

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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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.

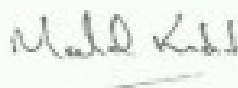
In connection with the examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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