opening of this event has been slow but steady. From September, we have seen a significant increase in numbers, having more from St John's School attending than previously during my time in this role.

JesusJam

JesusJam is a service on the third Sunday of the month at 4pm. Designed to cover the basics of God with lessons such as fruit of the spirit and Jonah and the Whale. Whilst feedback from attendees have been positive, with JesusJam providing lessons of value, numbers are still relatively low. With more encouragement to the congregation and other children's groups, I am hopeful this will pick up in time.

TNT

As with Messy Church, TNT struggled to keep going due to the pandemic causing the group to fizzle out. Again however, the group relaunched in September, which has now allowed Year 6's to partake, as opposed to high school youth only. This decision was made, with the support of Carl, so that we can get to know the children in year 6, and then continue to support them as they transition into high school. Whilst the group is small, the children are incredibly dedicated and passionate, which can be seen in their learning. Over this time, we have been watching films (Kung Fu Panda, Paddington, Frozen etc) and relating it to bible stories. A huge thank you to Anne Scott who has been a great support.

Zone

In September 2021, we relaunched Zone which was a great success, and the success has continued throughout 2022. This is a 90-minute youth club, on Wednesday evenings, for young people in years 5, 6 and 7. The first half of the session is filled with games (table tennis, table football, pool, games consoles, etc.) with the second half dedicated to a planned craft activity, or games such as parachuting, scavenger hunts, pizza making etc. We also run a tuck shop during the first half of the session. The children were treated to a bouncy castle in the church garden at the end of the summer term which they loved! Attendance is constantly above 20, sometimes reaching up to 35! Thank you to all the volunteers who keep this group going.

Sunbeams

Sunbeams is a baby and toddler group on Monday morning (9.15-11am) and is one of our most popular groups. Four sets of toys are rotated, with a different set used

each week. Different messy/sensory activities are also laid out each week such as coloured pasta, hook a duck, shaving foam snowmen etc. At the end of the session, we sit down for story and song time before we say goodbye. We see new families most weeks and I continue to receive new enquiries weekly. Our summer goodbye party was awesome, hiring a Cbeebies ball pool and soft play which the children loved. Our Christmas party this year was a great success, with thanks once again to Santa. Thank you to Vicky Huddleston and Sue Cooke for giving their time for this group by volunteering - we couldn't do it without you!

School Worship

Each week I go into school to deliver worship to a phase of children (1&2, 3&4, 5&6) on a three week rota. The rota of lessons is supplied by the school, of which I then create the worship based on the recommended bible story. This will be a short bible story, followed by a prayer and dance/song (year group depending). Myself and Rev Cooke delivered the Year 6 leavers worship based on taking a journey and making the right decisions, the children also received a leaving gift from the church. The whole school have been able to come back to church for their services this year including Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

YNow

YNow is a new group for Years 1 and 2 on the first Monday of each month after school until 4.30pm, held at St John's School. Led mostly by myself and Rev Cooke, the children partake in team games whereby the winning team end up with a prize (usually a chocolate bar). We also sing and dance to worship songs, with a time dedicated to teaching the children more about Jesus.

Reading to reception

This year we (Rev Rudd, Rev Cooke and myself) started going into school on a Monday afternoon to read to the children in reception. We have done this to start building the relationships with them, and allowing the children to recognise when they then enter weekly worship in years 1 and above. Whilst it is only a short time with them, it is a joy to read to them and get to know them more.

Megan Davies

JOINT 'M&M'S' AND 'PLACES OF WELCOME' REPORT 2022

During the past year both 'M&M's' craft group and 'Places of Welcome' hospitality group have regularly met.

'M&M's' meet on Tuesday mornings, and 'Places of Welcome' on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings
– both from 10.00am to midday.

'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.' Hebrews 13:2

This is a 'key' passage from the Bible for us and we are very blessed by ALL who join us on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

During the year about 4 new people have come through the doors only to subsequently never miss these mornings which have become an important part of their weekly routine.

During this time we have shared and enjoyed gentle and peaceful fellowship

and it was a delight to celebrate the milestone birthdays of
Maggi Pittard, Ann Bolton and Roger Maud.

'M&M's' and 'Places of Welcome' happen because of a team effort.
In September, we were very sorry to lose Dee Zhang - her most enthusiastic input
was a great blessing to us all, but we wish her well as she trains to become a nurse -
it is lovely that she and her family now worship at St John's regularly.
It is an answer to prayer that there are so many helpers that we need a rota!!!!
Carl, Sue, Anne and Liz help on Tuesdays (plus Francis when available),
and Wednesdays are managed by Pauline and Tony Pittard and Steve Gale.
..... serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.' 1 Peter 4:10

On Tuesdays 'M&Ms' numbers range from around 6 – 10 and 'Places of Welcome'
from around 4 – 10.

On Wednesdays between 6 – 10 people meet under the 'Places of Welcome'
scheme

– a gentle increase in numbers from last year.

On a remaining sad note, it is a great shame that Pat Leese has not been able to be
with us

– she is very much missed but is always kept in our thoughts and prayers by those
who visit her and Albert.

It is lovely to share Tuesday mornings with M&M's and a pleasure to see their
wonderful crafting skills which encourages others to be involved and initiates some
excellent conversation!

The aim of the Groups remains the same
– simply to be there offering hospitality and a sanctuary to all who pass by and call in
on St John's.

It would be wonderful if the Church was able to open similarly on more days of the
week

– but we pray and trust in God to guide us in this.

Most importantly:
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Liz Clarke

Pastoral Care Report

Pastoral care continues throughout the benefice with many (who may not be on 'the team') involved. If that's you, thank you. You may not realise how much the odd phone call or contact is so greatly appreciated. Just saying hello to a new face or one you've not spoken to before can make such a difference. The team - Carl Rudd, Sue Cooke, Anne Scott, Lyn Ryder, Nicola Woodhouse and I-work across the three churches of the benefice and have met regularly throughout the year to pray for and bring to each other's attention any needs or concerns.

Home communion is taken regularly, by all members of the team, to those who are unable to attend services. A monthly service is held at Bradbury House which extends our pastoral care to the wider community. Visits are made to people in their homes, in hospital, in a hospice or residential care or wherever the need arises. Visits and ongoing care and concern continue for families of those involved in

funerals over the last year. It is often at such sad times that people engage with the church and welcome support that pastoral care can offer.

There is a notion that pastoral care is only for the older generation and whilst many visits do involve that group there are also many that involve people of all ages. We all need God's tender care and compassion. Please, do inform a member of the team of any concerns. We are here to help each other and share Christ's healing work in the benefice and wider community.

Isobel Wakerell.

WORLD FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Who we are?

We are a group made up of members of the congregation that support the Church by taking responsibility for allocating the Churches giving to charities.

We do this by meeting regularly, usually at a member's home to discuss and plan how the allocated church tithes should be shared out.

We are often asked by members of the congregation to support a particular charity. This is in addition to our annual giving. It is then our responsibility to ensure the chosen charity meets all the church and charity commission guidelines, if this is approved, we then allocate the money.

Throughout the year we are often called to give one-off emergency donations to respond to national and international crises. This request, if approved by the group is then presented to the PCC for their agreement.

Along with the allocation of church giving the group also organises church collections such as Christian Aid week the Annual Harvest and Christmas charities

Alongside this, we have also organised collections of non-monetary items i.e., blankets and gifts for charities such as the Stafford Women's Aid and House of Bread.

St Johns is a generously giving church and we each feel privileged to be in the group.

Lynda Ryder, Isobel Wakerell. Eddy Chambers. Kate Passey , Steve Gale and Pam Ayre.

Lynda Ryder

Prayer Chain Report

God is Good all the time.

The Prayer Chain continues to be active. We have more than 50 people who have agreed to receive the prayer requests. To me this seems like quite a high number. Some days I don't receive any prayer requests, most days there are some with the most in one day at 6. I try to get the requests out as quickly as I can although I sometimes miss them for a few hours, but as I am sure God is not constrained by time I do not worry too much.

I believe God answers prayer, otherwise I wouldn't be involved. It does take me a few minutes as I use software to send texts and one email. Sometimes I get messages back to say prayers have been answered quite quickly such as one requesting help in a traffic hold up to meet an appointment time. Prayer worked!

Please keep the requests coming and if you could also let me know the results of the prayer that would be great so that people who pray could know how God has responded.

Thank you.
Helen Dart

Music Report

During this year we were able to sing together as a congregation again without Covid restrictions. Many have commented that they do not feel their voices are the same as pre-pandemic or the Covid virus has affected breathing. It really has been a case of 'use it or lose it'. Please keep singing! We are praising God and He knows our weaknesses. A huge thank you to the musicians and Carl and Aileen who made it possible to have recorded songs throughout the pandemic when we could not sing together as a congregation.

Throughout the year a small group of musicians met regularly to pray and enjoy fellowship together whilst planning worship. We had our last recorded music in Sunday Worship on 24th April and since then due to the dedication of this team we have been able to offer live music every Sunday and some Wednesday afternoons. We are very blessed to have pianists Chris Scattergood, Christina Thomson and Liz Clarke together with Jamie Parkes on violin and guitar. Suresh Rajbhandari joins us on guitar when work commitments allow. As well as these commitments musicians have helped lead services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, two Remembering services, Christingle and Christmas services as well as at funerals held in St John's. The team provide a wide range of styles in worship and we seek God's guidance in the way ahead for music at St John's. Please pray for us.

'Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.'

Isobel Wakerell.

Flower Group Report

Whilst preparing to write this report on behalf of the Flower Group I looked back at previous APCM Reports in my Drop Box, my first ever Flower Group APCM report was written in 2014! I can only say a very humble thank you to the Lord and the amazing ladies past and present for their wonderful support and encouragement.

It is a privilege to work in this ministry and we all thank God for the talents he has bestowed upon each of us, and for the blessings of flowers and foliage.

We have been blessed to welcome two new members over the past six months Noreen Prior and Caroline Highland, we are always happy to welcome new members.

In addition to the regular weekly church flowers and festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas and Remembrance Sunday, special floral arrangements marked the Late Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and sadly her death, also flowers in memory of the passing of Church Family Members.

If you would like to sponsor a floral display for celebrations or commemorations, please contact a member of the Group as we are a self-funding group, hence fundraising events.

A fundraising Christmas Workshop in December was a great time of friendship, fellowship and fun and we hope to continue these events.

The Group thank everyone for the lovely comments that are frequently received about the floral displays.

Barbara Maltby

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH ST JOHN THE BAPTIST STAFFORD

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1st May 2022

Incumbent:

The Reverend Dr Carl Rudd
The Rectory
Westhead Avenue
Stafford

Independent Examiner:

Mr Malcolm Kidd
Chestnut Close
Derrington
Stafford

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE P.C.C. FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

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Baptism
Pastoral Care
World Focus Group
Prayer Chain
Music
Flower Group

1. Administrative Information

The parish church of St John the Baptist is situated on Bedford Avenue, Littleworth, Stafford and the correspondence address is, The Rectory, Westhead Avenue, Stafford. ST16 3RP

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting are:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Dr Carl Rudd
Curate	The Rev'd Sue Cooke
Readers	Mrs Isobel Wakerell
	Mr Francis Tamba
Wardens	Mrs Anne Scott
	Mr Francis Tamba

Deanery Mrs Wendy Clark
Synod
Representative

Elected Members

Mrs Pam Ayre	
Mrs Naomi Blears	
Mr Eddy Chambers	Hon Treasurer
Mr Steve Gale	
Mrs Kathleen Passey	Secretary
Mrs Sue Philp	
Mr Suresh Rajbhandari	
Mrs Isobel Wakerell	
Mrs Ann Woodcock	

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election if they feel called to do so.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish.

Rectors report *To be inserted*

2021 commenced in the midst of the COVID pandemic, and our highest priority was to seek to sustain the church as a single community, welcoming all who found us through the crucial online medium with the prayer chain an essential means of communication.

As worship in person returned, we have valued our worship and the activities that happen around worship to continue the growth of community relationships. Relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ, and the development of relationship through school, youth and childrens ministry, Places of welcome, M & M's, flowers, social activities and services are all important to the growth of the church. We give thanks for all that has grown community in the year.

We recognize the sad loss of Di Humphrey's who has been such a long term member of the church, and give thanks for her faithful service to God. We have been blessed with the licensing of readers, and our curate. We are looking to continue the spiritual growth for us all and to reach out into the wider community with baptism preparation, Sunbeams, and schools ministry.

Finance has to be acknowledged as a challenge, and whilst we give thanks for all that is given to the church. In order to sustain what is happening giving needs to increase.

Looking into 2022 we pray for the ongoing continued deepening of faith through teaching and the benefice away day. The blessing of seeing Sue Cooke priested, pray God will show us where we can join with him to grow our church family numerically.

PCC Review of the Year

Covid has created difficulties throughout the year but guided by Government & Diocesan regulations and advice we have continued PCC meetings in one form or another & maintained the worship and pastoral care at St John's.

Thanks go to Carl and Aileen for their faithfulness in recording and transmitting services where possible and to all the Ministry Team for playing their part in this.

The team was strengthened by the arrival of our Curate Sue Cooke as well as the Reader licensing of Christina Thompson and the transfer of Francis Tamba's licence from Zambia.

We welcomed Francis as Church Warden too.

Kate Passey decided to temporarily relinquish her Secretary's role in consideration of her husband's illness. We wish them well.

Alan & Margaret Bancroft stepped back from their musical involvement in services, they will be much missed. PCC presented a gift and thanked them for their loyal service over the years.

Children and Youth activities ably organised by Megan Davies, were assured when in November the YMCA confirmed their financial support for the next two years. We congratulate Megan & Ben on their engagement in December.

Through the World Focus Group, we have continued our monthly 10% tithed giving where practicable and possible however some monies will have to be carried over into 2022. Discussion has continued on how we can properly support charities in foreign countries to ensure the money given is used to the best advantage of local needs.

We have sent financial aid to Tamil Baptist Church in Chennai, India. A member of our congregation brought the plight of the church to our attention and as soon as a new Pastor was appointed, we were able to send relief to forty families suffering as a result of Covid.

Both the Benefice Administrator and the Youth & Children's Worker were furloughed under the government scheme for the duration of lockdown along with the church cleaner, though we retained some of the latter's hours to facilitate hygiene and safety whenever we were able to resume some face-to-face gatherings.

We are pleased that most of the groups and users of the church & hall including Place of Welcome and M&M's were able to regroup when Government rules permitted and it was felt by them and us to be safe to do so.

The creation of a Food from the Nations group to recognise the diversity of our congregation through catering & sharing food from different cultures has proved very successful. A Nepalese evening in September was held with a delicious meal provided by Suresh & Pramila. Making full use of the re-ordered church added to the occasion and provided a great space for sharing.

Thanks go to everyone who plays a part in the worship and life at St Johns and may we all continue to prosper and grow in the love of God.

Psalm 133 v 1

Anne Scott (acting PCC Secretary)

Curates report

I want to begin my report by thanking not just Carl and Anne and Francis and the Ministry Team but every member of the church family for making me feel so incredibly welcome – it continues to be a joy as well as a privilege to serve in such a friendly environment.

There is a regularity to some of my roles and responsibilities but not all. On Mondays, I help at Sunbeams with Megan and the team – recognising that Sunbeams is an excellent opportunity to form relationships with folks who don't attend church. Once a month on a Monday, I am part of a small team who visits Bradbury House for a service of Holy Communion. In the afternoon, I am on a rota to visit St. John's Primary Academy to read to Reception classes with the aim again of building relationships with the children. I have also visited the school to lead assemblies and I am now on the Governing Body. Monday evenings are often spent at PCC meetings across the Benefice.

Team meeting follows on Tuesday and hopefully a chance to enjoy a coffee with folks at Place of Welcome – before attending a Pastoral Team meeting if there is one. I also have a weekly supervision meeting with Carl where I am encouraged to reflect on the previous week and its successes (and failures) as well as plan the next.

Wednesdays are generally quieter; a zoom prayer meeting begins a day which is usually spent reading and preparing sermons or assignments, with fortnightly attendance at Holy Communion in the afternoon. I have also been involved in Study groups at church – attending the Advent one and co-leading the one for Lent.

Thursdays are Study Days with regular training days and meetings organised by the diocese.

Leading and preaching services on Sundays and occasional Wednesdays are two of the highlights of the week. There are other services, too, such as funerals which demand a great deal of thought and preparation, although are a privilege to be part of.

Using the START course, I have helped Carl to lead a small group in church preparing families for baptism and have also run a course independently with a young family.

In this framework, it has been possible to add home visits and I look forward to being able to share communion on these visits once I am priested on the 19th June.

I conclude by thanking everyone again, but especially Carl who, as my training incumbent, is especially thoughtful and encouraging.

Sue Cooke

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT - 2021

‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.’

- Proverbs 3: 5-6

Covid-19 continued to take its toll in 2021 affecting both prayer and worship. However, thanks to our Rector, the PCC, Ministry and Worship Teams; including direction from the Diocese, we found a way to continue to praise God. Thanks go to all in the prayer chain link who continued to pray and contact others during this period and continue to do so.

To comply with Government & Diocesan regulations we have at various times had to close the doors or been able to worship while maintaining a distance. Activities had to be cancelled leading to loss of income and meetings with fellow worshippers. To combat this, a Cascade system was put in place which has worked well.

PCC and other meetings during the first part of the year took place via Zoom, and Sunday services were available on-line each week with readings and prayers from members of the Benefice congregations. It was only in April that we were finally able to physically attend church services. In May a new PCC was elected; thanks go to all those who had served diligently and thanks also to those who felt called to serve in the new one. Various get togethers and fundraising activities were held, which included Food from the Nations in September, Hot pot Lunch & over 60's Christmas lunch. Thanks to the newly formed catering team FftN who provided and served the food.

The wardens continued to have regular meetings with the Rector Carl concerning different aspects of life in the parish and so work closely together for the good of the church.

The musicians Jamie, Suresh & Chris are continuing to meet on Saturdays, along with Isobel. The idea is to prepare for Sunday worship and any other events that require musical praise.

Ian and Rajesh continue to be of great help around the church, both with maintenance and keeping the surroundings of the church & garden cared for. Thanks to Ian for arranging and putting up the new screen viewable from the chancel.

Bookings for the church hall have picked up with activities throughout the week.

Thanks go to Jane Judson for her commitment to processing these enquiries while we still must maintain health and safety for everyone.

During the year we have sadly lost some long-standing members of the congregation, but we have also welcomed some new ones.

Anne Scott & Francis Tamba

Fabric Report

Covid has caused some delay in maintenance work during the year however repairs to the church roof were completed early in March. All necessary safety checks on gas and heating have been duly carried out.

The dormer windows continued to give cause for concern and buckets were a regular impediment in the side aisle and occasionally in other places. We had hoped that the windows would be fixed in November, but this was delayed by weather and other factors.

As the final step to complete the re-ordering programme a Faculty was prepared and permission was granted for the fitting of a screen viewable from the chancel. Ian Ryder was responsible for the purchase and fitting of an adjustable bracket and large television screen for this purpose. It is of great benefit for celebrant, leader, and others to have this facility, so we thank Ian for all the work that went into completing the task.

The gift of a simple three strand wooden cross was made early in the year. The donor wishes to remain anonymous, but the cross provides a different focus above the High Altar. The Christus Rex is being safely stored in the organ loft and the plain wooden cross made by the late Roy Bolton will be used during Lent as before.

The large spotlights in the chancel have been replaced with new fittings.

Discussions had taken place during the summer when the Girl Guides informed us of a change of use. As the Guide Hut is on Church property we had to request that such use would be limited to appropriate activities. When the difficulties were ironed out it was agreed, and to avoid the costly involvement of solicitors by either party, that the status quo would prevail.

The office computer was replaced and a desk in the office cleared for use by the new Curate.

It has proved very difficult to obtain a match for the craftsman applied gold lettering on the appointments board in church. After two or three attempts with the modern method we have had to settle for the nearest option available.

Plumbing difficulties in the kitchen have been resolved by Ian and the Rector freeing up and replacing some internal drainage and, with help from Seven Trent, external problems.

Thank you to all volunteer cleaners who maintain the church each week. My thanks go to Ian Ryder, Rajan Sambandam, and Francis Tamba for their assistance throughout the year with both the internal and external upkeep of St John's.

Anne Scott

Deanery Synod Report

As the Synod has not met person to person during the pandemic but instead held Zoom on-line prayer meetings there will be no report at this time.

Wendy Clark

Electoral Roll Report

The total number on the Electoral Roll is 98 as opposed to 97 last year.

The figures are as follows-

Age Group	Inside Parish		Outside Parish		Total	
Under 25	2	2.04%	1	1.02%	3	3.06%
25 - 44	11	11.22%	6	6.13%	17	17.35%
45 - 59	16	16.32%	3	3.07%	19	19.39%
60 +	36	36.73%	23	23.47%	59	60.20%
Totals	65	66.31%	33	33.69%	98	100%

Sadly both Di Humphreys and Audrey Cowper have died during the last year. They are sadly missed, especially for the wonderful works performed by both beautiful ladies.

I see that Di quoted a bible passage from Matthew Chapter 18 at the end of last year's report which is very appropriate, verse 20

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Ann Woodcock Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurers Report

Finance report for APCM 1st May 2022

My thanks, as usual, to all who have assisted me - Treasury Team members and sides people.

As last year, I have used Receipts and Payments accounting as allowed by The Charity Commission. This means that I have not allowed for amounts outstanding and receivable at the 31st December as well as not apportioning amounts paid in the year that refer to 2021 (prepayments) and calculations of expenditure to 31st December that will be included in 2022 bills (accruals).

Accounts for 2021

You, the Church members contributed around £60,500 including gift aid towards church finances and I thank you all for your generosity.

The Unrestricted funds of the Church are the General Fund and the Designated Funds.

The total General Fund income for the year was £65,871 and expenditure £75,439 giving a deficit of £9,568. This deficit included a full year of our Youth Worker's salary and expenses paid out of the General Fund. It was possible to transfer £10,080 from the Youth Worker Restricted Fund to offset expenses and allow for a contribution towards overheads. This transfer changed the deficit into a surplus of £513.

General Fund income included your response to St John's Gift Day Covid Appeal £9,392 and £5,163 from the Government's Furlough Scheme. Expenditure was reduced by 2 months Parish Share at 50% a saving of £3,945. Without these sums the deficit on the General Fund would have been almost £18,000 and would have put us in real financial difficulties. Designated Funds increased by £8, (deposit account interest) and were reduced by £1,560 (£1,000 for fixing roof tiles and £560 to replace the office computer and monitor. At the year end Designated Funds totalled £20,305.

The Restricted Funds of the Church can only be used for the purpose of which they were given.

Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission dictate that it is only the General Fund that is "readily available". At the 31st December 2021 the balance of the General Fund is £23,379.

Based on 2021 running costs, the above figure is insufficient to satisfy our Reserves policy of representing six to nine months operating costs. It would only cover 4 months.

Quinquennial Survey

PCC agreed in 2019 that the Designated Fabric Fund should be used for Quinquennial costs, (required by the five year survey of the building). The balance of this Fund at the year end is £15,055. Expenditure over the next few years is expected to exceed this figure.

Conclusion

Our financial situation over the next few years gives cause for concern and is continuing to be addressed by the PCC.

Eddy Chambers, Hon Treasurer

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1138634
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

This report is on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

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 an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 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 Commission under 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 you as PCC members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiners Statement.

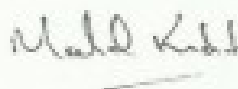
In connection with the examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed

Date 25th February 2022.



Mr. M. D. Kidd CPFA
Chestnut Close
Derrington, Stafford

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford							
Registered Charity Number 1138634							
RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS							
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021							
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endow-ment	Total funds	Prior year total funds
		General	Designated				
	Note					2021	2020
INCOMING RESOURCES							
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Voluntary income	2(a)	55,011	0	13,546	0	68,557	65,285
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	3,813	0	0	0	3,813	2,300
Investment income	2(c)	12	8	0	0	21	181
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2(d)	1,872	0	0	0	1,872	1,218
Other incoming resources	2(e)	5,163	0	781	0	5,944	6,990
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		65,871	8	14,327	0	80,206	75,974
RESOURCES USED							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	0	0	0	0	0	99
Fund raising trading cost of goods sold	3(b)	133	0	0	0	133	0
Charitable activities	3(c)	75,306	1,568	522	0	77,396	75,511
Governance costs	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other resources used	3(e)	0	0	543	0	543	246
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		75,439	1,568	1,065	0	78,072	75,856
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS BEFORE TRANSFERS							
		-9,568	-1,560	13,262	0	2,135	118
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS							
	4						
Gross transfers between funds - in		10,080	0	0	0	10,080	8,296
Gross transfers between funds - out		0	0	-10,080		-10,080	-8,296
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		513	-1,560	3,182	0	2,135	118
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
ALL ASSETS AT 1st JANUARY 2021		22,866	21,905	6,724	0	51,495	51,377
ALL ASSETS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021	5	23,379	20,345	9,906	0	53,630	51,495
N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.							

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford								
STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES - 31st DECEMBER 2021								
				Unrestricted funds	Restricted	Endow	Total	Total funds
				General	Designated	fund	ment	funds
				£	£	£	£	2020
								£
Cash funds								
	Cash at bank and in hand			-3,816	1,965	9,906	0	8,055
	Deposit funds-CCLA			26,927	15,055	0	0	41,983
				23,111	17,020	9,906	0	50,038
Other monetary assets								
	LDBF-Rectory decoration fund			0	1,325	0	0	1,325
Assets retained for church use								
	Piano			0	2,000	0	0	2,000
Current Assets								
	Debtors and prepayments			350	0	0	0	350
Liabilities								
	Church tithe			3,423	0	0	0	3,423
	Monies received in advance			83	0	0	0	83
				3,505	0	0	0	3,506
N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.								
Approved by The Parochial Church Council on the 21st February 2022								
Rev Dr Carl Rudd				Isobel Wakerell				

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2021

Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2008 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015, taking advantage of the relaxations for small charities.

These financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. With effect from the 1st January 2020 the church has adopted Receipts and Payments accounting. Whilst transitioning the "true" receipts and payments figures are affected by transactions set off against provision for amounts owing and due and accruals that were brought forward from last year's accounts.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are funds given for a particular purpose and events where the money raised was for a particular purpose.

These accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised only when the tax refund is received. Such refunds are allocated to the General Fund except for the tax refunds on donations to the Youth Worker's Fund and Project Funds for major improvements. Grants and legacies are accounted for when received. Funds raised by hospitality, soup lunches and similar events are for the most part accounted for net, unless it is practicable to account for them gross. Sales of books are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income due from letting of church premises is accounted for as income when received. Fees payable to the diocese and to organists and vergers are held in an Agency collection account until paid. In a similar manner, events not directly relating to church business where the church account is used for gathering deposits and paying out the same are held in Agency collection.

Income from CBF deposits

Interest payments are accounted for when they enter the various accounts.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share un-paid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable Church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable Church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 is not valued as an asset to facilitate comparison with previous years and as such is not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since then have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently expected useful economic life on a straight line basis.

Other fixtures fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years for furniture, five years with residual value for musical instruments, and three years for computers. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford									
Notes to the Financial Statements									
For the year ending 31 December 2021									
RECEIPTS									
				General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total	
			Note				2021	2020	
				£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY INCOME			2(a)						
	Regular Giving			33,792	0	3,480	37,272	40,008	
	Collections and Other Giving			2,305	0	0	2,305	1,570	
	Gift Days Covid-19 Giving			9,392	0	0	9,392	7,305	
	One-off Gifts			549	0	510	1,059	717	
	Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Giving			8,973	0	1,060	10,033	10,722	
	Legacies			0	0	0	0	0	
	Recurring Grants-Youth Worker			0	0	8,496	8,496	4,963	
				55,011	0	13,546	68,557	65,285	
ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS			2(b)						
	Activities and Events			556	0	0	556	190	
	Income from Church Hall Lettings			3,258	0	0	3,258	2,110	
				3,813	0	0	3,813	2,300	
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS			2(c)						
	Interest Received			12	8	0	21	181	
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) ACTIVITIES			2(d)						
	Fees from Weddings and Funerals			1,567	0	0	1,567	695	
	Church Hall Lettings-Objectives			305	0	0	305	523	
				1,872	0	0	1,872	1,218	
OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES			2(e)						
	Grants-Corona-Virus Job Retention Scheme			5,163	0	0	5,163	6,670	
	Restricted Receipts from Group Funds			0	0	781	781	321	
	Other Funds Generated			0	0	0	0	0	
				5,163	0	781	5,944	6,990	
				65,871	8	14,327	80,206	75,974	
N.B Any small discrepancy will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.									

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford						
Notes to the Financial Statements						
For the year ending 31 December 2021						
PAYMENTS						
	Notes	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
COST OF GENERATION OF VOLUNTARY INCOME	3(a)	0	0	0	0	99
FUND RAISING TRADING COSTS	3(b)					
Activities and Events		133	0	0	133	0
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) EXPENSE	3(c)					
Charitable Giving		4,087	0	0	4,087	4,270
Parish Share		43,397	0	0	43,397	41,424
Youth Worker's Salary and Expenses		10,321	0	0	10,321	10,248
Administrator's-Salary		5,324	0	0	5,324	5,826
Church Office		623	568	0	1,191	832
Administration Expenses		305	0	0	305	280
Expenses of Clergy and Lay Readers		742	0	0	742	817
Mission and Training		90	0	60	0	299
Upkeep of Services		1,017	0	0	1,017	1,617
Church Running-Insurance		1,761	0	0	1,761	1,911
Cleaner's Salary and Expenses		4,214	0	0	4,214	4,157
Church Maintenance		895	1,000	0	1,895	665
Upkeep of Grounds		20	0	0	20	0
Gifts		230	0	0	230	80
Miscellaneous expenses		60	0	0	60	40
Church Running-Utilities		2,219	0	0	2,219	2,343
Re-ordering of Church		0	0	462	462	702
		75,306	1,568	522	77,396	75,511
GOVERNANCE COSTS	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER RESOURCES USED	3(e)					
Restricted Expenditure from Group Funds		0	0	543	543	246
		75,439	1,568	1,065	78,072	75,856
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	4					
The PCC approved transfers to General Fund from:						
a Youth Worker Fund as a contribution towards Overheads		860	0	0	860	600
		0	0	-860	-860	-600
b Youth Worker Fund as a contribution to offset salary and expenses payments made		9,220	0	0	9,220	7,356
		0	0	-9,220	-9,220	-7,356
c Away Days Fund allocation of receipts to cover actual costs		0	0	0	0	340
		0	0	0	0	-340
		10,080	0	-10,080	0	0
N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.						

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford															
Notes to the Financial Statements															
For the year ending 31 December 2021															
FUNDS		Note 5													
		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				RESTRICTED GROUP FUNDS								TOTAL	
		General		Designated		Flowers		Sunbeams		Over 60s		Youth Club		GROUP FUNDS	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance 1 January 2021			22,866		21,905		349		801		721		1,366		3,237
Receipts		65,871		8		60		272		10		449		791	
Payments		-75,439		-1,568		-132		-189		-41		-181		-543	
Transfers		10,080		0		0				0		0		0	
Excess/Deficit			513		-1,560		-72		83		-31		268		248
Balance 31 December 2021			23,379		20,345		277		884		690		1,634		3,485
		OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS						TOTAL OTHER		TOTAL ALL		TOTAL FUNDS			
		Youth Worker		Places of Welcome		Quinquennial		Projects		RESTRICTED		RESTRICTED			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance 1 January 2021			2,383		0		150		934		3,486		6,724		51,495
Receipts		12,881		500		38		118		13,536		14,327		80,206	
Payments		0		-60		0		-462		-522		-1,065		-78,072	
Transfers		-10,080		0		0		0		-10,080		-10,080		0	
Excess/Deficit			2,801		440		38		-344		2,934		3,182		2,135
Balance 31 December 2021			5,184		440		188		590		6,420		9,906		53,630
		Away Day						148		AudioVisual					
Balance 1 January 2021			19					442		Reordering Church					
Receipts		0						590							
Payments		0													
Transfers		0													
Excess/Deficit			0												
Balance 31 December 2021			19	NB Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound											

Deanery Synod Report

Youth and Children's Worker Report January- December 2021

Children's Church

Children's church is available for those children and young people who would like to explore and understand more about God. We meet during the Sunday morning communion services, and we usually learn about the same bible readings that the sermon is based on. The session includes the welcome chant, a dance/song, a game and lesson (which usually involves an animated video), followed by a craft. Once communion has started in the service, we rejoin the church family to partake in communion, and have an activity booklet to complete at the back, as well as joining in with worship. The number of children vary week by week from 4-10. It is a joy to watch these children grow in Christ.

Messy Church

Ordinarily, Messy Church is on the first Sunday of every month. People come to learn about Bible stories through a series of related practical activities. The Messy Church magazine has been a great help in organising and creating these services, providing inspiration for the crafts and activities. We get a wide range of people attending and numbers fluctuate from service to service.

JesusJam

New to 2021 was the creation of JesusJam, the replacement service on a Sunday afternoon, 4pm. The format of the service has developed over time, but it is now well established and covers the basics in our faith (parables, books of the bible) along with lots of singing and dancing. As a new service, the numbers attending have fluctuated over time, but I am hopeful we can grow the core group of regular attendees.

Harvest Picnic & Light Party

As a result of a meeting I attended during the pandemic, I was inspired to create different events within the calendar year. Starting in the autumn term, we had a harvest picnic and light party. Both were well attended and were good opportunities to share in fellowship and worship in a different way. I am always looking for additional opportunities to run unique events during the year. Many thanks to Rev Cooke for supporting these events by bringing God's word to both.

TNT

A credit to the two girls who continue to attend TNT, their dedication and passion is really pleasing to see. TNT has been challenging with Covid. However, it has not stopped us from meeting. Where we have not been able to meet in person, we have met online. We have been doing some great Bible studying, looking at women in the Bible, as well as comparing the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Many thanks to Jane Judson and Anne Scott for their continued support with this group.

Zone

In September 2021, we relaunched Zone. This is a 90 minute youth club, on Wednesday evenings, for young people in years 5, 6 and 7. The first half of the session is filled with games (table tennis, table football, pool, games consoles, etc.) with the second half dedicated to a planned craft activity, or games. We also run a tuck shop during the first half of the session. We have had a great response from both the children and parents, with numbers averaging 15-20 children each week.

Sunbeams

Sunbeams is a baby and toddler group on a Monday morning (9.15-11am) and is one of our most popular groups. Four sets of toys are rotated, with a different set used each week. Different messy/sensory activities are also laid out each week. At the end of the session, we sit down for story and song time before we say goodbye. We see new families most weeks and have set up a public Facebook page, so it is easy for people to view and enquire (and I have had lots of messages!). Our Christmas party this year was a great success, with thanks once again to Santa. Thank you also to those who continue to give their time for this group by volunteering - we couldn't do it without you!

School Worship

At the beginning of the year, I was still making lessons and dances on videos to send to St John's for their worship. It was only from the summer term that I could go back into school for our worship. For an end of year school worship, Rev Rudd and I delivered a lesson on the playground to each of the year bubbles, teaching the children about making the right choices and building our house on the rock. We also held a service for the Year 6 leavers in church, to encourage them in their faith as they made the transition to secondary school. We continue to maintain a good relationship with St John's School, as many of our Zone young people are on roll there. 2021 ended with a Christmas school worship at St John's School, led by myself, Rev Rudd and Rev Cooke.

Megan Davies

JOINT 'M&M'S' AND 'PLACES OF WELCOME' REPORT

'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.'

Hebrews 13:2

Since St John's re-opened last September both 'M&M's' craft group and 'Places of Welcome' hospitality group have reconvened.

'M&M's' meet on Tuesday mornings,
and 'Places of Welcome' on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.
Because of the new chairs it is now possible for both Groups to meet together on Tuesday mornings in the Church,
and over the past months we have shared and enjoyed gentle and peaceful fellowship

- lots of laughter too, plus adoration of Rosie, Judy's delightful dog who plays a very valuable part in the morning's proceedings.

'M&M's' and 'Places of Welcome' happen because of a team effort.
On Tuesdays over the past few months, Dee Zhang has given loyal and cheerful service in helping with every aspect of the morning and we are most grateful to everyone else who helps with setting up the refreshments,

putting out and bringing back the billboards, moving tables etc. etc..
On Wednesday mornings Pauline and Tony Pittard are most faithful in their commitment to welcoming and talking with people - we are deeply grateful to them for enabling the Church to be open on two days in the week.

On Tuesdays 'M&Ms' numbers range from around 6 - 14 and 'Places of Welcome' from around 4 - 8.

On Wednesdays between 5 - 8 people meet under the 'Places of Welcome' scheme.

On a sad note, it is a great shame that Pat Leese ('M&M's' leader) can't be with us

- she is very much missed but is always kept in our thoughts and prayers by those who visit her and Albert.

The aim of the Groups remains the same

- simply to be there offering hospitality and sanctuary to all who pass by and call in on St John's.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

It would be wonderful if the Church was able to open similarly on more days of the week

- but we pray and trust in God to guide us in this.

'..... serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.'

[1 Peter 4:10](#)

Liz Clarke 16.02.22

Baptism Report

During the early part of 2021 we were not allowed to conduct any baptisms, and it was then in September we were able to begin preparing families through the START course for baptism.

Two courses began in September with two families prepared for infant baptism and one Adult in readiness for confirmation in 2022. START gives us an excellent tool to talk about faith and is providing real faith discussions with families who may not have their own personal relationship with Jesus.

We look forward to the confirmation in 2022 and give thanks for the baptisms we were able to conduct in 2021. We will also be preparing families in 2022 to baptise those infants who have not been able to receive baptism during the current pandemic.

Carl Rudd

Pastoral Care Report

Carl Rudd, Lyn Ryder, Anne Scott, Isobel Wakerell and Nicola Woodhouse make up the Pastoral Care team. They meet regularly throughout the year so that we remain aware of those who need pastoral care.

Because of Corona Virus restrictions it hasn't always been possible to make face to face visits but every effort has continued to keep in touch with telephone calls, through the cascade system or even visits at a safe distance in the garden or through a window.

As soon as it was permitted then visits were reinstated but always with the consent of the recipient or family members to maintain health & safety for everyone. Carl has resumed Home Communion wherever possible; Isobel has been able to make some visits to Di Humphreys and Julie Bass.

The young families have been hard hit during the pandemic with children missing school and their friends without being properly able to understand the reasons why and parents unable to fully explain without causing worry to small children. We have done as much as possible to support these families with help from Megan our Youth & Children's worker.

Those who have been bereaved also struggled when funerals have been limited to small numbers of immediate family. The Service of Remembering in November was particularly welcome to those who had need of comfort for their loss.

With the help of our loving God we continue to pray for all those members of our congregation and beyond who need our support. Please continue to bring such people to the attention of the group where possible.

Isobel Wakerell Lay Reader

THE WORLD FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Who we are?

We are a group made up of members of the congregation that support the Church by taking responsibility for allocating the Churches giving to charities.

We do this by meeting regularly, usually at a member's home to discuss and plan how the allocated church tithes should be shared out. Whenever we are able, we choose members or groups from the church and ask them to choose a charity they wish to support. This is in addition to our annual giving. It is then our responsibility to ensure the chosen charity meets all the church and charity commission guidelines, if this is approved, we then allocate the money.

Throughout the year we are often called to give one-off emergency donations to respond to national and international crises. This request, if approved by the group is then presented to the PCC for their agreement. Along with the allocation of church giving the group also organises church collections such as Christian Aid week the Annual Harvest and Christmas charities

This year we are hoping to host an event in the church hall for Christian aid week

Alongside this, we have also organised collections of non-monetary items i.e., blankets and gifts for charities such as the Stafford Women's Aid and House of Bread.

St Johns is a generously giving church and we each feel privileged to be in this group. If you would like to join us, please speak to any one of them members we would love you to join us.

Lynda Ryder. Isobel Wakerell, Eddy Chambers. Kate Passey and Steve Gale.

Prayer Chain Report

God is Good all the time

The prayer Chain continues to be active. We have more than 50 people who have agreed to receive the prayer requests. To me this seems like a quite high number. Some days I don't receive any prayer requests, most days there are some with the most in one day at 6. I try to get the requests out as quickly as I can although sometimes I miss them for a few hours, but as I am sure God is not constrained by time I do not worry too much.

I believe God answers prayer, otherwise I wouldn't be involved. One example of immediate answer was when someone on the way to a family funeral had been stuck in a very long traffic jam for ages and they were concerned that they might miss the funeral. They sent in a prayer request for help, which I picked up and forwarded immediately. It does take me a few minutes as I use software to send to texts and one email, but by the time I had finished doing this I had another message from them family saying 'wow that was quick' I initially thought this was a comment about my speed, it was actually a comment about how quickly the traffic had suddenly cleared. They were not late for the funeral.

Please keep the requests coming and if you could also let me know the results of the prayer that would be great so that people who pray could know how God has responded.

Thank you

Helen Dart

Music Report

After many months of humming behind masks it was a joy to be able to sing again, albeit still masked. Though still not back to 'normal' those leading worship have been able to sing unmasked. For most of the year full online services were prepared by Carl and Aileen allowing those unable to attend in person to be part of the worship and sing along at home.

Most Sunday services have been blessed with at least one musician. On occasions pre-recorded songs, from a large library created last year, have been used on the screen to support congregational singing. Though not

ideal it has given the small, dedicated group a chance to worship without leading.

Musicians have, when restrictions allowed, met together weekly to prepare for worship; finding new songs, revisiting some, and finding real joy in the fellowship of rehearsing together. As a group the musicians are still working out the way forward for worship at St John's. A huge thank you to Alan & Margaret Bancroft and Ann Bolton for their many years of service with worshipful piano playing and to Ann, in latter years, leadership of the Music Group. As Ann stepped down and the pandemic struck, we have been faced with various challenges looking at how music in worship continues.

Thank you to Suresh Rajbhandari who has come on board and thank you to all the musicians who have led worship on Sundays and Wednesdays during these difficult times. Please continue to pray for the music at St John's as we go forward. St John's has for many years had a wonderful eclectic mix of music styles/genres; indeed some have been drawn to faith through its music, with God's guidance may that continue.

"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." Psalm 96:1-2.

Isobel Wakerell, Lay Reader.

Flower Group Report

The Flower Group are a committed friendly bunch of ladies who work well together both as a group and in pairs on a weekly basis providing floral arrangements in Church throughout the year. Sadly, over the past eighteen months three of our members have found it necessary to retire from this ministry, reducing our numbers to seven.

In addition to the weekly floral arrangements and displays for the festivals of Advent and Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Services, group members decorated the church and reception venue for the marriage on 29th May 2021 of Gemma Swift and Simon Constable, tributes for the funeral of Diane Humphries and the recent Confirmation Service. It is a great privilege to use the amazing creations of flowers and foliage provided by our Heavenly Father to honour his name.

We look forward to welcoming new members, whilst we tend to be referred to as "the flower ladies" we are open to all genders and ages, please get in contact. Help and support is available.

My thanks to the group members and to you the church family for your support and lovely comments on the floral designs throughout the year.

Barbara Maltby

Chair Flower Group

Accounts

PARISH CHURCH ST JOHN THE BAPTIST STAFFORD

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

18th April 2021

Incumbent:

The Revered Dr Carl Rudd
The Rectory
Westhead Avenue
Stafford

Independent Examiner:

Mr Malcolm Kidd
Chestnut Close
Derrington
Stafford

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD TRUSTEES ANNUAL
REPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE P.C.C. FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

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To follow

World Focus Group
Places of Welcome
Children's and Youth Worker
Pastoral Care and Baptism
Prayer Chain
St Johns C of E Primary Academy Report
Music
Flower Group

1. Administrative Information

The parish church of St John the Baptist is situated on Bedford Avenue, Littleworth, Stafford and the correspondence address is, The Rectory, Westhead Avenue, Stafford.ST16 3RP

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting are:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Dr Carl Rudd
Curate	Vacant
Readers	Mrs Isobel Wakerell
Wardens	Mrs Anne Scott

Deanery	Mrs Wendy Clark
Synod Representative	

Elected Members

Mr Eddy Chambers	Hon Treasurer
Mrs Kathleen Passey	Secretary
Mr Steve Gale	
Ms Diane Humphreys	
Mrs Lyn Ryder	
Mrs Isobel Wakerell	
Mrs Naomi Blears (nee Wakerell)	
Mrs Sue Philp	
Mr Suresh Rajbhandari	
Mr Francis Tamba	

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election if they feel called to do so.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish.

Rectors report

Dear St Johns,

2020 will be a year that is never forgotten with Covid 19. We have seen the sadness with the death of Les Woodcock. We also have great thanks to give to God for his steadfast love. Knowing His consistent presence in hard times we can look to better times ahead with greater trust in His provision.

I want to thank everyone who has helped to sustain our worship, cared for our church family, our building and continued to walk with us through this time. No matter what is happening there are three things that we never want to change; Love God, love one another, love the stranger.

With this in mind I would ask you to pray for the whole PCC, all in leadership, and any you know in need. The church responded amazingly as lockdowns meant we could not meet, with phone calls, zoom chats, online services for worship and prayer. Changes in financial giving have sustained us whilst also recognising our income is not reaching expenditure.

We look to continue to deepen the faith of us all and at the same time we look to stretch out to reach those searching for God and His kingdom of eternal life. As a stronger community with deeper faith we reflect Jesus more, and as restrictions lift we look to push forward as activities will restart and new ones begin. Pray for and prayer walk the new estates, opportunities for kingdom growth.

'Let light shine out of darkness' ... we have this treasure in jars of clay to show this all-surpassing power is from God. 2 Cor 4v6,7.

Every Blessing in Christ.

Carl

Carl Rudd Rector

PCC Review of the year

Due to the on-going global Covid 19 pandemic the Parochial Church Council Meeting (PCC) have been held online via Zoom for the majority of 2020. Members that did not have access to the Internet have been included in discussions/decisions by on-going contact with Carl the Rector. Relevant paperwork has also been circulated to them in paper format.

The last year has seen the need for the PCC to be flexible and open to change often at short notice, particularly in decision and arrangements for worship. There have been a variety of opportunities for worship, from open public services, online & private prayer that have been conducted in an appropriate manner as government and Church of England advice/mandate has allowed.

At the delayed APCM in October David Blake resigned as Church Warden and also Robert Judson as Verger, both Dave and Rob will be missed and were thanked for all their professionalism and dedication they gave in carrying out their roles. Both roles currently remain vacant, although two new members

were welcomed as PCC members Suresh Rajbhandari and Francis Tamba and we look forward to their input to decisions made at meeting.

Also I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in my role as PCC Secretary, particularly during these unprecedented times. From dealing with queries, 'signposting' me and on a practical level helping to ensure minutes of meeting are hand delivered to persons not on email etc., thanks again.

Kate Passey PCC Secretary

Church Wardens Report

This year has been notable for the Covid-19 virus which has governed how we as a church have been able to worship. Thanks are due to Carl, Isobel and Megan for keeping ministry available albeit in very different circumstances. To comply with Government & Diocesan regulations we have at various times had to close the doors or been able to worship while maintaining a distance.

Activities have had to be cancelled leading to loss of income and meetings with fellow worshippers. To combat this a Cascade system was put in place which has worked well. PCC and other meetings have taken place via Zoom and Sunday services are available on-line each week with readings and prayers from members of the Benefice congregations.

Before the pandemic struck, we had enjoyed an Away Day led by David Primrose at Cloverley Hall in February. A future time away together has been deferred until 2022.

Storage cupboards made from the old pew fronts have been installed in the Lady Chapel and corridor. A larger wall hung screen for the convenience of the celebrant and leader will replace the current small one. This will complete the planned reordering.

In October we said farewell to Dave Blake who has served as church warden for the past four and a half years. Peter Grainger also moved to a new location in December. Both will be a loss to St John's and PCC. My grateful thanks to both having worked well together as part of a team.

Anne Scott Churchwarden

Fabric Report

The building fabric is generally in good condition. The Quinquennial Inspection completed in October 2019 identified that timber windows require decoration. Remedial works were required to the high-level dormer windows to resolve the ingress of water around them. Initial investigations have shown the lead work to the dormers is weatherproof and the ingress of water is due to warping window frames. Trial sealing of the timber was completed on the first dormer so all remaining windows will now be sealed to resolve the issue. During the above investigations, water ingress was noted at the roof apex. Work on this is due for completion in the early spring of 2021.

During the Covid-19 restrictions & closure in the summer, an electrical survey was carried out to establish the high use of electricity. This showed a heating pump sticking on whilst the system was idling in the shutdown period. The cause of the intermittent fault could not be established without detailed and costly investigation and replacement of suspect parts. The heating engineers suggested that the fault would resolve itself when the system is in full operation again, but any persistent failure should be reported to them for action.

The hall floor was sealed & varnished in the summer and thanks must go to Francis for his help.

Thanks go to Di Zhang and the volunteer cleaners.

Peter has now moved to a new location but expresses his thanks to Ian Ryder for his support and hard work this year.

Anne Scott
With input from Peter Grainger.

Deanery Synod Report

Sadly, due to Covid-19, there were no Deanery Synod meetings this year.

Wendy Clark Deanery Synod Rep

Electoral Roll Report

The total number on the Electoral Roll is 97 as opposed to 93 last year. The figures are as follows:

Age Group	Inside Parish	Outside Parish	Total
Under 25	2 , 2.06%	1 , 1.08%	3 , 3.09%
25-44	11 , 11.34%	6 , 6.19%	17 , 17.53%
45-59	16 , 16.50%	3 , 3.09%	19 , 19.59%
60+	34 , 35.05%	24 , 24.74%	58 , 59.79%
Totals	63 , 64.95%	34 , 35.05%	97 , 100%

5 people have been removed from the Roll, 3 have moved out of the area, 1 is worshipping elsewhere and Les Woodcock sadly died to this life, and we give thanks for his faith and loyal service. 9 people have now signed their forms so are added back into the number. As we all had to sign new forms for the Electoral Roll last year, all of those included are true worshippers. The figures do not include, Carl, George or Roger, as Church of England priests are not included. There are still a few people who have not yet returned their forms so I'll keep chasing for them.

As you will see from the above figures 2/3rd of the congregation live in the parish. This has gradually increased which is so good. Also 3/5th of the congregation are in the 60+ age group. We still need to reach out to the young people around us but what a pleasure it is to see some of them reading regularly in church.

Thankfully most of our older people are fit and play an active part in our activities, however due to lockdown I think we may see changes in the future. There are some people who have been watching the services online who for a while may continue to do that. Nationwide it has been noted that there are more people joining in worship online than attending real worship. If they are new Christians, explorers or sheep returning to the fold, I pray they will continue to be fed and that they will be brave enough in the future to actually come to church. At this point I need to say a very big **Thank You** to all of those who have been involved in getting our services recorded and online, and to those who are on the rota's.

I can't help but feel that in this day of technology the Anglican Church has to think seriously about how it collates the number of Christians. Every church has regular members who do not want to fill in Electoral Roll forms especially the younger generation. They regularly attend services like church@4 and feel that they belong to that local church, but because they don't complete a form they are not included in the numbers given to the Diocese. Jesus would not exclude them for He says in Matthew 18 v20 "for where two or three come together in my name there am I with them"

God bless you all and wishing us a safe and happy pandemic free future.

Diane Humphreys Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Report

Finance report for APCM 2021

2020 has been a year like no other, and certainly a challenging year in many ways for us all. My thanks, as usual, to all who have assisted me-Treasury Team members and sides people.

As this year's transactions have not taken the usual pattern, I have taken the opportunity that Covid offers to make the task easier for myself by adopting Receipts and Payments accounting as allowed by The Charity Commission. This means that I have not allowed for amounts outstanding and receivable at the 31st December as well as not apportioning amounts paid in the year that refer to 2021 (prepayments) and calculations of expenditure to 31st December that will be included in 2021 bills (accruals).

Accounts for 2020

So bearing the above in mind, the deficit on the Unrestricted funds of the church showed a deficit of £2,850 for the year which is remarkable given the circumstances. (Compared with 2019 income was down by £10,358 but expenditure including the transfer from the Youth Worker fund was also down by £17,716 reducing this year's deficit by £7358.)

What is even more remarkable is the generosity of you, the Church members who, including Gift Aid, contributed around £57,000 towards church finances and I thank you all for your generosity.

The Unrestricted funds of the Church are the General Fund and the Designated Funds. There was no movement on the Designated funds this year so the total General Fund income for the year was £63,762 and expenditure £74,908 giving a deficit of £11,146. This deficit included a full year of our Youth Worker's salary and expenses paid out of the General Fund. It was possible to transfer £7,956 from the Youth Worker Restricted Fund to offset expenses and allow for a contribution towards overheads. This transfer and an allocation from the Away Day Fund (£340) reduced this year's deficit to £2,850.

General fund income was boosted by £7,305 as your response to St John's Gift Day Covid Appeal and £6,670 from the Government's Furlough Scheme. Expenditure was reduced by 3 months Parish Share at 50% a saving of £5,917. Without these sums our deficit on the General Fund would have been almost £20,000 more and would have put us in real financial difficulties.

Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission dictate that it is only the General Fund that is "readily available". At the 31st December 2020 the balance of the General Fund is £22,866.

Based on this year's running costs, the above figure is insufficient to satisfy our Reserves policy of representing six to nine months operating costs.

Quinquennial Survey

PCC agreed last year that the Designated Fabric Fund should be used for Quinquennial costs, (required by the five year survey of the building). The balance of this Fund at the year end is unchanged at £16,047. Expenditure over the next few years is expected to exceed this figure.

Conclusion

Our financial situation over the next few years gives cause for concern and will need to be addressed by the PCC.

Eddy Chambers Hon Treasurer

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STAFFORD
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1138634
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

This report is on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31st December 2020.

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 an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 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 Commission under 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 you as PCC members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiners Statement.

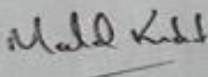
In connection with the examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

Signed

Date 18th March 2021.



Mr. M. D. Kidd CPFA
Chestnut Close
Derrington, Stafford

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Registered Charity Number 1138634

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endow-ment	Total funds	Accrual Accounts Prior year total funds
	Note	general	designated				
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Voluntary income	2(a)	53,393	0	11,892	0	65,285	88,938
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	2,300	0	0	0	2,300	9,688
Investment income	2(c)	181	0	0	0	181	337
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2(d)	1,218	0	0	0	1,218	2,838
Other incoming resources	2(e)	6,670	0	320	0	6,990	2,071
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		63,762	0	12,212	0	75,974	103,872
RESOURCES USED							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	99	0	0	0	99	120
Fund raising trading cost of goods sold	3(b)	0	0	0	0	0	207
Charitable activities	3(c)	74,809	0	702	0	75,511	119,565
Governance costs	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other resources used	3(e)	0	0	246	0	246	1,284
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		74,908	0	948	0	75,856	121,176
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS BEFORE TRANSFERS		-11,146	0	11,264	0	118	-17,304
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	4						
Gross transfers between funds - in		8,296	0	0	0	8,296	18,209
Gross transfers between funds - out		0	0	-8,296	0	-8,296	-18,209
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-2,850	0	2,968	0	118	-17,304
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
ALL ASSETS AT 1st JANUARY 2020		25,716	21,905	3,756	0	51,377	68,680
ALL ASSETS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020	5	22,866	21,905	6,724	0	51,495	51,377

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES - 31st DECEMBER 2020

Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Designated £	Restricted fund £	Endow ment £	Total funds £	Total funds 2019 £
Cash funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	-1,185	2,312	6,724	0	7,851	15,832
Deposit funds-CCLA	24,051	16,268	0	0	40,319	37,138
	<u>22,866</u>	<u>18,580</u>	<u>6,724</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48,170</u>	<u>52,970</u>
Other monetary assets						
LDBF-Rectory decoration fund	0	1,325	0	0	1,325	1,325
Assets retained for church use						
Piano	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	0	0	0	0	0	3,387
Current Liabilities						
Creditors	0	0	0	0	0	2,287
Accruals	0	0	0	0	0	326
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,613</u>
Liabilities						
Church tithe	1,439	0	0	0	1,439	2,595
Agency Collections	0	0	0	0	0	1,455
Monies received in advance	0	0	0	0	0	1,642
	<u>1,439</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,439</u>	<u>5,692</u>

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Approved by The Parochial Church Council on the 8th March 2021

Rev Dr C Rudd

Isobel Wakerell

Rector

Lay Chair

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2020

Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2008 together with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2015, taking advantage of the relaxations for small charities.

These financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention. With effect from the 1st January 2020 the church has adopted Receipts and Payments accounting. Whilst transitioning the "true" receipts and payments figures are affected by transactions set off against provision for amounts owing and due and accruals that were brought forward from last year's accounts.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are funds given for a particular purpose and events where the money raised was for a particular purpose.

These accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised only when the tax refund is received. Such refunds are allocated to the General Fund except for the tax refunds on donations to the Youth Worker's Fund and Project Funds for major improvements. Grants and legacies are accounted for when received. Funds raised by hospitality, soup lunches and similar events are for the most part accounted for net, unless it is practicable to account for them gross. Sales of books are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income due from letting of church premises is accounted for as income when received. Fees payable to the diocese and to organists and vergers are held in an Agency collection account until paid. In a similar manner, events not directly relating to church business where the church account is used for gathering deposits and paying out the same are held in Agency collection.

Income from CBF deposits

Interest payments are accounted for when they enter the various accounts. The interests received are credited to the General Fund.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share un-paid at 31 December would be provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not legal) liability and is shown as a liability in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable Church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a)&(C) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable Church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 is not valued as an asset to facilitate comparison with previous years and as such is not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since then have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently expected useful economic life on a straight line basis.

Other fixtures fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over five years for furniture, five years with residual value for musical instruments, and three years for computers. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £5000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2020

RECEIPTS

	Note	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	2020 £ Total	2019 £ Total
VOLUNTARY INCOME	2(a)					
Regular Giving		35,268	0	4,740	40,008	41,060
Collections and Other Giving		1,570	0	0	1,570	4,457
Gift Days Covid-19 Giving		7,305	0	0	7,305	0
One-off Gifts		460	0	257	717	18,438
Tax Recovered on Gift Aided Giving		8,790	0	1,932	10,722	12,563
Legacies		0	0	0	0	3
Recurring Grants-Youth Worker		0	0	4,963	4,963	12,417
		<u>53,393</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,892</u>	<u>65,285</u>	<u>88,938</u>
ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS	2(b)					
Activities and Events		190	0	0	190	704
Income from Church Hall Lettings		2,110	0	0	2,110	8,984
		<u>2,300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>9,688</u>
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS	2(c)					
Interest Received		181	0	0	181	337
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) ACTIVITIES	2(d)					
Fees from Weddings and Funerals		695	0	0	695	1,239
Church Hall Lettings-Objectives		523	0	0	523	1,440
Locum Chaplaincy		0	0	0	0	160
		<u>1,218</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>2,839</u>
OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES	2(e)					
Grants-Corona-Virus Job Retention Scheme		6,670	0	0	6,670	0
Restricted Receipts from Group Funds		0	0	321	321	1,171
Other Funds Generated		0	0	0	0	900
		<u>6,670</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>321</u>	<u>6,990</u>	<u>2,071</u>
		<u>63,762</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,212</u>	<u>75,974</u>	<u>103,872</u>

N.B Any small discrepancy will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2020

PAYMENTS	Notes				2020	2019
		£	£	£	£	£
		General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
COST OF GENERATION OF VOLUNTARY INCOME	3(a)	99	0	0	99	120
FUND RAISING TRADING COSTS	3(b)					
Activities and Events		0	0	0	0	207
CHURCH (CHARITABLE) EXPENSE	3(c)					
Charitable Giving		4,270	0	0	4,270	7,420
Parish Share		41,424	0	0	41,424	46,187
Youth Worker's Salary and Expenses		10,248	0	0	10,248	24,153
Administrator's-Salary		5,826	0	0	5,826	5,511
Church Office		832	0	0	832	880
Administration Expenses		280	0	0	280	158
Expenses of Clergy and Lay Readers		817	0	0	817	980
Mission and Training		299	0	0	299	556
Upkeep of Services		1,617	0	0	1,617	1,777
Church Running-Insurance		1,911	0	0	1,911	2,321
Cleaner's Salary and Expenses		4,157	0	0	4,157	4,072
Church Maintenance		665	0	0	665	6,334
Miscellaneous expenses		120	0	0	120	120
Church Running-Utilities		2,343	0	0	2,343	4,214
Re-ordering of Church		0	0	702	702	14,883
		<u>74,809</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>75,511</u>	<u>119,566</u>
GOVERNANCE COSTS	3(d)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER RESOURCES USED	3(e)					
Restricted Expenditure from Group Funds		0	0	246	246	1,284
		<u>74,908</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>948</u>	<u>75,856</u>	<u>121,176</u>
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	4					
The PCC approved transfers to General Fund from:						
a Youth Worker Fund as a contribution		600	0	0	600	2,000
towards Overheads		0	0	-600	-600	-2,000
b Youth Worker Fund as a contribution		7,356	0	0	7,356	16,210
to offset salary and expenses payments made		0	0	-7,356	-7,356	-16,210
c Away Days Fund allocation of receipts to		340	0	0	340	0
cover actual costs		0	0	-340	-340	0
		<u>8,296</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-8,296</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

N.B Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound.

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Stafford

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2020

FUNDS

Note 5

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			RESTRICTED GROUP FUNDS				TOTAL	
	General	Designated	Flowers	Sunbeams	Over 60s	Youth Club	GROUP FUNDS	TOTAL	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance 1 January 2020	25,716	21,905	378	689	721	1,375	3,163		
Receipts	63,762	0	0	203	0	117	320		
Payments	-74,908	0	-29	-91	0	-126	-246		
Transfers	8,296	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Excess/Deficit	-2,850	0	-29	112	0	-9	74		
Balance 31 December 2020	<u>22,866</u>	<u>21,905</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>801</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>1,366</u>	<u>3,237</u>		
	OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS			TOTAL OTHER RESTRICTED		TOTAL ALL RESTRICTED		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Youth Worker	Away Days	Quinquennial	Projects	£	£	£	£	£
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance 1 January 2020	0	285	0	309	11,892	593	12,212	51,377	68,680
Receipts	10,339	75	150	1,328	-702		-948	75,974	103,872
Payments	0	0	0	-702				-75,856	-121,175
Transfers	-7,956	-340	0	0	-8,296		-8,296	0	0
Excess/Deficit	2,383	-265	150	626	2,894		2,968	118	-17,303
Balance 31 December 2020	<u>2,383</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>934</u>	<u>3,487</u>		<u>6,724</u>	<u>51,495</u>	<u>51,377</u>
				148 Audio/visual	786 Reordering Church				
				<u>934</u>	<u>934</u>				

NB Any small discrepancies will have arisen due to rounding to the nearest pound

World Focus Group Report

WHO WE ARE;

We are a group made up of members of the congregation that support the Church by taking responsibility for allocating the Church giving to charities.

We do this by meeting regularly, usually at a member's home to discuss and plan how the allocated church tithes should be shared out. We then choose members or groups from the church and ask them to choose a charity they wish to support, this is in addition to our annual giving, it is our responsibility to ensure the chosen charity meets all the church and charity commission guidelines, if this is approved, we then allocate the money.

Throughout the year we are often called to give one-off emergency donations to respond to national and international crises. This request, if approved by the group is then presented to the PCC for their agreement.

2020 has been a difficult year with the Covid pandemic that meant we were unable to have our usual meetings. We were also unable to meet with other groups within the church family to enable us to receive suggestions for their chosen charities however we have still been able to respond to request made by members of the church for donations to Katharine House and Stafford Women's Aid

Along with the allocation of church giving the group also organises church collections such as Christian Aid week. Sadly, this year we were unable to host an event so our Christian aid giving was from the envelopes in church with extra from our monthly tithe added. However, we were able to meet in church for Harvest giving which included food from the St Johns school as well as the congregation, and our Christmas collection was given to Stafford Salvation Army. Along with this, we have also organised collections of non-monetary items i.e., blankets and gifts for charities such as the Stafford Women's Aid and House of Bread.

St Johns is a generously giving church and we each feel privileged to be in this group. If you would like to join us, please speak to any one of them members we would love you to join us.

Lynda Ryder. Isobel Wakerell. Eddy Chambers. Kate Passey and Steve Gale.

Lynda Ryder World Focus Group

PLACES OF WELCOME

OPEN DOORS REPORT FOR APCM 2021

It is very sad to have to acknowledge that, since our last APCM, St John's doors have not been able to open as we would like on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings – consequently we have not been able, so far, to operate as a Place of Welcome.

The next paragraphs, in italics, were included in the last APCM report in the Autumn of 2020 but they are included again as a reminder of where we are with this initiative.

The Open Doors Team and the PCC agreed a year ago to apply to be part of the 'Places of Welcome' scheme and St Johns has been accepted onto it and is now included on the 'Places of Welcome' website. The scheme is not exclusively Christian but the Diocese is represented by Rev Dr David Primrose.

PLACES OF WELCOME

The main criteria for becoming a 'place of welcome' is a commitment to 5 values:

PLACE An accessible and hospitable building, open at the same time every week

PEOPLE Open to everyone regardless of their circumstances or situation, and staffed by volunteers

PRESENCE A place where people actively listen to one another

PROVISION Offering free refreshments (at least a cup of tea and a biscuit) and basic local information

PARTICIPATION Every person will bring talents, experiences and skills that they may be willing to share locally.

At an Open Doors meeting on 25th February 2020 we discussed various possibilities for improving our publicity within the 'Places of Welcome' Scheme eg new boards, posters and A5 flyers – this is to be discussed further with the PCC.

On 22nd September 2020 and on 1st December 2020 Liz Clarke attended Zoom meetings linking together 'Places of Welcome' initiatives throughout the Midlands and on 8th December 2020 Kate Passey and Liz Clarke attended a Zoom meeting with Lesley Bovington - Places of Welcome Facilitator - Transforming Communities Together.

Although St John's Open Doors Team have not been able to operate as normal during the past year, this enforced break does provide a positive opportunity to make a new start as a 'Place of Welcome' – let us pray for new members of our Church family to become part of this ministry which operates for the benefit of all, both within and outside the Church. Also, it would be wonderful to be able to open St John's on an additional morning or afternoon.

Hebrews13 v1

Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels

Members of the Open Doors Team:

Rev Dr Carl Rudd (Rector), Alan and Margaret Bancroft, Martin Bogle, Wendy Clark, Liz Clarke, Lynn Eaton, Steve Gale, Di Humphreys, Kate Passey, Sue Philp, Pauline Raven, Pauline and Tony Pittard, John Shuttleworth
Anne Scott (Church Warden)

Liz Clarke Places of Welcome

Children's and Youth Worker Report

This has been a year like no other and has affected everyone differently and in many ways. Due to Covid-19 I was furloughed from April to July. This period was followed by the summer holidays, so I returned to work in September.

Children's Church

Children's church is available for those children and young people who would like to explore and understand more about God. Usually, we meet during the Sunday morning communion services and we learn about the same bible readings that the sermon is based on. Once the first lockdown commenced, it became clear very quickly that we would have to change our approach for reaching out to the children. Before being furloughed, I did this by sharing resources on a weekly basis with the children that included an information, or 'teaching' sheet on a bible verse, a sheet with craft ideas as well as an activity sheet. Once church began to reopen its doors and I returned from furlough, my teaching resumed as before, with sessions involving a game or activity, as well as a bible reading (which would be read or shown via video), teaching based on said reading, prayers, and a craft relevant to the teaching. On the first Sunday of the month, we have an all-age service where the sermon is more interactive for the children, where they can play musical instruments, as well as work through a craft and activity sheet. As time has moved on, so have the ways in which I communicate with the children. From the beginning of November, I started to record videos of myself teaching the lesson for each Sunday (as I would in a usual session) and posting these on Youtube for the children to watch. This was in addition to continuing to send the teaching, craft and activity booklets. We are still in the process of gathering feedback from the children and parents, but the video views and examples of crafts that I received from parents, show that families have engaged during this period.

TnT

TnT is a youth group that meets on a Tuesday evening to discuss challenging topics and where the bible is used as a tool to understand these more. The group has been well attended over this difficult period, with the young people even joining the Zoom sessions. During the last year, we have seen incredible life-changing events that needed discussing, including Covid-19, Black Lives Matter and using our God given gifts. Whilst on furlough, we created leaflets

for the young people to read and discuss at home with their families and I have anecdotal evidence from the members themselves, that good conversations were had. Can I take this opportunity to thank Wendy Clarke for her help with creating these booklets. More recently, we have taken our discussions onto Zoom. Currently, we are exploring the ten commandments by unpicking the work of J. John, in his book 'Ten: the chapters of love'. In preparation for each meeting, I record an overview of J. John's thoughts on one of the commandments. I will send this video, together with a question booklet ahead of each meeting. We then meet over Zoom and discuss J. John's thoughts on the commandments. The young people have engaged really well with these Zoom sessions.

Zone

Unfortunately, since the start of the pandemic, we have been unable to run Zone. Although we deliberated with the idea of re-starting the sessions from September, we decided it was not viable to run the sessions given the implications of social distancing for the sessions, as well as the potential mixing of different schools' bubbles. When the time is right, we will relaunch the group and create new relationships with the young people within our community.

Sunbeams

Sunbeams is a pre-school play group that meet on a Monday morning. It is a wonderful community for both babies/toddlers and parents/careers alike. With the exception of the periods where we have been under lockdown/furlough, this group has otherwise been running consistently. The numbers attending the group have remained steady (despite restrictions and the introduction of a booking system), and we have even welcomed new members. We have received encouraging feedback about our Messy Play activities, which are new and inventive each week. Before furlough, myself and Kate Norman (can I pass on my thanks to her) would share videos of songs and story time, which were recorded and posted to the Sunbeams Facebook page. Currently, Sunbeams is being streamed live every Monday morning on Zoom.

Church @ 4 and Messy Church

As was the concern with Church Services continuing over this difficult period, Church @ 4 and Messy Church have been stopped for the time being. Myself and Carl have used this time to reflect on the format of these sessions and where we think changes or improvements could be made. More information on these exciting new developments will follow in due course.

St John's School Worship

School worship was paused from February to August, but was restarted in September, with the new academic year. Currently, it is being accessed in the form a video (similar to the Children's Church format). We are continuing our good relationship with the School and I look forward to a time when I can return in person.

Megan Davies Children's and Youth Worker

Pastoral Care and Baptism Report

Baptism

Sadly, due to the pandemic there have been no baptisms in the last year. There are several families who made inquiries and are waiting for baptism when it is safe to do so. These include those who completed the START course in late 2019 and early 2020. There are also some people still awaiting confirmation. Contact has been kept with these families throughout the year, please continue to pray for all seeking baptism and confirmation.

Isobel Wakerell Lay Reader

Pastoral care

Due to the pandemic pastoral care has increased throughout the year. However, with the restrictions most 'visits' have been by phone, email, etc. A Cascade system has been introduced to reach all members of the various congregations. This has involved several people, not just the pastoral team, having regular contact via a phone call, text etc and relaying any concerns to the Ministry team. It seems to have worked well and it has given opportunities for people to get to know members of the congregation they may not have known before. With so many services unable to take place in church it has been a way of continuing fellowship.

However, nothing can replace a face to face visit especially when in hospital, care home, or suffering/recovery from illness at home. In such situations many prayers have been shared over the phone. Comforting the sick and dying and those mourning has been particularly challenging. We continue to trust in God's unfailing love and His guidance in caring for the pastoral needs in the parish and congregations.

Isobel Wakerell – Lay Reader

Prayer Report

Prayers have been said for many in this difficult year particularly for the NHS staff and all others in caring roles during the pandemic. Members of our congregations, their friends and families have been grateful for prayers in numerous ways & formats throughout this time and for many individual needs.

A special prayer group had been set up in March by the family of a critically ill grandchild and we have been able, through our prayer chain, to pray for and share in her most amazing recovery which continues still.

Prayer Works!

Thank you to you all

Helen Dart Prayer Chain Coordinator

St Johns C of E Primary Academy Report

We have had an extremely busy start to our academic year in September.

We currently have 373 pupils on roll with 48 staff.

Our links with the Church are still strong and this adds to our Christian ethos.

Rev. Rudd is Chair of our Local Academy Committee and visits our school frequently when we do not have lock-down restrictions. Both Rev. Rudd and Megan have developed on-line worship for the pupils at home and in school.

Life in school has been a little different this year as we have been unable to carry out all our school visits, social events and charity fundraising. Children are having to be taught in their own classes and not mix with other bubbles.

This means that we do not come together for whole school worship but this is carried out in their classrooms. We did manage to have the majority of pupils return in June.

Online learning has worked very well and parents have feedback that they are pleased with the provision that we have. There is a mixture of live and recorded lessons. We also provide 1-1 academic support where necessary as well as 1-1 emotional well-being sessions. Families at home also receive weekly well-being phone calls from the class teacher or teaching assistant.

Our website www.st-johns-stafford.staffs.sch.uk has photographs and further information regarding all of our activities in school. We also have a facebook page, which is St Johns CE Primary Academy.

Miss Evans Principal St Johns CE Primary Academy

Music Report

No doubt we have all missed normal music in church this year and with restrictions on singing this has been a difficult year. When services did go ahead in church we were allowed to hum along, behind face masks, to videos or the piano or guitar. Congregational singing has been banned for the foreseeable future but eventually restrictions changed and one person, socially distanced, sings at the front. The percussion instruments boxes have been well used to make a joyful sound in accompanying the humming of hymns and songs.

Carl has prepared an online service every week including hymns and songs so that the congregation can sing along in the safety of their own homes. This has been a real lifeline, particularly for those isolating, shielding, isolated or physically unable to attend services when the church has been open for worship. A huge thank you to Carl, Aileen and Lydia for all the extra work this has involved. Also, thank you to the musicians and singers who have played live when allowed and for all the recordings of hymns and songs that have been used in the live and online services. Carl now has quite a library of recordings and as the seasons change it continues to grow.

An outdoor Carol Service in the car park was very successful, despite the rain, and we were allowed to sing! Sadly, outdoor singing since the New Year has now also been banned. However, I would encourage you to sing along to the online services, the radio, BBC Songs of Praise or any other resource in the safety of your own home. God created us to sing and make music, it nourishes

the soul. 'I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being'. Psalm 104:33.

Isobel Wakerell Lay Reader

Flower group

What a strange year for all of us, flower arrangements until the onset of Lent, and the distribution of small pots of daffodils for Mothering Sunday to as many ladies as possible, then came lockdown.

Thankfully there have been a few occasions when we have been blessed to use the amazing beauty of the Lord's creation, the joyous occasion of Naomi and Geoff's wedding on the 5th September followed by the resumption of flowers for a few weeks which incorporated the wonderful time of harvest. Poppies for Remembrance Sunday in November, the Advent ring and the Stars for Christmas.

We are a small friendly group with a love of flowers and would very much welcome new members, if you feel able to assist please make contact. I record my sincere thanks to all group members and pray that soon we will be able to resume our ministry.
Blessings

Barbara Maltby Chair Flower Group