

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CASTLE BROMWICH

England & Wales - Charity number 1146681

Details

Other names CASTLE BROMWICH PCC, ANYTOWN

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2012-03-29

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: In addition to our Church services, we hold regular events in our Community Hall to which all are welcome. These include drop-in coffee, tea and chat mornings, monthly soup & roll lunch, a Mothers Union led friendship group, a luncheon club for the less able in the parish, a bereavement support group and a Baby & me support group. Please visit our website for more detailed information.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City
- Solihull

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£82,405	£86,236	-	-
2023-12-31	£87,524	£82,763	-	-
2022-12-31	£73,429	£48,662	-	-
2021-12-31	£55,729	£52,763	-	-
2020-12-31	£70,458	£46,857	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Fiona Jane Harrison-Smith	Chair	2023-10-02
Anita Low		2023-05-21
ELAINE JEFFS		2011-11-30
Florence Pond		2025-05-18
Jane Eileen Cooper		2025-05-18
Karon Ann WARD		2011-11-30
Mary Rose Jones		2021-05-23
SHIRLEY MIDDLEMASS		2011-11-30
SUSAN BATES		2014-04-27

Accounts

**The Annual Report
Including the Financial Statements of**

**“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Castle Bromwich”**

Year ending December 2024

(Registered Charity No. 1146681)



**Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish
the whole mission of the church**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.
The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.
as amended and church representation rules.

St Mary and St Margaret is registered with the Charity Commission as
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”
Charity No. 1146681

The method of appointment of PCC/Trustee members
is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All regular attendees at the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll
which enables them to vote and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC/Trustees of
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”

- ex officio* 1 Rector
 Revd. Fiona Harrison-Smith MA, BA(Hons) BMus(Hons)
- ex officio* 2 Churchwardens
 Mrs Lisa Wakeman (stepped down 21st May)
 Mrs Anita Low (elected 21st May)
- ex officio* 3 Deanery Synod representatives
 Mrs Karon Ward
 Mrs Deborah Bates
 Mrs Jackie Harris
 Mrs Lisa Wakeman (stepped down 1st October)

9 elected members

 Mrs Elaine Jeffs (Treasurer)
 Mr David Greaves (Lay Chair to 17th July)
 Mrs Shirley Middlemass
 Mrs Susan Bates
 Mrs Laura Fallows (Lay Chair from 17th July)
 Mrs Margaret Grady
 Ms Helen Giles (resigned 21st May)
 Mrs Mary Jones
 Mrs Tricia Richards
 Mrs Karol Rogers

Bank Lloyds Bank, High Street, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner

 Martin Lawrence, 213 Station Road, Stechford,
 Birmingham, B33 8BB

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of the church remains undiminished where the mission, outreach, thanksgiving, and celebration are at the heart of the ethos in our parish. We are an open and inclusive Church and warmly welcome everyone at St. Mary and St. Margaret, whatever their background or previous experience of Christian worship. We are looking to grow every individual as a Child of God through close ties with the Church school and in our wider Church community.

Our Mission is to be relevant in this community and beyond, through loving Christian service.

Our Aim is to be a living, vibrant, witnessing Church at the centre of our Community.

During 2024 we adopted 5 values across all areas of church life;

FAITH, YOUTH, ECO, HERITAGE, COMMUNITY

Vision for the Future

In 2019 we started our Transforming Church journey to grow our Church and meet the needs of an everchanging society. We embarked on a journey of reflection to consider who we are, who our community thinks we are and where God is calling us. With the arrival of our new Rector we have begun to look at what this could look like for us and the next steps to achieve all that God is calling us into

1. To be a prayerful and Christ led Church: centered on the needs of the congregation, and wider Community. Caring and compassionate to all that live and work in Castle Bromwich, regardless of age, culture, needs, or background.

2. To Support our Church School family, fostering a mutual spiritual and pastoral partnership with Children, Teachers, and parents.

3. To be Open, welcoming, and hospitable – sharing the Love of Jesus with everyone, regardless of who they are or why they join us. Whether new, of long standing or visiting, make everyone feel at home and included as we seek to broaden the diversity of our outreach and grow new disciples.

4. To provide worship that satisfies the needs of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles, meeting people where they are in their Christian Journey.

5. To be mission led – taking the word of Jesus out into the Community. Linking up with people, other communities and Churches on joint ventures that strengthen connection and unity between our different congregations.

6. Provide a regular programme of activities to support Christian journeys. Creating a Discipleship Pathway particularly for new Christians, Children, Youth, and families to grow their faith.

7. To be an Environmentally responsible Church – committed to being stewards of God’s Creation

The PCC is looking at ways in which we can become carbon neutral.

8. To provide a thriving Christian Ministry for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) – in the belief that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the Church and are integral to church growth.

Objects and Activities

We have a thriving and inclusive all-age congregation from many walks of life. While many people come from the local community – the village setting of Castle Bromwich with its Hall and Gardens – many others are drawn from further afield and from different Christian traditions. By providing a variety of services and worship styles we hope that most needs are catered for while creating the conditions for discipleship and spiritual growth, development and wellbeing. We also have an excellent relationship with our local church school, St. Mary and St. Margaret CE Aided Primary School, where children participate in weekly clergy led worship, both in the school and in the church setting. Our family church team are working hard to improve these links.

Our Community Hall provides for our own needs while broadening our community outreach by offering a broad range of services and activities that have both deepened and strengthened our local ties while fostering and developing community cohesion.

Worship and Services

We have a balance of family services, e.g. Baptism services, and more formal communion services.

In 2024, the parish undertook

- 8 church funerals,
- 6 crematorium funerals
- 4 burial of ashes
- 35 baptisms
- 7 weddings

Our current service patterns are as follows:

- Sunday: Holy Communion Service at 9:30 or 11:00am
- Baptism every 1st Sunday of the month 11:00 am
- Café Worship every third Sunday 11:00 am in church community hall

- Family Communion on alternate Wednesdays of the month at 9:30. During term time, a class from our church school join us.

Pastoral Care and Counselling

There are 10 Members on the Pastoral Team and we held 6 meetings during 2024. Over the year we held 4 Luncheon Clubs in the Church Hall which were well attended, with quite a few new commers. We cater for approximately 42 people from Church and the local community.

Our Summer Outing was on a coach trip on 20th June to Cosford RAF Museum followed by a meal at Albrighton Garden Centre. We had 33 people attend and all enjoyed the day out.

Our Christmas Meal was again held at Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel, where enjoyed an excellent meal. This popular event was attended by 84 people from both our Church and the local community.

We held Coffee mornings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's of the month in the Church Hall, attendance varies throughout the year .

Bereavement Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 1.30 – 3pm. We have on average 15 people attending, those who come are very appreciative of the support and comfort they receive by attending this group,

All Souls Service was held on 3rd November at 4pm, followed with tea and coffee and time to chat. it was a good Service and well attended. 4pm was a much better time for all who came.

Home Communion is taken once a month to those no longer able to attend Church. This is very much appreciated by those who are sick or housebound.

The Pastoral team continue to send 'Thinking of You' cards to the sick and bereaved, and those in need of support.

Baptism Team

Anita Low and Shirley Middlemass manage Baptism bookings.

We had 35 Baptisms during 2024, this included 25 Baptism's during the 11am Service and 10 Baptisms prior to Thanksgiving and preparation Services.

We have now moved Baptisms to morning only, except in special circumstances.

Thanksgiving and Preparation services are now held in the Rectory with Rev Fiona .

The Mothers' Union

We continue to meet on a Wednesday for our monthly friendship afternoons, we chat, craft, play games, or discuss interesting topics. It is popular with members and non-members alike. We start the meeting with a prayer and always finish with the Grace. Those less active continue to support us especially with prayer, which is a very important part of our ministry.

Highlighted meetings, in March for Mothering Sunday, we made up daffodil posies to distribute to all the ladies in church or at home. In June we held our messy church session, year 2 from school attended along with young families from church. We had a fun afternoon in our Community hall, old and young alike sharing in prayer and fellowship, and working together on a craft to take home.

This year we explored the value of pollinators, especially those that fly. In October we crafted poppies for our new poppy display in church. Finally in December we held our annual afternoon Carol Service which was well attended and once again collected an amazing amount of gifts to donate to women's aid.

Our members continue to be very active within church life and have been delighted to serve our congregation and community during the past year and we are eagerly looking forward to what 2025 brings.

The Family Church Team

Family Church consists of a group of volunteers from various areas of Church, who join forces in their passion for Family Mission. Our aim is to build a nurturing environment to help families and newer Christians explore their faith in creative ways that they can understand and engage with. We look to explore faith with fun and fellowship, sharing ideas, skills, talents, and resources to support one another and families both practically and spiritually. We work together as a group but also in separate teams. In 2024 we were sad to lose Maralyn a longstanding and dedicated Wayfarer Leader who retired and also Leigh our Baby and Me leader – but both remain a valuable part of the Family Church Team. In addition, we were pleased to welcome Ricky as Youth and Community Worker and Anita and Lisa as Messy Worship leaders.

Listed below are some of the activities that Family Church Team participated in during 2024.

Pancake Race

Community Carols and Nativity Trail

Easter Egg Trail

Christmas Toy/ Gift collection for North Solihull Foodbank

Harvest Service and food collection for North Solihull Foodbank

Community Rounders

Crafts Corner – Craft activities for during Baptism service in Church

All Age Nativity -Christmas Eve Service

2024 was another busy year for all the individual teams that come under the Family Church banner – Individual Teams will provide own reports.

Community Socials
Baby and Me
Café Worship
Messy Worship
Youth and Community

Community Socials

This small team welcomed local small businesses along with Church groups to join together for an Autumn Fayre which was very enjoyable and well supported by the local community. They also organised a Christmas Santa Crafts Workshop that entertained over eighty children and families. There was a Christmas Grotto, visit from Santa and presents – along with crafts and activities. The feedback was very positive, and it proved very popular with local families.

Baby & Me Friendship Café

After a very successful 5 years this valued group for new parents - sadly had to cease in January 2024 due to change of work responsibilities for the leader and lack of volunteers to continue the group. PCC expressed their thanks to Leigh for setting up and running this group which had been well attended.

Café Worship Team

Café Worship continued to be a vibrant addition to our more traditional Sunday Worship. Our aim is to provide an informal and relaxed style of worship - easier to navigate and understand for individuals and families exploring faith. Sessions begin with - Bible teaching/ videos/ activities crafts – followed by a Worship element with songs and prayers. In 2024 there were challenges with no Audio-Visual system for a number of months – however the team managed to work around this and are pleased to report the system is now working well.

In 2024 CW remained well attended with an average attendance of twenty adults & twenty children. We moved from 2nd Sunday to 3rd Sunday of the month and to a start time of 11am. There remains a higher proportion of pre-school children and less school aged children/youth – which reflected the general trend in Church. With a team of 3 Leaders, the lack of new volunteers coming forward remained a challenge and a real concern, and going forward may result in a reduction in what we can do especially during holiday periods.

Messy Worship

Messy worship is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month and proving to be popular with 16/20 children between infant age and 9 years attending the sessions. All families and children begin in church, then process with their Bible and Cross into the hall,

We start each session with a little prayer, then read the bible verse to work in parallel with the service within church and do a small activity based on that reading.

The children really enjoyed Mark 4 35- 41 when Jesus calmed the storm, we had plastic tubs filled with water, making waves, each child had a boat that we made then shouted "peace be still" to watch how the waves stopped just like Jesus had said. We also got the large parachute out in the church grounds, where we all shook it and shouted "peace be still" it was lovely as while we were outside the congregation within church heard the children laughing and shouting this.

On Remembrance Sunday, we learnt about the 4 different colours of the poppies and what they represented, purple, black, white and red. The children coloured in poppies in these 4 colours and we made our very own wreath. When we went back into Church for Communion, it was laid in the remembrance chapel within church along with other poppy wreaths.

Youth & Community Work

It was exciting to appoint Ricky Sandiford as our Youth and Community Development Worker in October to work with us 12 hours a week.

My first three months in this new role have been positive, we have worked well as a team focused on our planned targets and aims for St Mary and St Margaret Church and my role as youth and community development worker. I feel that I have been able to blend into the existing team while also being able to contribute with our collective aims and goals, while also being able to work towards my own personal targets and goals that are specific to my appointment. Our Church team has been very supportive and proactive regarding my role and this is apparent with the early positive progress we have made.

We re-established our Warm Welcome Wednesdays that we trialled last Summer, pulling together a team of regular volunteers who have helped us to re-establish the relationships with our families from last Summer, while building new ones. We are also learning with our volunteers to create a deliberate and consistent warm relaxed and friendly environment for ourselves as a Church team and our families and young people. This is vital in my experience in creating a long running and sustainable group, we believe (with continual support from our Church volunteers) that this group falls into this category, and will only grow in both numbers and reputation being a positive reflection of St Mary and St Margaret Church and your Church team and leaders.

I had the pleasure of spending time at St Mary and St Margaret School, targeting Years Five and Six. I have familiarized myself with the School's staff and enjoyed running our Christingle workshop with Fiona and Julie. We did lunch time sessions leading up to our Church Christingle service, rehearsing songs and liturgy. The children delivered an excellent performance on the evening and were an absolute joy to work with as was St Mary and St Margaret school, feedback from both parents and the school was very positive. I have also been working hard on building a relationship with Park Hall School attending an assembly delivered by Water Orton Church and Birmingham City Mission, and I am in correspondence with their head and deputy head, in planning to do some future work with the RE department and some one-on-one work with their students. This is ongoing.

We have also started a young people's confirmation group which runs every other week. This is a deep and meaningful space with very encouraging conversations. This has been an important group for the children and families involved and a good start for me in developing young Christian disciples. This has been delivered by myself and Fiona, but we will be encouraging more volunteers to attend this group as it is important for the wider church family to be part of such important discipleship journeys, especially when concerning our young people.

I have been encouraged and supported well by my line manager Fiona, and our leadership team. I have been given the space and time to build relationships with partners, people in the parish and our church congregation, I have also been able to access training when needed. I have been supported in building Christ centred relationships with our young people and their families, building trust and understanding of the dynamics and needs that will enable me to fill this role with greater purpose. I have been able to use my leadership skills freely in establishing myself in this new role and in working with St Mary and St Margaret leadership team. I do feel very positive for the coming months and I am excited about the impact that we could have with the Christian and human development of our young people. I have been meeting with Fiona, my line manager every week. We are constantly developing and adapting our plans to utilise the best way to fulfil my objectives so that we can have as big an impact as is possible within the time that we have. Within this space I am respected and allowed to have opinions and ideas using my experience. Encouraged by feedback from the young people and families that we have worked with, I am very much looking forward to the time that I have ahead in my role.

Bell Ringers

2024 has been an extraordinary year for St. Mary and St. Margaret's Church in Castle Bromwich. Our bell ringing group has experienced remarkable growth and success in a variety of areas, with a special focus on improving our techniques, engaging with the community, and fostering relationships with neighbouring towers. As we reflect on the year, it's clear that the church has become a vibrant hub for both spiritual and social engagement, with our bell ringing efforts playing a key role in uniting us all.

Achievements

One of the standout successes of 2024 has been the advancement of our bell ringing skills. We've made significant progress in mastering 'Plain Bob Doubles,' a challenging yet rewarding method that has greatly improved our technical proficiency and teamwork. The commitment of our bell ringers has been unwavering, and the improvement in our bell ringing performances is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

We have successfully rung for various services, enhancing the worship experience for our congregation. Our bell ringers have been an integral part of church events, ensuring the church's presence is heard across Castle Bromwich. Additionally, we have had the

privilege of ringing for weddings, adding a beautiful touch to these special occasions and continuing our tradition of contributing to life's significant milestones.

Strengthening Relationships with Local Towers

In 2024, we have also made considerable progress in forging stronger relationships with local bell ringing communities, particularly with the towers in Sheldon and Coleshill. Through mutual support and shared learning experiences, our bell ringers have had the opportunity to engage with other communities, exchange techniques, and celebrate bell ringing as a shared passion. These relationships have enriched our practices and created a sense of camaraderie and fellowship that extends beyond our church walls.

Community Engagement and Heritage

St. Mary and St. Margaret's has also made a significant impact within the wider community in 2024. Our involvement in community history events and heritage weekends has been a highlight, with the bell tower becoming a focal point for local history enthusiasts and visitors alike. These events allowed us to open the doors of our historic church tower to the public, providing insights into the rich history of Castle Bromwich and showcasing the role of bell ringing in our heritage. It has been heartening to see local families, history buffs, and visitors all coming together to celebrate the church's past while fostering a greater understanding of our place in the community.

Tower Trips and Church Fetes

In addition to our regular ringing activities, we have organized trips up the tower, offering members of the congregation and local community a chance to experience the bells in action. These trips have not only been educational but have also provided an opportunity for fellowship and connection within our congregation.

Our annual church fete was a resounding success, bringing together church members, families, and the wider community for a day of fun, fundraising, and celebration. The bell ringers played a key role in these events, adding to the lively atmosphere and demonstrating the vibrant, welcoming spirit of our church.

Conclusion

As we look back on 2024, it's clear that St. Mary and St. Margaret's Church has made great strides in becoming an even more integral part of the Castle Bromwich community. The bell ringing group's achievements, both in terms of skill development and community engagement, have been truly inspiring. Through our efforts in bell ringing, service participation, forging new relationships, and promoting local heritage, we have continued to strengthen our ties to the local community and our faith.

We look forward to building on these successes in 2025, continuing to grow our bell ringing group, further strengthening our community connections, and contributing to the life and vibrancy of Castle Bromwich.

Choir and Organ

Throughout 2024 the choir have continued to sing at the weekly Eucharist services, Weddings and occasional funeral services and also meet for weekly choir practice on a Thursday evening.

The choir is a little depleted in numbers with currently six Sopranos, two Altos, one tenor and one bass totalling nine members. Three new members, Anita Shergold, Jane Cooper and Helen Giles have recently joined prior to Christmas 2024, but Rev. Margaret McLoughlin is no longer able to join us and Lisa Wakeman will very soon, be on a Queen's College placement. Sue Bates joins us when she is able.

The choir as usual sang at the main liturgical services during Holy Week and Easter

Beginning of October 2024 saw the arrival of something quite different. The musical 'Born to Love' began rehearsal at St Clement's Church and members from both St Clements and St Mary & St Margaret's churches came together each week to learn this new work that was performed at St Clement's on December 22nd. Many who took part hadn't previously sang in a choir and on the back of this, both Jane and Anita have joined us having enjoyed the experience.

It proved to be a great success, and we also discovered a number of hidden talents. Hopefully, this will be followed up by my latest work (still being written) which is a musical telling the story of 'Daniel in the Lion's den'.

The organ has continued to be a fine instrument since it's rebuilding and is now regularly tuned and minor tweaks made when Rodney Briscoe from Boggis & Co visits around twice a year.

It is hoped that 2025 will be the start of an exciting new period for music at St Mary and St Margaret's church and there are a number of plans for events in the near future to raise the profile of our music and worship.

We are appreciative of the input and efforts of every single choir member, who turn up each week, along with the support from the congregation who turn up each week and we look forward to future growth and fellowship.

Stuart Jeffs

The Flower Arrangers

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, this talented team enhanced our worship with amazing floral displays at Easter, Patronal Festival, Harvest and Christmas. There are also altar flower arrangements in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries etc. which are requested (and funded by) individual members of the congregation.

Church Cleaners

There is a small team of volunteers to whom we are all grateful for their efforts in keeping our Church clean and tidy for the benefit of all who attend. Additional volunteers are welcome to join the team.

Gardening Group

The gardening group are doing an amazing job looking after our memorial garden and Churchyard. The replanted beds in the memorial garden are now flourishing. The gardens provide a tranquil and relaxing area to refresh the Spirit.

Charity Fund Raising

We continue to support Malawi through Lent collection boxes, Children's Society collection at Christingle Service and St Basil's collection boxes during Advent. Ad hoc charity collections take place at times of emergencies throughout the world.

Hall Management Team

The Community Hall is run by the PCC who ensure all Policies and Procedures are kept up to date. The Community Hall office is staffed by a part time Parish Administrator who deals with all hall enquires and bookings as well as supporting the worship team with administration.

The Hall has both a music licence and alcohol licence.

There are several regular paid bookings for the hall, with Yoga classes and courses, Pilates classes, Baby Massage/Sensory Courses, Dance Classes, Mother & Baby exercise class and Martial Arts groups.

The hall is used for their worship on Sundays by Messy Worship and Café Worship. The hall is also used for Wednesday coffee mornings, Bereavement Support Group, Mothers Union meetings, Luncheon Club and Soup and Roll Lunches which continue to be popular with church members and community alike. 2024 saw the introduction of Warm Welcome on Wednesdays after school for families to come and enjoy refreshments and shared activities. These events provide important opportunities for outreach, as they are attended by many people from the wider community, as well as Church regulars.

Safeguarding

We work to provide a safe and caring community, through respectful pastoral ministry, for all our parishioners and congregation. This year we have refreshed our noticeboards to ensure all Safeguarding information is clearly available. Our clergy, Readers and all volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, are DBS checked and complete the relevant on-line safeguarding training courses. All members of the PCC keep their safeguarding training up-to-date and, in compliance with the directive from the Church of England, are also DBS checked. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are discussed and approved annually at PCC meetings. The PCC has also appointed a children's advocate and an adult's advocate, who sit on the PCC to represent the interests of these vulnerable groups.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on

safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. St. Mary & St. Margaret is using the Parish Dashboard which gives us visibility of all policies, procedures and training for our church, related to keeping our church community safe. Our Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator reports at each PCC meeting and presents a Parish Dashboard action plan at regular intervals for PPC approval. Our Safeguarding Co-Ordinator is also using the Parish Hub which is proving to be a useful tool, giving reminders of training or DBS checks that need to be done or renewed.

Church/Hall Fabric

After 2 cold winters and no heating within church, we've finally completed damp proofing the cellar and installing a new boiler. The damp proofing consisted of having a new larger soak away on the church grounds, digging a large area underneath, allowing excess water to drain away from the church and the cellar, then sealing the whole cellar with a concrete/silicone based compound. When this was completed the new boiler was installed and is up and running.

Following a church tree survey, it was brought to our attention that a large horse chestnut tree at the east gates needed to be removed, unfortunately the base of the tree was rotten. This was removed in September 2024, it's age was approximately 880 years old. A new little oak tree was planted in close proximity of the horse chestnut tree. The company returned in late November to continue work that was needed on other trees, trimming overhanging branches and removing smaller dead trees, and other larger tasks to assist our church's gardening team.

Building & Heritage Committee

Once again it has been a busy year with various projects completed and others being considered.

1. Re-surfacing the Church Driveway
2. New Boiler and making the boiler room watertight
3. AV upgrade in the church and community hall
4. Preparation of a Faculty to introduce renewables i.e. solar panels, under pew heating and heat pump.
5. To investigate the possibility of creating an external storage facility.
6. Preparation for a new Quinquennial survey to be done by the Church Architect

Items 1 and 2 have been completed with heating restored to church.

Item 3 has had its faculty agreed by the DAC and it is hoped that installation will begin around March 2025

Item 4 is a much longer project which will include our energy consultant and church architect to provide expert advice and guidance to the PCC. The first stage of a faculty application has been considered by the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Council), and we expect some feed back shortly.

Item 5 is being considered by the PCC. We have had drawings produced for one option, but more work needs to be done to ensure we get this right.

Item 6 we have instructed our Church Architect to carry out the necessary survey in early 2025

Many thanks to all committee members for their help and support over the past 12 months

David Greaves

Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod

The first meeting of 2024 was held on Zoom on Wednesday 7th February 2024.

This was the last meeting in Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery for St. Leonards, Marston Green as they were moving to Yardley & Solihull Deanery. Area Dean Louise thanked the representatives for all their support to our Deanery.

The main focus of this meeting was 'Growing Faith Conversations' Michelle reflected on her experience of working with various youth initiatives and engaging young people in the community over the past three years. Particularly during covid it was difficult to watch families struggling with young people, locked in their own homes. She explained how funding became available to set up her youth group which meant "getting out of your comfort zone" and mentioned Emma Sargeant, Adam Larkin and others who helped her along this journey. She believes that young people are coming back to God and has faith in God's plan. On the way, a few doors opened and some that closed. Listening to God's connectivity and the leading of the Holy Spirit inspired her to get involved. Michelle posed three questions for churches to explore further:

What opportunities are there for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with children, young people and families?

How can we make our church buildings more accessible to children, young people and families?

Are there things that need to change as we seek to encourage children, young people and families to Jesus Christ? A discussion ensued in the breakout rooms and members shared their ideas for encouraging children to worship.

Environment progress from Linda Nugent– 5 churches in the Deanery had obtained bronze ECO Church awards. Churches were urged to use the Energy Footprint Tool to enable the diocese to keep track of how they are doing on their net zero by 2030 journey and offer support.

The second meeting of the year was held at St Andrew's Church, Chelmsley Wood on Wednesday 5th June.

We were welcomed to St. Andrew's by Rev. Andi Thomas.

There was Pathways Presentation by Jerome Turner. His presentation focused on how to register using CofE Birmingham website and gave an overview of what Pathways is and why we have it. There are number of modules which are useful to the Deanery

including youth provision Flex, usage of bible in Youth ministry, independent learning and journey into spirituality and much more was discussed. What's missing? The team is also open to suggestions

The main focus of the meeting was a talk about the Racial Justice Board given by Revd Dele and Dawn – The Synod heard from Revd Dele, Chair of the Racial Justice Board about the Regional Racial Justice work and the priorities for the Diocese of Birmingham following Lament to Action. The Church of England Birmingham is one of six dioceses Birmingham, Coventry, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield and Worcestershire in the West Midlands working collaboratively to become representatives of all whether black or white and to develop an anti-racism agenda. “If not now, then when?” visible look in our churches is not reflective of the population in Birmingham and our region. Dawn gave a presentation in which she referred to 5 keys areas of commitment: 1.

Theological and spiritual sharing and engagement 2. Participation 3. Listening, releasing, resourcing and responding 4. Training and mentoring 5. Youth Those present were encouraged to engage with the Racial Board and to pray about the challenges that lay ahead.

A short Q and A session followed. How can churches engage with people from different cultural backgrounds, the young and wider communities to reflect God's love? To meet challenges head on. The Racial Justice board is also reaching out to other church denominations. The liturgy is very English, the style of worship to be inclusive of the cultural diversity of the communities were some of the areas discussed.

Environmental Update - Linda Nugent, Deanery Environment Champion Linda mentioned about projects that are eligible for the Quick Wins Grant Guide. Minor repairs and improvement grant funding £5000 – 10,000 for urgent and upkeep of parish building guttering, insulation, draught proofing. For further information to contact Ben Smith, who is the Birmingham Diocesan Net Zero Carbon project Manager.

The final meeting of 2024 was held on Wednesday 23rd October 2024 at Kingsbury Sports and Community Centre.

Growing Gifts – Revd Catherine Grylls from Mission Support gave a presentation on Growing Gifts and opportunities available to grow into our potential. She also distributed some leaflets about Growing Gifts. There are ten sessions for locally commissioned preachers or worship leaders which are designed to be spread out over five months. She mentioned about Pathways a learning platform resources creative prayer ideas – Jerome who gave a talk to the Synod in June encouraging people to join the platform. She referred to 5 keys areas:

1. Vision for ministry in oversight areas
2. Locally authorised ministry
3. The growing gifts
4. Conversation together
5. Praying together

The Synod got into groups to have conversations: Part 1: With the transforming church vision in mind. What lay ministries would be useful in your oversight areas and in your church? What are the blocks to that happening? Part 2: What formation and training for those lay ministries would be most accessible and is most needed. How does Growing Gifts fit into the picture? Synod gave some feedback: People on Growing Gifts shared their experience. More encouragement needed to come from incumbents. Accessibility via online as well as offline. Some Biblical knowledge is required. Catherine stated that if there are five or more people come forward for training, it can be delivered locally. Catherine's email address is catherine.grylls@cofebirmingham.com

Birmingham Diocesan Synod Update – Delivered by Revd Mark Waterstreet and Roy Baker. Roy gave an update to the Synod. The meeting was held at St John's and St Peter's church in Ladywood. Bishop Michael has been in the post 150 days and gave his presidential briefing. Revd Mark Waterstreet mentioned that Ms Sarah Smith, Director of Education asked the School Governing bodies to review their admissions policy and to consider removing faith-based criteria e.g. attendance, as schools were set up to provide free education for all. Other updates were provided by the Oversight Area Formation and Mission Planning, Regional Racial Justice Update, the Safeguarding Team gave progress report on national developments in safeguarding in the Church of England. Roy gave an update on Finance – it has been another difficult year, fourth year in succession funding from Church Commissioners covered this for 2020 – 2022. For 2023, there is a deficit of £799,000. Birmingham Diocese is the poorest diocese. Rev Dr Al Barrett raised a concern how long the Diocese could continue.

Volunteers

We must thank all our volunteers, many of whom work tirelessly in the background but without whom the church and hall would not run so smoothly. Each year we do lose one or two of our older volunteers and we particularly give thanks to these people for their many years of service.

The above report has been compiled by the PCC Secretary with input from the Rector, PCC Vice Chair, Church Wardens and Church Groups on behalf of the PCC/Trustees.

Approved by the PCC on 5th May 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Rector

Revd. Fiona Harrison-Smith

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**Balance sheet at 31st December 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Property - Hall	4a	538098	538098
Property - Church	4a	33006	0
Bells	4b	52291	52291
Organ	4b	54600	54600
		<u>677995</u>	<u>644989</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	15000	15000
Short Term Deposits		360000	410000
Cash at bank and in hand		69393	56230
		<u>444393</u>	<u>481230</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Creditors	7	0	0
Provision for Common Fund		0	0
Diocesan Loan		0	0
		<u>444393</u>	<u>481230</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>444393</u>	<u>481230</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR			
	8	0	0
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1122388</u>	<u>1126219</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General		318582	433020
Restricted Legacy (decoration Fund)		30000	30000
Restricted - Church (Capital)		33006	0
Restricted - Hall (Capital Cost)		538098	538098
Restricted - Bells		13673	13343
Restricted Bells (Capital Cost)		52291	52291
Restricted - Organ		5307	4867
Restricted - Organ (Capital Cost)		54600	54600
Restricted - Awards for All		4878	0
Restricted - Youth Worker		71953	0
		<u>1122388</u>	<u>1126219</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Meeting on

Rev'd F Harrison Smith

and signed on its behalf by :

Mrs A Shergold

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	33817	721	34538	40731
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	7344	0	7344	16181
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	19194	0	19194	16515
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	570	0	570	710
Income from investments	2e	20759	0	20759	13387
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		81684	721	82405	87524
RESOURCES USED					
Charities	3a	0	721	721	476
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	71551	0	71551	71656
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	0	0	0	1080
Church Management & Administration	3d	13964	0	13964	9550
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		85515	721	86236	82763
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-3831	0	-3831	4762
TRANSFER OF ASSETS					
			110697	110697	0
		-110697		-110697	0
NET MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS		-110697	110697	0	0
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		433110	693109	1126219	1121458
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		318582	803806	1122388	1126219

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31st December 2024

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		TOTAL FUNDS	
	£	£	£	£	2024	2023
2a Incoming resources from donors						
Planned giving						
Covenants	21629	0	21629	21966		
Income tax recoverable on covenants	0	0	0	5665		
Collections (open plate) at all services	4276	0	4276	4426		
Sundry Donations	7912	721	8633	8674		
	<u>33817</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>34538</u>	<u>40731</u>		
2b Other voluntary incoming resources						
Fete/Autumn Gift Fayre/Christmas Craft Fair	3783	0	3783	4250		
Heritage Funding	3561	0	3561	11681		
Donation to Community Hall	0	0	0	250		
	<u>7344</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7344</u>	<u>16181</u>		
2c Income from charitable and ancillary trading						
Community Hall Letting	12016	0	12016	10800		
Fees ; - Weddings / Funerals	6408	0	6408	5595		
Church Bells Maintenance	0	330	330	120		
Church Organ maintenance	440	0	440	0		
	<u>18864</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>19194</u>	<u>16515</u>		
2d Other ordinary incoming resources						
Tea & Coffee Money	570	0	570	710		
	<u>570</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>570</u>	<u>710</u>		
2e Interest from Legacy	20759	0	20759	13387		
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>81354</u>	<u>1051</u>	<u>82405</u>	<u>87524</u>		

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2024

3 RESOURCES USED	Unrestricte Restricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:	0	721	721	476
	<u>0</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>476</u>
3b Activities directly relating to the work of the church				
Ministry: diocesan quota	26000	0	26000	26500
Clergy expenses / Visiting clergy expenses	1698	0	1698	758
Church running costs / Domestice Services	7689	0	7689	8033
Telephone / Broad Band	1601	0	1601	1263
Church maintenance	5232	0	5232	1680
Church Materials	2016	0	2016	1802
Church Administration	3286	0	3286	7796
Community Hall Electric	2460	0	2460	2944
Community Hall running costs	13885	0	13885	14282
Upkeep of churchyard	1200	0	1200	1100
Organist fees / Maintenance	4088	0	4088	2700
Justice Security / Alarm call outs	2396	0	2396	2798
	<u>71551</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>71551</u>	<u>71656</u>
3c Fund-raising and publicity				
Costs of Fete / Fair	0	0	0	430
Bells	0	0	0	651
Organ	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1080</u>
3d Church Management and Administration				
Heritage spending	3475	0	3475	9550
Legacy Spending	10489	0	10489	0
	<u>13964</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13964</u>	<u>9550</u>
3e Depreciation				
Hall Fixture & Fittings	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>85515</u>	<u>721</u>	<u>86236</u>	<u>82763</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31st December 2024

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fixed assets	0	677995	677995	644989
Current assets	318582	125811	444393	481230
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
	<u>318582</u>	<u>803806</u>	<u>1122388</u>	<u>1126219</u>
General Fund			318582	433020
Legacy;- Decoration fund			30000	30000
New Facility Fund (Capital Cost)			538098	538098
Bells (Capital Cost)			52291	52291
Organ fund			5307	4867
Bells Fund			13673	13343
Organ (Capital Cost)			54600	54600
Church (Capital Cost)			33006	0
Awards for All			4878	0
Youth Worker			71953	0
Total			<u>1122388</u>	<u>1126219</u>

6 DEBTORS

Income Tax recoverable	15000	15000
Prepayment and accrued interest	0	0
Other Debtors	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

a	Accruals and deferred income	0	0
b	Creditors for goods and services	0	0
c	Other creditors	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

213 Station Road
Stechford
Birmingham B33 8BB
Telephone : 0121 784 5321
Fax : 0121 785 0688
Email: admin@mlawrence.org.uk
Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret Castle Bromwich

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret for the period 01/01/24 to 31/12/24.

Signed *H Lawrence*
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date *11/6/25*

Accounts

**The Annual Report
Including the Financial Statements of**

**“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Castle Bromwich”**

Year ending December 2023

(Registered Charity No. 1146681)



**Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish
the whole mission of the church**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.
The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.
as amended and church representation rules.

St Mary and St Margaret is registered with the Charity Commission as
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”
Charity No. 1146681

The method of appointment of PCC/Trustee members
is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All regular attendees at the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll
which enables them to vote and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC/Trustees of
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”

ex officio 1 Rector (from 2nd October 2023)
Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith MA, BA(Hons) BMus(Hons)

ex officio 2 Churchwardens
Mrs Lisa Wakeman
Mrs Anita Low (elected 21st May)

ex officio 3 Deanery Synod representatives
Mr Dennis Jordan (resigned 21st May)
Mrs Karon Ward (re-elected 5th July)
Mrs Deborah Bates (elected 5th July)
Mrs Jackie Harris (elected 5th July)
Mrs Lisa Wakeman (elected 5th July)

ex officio 4 Mrs Alyson Rickus Lay Reader

12 elected members

Mrs Elaine Jeffs (Treasurer)
Mr David Greaves (Lay Chair)
Mrs Shirley Middlemass
Mrs Susan Bates
Mrs Laura Fallows
Mrs Margaret Grady
Miss Laurie Fisher
Ms Helen Giles
Mrs Mary Jones
Mrs Tricia Richards
Mrs Deborah Bates (elected to Deanery Synod 5th July)

Bank Lloyds Bank, High Street, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner
Martin Lawrence, 213 Station Road, Stechford,
Birmingham, B33 8BB

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of the church remains undiminished where the mission, outreach, thanksgiving, and celebration are at the heart of the ethos in our parish. We are an open and inclusive Church and warmly welcome everyone at St. Mary and St. Margaret, whatever their background or previous experience of Christian worship. We are looking to grow every individual as a Child of God through close ties with the Church school and in our wider Church community.

Our Mission is to be relevant in this community and beyond, through loving Christian service.

Our Aim is to be a living, vibrant, witnessing Church at the centre of our Community.

Vision for the Future

In 2019 we started our Transforming Church journey to grow our Church and meet the needs of an everchanging society. We embarked on a journey of reflection to consider who we are, who our community thinks we are and where God is calling us. With the arrival of our new Rector we have begun to look at what this could look like for us and the next steps to achieve all that God is calling us into

- 1. To be a prayerful and Christ led Church: centered on the needs of the congregation, and wider Community. Caring and compassionate to all that live and work in Castle Bromwich, regardless of age, culture, needs, or background.**
- 2. To Support our Church School family, fostering a mutual spiritual and pastoral partnership with Children, Teachers, and parents.**
- 3. To be Open, welcoming, and hospitable – sharing the Love of Jesus with everyone, regardless of who they are or why they join us. Whether new, of long standing or visiting, make everyone feel at home and included as we seek to broaden the diversity of our outreach and grow new disciples.**
- 4. To provide worship that satisfies the needs of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles, meeting people where they are in their Christian Journey.**
- 5. To be mission led – taking the word of Jesus out into the Community. Linking up with people, other communities and Churches on joint ventures that strengthen connection and unity between our different congregations.**

6. Provide a regular programme of activities to support Christian journeys. Creating a Discipleship Pathway particularly for new Christians, Children, Youth, and families to grow their faith.

7. To be an Environmentally responsible Church – committed to being stewards of God’s Creation

The PCC is looking at ways in which we can become carbon neutral.

8. To provide a thriving Christian Ministry for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) – in the belief that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the Church and are integral to church growth.

Objects and Activities

We have a thriving and inclusive all-age congregation from many walks of life. While many people come from the local community – the village setting of Castle Bromwich with its Hall and Gardens – many others are drawn from further afield and from different Christian traditions. By providing a variety of services and worship styles we hope that most needs are catered for while creating the conditions for discipleship and spiritual growth, development and wellbeing. We also have an excellent relationship with our local church school, St. Mary and St. Margaret CE Aided Primary School, where children participate in weekly clergy led worship, both in the school and in the church setting. Our family church team are working hard to improve these links.

Our Community Hall provides for our own needs while broadening our community outreach by offering a broad range of services and activities that have both deepened and strengthened our local ties while fostering and developing community cohesion.

Worship and Services

Until October we were in vacancy and relied on visiting clergy to lead our worship. We are very grateful to everyone who helped to ensure we continued to have a Sunday Communion Service each week. We are extremely grateful to all the visiting clergy who have led us in our worship. Visiting clergy were ably helped by our small band of loyal servers and ministrants who supported them, their help has been an invaluable resource and they continue to support our rector.

We were able to continue our Wednesday morning services, twice monthly. When we had no clergy cover, these services were led by Mary Jones and Lisa Wakeman with a spiritual communion. A class from our church school join us at the Wednesday service.

Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith has been with us since 2nd October. Our Sunday Communion services are now at 9:30 or 11:00 and we have a communion service on alternate Wednesdays. Café Worship services take place once a month.

In 2023, the parish undertook

- 9 church funerals,
- 20 baptisms
- 5 weddings

Our current service patterns are as follows:

- Sunday: Holy Communion Service at 9:30 or 11:00am
- Baptism every 1st Sunday of the month 11:00 am
- Café Worship every third Sunday 11:00 am in church community hall
- Family Communion on alternate Wednesdays of the month at 9:30. During term time, a class from our church school join us.

Pastoral Care and Counselling

There are 11 members on the Pastoral Team. We held 6 meetings during the year. Summer Outing was on 22nd July by coach to Nottingham, for a River cruise with meal on the River Trent. We had 50 people attend. It was very successful and all enjoyed the outing .

We held 4 Luncheon Club meals in the Church Hall Which were all well attended . Our Christmas Meal was held at Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel on 12th December, 72 people attended from both Church and the community.

Coffee Mornings were held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Bereavement Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 1.30 -3pm and continues to be well attended.

All Souls Service was held 2pm on November 5th In Church with tea and coffee after the Service in the Church Hall. All who came appreciated the Service , but attendance numbers were low, so we have decided to make it later in the afternoon next year in the hope more will attend .

The Pastoral group continue to send Thinking of You Cards to the sick and those in need of support. We also visit the sick and Housebound , and take communion to those unable to attend Church .

Baptism Team

Lisa Wakeman and Shirley Middlemass look after baptism arrangements. There were 19 Baptisms during 2023. Thanksgiving and Preparation Services have resumed and are held every 3 months, with additional Baptism's taking place prior to Thanksgiving service.

Café Worship Team

Café Worship is informal All Age Worship that takes place monthly in the hall on Sunday mornings. It consists of refreshment, songs, prayers, games, activities, and

crafts all based around a Bible Theme. Our mission is certainly messy, and people and relationships take priority over formality and structure. Children learn from the adults and adults can learn from the children.

In 2023 Café Worship remained popular with families and was well attended, and in addition to the regular Sunday Café Worship sessions we organised the following activities.

- Palm Praise,
- Epiphany Party
- Light Party
- Harvest service and Flowerpot Trail

The Mothers' Union

We continue to run our well attended Wednesday monthly friendship afternoons. All ages are welcome.

Highlighted meetings, March - Mothering Sunday we once again made and distributed daffodil posies and bookmarks.

In June we held our messy church with year 3 from our church school and the young families from church. Young and old sharing in song, prayer and fellowship, and working together on a craft to take home, this year it was about Gods creation, it was a joy to spend time together, truly echoed in our reading 'and God said it was good'(Genesis).

Later in the year thanks to the MU Birmingham trustees and the generosity of the late Pat Law we were able to present to Hope on Smiths Wood Rainbows, much needed items, how wonderful that we were able to help this little local group and it gave us as a group encouragement to share what we as the Mothers' Union stand for by helping to build a future where children thrive and can share fun and joy with each other.

Finally in December we held our annual afternoon Carol service which was well attended, we enrolled and welcomed 3 new members including our eagerly awaited new Rector and we once again collected an amazing amount of goods for women's aid. Our members continue to be very active within church life and have been delighted to serve our new rector, the congregation and community during the past year and we are eagerly looking forward to what 2024 brings.

The Family Church Team

Family Church is a group, made up of volunteers with a commitment to promote faith in our community.

Our Aim is to create an environment that nurtures faith and promotes a welcoming relationship – especially with those Seeking, new Christians, young people, and families: And to provide worship that is varied, interactive and engaging – to help families understand better and grow in faith. We appreciate the challenges of bringing children to Church and strive to make it easier.

We draw on the skills and talents across a wide range of Family Church volunteers – and provide a platform where we support one another, share, discuss and explore new ideas.

Café Worship, Baby and Me and Wayfarers are an important part of Family Church – and will have submitted their own reports. In addition - Family Church volunteers came together to organise the following events in 2023.

- Community Pancake Race
- Community Rounders in the Park
- Community Games in the grounds
- Community Harvest All Age service followed by Flowerpot Trail in the grounds.
- Harvest School visit for Nursery and Reception children from Church School
- Community Carols under the Stars and Nativity Trail

Christmas Craft Time was organised by Laura and Jackie. A day of family fun and crafts – including a visit from Santa. This was very popular and a sell-out support event for families. They also organised the Autumn Craft Fayre that also proved very popular.

Wayfarers

Wayfarers is the Sunday School for primary aged children (4-11 years) and we met in the Community Hall, after the Gospel during the 10.00a.m. service, on the first and third Sundays (term time only).The children on our roll enjoy the group, learning about the Bible and the Christian faith in a fun and interactive way, often including messy church elements.

Our two main activities during the year were enacting the events of Holy week at the Good Friday Children's service and the presentation of the Nativity at the Children's Christmas Eve service.

Our Good Friday Service this year was a Messy church craft workshop with the congregation moving around church and the hall to five stations making 5 items depicting elements of the Easter story (a palm leaf, chalice, prayer leaf, cross and Easter basket/nest). A retiring collection was taken for The Leprosy Mission.

Following discussion with Revd Fiona we opted to do a Christmas Eve interactive service again with children and some parents from the congregation dressing up and acting the parts as our two narrators read the story. The service was well attended. A retiring collection was taken for The Children's Society.

Further discussions were held during the year between Family Church group members and Rev Fiona regarding the way forward for Wayfarers due to continuing low numbers. The outcome was that we trial a Messy Church approach, meeting once a month on the 3rd Sunday. September saw the launch of a 3 month trial of Messy Church. It was decided to allow 3 year olds to attend if accompanied by one adult. Format to include Bible story, prayers, game and crafts. Café Worship team members volunteered to help out on a rota basis, many thanks go to them all for their support. The first session attracted 13 children and the 2 subsequent sessions 19 children. When asked if

they were enjoying Messy Church a positive response was given by children and parents.

When I met with Rev Fiona in November to discuss the Family Christmas Eve Service we also discussed my wish to stand down as Wayfarers leader. After 27 years I felt it was time to finish. My decision to stand down was not a sudden or an easy one. It was agreed I would finish after the January session. I have many fond memories of my time as Leader and thank all the helpers over the years for their help and support with special thanks to Mary Jones and Julie Fisher. I wish Messy Church every success in the future.

Maralyn Guise

Baby & Me Friendship Café

2023 saw Baby & Me celebrate its 5th birthday with moms attending the twice monthly sessions as part of their regular routine. Attendance peaked and troughed but there was an average attendance of approximately 10 parents per session. Feedback for the group continues to be encouraging and supportive of the safe environment we are trying to create for new parents.

We also hosted our second Wave of Light Service in aid of Baby Loss Awareness Week in October, with an improvement of attendance from the previous year with some repeat visitors who used the service to remember historic loss. We included more religious content following feedback from the previous service and this was gratefully received by those in attendance.

The grass roots function of the group has also been proven by the attendance of parents and their families at other church community events such as the summer fete, harvest festival and Christmas festivities.

In the winter of 2023, Leigh tendered her resignation as leader of the group, with the last session to be held in March 2024. This is due to a change in work and family commitments.

Bell Ringers

This year has been a year of inclusion and community for CBB! In this year we welcomed many new faces as well as some old friends. Not only have our great successes been in extending our community outreach but also in our bell ringing progress and general ability.

Our links with neighbouring towers has grown much stronger this year. We have been visited by numerous towers and are clearly part of the bell ringing landscape. We welcome frequent and weekly visitors from Sheldon and Coleshill Belltowers, these friends and ringers are no longer visitors but instead an important part of our ringing family at CBB. They have not only enriched our Wednesday evening rehearsals but also our open days, heritage days, weddings, and Sunday morning rings! For their support and company we are very thankful! Along with the captains of Coleshill we organised our first joint tower tour, visiting three new towers all in one day. This day was a

massive success culminating in a pub meal in Coleshill. Plans for another tour of new Belltowers in Stourbridge are already in hand for 2024!

We have welcomed our new vicar, Fiona, and her family this year. We met on a few occasions and thoroughly enjoyed inviting the family to our bellringers' Christmas Curry. This saw current and alumni ringers meet Fiona and her family in a wonderful social event with some smashing food! At the same event our three best ringers also got to know the band even better too.

We continue our links with local girl guiding groups and have welcomed many young ladies on tours of the tower and church. Jean and Ben have lead some tours based on the late Bill Dargue's famously fun and informative tours. The band have given demonstrations and tours of the bell towers and roof space to girl guides as well as on multiple Heritage Days and the Summer Fete.

With the addition of new learner bell ringers and the support from Coleshill and Sheldon, we have progressed greatly in our ringing ability. The band ring numerous new methods and can now ring 60 changes of Bob Doubles with bobs as well as many other Doubles, Minimus, and a few Minor methods. Our rate of progress and general ability has not only improved, this only adds to our already happy tower that value our fun and enjoyment in equal measure to our ringing.

Choir and Organ

From January 2023 Stuart Jeffs joined the organist rota, playing for the second Sunday of each month and by March, leading the choir for practice on a Thursday evening. The choir is a little depleted in numbers at the present time with four Sopranos, Two Altos, one tenor and one bass totalling eight members. It is hoped to increase the membership during 2024 by holding a number of 'open' sessions.

The choir sang anthems for the Easter and Holy Week services and a wedding in July with thanks Margaret Croucher for playing the organ and piano.

From September 2023, Stuart Jeffs became the 'full-time temporary' organist having left a position in Handsworth, with the possibility of becoming the permanent organist and musical director in the future, and the choir have continued to meet on a Thursday to rehearse hymns an anthem for services.

The choir supported the singing during our '9 Lessons and Carols' service in December and it was a thoroughly enjoyable event, they had worked hard to learn some Christmas pieces including one written by Stuart.

The organ has continued to be a fine instrument since it's rebuilding and is now regularly tuned and minor tweaks made when Rodney Briscoe from Boggis & Co visits. It is hoped that 2024 will be the start of an exciting new period for music at St Mary and St Margaret's church and there are a number of plans for events in the near future to raise the profile of our music and worship.

We are appreciative of the input and efforts of every choir member who turn up each week and we look forward to future growth.

The Flower Arrangers bring both beauty and colour into our worship. We are thankful that we have this small and yet willing band who work hard to produce their excellent and stunning floral arrangements. We had beautiful floral displays for Easter, Patronal, and Christmas services. Thanks must go to all those who contributed to the cost of the flowers.

Church Cleaners another small but willing band of loyal volunteers who have the thankless task of cleaning our beautiful old church, their efforts are very much appreciated. However, more volunteers would be welcome.

Gardening Group we are pleased with the success of the church and hall garden, it provides a tranquil and relaxing area to refresh the Spirit, however as it becomes more mature it is harder to keep tidy but thanks to the tireless work of our small group of gardening volunteers it remains a lovely place to sit and reflect.

Charity Fund Raising

We have resumed support Malawi through Lent collection boxes, Children's Society collection at Christingle Service and St Basil's collection boxes during Advent.

Hall Management Team

The Community Hall is run by the Hall Management Team who report to the PCC. Policies and Procedures are kept up to date.

The Community Hall office is staffed by a part time Parish Administrator who deals with all hall enquires and bookings as well as supporting the worship team with administration.

The Hall has both a music licence and alcohol licence.

There are several regular paid bookings for the hall, with Yoga classes and courses, Pilates classes, Baby Massage/Sensory Courses, Dance Classes, Mother & Baby exercise class and Martial Arts groups.

Wayfarers and Café-Worship use the hall for their worship.

Use by community groups, such as Baby and Me, along with Wednesday coffee mornings, Bereavement Support Group, Mothers Union meetings, Luncheon Club and Soup and Rolls Lunches are popular with church members and community alike. These events provide important opportunities for outreach, as they are attended by many people from the wider community, as well as Church regulars.

Safeguarding

We work to provide a safe and caring community, through respectful pastoral ministry, for all our parishioners and congregation. Our clergy, Reader and all volunteers, who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, are DBS checked and attend the relevant diocesan run safeguarding training courses. The majority of members of the PCC have also renewed their safeguarding training using the new sessions available online from Birmingham Diocese and, in compliance with the directive from the Church

of England, are also DBS checked. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are discussed and approved annually at PCC meetings. The PCC has also appointed a children's advocate and an adult's advocate, who sit on the PCC to represent the interests of these vulnerable groups.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. St. Mary & St. Margaret is using the Parish Dashboard which gives us visibility of all policies, procedures and training for our church, related to keeping our church community safe. Our Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator reports at each PCC meeting and presents a Parish Dashboard action plan at regular intervals for PPC approval.

Church/Hall Fabric

During 2023 we needed to have some of our light fittings repaired and ensured that the bulbs were replaced with LED bulbs as part of our drive to cut our carbon footprint. Everyone was pleased to see the lighting in glass panel near the South door, which dates back to the 1700s, successfully repaired.

The Remembrance chapel had been used for storage of the Christmas stage and grotto. These became surplus to requirements and permission was granted for removal and safe eco recycling, allowing us to restore the Remembrance altar with candles and a cross for all visitors to appreciate the beauty in time for the Remembrance service at the beginning of November.

Following the annual service, the boiler was condemned and needed a vast amount of work to bring it back to use to safely heat our church building. A new pump, PCR board and fan were replaced and thankfully the boiler is now working and the church is a warm welcoming place. Next year we will need to deal with the ingress of water through the cellar walls where the boiler is sited.

Building & Heritage Committee

It has been a busy year for the Building and Heritage Committee with the following projects being considered:-

1. External Storage facility
2. AV upgrade in the church and community hall
3. New Boiler and making the boiler room watertight so we can continue to use this area in the future.
4. Investigation into renewables i.e. solar panels, heat pump, under pew heating
5. Looking into the Quinquennial work needed to maintain our building.

Regarding items 1, 2 and 3 we have sent faculty applications or preview applications to the DAC which are all still under consideration.

Item 4 is a much longer project requiring a lot of consultation with the DAC and Council Planners. We have an estimate cost of between £50k to £70k for this work to be done. The PCC has agreed to invest 50% in this project with other outside funding required. We would hope to save a substantial amount of our present energy cost giving a good return on our investment. This initiative stems from the C of E policy to reduce our carbon footprint to zero by 2030.

Item 5 has just started and we are in the process of costing the urgent repairs needed.

All the above will require us to apply for grants including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We are actively involved in the C of E backed Eco Church initiative. This comprises three awards Bronze, Silver and Gold. We were fortunate to be granted our bronze award and we will be trying to move to the next level. However, this requires our church to embrace all aspects of eco church including the reduction of our carbon footprint and develop a Biodiversity policy. Its all about how we care for God's earth in different areas of our church life and work.

We applied and received two grants £10k from Awards for All and £10k from Heritage Lottery development. The Awards for All mainly related to funding an energy advisor, video of the church history and promoting warmer church initiatives. The Heritage Lottery development grant related to the sharing and interpreting our heritage. This covered Heritage events, improving the web site, energy and environmental consultation report, Architectural fees (Quinquennial building work) and community consultation and Fund-raising strategy.

Many thanks to all Committee members for their help over the past 12 months.

Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod

There were 3 Deanery synod meetings held in 2023

The 9th Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod meeting was held in February 2023 by Zoom.

The Diocese's finance director and finance manager explained to Synod what the finance team can do for parishes.

The main focus of the meeting was Eco Church, Net Zero and Environmental Focus. Revd Patrick Gerard welcomed the synod to the discussion. Information was given about how we are all facing a crisis with Climate Change, Justice Issues and the release of Carbon gasses into the air – Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Coal, Oil and Gas.

In 2020 the Church of England took a bold lead that they would be Net Zero by 2030. John Haywood explained how we can tie what we can do, to the Church of England's "Five Marks of Mission". John also explained to us the Eco Church tool that was available online and some tips for Parishes to use. By using the Eco Church Tool it will give churches a snap shot as to where they are currently sitting and what they can work towards.

Heather Holmes explained some ideas that could be implemented into Parishes as well as explaining the Practical Path to Net Zero Checklist.

Revd Patrick Gerard shared a video of what the Church of England are already doing and some of the ideas that could be implemented:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_zbx7_UU1k&t=7s

Marilyn Hull explained what kind of support there was out there and what work was already going on. BACA have Zooms coming up in the year that would be very helpful to attend.

The following motion by the Deanery Synod was created and unanimously voted for by Deanery Synod Representatives

"This Deanery Synod recognises that our planet faces an environmental emergency. It welcomes the many measures and initiatives through which the CofE and CofE Birmingham respond to the emergency. Synod encourages the parishes of the deanery to play their part by seeking Eco Church accreditations and to moving towards net zero carbon by 2030, making use of the support and training that is available."

The 10th Deanery Synod Meeting was held at Church of St Peter and St Paul, Kingsbury in June.

Louise spoke about the Archdeaconry Explore Days which are to be about people Exploring where God is calling them and this theme of following God's call would be a theme running through Synod as we had different speakers.

Children Family Mission Enabler

Lee Millward introduced himself to the Deanery in his new role of CFME for the Deanery of Coleshill and Polesworth. Lee will be working hard to put Children and Families at the centre of his mission focusing on supporting clergy, lay and volunteers. His role has an Environmental focus.

Environmental Champion Update

Following the synod that took place in February, Linda Nugent put herself forward to be the Deanery Environmental Champion (DEC) for the Deanery of Coleshill and Polesworth. As a Deanery Environmental Champion Linda is there to support any Parishes within the Deanery with any environmental questions, to help the Parish Environment Contacts (PEC) and help Parishes with their Net Zero and Eco Church. DECs also meet with the other DECs in the diocese to share information and questions.

Out of all the parishes in the Deanery, 8 are registered with Eco Church and 3 have bronze awards.

- Net Carbon Zero by 2030 is only 7 years away. How will the church get to that target?
- EFT – Energy Footprint Tool. The diocese uses these submissions to keep track of churches and how they are doing towards Net Zero.
- Linda referred to the Five Marks of Mission for inspiration – caring for creation and promoting justice for all as it is the countries with the least carbon footprint that are suffering the most.

Archdeaconry Explore Days and Vocational Calling

Louise informed synod that there will be two Archdeaconry Explore Days Anyone is encouraged to attend. It is not solely about ordination or calling to be a Reader.

Sue Round introduced herself to the Synod and spoke about her calling to curacy. Sue has been training at Queens for the last two years as a Self-Supporting Minister and will be ordained into Curacy on the weekend of the 24th and 25th June.

Sue's passion was and is in the community, get out in the community and be of help. Sue had felt there was something else she could do, further to her being a Reader.

Thank you

Louise thanked all the members of the synod that had been in their role for the past three years.

The final Deanery Synod meeting of 2023 was held at St Clements Church, Castle Bromwich in October.

Area Dean, Louise Shaw welcomed new members.

Finance Presentation

A presentation was given by Karen Preece from the Birmingham Diocese Board of Finance. The Diocese is in a poor state of finances and isn't receiving the generous contributions it once received from The Church of England. Various areas were discussed and those present were encouraged to contact Karen to see how savings could be made throughout the diocese. Karen also spoke about the churches response to affordable housing which is called 'Coming Home' and Sonia also spoke about Payroll.

Volunteers

We must thank all our volunteers, many of whom work tirelessly in the background but without whom the church and hall would not run so smoothly. Each year we do lose one or two of our older volunteers and we particularly give thanks to these people for their many years of service.

The above report has been compiled by the PCC Secretary with input from the Rector, PCC Vice Chair, Church Wardens and Church Groups on behalf of the PCC/Trustees.

Approved by the PCC on Wednesday 8th May 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Rector

Revd. Fiona Harrison-Smith

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**Balance sheet at 31st December 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Property - Hall	4a	538098	538098
Fixtures & Fittigs - Hall	4a	0	0
Fixtures & Fittings - Church	4b	0	0
Bells	4b	52291	52291
Organ	4b	54600	54600
		<u>644989</u>	<u>644989</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	15000	15000
Short Term Deposits		410000	350000
Cash at bank and in hand		56230	111469
		<u>481230</u>	<u>476469</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Creditors	7	0	0
Provision for Common Fund		0	0
Diocesan Loan		0	0
		<u>481230</u>	<u>476469</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>481230</u>	<u>476469</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR			
	8		
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General		433020	427728
Restricted Legacy (decoration Fund)		30000	30000
Restricted Interregnum Fund		0	0
Restricted - Hall (Captial Cost)		538098	538098
Restricted - Bells		13343	13874
Restricted Bells (Capital Cost)		52291	52291
Restricted - Organ		4867	4867
Restricted - Organ (Capital Cost)		54600	54600
		<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Meeting on

Revd F Harrison Smith

and signed on its behalf by :

Mrs L Wakeman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	40255	476	40731	39767
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	16181	0	16181	13575
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	16395	120	16515	17225
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	710	0	710	530
Income from investments	2e	13387	0	13387	2332
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		86928	596	87524	73429
RESOURCES USED					
Charities	3a	0	476	476	763
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	71656	0	71656	47778
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	430	651	1081	121
Church Management & Administration	3d	9550		9550	0
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		81636	1127	82763	48662
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		5292	-531	4762	24767
TRANSFER OF ASSETS					
Restricted		0	0	0	-2984
Unrestricted		0	0	0	2984
NET MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS		0	0	0	0
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		427728	693730	1121458	1096691
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		433020	693199	1126219	1121458

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**For the year ended 31st December 2023****2 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023	2022 £
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving				
Covenants	21966	0	21966	23370
Income tax recoverable on covenants	5665	0	5665	2558
Collections (open plate) at all services	4426	0	4426	3551
Sundry Donations	8198	476	8674	10288
Legacy				
	<u>40255</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>40731</u>	<u>39767</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Fete & Christmas Fayre	4250	0	4250	3576
Heritage Funding	11681	0	11681	9999
Donation to Community Hall	250	0	250	0
	<u>16181</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16181</u>	<u>13575</u>
2c Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Community Hall Letting	10800	0	10800	9434
Fees :- Weddings / Funerals	5595	0	5595	7264
Church Bells	0	120	120	300
Church Bells Donation	0	0	0	227
	<u>16395</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>16515</u>	<u>17225</u>
2d Other ordinary incoming resources				
Tea & Coffee Money	710	0	710	530
	<u>710</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>530</u>
2e Interest from Legacy	13387	0	13387	2332
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>86928</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>87524</u>	<u>73429</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

3 RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:	0	476	476	763
	<u>0</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>763</u>
3b Activities directly relating to the work of the church				
Ministry: diocesan quota	26500	0	26500	8000
Clergy expenses / Visiting clergy expenses	758	0	758	691
Church running costs / Domestic Services	8033	0	8033	7488
Telephone / Broad Band	1263	0	1263	1527
Church maintenance	1680	0	1680	5820
Church Materials	1802	0	1802	680
Church Administration	7796	0	7796	5823
Community Hall Electric	2944	0	2944	2670
Community Hall running costs	14282	0	14282	8278
Upkeep of churchyard	1100	0	1100	1200
Organist fees / Maintenance	2700	0	2700	4016
Justice Security / Call outs / Roof repairs	2798	0	2798	1585
				0
	<u>71656</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>71656</u>	<u>47778</u>
3c Fund-raising and publicity				
Costs of Fete / Fair	430	0	430	121
Bells	0	651	651	0
Organ	0	0	0	0
	<u>430</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>1080</u>	<u>121</u>
3d Heritage spending	9550	0	9550	0
	<u>9550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9550</u>	<u>0</u>
3e Depreciation				
Hall Fixture & Fittings	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>81636</u>	<u>1127</u>	<u>82763</u>	<u>48662</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets		644989	644989	644989
Current assets	433020	48210	481230	476469
Current liabilities				0
	<u>433020</u>	<u>693199</u>	<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>
General Fund			433020	427728
Legacy;- Decoration fund			30000	30000
New Facility Fund (Capital Cost)			538098	538098
Bells (Capital Cost)			52291	52291
Organ fund			4867	4867
Bells Fund			13343	13874
Organ (Capital Cost)			54600	54600
Total			<u>1126219</u>	<u>1121458</u>

6 DEBTORS

Income Tax recoverable	15000	15000
Prepayment and accrued interest	0	0
Other Debtors	0	0
	<u>15000</u>	<u>15000</u>

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

a	Accruals and deferred income	0	0
b	Creditors for goods and services	0	0
c	Other creditors	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023;- Additional analysis of major items (for information only)**Church Running Costs**

Insurance	3999
Utilities	4034

Church Administration

Stewardship Envelopes	58
Zoom	184
Café Worship	120
Challenging Thinking	937
Iknow Calendar	248
Website	162

Maintenance & Repair

Roof repair	870
Electrical work	260
Boiler	880
A V System	1547

Hall Running Costs

Manager	6801
Cleaning	1620
Window Cleaning	200
Licence	295
Bin contract	428
Legionella Risk Assessment	1290
Dishwasher	392
Freezer	244
Tables & Stackers	1242
Electrical work	840
General Maintenance	480

Charities

The Childrens Society	135
Leprosy	22
Sands	22
Foodbank	63
Pakistan Earthquake appeal	135
St Basils	150

Fund Raising Events

Garden Fete (G) 3042	2916 Net
Harvest Trail	103
Christmas Craft Fayre	100
Community Carols	224
Autumn Gift Fayre	812
Easter Raffle	158

Donations - General Fund

Dame Mary Bridgeman	1888
Baby & Me	190
Mother Union	50
Anon Don	5895



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

213 Station Road
Stechford
Birmingham B33 8BB
Telephone : 0121 784 5321
Fax : 0121 785 0688
Email: admin@mlawrence.org.uk
Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret

Castle Bromwich

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret for the period 01/01/23 to 31/12/23.

Signed *H Lawrence*
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date *10/6/2024*

Accounts

The Annual Report Including the Financial Statements of

**“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Castle Bromwich”**

Year ending December 2022

(Registered Charity No. 1146681)



**Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish
the whole mission of the church**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.
The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.
as amended and church representation rules.

St Mary and St Margaret is registered with the Charity Commission as
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”
Charity No. 1146681

The method of appointment of PCC/Trustee members
is set out in the Church Representation Rules.
All regular attendees at the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll
which enables them to vote and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC/Trustees of
“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich”

ex officio 1 (in vacancy throughout the year)

ex officio 2 Churchwardens
Mrs Lisa Wakeman

ex officio 3 Deanery Synod representatives
Mr Dennis Jordan
Mrs Karon Ward
Mrs Tricia Richards (resigned 22nd May)

ex officio 4 Rev Margaret MacLachlan Honorary Curate (resigned Nov)
Mrs Alyson Rickus Lay Reader

12 elected members

Mrs Elaine Jeffs (Treasurer)
Mr David Greaves (Lay Chair)
Mrs Shirley Middlemass
Mrs Susan Bates
Mrs Laura Fallows
Mrs Margaret Grady
Mrs Julie Fisher (resigned 13th July)
Miss Laurie Fisher
Ms Helen Giles
Mrs Mary Jones
Mrs Tricia Richards (elected 22nd May)
Mrs Deborah Bates (elected 22nd May)

Bank Lloyds Bank, High Street, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner
Martin Lawrence, 213 Station Road, Stechford,
Birmingham, B33 8BB

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of the church remains undiminished where the mission, outreach, thanksgiving, and celebration are at the heart of the ethos in our parish. We are an open and inclusive Church and warmly welcome everyone at St. Mary and St. Margaret, whatever their background or previous experience of Christian worship. We are looking to grow every individual as a Child of God through close ties with the Church school and in our wider Church community.

Our Mission is to be relevant in this community and beyond, through loving Christian service.

Our Aim is to be a living, vibrant, witnessing Church at the centre of our Community.

Vision for the Future

In 2019 we started our Transforming Church journey to grow our Church and meet the needs of an everchanging society. We embarked on a journey of reflection to consider who we are, who our community thinks we are and where God is calling us. This report will follow the aims from the Church Action Plan 2021

1. To be a prayerful and Christ led Church: centered on the needs of the congregation, and wider Community. Caring and compassionate to all that live and work in Castle Bromwich, regardless of age, culture, needs, or background.

During the continuing interregnum our Church Warden Lisa has done a great job ensuring that every service has been covered by priests who have brought their own talents to the regular services. Lisa has been supported by an army of workers who have helped with the running of the church to ensure its position in the wider community.

2. To Support our Church School family, fostering a mutual spiritual and pastoral partnership with Children, Teachers, and parents.

We have continued to welcome our church school to Wednesday morning services to foster the children's spiritual growth. The Mothers Union and the Cafe Worship group have put on events that have welcomed classes to the church grounds and community hall working in partnership with their teachers.

3. To be Open, welcoming, and hospitable – sharing the Love of Jesus with everyone, regardless of who they are or why they join us. Whether new, of long standing or visiting, make everyone feel at home and included as we seek to broaden the diversity of our outreach and grow new disciples

The pastoral group have provided an updated welcome leaflet for all new comers and

visitors, these are given out by the people who welcome all in the congregation as they arrive for services. People on duty now wear name labels to identify themselves. A table at the back of church holds welcome leaflets, prayer cards and cards for newcomers. All other tables have been removed from the area around the font so that we now have a comfortable area to welcome people.

4. To provide worship that satisfies the needs of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles, meeting people where they are in their Christian Journey.

We try to provide different forms of service. Once a month we have a baptism service to welcome those to be baptized, their families and friends. We have two sung services and an all age service each month. One Sunday per month the Cafe Worship team provide an alternative form of worship in the Community Hall aimed at providing for families with children and is available for anyone who wishes to experience this style of worship.

5. To be mission led – taking the word of Jesus out into the Community. Linking up with people, other communities and Churches on joint ventures that strengthen connection and unity between our different congregations.

We hold a number of events aimed at the local community over the year. The scarecrow trail linked with Harvest Festival, Carols under the Stars for Christmas. These events are aimed at the local community using our facilities and showing that church is at the heart of these events.

At the moment we are weak at working with other communities and on joint ventures, a position we must try to work at.

6. Provide a regular programme of activities to support Christian journeys. Creating a Discipleship Pathway particularly for new Christians, Children, Youth, and families to grow their faith.

We have had a group of adults and children who have successfully grown their faith and been confirmed into the church. We are setting up a youth group to further the young peoples' journey and hopefully introduce faith to other young people.

7. To be an Environmentally responsible Church – committed to being stewards of God's Creation

The PCC is looking at ways in which we can become carbon neutral.

8. To provide a thriving Christian Ministry for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) – in the belief that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the Church and are integral to church growth.

As already stated the Cafe Worship Team provide an alternative form of service being more suitable for families and children. The Wednesday morning service is aimed at school children families and adults. And the forming of a youth group for older children will enable them to grow their faith.

We have a Baby and Me group who meet twice a month in the community Hall.

Other actions that happen in the name of our church are the events organised by the pastoral group who arrange meals, a drop in for coffee twice a month and an annual outing for the elderly and lonely of the parish and wider community. The bereavement group who provide a service for those who have been bereaved and attract people from the parish and the wider community. The people who visit the elderly and housebound taking communion to those who are no longer able to join our services. Soup and a roll is prepared fresh by Alison and served every second Wednesday of the month.

Objects and Activities

We have a thriving and inclusive all-age congregation from many walks of life. While many people come from the local community – the village setting of Castle Bromwich with its Hall and Gardens – many others are drawn from further afield and from different Christian traditions. By providing a variety of services and worship styles we hope that most needs are catered for while creating the conditions for discipleship and spiritual growth, development and wellbeing. We also have an excellent relationship with our local church school, St. Mary and St. Margaret CE Aided Primary School, where children participate in weekly clergy led worship, both in the school and in the church setting. Our family church team are working hard to improve these links.

Our Community Hall provides for our own needs while broadening our community outreach by offering a broad range of services and activities that have both deepened and strengthened our local ties while fostering and developing community cohesion.

Worship and Services

Throughout 2022 we have been in vacancy and relied on visiting clergy to lead our worship. We are very grateful to everyone who helped to ensure we continued to have Sunday Worship. We continued to have a 10am service each Sunday with only the bread element of Communion administered until Easter when we reintroduced the wine element too. We are extremely grateful to all the visiting clergy who have led us in our worship. We were able to re-introduce our Wednesday morning services, twice monthly, in March. When we have no clergy cover, these services are led by Mary Jones and Lisa Wakeman with a spiritual communion. A class from our church school join us at the Wednesday service.

We are extremely grateful to all our visiting clergy, Mary and Lisa for leading us in worship.

The annual Remembrance Parade was officiated by Rev Gavin Douglas.

This busy parish church is currently in vacancy, visiting clergy are ably helped by our small band of loyal servers and administrators who turn up every week to support them, their help has been an invaluable resource and they continue to support our visiting clergy.

In 2022, the parish undertook

- 9 church funerals,
- 26 baptisms
- 6 weddings
- 1 marriage blessing

Our current service patterns are as follows:

- Sunday: Holy Communion 10.00 am Sung Service,
- Baptism every 1st Sunday of the month 10.00 am
- Café Worship every second Sunday 10.00 am in church community hall
- Wednesday on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 and during term time, a class from our church school join us.

Pastoral Care and Counselling

There are 10 members of the Pastoral Group and 1 helper. The group met 7 times during 2022. We held 4 Luncheon Clubs in the Community Hall which were all well attended.

The Summer outing was on the 16th June, a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum followed with a carvery meal at The George Hotel, Lichfield. We had 44 people on the outing who all enjoyed the day out.

The Christmas meal at Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel on the 8th December was attended by 63 people.

We have restarted Coffee Mornings every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the community hall where we serve tea, coffee and toast. Numbers are slowly picking up again.

The Bereavement Group is held every 2nd Monday of the month between 1.30 – 3pm, and is well attended.

We held an All Saints Service on the 30th October, invitations were sent out to those Bereaved from our Church and in the community, the pastoral group provided refreshments after the service and spent time talking to those who attended the service.

We have produced a new Welcome Leaflet, which is now in Church and have been provided with Pastoral Badges and Lanyards so that people can easily identify us.

We continue to send out thinking of you cards to those in need of our prayers. House visits are made to the sick and house bound, and Holy Communion taken to those who request it.

Baptism Team

St. Mary and St. Margaret as an historic church building continues to attract applications for Baptisms from both within and outside the Parish. Baptisms are currently only carried out as part of the main Sunday 10am Parish Holy Communion service on the first Sunday, our afternoon services at 2pm where the service is Baptism

only have been suspended due to having no incumbent. Baptism Team are Lisa Wakeman , Shirley Middlemass and Tricia Richards.

Out of Parish families must seek permission from their home parish priest for the Baptism to be done at St. Mary and St. Margaret. Families with no qualifying connection to the Parish are required to attend a 10am Sunday service for six months prior to the Baptism and a register of attendance is kept.

We welcomed 28 children & adults through Baptism in 2022

The Baptism team undertakes the following:

- Following up on-line Baptism bookings
- Pre-Baptism zoom meetings or phone call for families living in the Parish .
- Inviting out of Parish families to attend a Sunday 10am service prior to the Baptism with the option of the family attending the informal Café Worship service on the second Sunday of the month. By prior arrangement the family can instead attend the Wednesday 9.30am morning service. The visit being conducted over coffee after the service.
- Assisting the Priest at Baptism services

The preparation of records and certificates is done by the Parish Administrator.

Our challenges for 2023 will be:

To increase members of the Baptism Team and encourage volunteers, particularly with regard to assisting at the Thanksgiving & Preparation Services and afternoon Baptism Services if they resume .

Building on and maintaining a relationship with Baptism families.

Café Worship Team

Café Worship continued to be a vibrant addition to our more traditional Sunday Worship. With an informal and relaxed Messy Church style, simple worship, crafts and Bible stories, it remained popular with families and children. On average we welcomed approx. 20 adults and 18 children each month. There remains a higher proportion of pre-school children than school aged children/youth attending, which reflected the general trend in Church. With only 2 leaders and one helper to set up the hall, prepare the service and crafts, lead the worship and cover all jobs on the day, 2022 was a challenge, especially during holiday periods and more helpers are needed if we are to continue.

With support from the wider Family Church group and Wayfarers – in addition to our monthly service, below are other activities that took place:

Light Party – a fun Christian alternative to Halloween

Palm Praise - a relaxed All Age exploration of Holy Week

Harvest Service in main Church – followed by a Community Pumpkin event and school visit.

Outdoor Community Carols and Nativity Trail.

The Mothers' Union

We continue to meet on a Wednesday for our monthly friendship afternoons, where we chat, play games, or discuss interesting topics. It is popular with members and non-members alike. Those less active continue to support us especially with prayer, which is a very important part of our ministry.

Highlighted meetings, in March for Mothering Sunday we made up daffodil posies to distribute to all the ladies in church or at home. In June we were delighted to introduce back our messy church invite to year 3 from our church school and also to the young families from church. We had a fun afternoon in our Community hall, old and young alike sharing in prayer and fellowship, working together on a craft to take home, this year we explored the trinity. Finally in December we held our annual afternoon Carol service which was well attended and we once again collected an amazing amount of goods for women's aid.

Our members continue to be very active within church life and have been delighted to serve our congregation and community during the past year and we are eagerly looking forward to what 2023 brings.

The Family Church Team

Family Church is a team of volunteers from various areas of Church, who join forces in their passion for Family Mission. The aim is to build a nurturing environment that helps families and newer Christians explore their faith in creative ways with fun and fellowship. During 2022 we shared ideas and resources to support one another both practically and spiritually, working as a team and separately to organise the following activities:

- Harvest service with help from Open the Book team.
- Community Pumpkin Trail
- School visit to Pumpkin Trail for Reception/Nursery children
- Epiphany Party and Halloween Light Party
- Community Carols and Nativity Trail
- Christmas Craft Time (community event)
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Pancake Race
- Growing Good Lent Course
- New play bags introduced in Church.
- Toy and Gift collection for local Foodbank

The community events proved extremely popular and drew large crowds from the local community and further afield and we aim to expand this mission area going forward.

Wayfarers

Wayfarers is the Sunday School for primary aged children (4-11 years) and we meet in the Community Hall, after the Gospel during the 10.00a.m. service, on the first and third Sundays (term time only).The children on our roll enjoy the group, learning about the Bible and the Christian faith in a fun and interactive way, often including messy church elements.

Our two main activities during the year are enacting the events of Holy week at the Good Friday Children's service and the presentation of the Nativity at the Children's Christmas Eve service.

We started 2022 with an Epiphany Party with a specially created game telling the story of The Wise Men's journey which the children enjoyed.

Our Good Friday Service was interactive with the congregation moving around church and the hall collecting 5 puzzle pieces to fit into a small puzzle depicting 5 elements of the Easter story (a palm leaf, chalice, praying hands, cross, sunrise). Special thanks go to the Crafty Cow for creating the brilliant puzzle board to our exact specification. A retiring collection was taken for The Leprosy Mission.

Wayfarers were fortunate to enjoy the end of term Summer party outside thanks to brilliant weather and we contributed to the Pumpkin trail at Harvest which was good fun.

Not having enough children to play all the parts required, our Christmas Eve Service was interactive with children and some parents from the congregation dressing up and acting the parts as our two narrators read the story. Although the service wasn't as well attended as usual it went down well and was enjoyed by all. A retiring collection was taken for The Children's Society.

Due to fewer volunteer helpers generally and low numbers of children at Wayfarers a discussion was started between Café Worship team and Wayfarers regarding a possible way forward together. Discussions are ongoing.

Baby & Me Friendship Café

We had a small hiatus in the spring of 2022 and returned in May, without restrictions, two Thursdays a month. Numbers continued to be lower than pre-pandemic before we broke up for summer. We hosted a small teddy bears picnic during the summer holidays on the lawn which was enjoyed by some of the moms who usually attended the group.

Following our relaunch on two Wednesdays a month in September of 2022, attendance has continued to improve and we now average about 15-20 parents per session.

Feedback for the group continues to be encouraging and supportive of the safe environment we are trying to create for new parents. Visiting businesses have included child first aid trainers and hand/foot prints on ceramic keep sakes.

Last year some of the funds were used to buy a toddler toilet seat and new nappy bin to make the facilities more user friendly for those with young children. We also hosted our

first Wave of Light Service in aid of Baby Loss Awareness Week in October, the feedback was incredibly moving from those who attended and we aim to repeat the service again this year.

The grass roots function of the group has also been proven by the attendance of parents and their families at other church community events such as the summer fete, harvest festival and Christmas festivities.

Due to very limited volunteer numbers, hosting sessions is still heavily affected by holidays and illness of the two main hosts and we hope to encourage more volunteers to ensure the future viability of the group.

Bell Ringers

This has been a difficult year for us Castle Bromwich Bell Ringers. First attention must go to the loss of our dear friend, former tower captain, and role model, Bill Dargue. At Bills funeral it was wonderful to see so many ringers paying their respects. It is suffice to say that Bill has left an indelible mark upon our tower, just look at the amount photographs there are of Bill on our walls! Bill was sorely missed during his ill health and is missed even more greatly following his passing

Therein, much like Bill taught many of us to ring, we continue Bill's legacy and teaching methods as we welcome two new learners - Steve and Anthony. Both have great enthusiasm for ringing and have shown excellent promise in their early stages of ringing. They are both great new additions to our team and we look forward to being part of their journey into Bell Ringing!

Phil Ramsbottom, our ringing master for the guild, made a visit to the tower this year and commented on the great ringing we have been undertaking. We have had a great focus on 'Minimus Methods' (complex compositions written for four bells) which are a favourite of Phil's and instrument, in his opinion, in the mastering of ringing! Highlights include, Bob Minimus, Single Court, Double Court, and our most recent challenge St Nicholas - something we may ring at Christmas this year?

This year we have also rang for major events such as the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II - this all beautifully recorded in our visitors/ringing book!

We have also been lucky enough to have former Castle Bromwich ringers visit and return to ringing at the tower, it's wonderful to see old friends and to have them with us as often as they can ring, whether that be on a Wednesday or a Sunday Morning.

We look forward to continuing our ringing and welcoming new ringers into the Castle Bromwich family.

Choir and Organ

In early 2022, our much loved organist and musical director, Martin Bates, passed away. He was our musical director for 13 years during which time he not only enhanced our services with his amazing talent but was instrumental in the refurbishment of our organ. Without Martin's incredibly hard work the refurbishment may not have been so successful.

We owe enormous gratitude to Margaret Croucher, who throughout 2022 played the organ, led our choir and arranged replacement organists when she was unavailable. We thank Margaret Herdman, John Ward and Rachel Taylor for coming to play for us. We hope to recruit a musical director when we have a new incumbent.

The choir have continued to lead the singing in our services during what has been a difficult time. The choir consists of 5 sopranos, 2 altos, 1 tenor and 1 bass. Thank you to them all.

We look forward to continue enjoying music from our choir and organists in 2023.

The Flower Arrangers bring both beauty and colour into our worship. We are thankful that we have this small and yet willing band who work hard to produce their excellent and stunning floral arrangements. We had beautiful floral displays for Easter, Patronal, Harvest and Christmas services. Thanks must go to those who contributed to the cost of the flowers

Church Cleaners another small but willing band of loyal volunteers who have the thankless task of cleaning our beautiful old church, their efforts are very much appreciated. However, more volunteers would be welcome.

Gardening Group we are pleased with the success of the church and hall garden, it provides a tranquil and relaxing area to refresh the Spirit, however as it becomes more mature it is harder to keep tidy but thanks to the tireless work of our small group of gardening volunteers it remains a lovely place to sit and reflect. It was well visited during lockdowns by members of the congregation and visitors alike who appreciated it's tranquillity.

Charity Fund Raising

Due to smaller congregation numbers than pre-Covid, we have not yet resumed our monthly Charity collections. However, we have resumed the lent Malawi collection boxes, Children's Society collection at Christingle Service and St Basil's collection boxes during Advent.

Hall Management Team

The Community Hall is run by the Hall Management Team who report to the PCC. Policies and Procedures are kept up to date.

The Community Hall office is staffed by a part time Parish Administrator who deals with all hall enquires and bookings as well as supporting the worship team with administration.

The Hall is licensed for music and drink and has a kitchen available for hire.

There are several regular paid bookings for the hall, with Yoga classes and courses, Pilates classes, Baby Massage/Sensory Courses, Mother & Baby exercise class and Martial Arts groups.

Wayfarers and Café-Worship use the hall for their worship.

Use by community groups, such as Baby and Me, along with Wednesday coffee mornings, Bereavement Support Group, Mothers Union meetings, Luncheon Club and Soup and Rolls Lunches are popular with church members and community alike. These events provide important opportunities for outreach, as they are attended by many people from the wider community, as well as Church regulars.

Safeguarding

We work to provide a safe and caring community, through respectful pastoral ministry, for all our parishioners and congregation. Our clergy, Reader and all volunteers, who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, are DBS checked and attend the relevant diocesan run safeguarding training courses. The majority of members of the PCC have also renewed their safeguarding training using the new sessions available online from Birmingham Diocese and, in compliance with the directive from the Church of England, are also DBS checked. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are discussed and approved annually at PCC meetings. The PCC has also appointed a children's advocate and an adult's advocate, who sit on the PCC to represent the interests of these vulnerable groups.

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. St. Mary & St. Margaret is using the Parish Dashboard which gives us visibility of all policies, procedures and training for our church, related to keeping our church community safe. Our Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator reports at each PCC meeting and presents a Parish Dashboard action plan at regular intervals for PPC approval.

Church/Hall Fabric

The trees in the church grounds were in need of some maintenance, and because the church grounds are in a conservation area, permission was sought from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. Once the council had granted permission, the trees were cut back in October by Beechwood Tree Care as allowed by SMBC and are now safe. A grant from Dame Mary Bridgeman paid for the works and we are very grateful for their generous support.

The Community Hall was looking worn and dated and so it was decided to paint the hall and a dado rail was added to prevent damage from the chairs against the walls. This has breathed new life into the Hall and consequently bookings have increased.

Building & Heritage Committee

The PCC agreed to form a building and Heritage Committee to develop ideas for funding various projects over the coming years.

- Preserve the Christian Heritage of the church
- Secure the structure and fabric of the building

- Redecorate the interior in keeping with its 18th century origins
- To open the church on a regular basis so that all can experience the beauty of the church
- To improve sustainability and work towards carbon neutral status

It is hoped that we would fund the majority of the work by grants mainly from the Heritage Lottery fund.

Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery Synod

There were 3 Deanery synod meetings held in 2022

February 9th Zoom Meeting

Area Dean Louise Shaw, gave a People & Places update. The |Deanery Project Team had agreed the Final Draft of the proposed oversight areas. Louise was visiting every PCC to show them the oversight area they will be in. Once she has visited all PCC's, Louise will take the map to Deanery Synod

Will Stevenette talked about the Diocese learning platform 'Pathways' which is available to all clergy and laity. To access go to <https://www.cofebirmingham.com/pathways/learning>

Diocesan Synod Update – Mr Dan Myers gave an Environmental update and there was an update from the Racial Injustice Group, talking about the 'From Lament to Action' report. The synod approved a motion to ask the Archbishops Council to revisit the decision not to appoint a funded Racial Justice Officer to each Diocese.

General Synod Update – The Archbishop of York spoke about the need to address racial inequality in the church and in society. There was a presentation about 'Living in Love & Faith', a report which emphasised the need for inclusion. Diversity & engagement.

June 8th St. Thomas' Church, Garretts Green

Area Dean Louise reported that she had now visited most PCCs to discuss the oversight areas and explained the process for becoming an oversight area. She gave some examples of how churches in some areas had already to started to work together. Deanery representatives were given the opportunity to discuss in groups their thoughts and concerns which were fed back to Louise.

Diocesan Synod update – Bishop Anne has recorded videos on the 5 marks of mission which are available on YouTube channel.

October 19th St. Leonard's Church, Dordon

The focus of this meeting was Racial Justice and Lament to Action. Louise shared with the Synod some information that Revd Dele at Quinton Church; chair of the diocese's Racial Justice Group had shared with other Deaneries.

The Diocese so far has done the following:

- Education Board – being as inclusive as possible
- Collective Worship
- Unconscious Bias Training
- Racial Justice Board
- Time for Change – events that happen across the diocese.

A video was then shown – the link to this video is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M5aBzgQljM>

Deanery Synod members discussed in groups the contents of the video, experiences in their parishes and what as a Deanery can do. We will continue to think about this as a Deanery, something that we will return to.

Volunteers

We must thank all our volunteers, many of whom work tirelessly in the background but without whom the church and hall would not run so smoothly. Each year we do lose one or two of our older volunteers and we particularly give thanks to these people for their many years of service.

The above report has been compiled by the PCC Secretary with input from the PCC Vice Chair, Church Wardens and Church Groups on behalf of the PCC/Trustees.

Approved by the PCC on 17th May 2023 and signed on their behalf by the PCC Vice Chair

Mr David Greaves (PCC Vice Chairman)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**Balance sheet at 31st December 2022**

		2022	2021
	Note	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Property - Hall	4a	538098	538098
Fixtures & Fittigs - Hall	4a	0	0
Fixtures & Fittings - Church	4b	0	0
Bells	4b	52291	52291
Organ	4b	54600	54600
		<u>644989</u>	<u>644989</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	15000	20000
Short Term Deposits		350000	350000
Cash at bank and in hand		111469	81702
		<u>476469</u>	<u>451702</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Creditors	7	0	0
Provision for Common Fund		0	0
Diocesan Loan		0	0
		<u>476469</u>	<u>451702</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>476469</u>	<u>451702</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR			
	8		
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1121458</u>	<u>1096691</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General		427728	403488
Restricted Legacy (decoration Fund)		30000	30000
Restricted Interregnum Fund		0	0
Restricted - Hall (Captial Cost)		538098	538098
Restricted - Bells		13874	13574
Restricted Bells (Capital Cost)		52291	52291
Restricted - Organ		4867	4640
Restricted - Organ (Capital Cost)		54600	54600
		<u>1121458</u>	<u>1096691</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Meeting on 17th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by :

Mr David Greaves

Mrs L Wakeman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2022

		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	Funds	Funds	2022	2021
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	39004	763	39767	42932
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	13575	0	13575	468
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	16698	527	17225	8011
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	530	0	530	3972
Income from investments	2e	2332	0	2332	346
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		72139	1290	73429	55729
RESOURCES USED					
Charities	3a	0	763	763	190
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	47778	0	47778	46753
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	121	0	121	3332
Church Management & Administration	3d	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	3e	0	0	0	2488
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		47899	763	48662	52763
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		24240	527	24767	2966
TRANSFER OF ASSETS					
			Restricted	0	0
			Unrestricted	0	0
				0	-2984
				0	2984
NET MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS		0	0	0	0
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		403488	693203	1096691	1093724
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		427728	693730	1121458	1096691

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**For the year ended 31st December 2022****2 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2022	2021 £
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving				
Covenants	23370	0	23370	23726
Income tax recoverable on covenants	2558	0	2558	9160
Collections (open plate) at all services	3551	0	3551	1331
Sundry Donations	9525	763	10288	8715
Legacy				
	<u>39004</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>39767</u>	<u>42932</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Fete & Christmas Fayre	3576	0	3576	0
Heritage Funding	9999	0	9999	0
Community Hall Fund Raising	0	0	0	468
	<u>13575</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13575</u>	<u>468</u>
2c Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Community Hall Letting	9434	0	9434	3107
Fees - Weddings / Funerals	7264	0	7264	4544
Church Bells	0	300	300	360
Church Bells Donation	0	227	227	0
	<u>16698</u>	<u>527</u>	<u>17225</u>	<u>8011</u>
2d Other ordinary incoming resources				
Choir / Verger / Organ	0	0	0	240
Tea & Coffee Money	530	0	530	51
Income due to Diocese	0	0	0	3129
Organ Fund raising	0	0	0	552
	<u>530</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>3972</u>
2e Interest from Legacy	2332	0	2332	346
	<u>72139</u>	<u>1290</u>	<u>73429</u>	<u>55729</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES				

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2022

3 RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:	0	763	763	190
	<u>0</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>190</u>
3b Activities directly relating to the work of the church				
Ministry: Diocesan Quota	8000	0	8000	14000
Clergy expenses / Visiting Clergy Expenses	691	0	691	1561
Church running costs / Domestic Services	7488	0	7488	6975
Telephone / Broad Band	1527	0	1527	665
Church maintenance	5820	0	5820	1045
Church Materials	680	0	680	681
Church Administration	5823	0	5823	2102
Community Hall Electric	2670	0	2670	1490
Community Hall running costs	8278	0	8278	10083
Upkeep of Churchyard	1200	0	1200	1200
Organist Fees / Maintenance	4016	0	4016	3480
Justice Security / Alarm call outs	1585	0	1585	1449
Copier Charges	0	0	0	2022
	<u>47778</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>47778</u>	<u>46753</u>
3c Fund-raising and publicity				
Costs of Fete	121	0	121	0
Bells	0	0	0	139
Organ	0	0	0	3193
	<u>121</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>3332</u>
3d Church management and administration	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
3e Depreciation				
Hall Fixture & Fittings	0	0	0	2488
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2488</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>47899</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>48662</u>	<u>52763</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2022

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	0	644989	644989	644989
Current assets	427728	48741	476469	451702
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
	<u>427728</u>	<u>693730</u>	<u>1121458</u>	<u>1096691</u>
General Fund			427728	403488
Legacy;- Decoration fund			30000	30000
New Facility Fund (Capital Cost)			538098	538098
Bells (Capital Cost)			52291	52291
Organ fund			4867	4640
Bells Fund			13874	13574
Organ (Capital Cost)			54600	54600
Total			<u>1121458</u>	<u>1096691</u>

6 DEBTORS

Income Tax recoverable	15000	20000
Prepayment and accrued interest	0	0
Other Debtors	0	0
	<u>15000</u>	<u>20000</u>

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

a	Accruals and deferred income	0	0
b	Creditors for goods and services	0	0
c	Other creditors	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022;- Additional analysis of major items (for information only)**Church Running Costs**

Insurance	3833
Utilities	3655

Church Administration

Stewardship Envelopes	68
Zoom	158
Café Worship	120
Gazebos	829
Sum up unit	60
Iknow Calendar	195
Website	710
De fib Paddles	119

Maintenance & Repair

Roof repair	2527
Electrical work	940
Boiler	696
A V System	1084

Hall Running Costs

Manager	5433
Cleaning	1140
Window Cleaning	175
Licence	295
Bin contract	700

Charities

The Childrens Society	126
Leprosy	20
Sands	30
Foodbank	155
Ukraine	279
Malawi	152

Fund Raising Events

Garden Fete (G) 3576	3455 Net
Harvest Trail	211
Christmas Craft Fayre	200
Community Carols	664

Donations - General Fund

Earl of Bradford	1500
Dame Mary Bridgeman	3272
Alison Collins	100
Baby & Me	185
Mother Union	50
Energy pay out from Diocease	3301
Anon Don	233



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS



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Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret

Castle Bromwich

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret for the period 01/01/22 to 31/12/22.

Signed *H Lawrence*
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date *7/9/2023*

A. Lawrence LLB Dip LP
Solicitor

H. Lawrence ACA
Chartered Accountant

S. Lawrence ACCA
Certified Chartered Accountant

Accounts

**The Annual Report
Including the Financial Statements of**

**“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Castle Bromwich”**

Year ending December 2021

(Registered Charity No. 1146681)



**Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish
the whole mission of the church**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended and church representation rules.

St Mary and St Margaret is registered with the Charity Commission as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich" Charity No. 1146681

The method of appointment of PCC/Trustee members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All regular attendees at the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll which enables them to vote and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC/Trustees of "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich"

ex officio The Rector Revd Mark Hopkins MA (Cantab) MA (Bris) left 14th September

ex officio 2 Churchwardens

Mrs Lisa Wakeman

Mr Barry Hopkins (resigned 2nd November)

ex officio 3 Deanery Synod representatives

Mr Dennis Jordan

Mrs Karon Ward

Mrs Tricia Richards

ex officio 4

Rev Margaret MacLachlan Honorary Curate

Mrs Alyson Rickus Lay Reader

12 elected members

Mrs Elaine Jeffs (Treasurer)

Mr David Greaves (Lay Chair)

Ms Lesley Dunning (resigned 21st May)

Mrs Shirley Middlemass

Mrs Susan Bates

Mrs Laura Fallows

Mrs Jackie Harris (resigned 21st May)

Mrs Margaret Grady

Mrs Julie Fisher

Miss Victoria Jordan (resigned 21 February)

Miss Alice Jackson (resigned 21st May)

Miss Laurie Fisher

Ms Helen Giles (elected 21 May)

Mrs Mary Jones (elected 21 May)

Bank

Lloyds Bank, High Street, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner

Martin Lawrence, 213 Station Road, Stechford,
Birmingham, B33 8BB

This year's Annual Report will be somewhat affected in its content due to the Covid pandemic with reduced activity in many areas of the church's work in the community.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of the church remains undiminished where the mission, outreach, thanksgiving, and celebration are at the heart of the ethos in our parish. We are an open and inclusive Church and warmly welcome everyone at St. Mary and St. Margaret, whatever their background or previous experience of Christian worship. We are looking to grow every individual as a Child of God through close ties with the Church school and in our wider Church community.

Our Mission is to be relevant in this community and beyond, through loving Christian service.

Our Aim is to be a living, vibrant, witnessing Church at the centre of our Community.

Vision for the Future

In 2019 we started our Transforming Church journey to grow our Church and meet the needs of an everchanging society. We embarked on a journey of reflection to consider who we are, who our community thinks we are and where God is calling us.

Our Progress

- Transforming Church Report from Damian Herbert, Diocese of Birmingham,
- Transforming Church Team – following discussions with various Church Groups
2019 Vision Day feedback 2019/20
- Transforming Church Team discussions 2021
- Facebook Survey 2021
-

Our Aims

- To be a prayerful and Christ led Church: centred on the needs of the congregation, and wider Community. Caring and compassionate to all that live and work in Castle Bromwich - regardless of age, culture, needs, or background.
- To support our Church School family, fostering a mutual spiritual and pastoral partnership with Children, Teachers, and parents
- To be open, welcoming, and hospitable – sharing the Love of Jesus with everyone - regardless of who they are or why they join us. Whether new, of long standing or visiting - make everyone feel at home and included as we seek to broaden the diversity of our outreach and grow new disciples.
- To provide worship that satisfies the needs of all ages, abilities, and lifestyles, meeting people where they are in their Christian Journey.

- To be mission led – taking the word of Jesus out into the community. Linking up with people, other communities and Churches on joint ventures that strengthen connection and unity between our different congregations.
- Provide a regular programme of activities to support Christian journeys. Creating a Discipleship Pathway particularly for new Christians, children, youth, and families to grow their faith.
- To be an environmentally responsible Church – committed to being stewards of God’s Creation
- To provide a thriving Christian Ministry for Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) – in the belief that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the Church and are integral to Church growth.

Objects and Activities

We have a thriving and inclusive all-age congregation from many walks of life. While many people come from the local community – the village setting of Castle Bromwich with its Hall and Gardens – many others are drawn from further afield and from different Christian traditions. By providing a variety of services and worship styles we hope that most needs are catered for while creating the conditions for discipleship and spiritual growth, development and wellbeing. We also have an excellent relationship with our local church school, St. Mary and St. Margaret CE Aided Primary School, where children participate in weekly clergy led worship, both in the school and in the church setting. Our family church team are working hard to improve these links.

Our Community Hall provides for our own needs while broadening our community outreach by offering a broad range of services and activities that have both deepened and strengthened our local ties while fostering and developing community cohesion.

Worship and Services

At the beginning of the year our Church was once again closed because of the Covid pandemic. During this period of closure we held Sunday services via zoom with an average attendance of around 25 – 35 adults and a few children. Mid-January our rector, Rev. Mark Hopkins began a period of personal leave until he left the parish in September. Our zoom services continued, being led by guest clergy, the Café Worship Team or Mary Jones. We are very grateful to everyone who helped to ensure we continued to have Sunday Worship. We were delighted to be able welcome Bishop David to preside at the first service back in Church on Ascension Day. We have continued to have a 10am service each Sunday since May, with only the bread element of Communion administered when we have visiting clergy. We are extremely grateful to all the visiting clergy who have led us in our worship. There was reduced capacity due to social distancing measures but now these have been relaxed our attendances are slowly rising. We were unable to hold our Wednesday morning services due to lack of volunteers and clergy but hope to resume these early in 2022.

Our annual Good Friday was replaced with on-line activities for families.

The annual Remembrance Parade was officiated by our Area Dean, Revd Louise Shaw.

This busy parish church is currently in vacancy, has one Self-Supporting Associate Minister and one Lay Reader.

They are ably helped by our small band of loyal servers and ministrants who turn up every week to support them, their help has been an invaluable resource and they continue to support our visiting clergy.

In 2021, the parish undertook

- 8 church funerals, 6 ashes interments
- 14 baptisms
- 9 weddings
- 1 renewal of vows

Our current service patterns are as follows:

- Sunday: Holy Communion 10.00 am Sung Service,
- Baptism every 1st Sunday 10.00 am
- Café Worship every second Sunday 10.00 am in church community hall
- Wednesday – we hope to resume services on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 early in 2022 and hope that a class from our church school will once again join us.

Pastoral Care and Counselling

Due to Covid we were unable to have our usual meetings but kept in touch through emails and phone calls . We kept in contact with those known to us who were vulnerable, we helped with shopping and prescription collections.

We helped Mothers union with delivery of daffodils and prayer cards to Church members and those known to us in the community for Mothers' Day 2021,

Coffee mornings were cancelled through 2021, but we hope to resume them early in 2022

Bereavement group was restarted in September, meeting 4 times and being well attended.

The Summer Outing was cancelled and has been moved to 2022.

We were pleased to be able to hold a Luncheon Club in September, the first for 18 months. It was attended by 24 people. Thanks go to the 6 ladies who made this possible, Shirley Middlemass, Lesley Dunning, Lisa Wakeman, Jane Eccleston, Helen Giles and Tricia Richards. We look forward to holding more Luncheon Clubs next year. Unfortunately, the Christmas Meal at Castle Bromwich Hall Hotel was also cancelled due to staffing problems at the hotel. The meal will now take place early 2022.

We have continued to send Thinking of you cards to the sick and Bereaved and we held The All Souls Service on November 7th which was reasonably attended.

It has once again been a difficult year but we are now looking forward to the coming year, and hopefully returning to normal.

Baptism Team

St. Mary and St. Margaret as an historic church building continues to attract applications for Baptisms from both within and outside the Parish. Baptisms are carried out as part of the main Sunday 10am Parish Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month or during alternate months in the afternoon at 2pm where the service is Baptism only.

Out of Parish families must seek permission from their home parish priest for the Baptism to be done at St. Mary and St. Margaret. Families with no qualifying connection to the Parish are required to attend a 10am Sunday service for six months prior to the Baptism and a register of attendance is kept.

Due to Covid 19 in 2020 there were only 9 Baptisms. This caused a back log of awaiting Baptisms, which were able to place in 2021. We would like to thank Shirley Middlemass and Lisa Wakeman for all their hard work to get these baptisms arranged. 14 baptisms took place between July and November

The Baptism team undertakes the following:

The Saturday morning drop-in sessions at Church, ended when our on-line booking system was introduced at Church for Wedding and Baptism bookings

Assisting the Rector at Quarterly Baptism Thanksgiving Service and Baptism Preparation. Refreshments are served after this service.

Pre-Baptism home visits for families living in the Parish.

Inviting out of Parish families to attend a Sunday 10am service prior to the Baptism with the option of the family attending the informal Café Worship service on the second Sunday of the month. By prior arrangement the family can instead attend the Wednesday 9.30am morning service. The visit being conducted over coffee after the service.

Assisting the Rector at 10am and 2pm Baptism services

The preparation of records, certificates and invitations to the Thanksgiving Service and Preparation, and to the fourth Sunday 10am All Age Service for the presentation of afternoon Baptism certificates, is done by the Parish Administrator.

Our challenges for 2022 will be:

To increase members of the Baptism Team and encourage volunteers, particularly with regard to assisting at the Thanksgiving and Preparation Services and assisting with afternoon Baptism Services .

Building on and maintaining a relationship with Baptism families.

Café Worship Team

From doing online Services during the Pandemic, in April 2021, Cafe Worship moved this informal style of Worship into the Main Church due to social distancing. It will move back into the Hall in February 2022. Unfortunately, there are only two leaders remaining on the team. Café Worship remains popular with a wide mix of the congregation, in particular families with young children.

The Mothers' Union

Mother's Union members are kept busy helping in many aspects of Church Life. Those less active pray, a worthwhile and important ministry for our church and community. Monthly emails are sent out to all members, some of our members embraced the new technology and took part in our Zoom services and events, but in September, we finally restarted our monthly afternoon meetings in the church hall, for those wishing to return.

Our meetings have now evolved into Friendship afternoons, where all members of the church and the local community are invited to come along and share Friendship together, we talk, reminisce, and may even play the occasional game, whilst enjoying a drink and chat. It has proved very popular and we average around 20 at each meeting. We held our Annual Afternoon Carol Service live in church and it was appreciated by all who came, we collected an amazing amount of useful items for Women's Aid. We are looking forward to 2022

The Family Church Team

Family Church Team is made up of volunteers from across Church whose aim is to promote Worship and Community events appropriate for All Ages Together. Individual Family Church groups will have covered their own activities in their own reports, so to avoid duplication I have only covered Family Church Community activities in this summary. For many of these events we were supported by volunteers from across the Church and local Community and we were pleased that many of the events were attended by non- Church visitors

- Mother's Day – organised the distribution of daffodils to nominated homes across the Parish
- Regular Online Zoom socials – quizzes, bingo, book club and Virtual Pub nights. A lifeline for those in isolation
- Initiated a Prayer tree in the grounds
- Made craft bags and shakers for Children to use during Worship services

- Community Picnic - our first major Community event post Covid – whilst a challenge with some restrictions still in place – it was a fun Community event
- Community Harvest Festival – Family Church teams, led our Worship in Church. Followed by a Community Scarecrow Trail and flower festival. All groups across the Church and the local school contributed Scarecrows and our flower arrangers made beautiful displays. The response from the community was overwhelming. The following day the school nursery and reception class came along and both teachers and children took part, and the feedback was very positive
- Light Party for Children - variation on the theme for Halloween took part on a Sunday morning
- Community Carols under the Stars & lighting of Christmas Tree – with everyone’s support – this turned out to be a rousing success and one we hope to repeat
- Christmas Craft Time – part of the Family Church Team organised a whole day of family fun and crafts – including a visit from Santa. This was a sell out and a great day and support event for families.

‘Wayfarers’ is the Sunday school for primary aged children (4-11).

We meet in the Community Hall, after the Gospel during the 10.00a.m. service, on the first and third Sundays (term time only). The children on our roll enjoy the group, learning about the Bible and the Christian faith in a fun and interactive way, often including messy church elements.

Our two main activities during the year are enacting the events of Holy week at the Good Friday Children’s service and the presentation of the Nativity at the Children’s Christmas Eve service, which is normally supported by a packed church.

As with 2020 due to COVID restrictions the Good Friday Service 2021 was also presented online this time with pictures included that could be printed off and coloured in by the children at home.

Wayfarers were able to resume meetings on 19th September 2021. Due to continuing COVID restrictions and 2 less volunteers the decision was made to put the start age back up to 4 years of age and to cease the fifth Sunday meetings for the time being. Our first meeting coincided with preparation for Harvest Festival. Harvest crafts were made along with several Scarecrows for the Scarecrow Trail which the children enjoyed very much. Numbers are still low.

For the first time ever the Children’s Christmas Eve Service was held outside in the church grounds. The congregation were invited to join one of three groups around the grounds (Angels, Shepherds or Wise people) and had their own Carol to sing finishing

at the Nativity scene on the back lawn. Lots of children got into the spirit of things and dressed up in appropriate costumes. Being the first time this had been done this way it was a learning curve, but the weather held up and it was well attended, positive comments were received and it would be worth repeating in the future.

Children at the Lord's Table

There was no Children at the Lord's Table course during 2021 but we hope to be able to run one in the future.

Baby & Me Friendship Café

Baby and Me Group continued in 2021 with limited numbers and social distancing measures in place. There was a small break over the summer while Leigh had her baby and some rest period afterwards. Numbers remained low throughout the year with on average 5-6 babies in attendance per session, presumably due to restrictions and anxiety amongst new parents regarding the ever changing situation. Low numbers led to the suspension of Baby and Me in the early months of 2022 with plans for its return in May 2022 in its full pre-pandemic format. Regardless of the low attendance, all parents who join us highly recommend the group and are positive about the difference it made to them. Due to very limited volunteer numbers, hosting sessions is still heavily affected by holidays and illness of the two hosts and we hope to encourage more volunteers to ensure the future viability of the group.

Bell Ringers

This year the Bellringers have overcome a great deal of difficulties and fast been able to learn new methods, progress in well-known compositions, and continue our regular rehearsals with relatively few interruptions.

We have enjoyed, and look forward to continuing our weekly Wednesday practice nights as well as our ringing each Sunday Morning. In our practice sessions great progress has been made as a team; our striking is coming on strong, we have begun learning a new minimus method, and bobs are added to Bob doubles with greater confidence each week. Individual success has seen Jane complete her first peal and Emma add to her ever growing list of peals and ringing achievements.

And finally, our social sessions in The Remembrance Club continue with interesting and sprawling conversation as well as our initiation of 'The Bell Ringers Quiz Team' who have achieved first and second place in our monthly attendance of the Quiz at The Remembrance Club!

Choir and Organ

2021 proved to be a very difficult year health wise for Martin, our organist and musical director. It meant that over and above the limitations on music in church due to the pandemic he had to rely a great deal on replacement organists. We have to name and thank the following musicians:

Margaret Croucher, John Ward, David Griffiths, Margaret Herdman.

The choir remained downstairs at this time both for church services, funerals and weddings. The refurbishment of our wonderful organ had been completed in good time for Christmas 2020, but restrictions meant that singing in close proximity was not possible in our regular places upstairs. This frustrating situation continued throughout the year until eventually the choir and PCC agreed that we could go back again upstairs with additional protection provided by plastic visors. By this time Martin was back playing for services and we were able to make the most of the restricting circumstances. Thank you to Lisa Wakeman for helping with the retrieval of music for everyone to get going again.

A special thank you to the members of the choir for their understanding and advice during 2021. The members are as following: 5 sopranos, 2 altos, 1 tenor, 2 basses. Sadly, we had lost Peter Shipley, a wonderfully loyal, long-standing member of the basses and a true friend to so many. Jane Eccleston left the sopranos after years of loyal support; she moved to a new home in Lichfield, thanks to her for being so much fun at rehearsals. During the Christmas period of 2021 Martin asked Ted Richards to join in the New Year – happy to say we have a new tenor singer.

Let's hope 2022 allows us to explore music in church in a more exciting way.

The Flower Arrangers bring both beauty and colour into our worship. We are thankful that we have this small and yet willing band who work hard to produce their excellent and stunning floral arrangements. Unfortunately, due to Covid and the closure of Churches we had few opportunities in the first half of the year to decorate the church with the usual floral displays but the harvest and Christmas floral arrangements were stunning once again.

Church Cleaners another small but willing band of loyal volunteers who have the thankless task of cleaning our beautiful old church, their efforts are very much appreciated. The group reduced in numbers after the lockdowns due mainly to deteriorating health, we would like to register our thanks to those who for many years looked after the Church so well.

Gardening Group we are pleased with the success of the church and hall garden, it provides a tranquil and relaxing area to refresh the Spirit, however as it becomes more mature it is harder to keep tidy but thanks to the tireless work of our small group of gardening volunteers it remains a lovely place to sit and reflect. It was well visited during lockdowns by members of the congregation and visitors alike who appreciated it's tranquility.

Charity Fund Raising

Due to Church being closed for much of the year, our monthly charity collections have not yet resumed.

The Hall/Social team

Due to lack of volunteers, we are currently unable to organise social events on a regular basis but hope to in the future.

Hall Management Team

The Community Hall is run by the Hall Management Team who report to the PCC. Policies and Procedures are kept up to date.

The Community Hall office is staffed by a part time Parish Administrator who deals with all hall enquires and bookings as well as supporting the Rector with administration.

The Hall is licensed for music and drink and has a kitchen available for hire.

The Hall was once again closed for the first part of 2021 but we have been pleased to see the return of some of our regular paid bookings, with Yoga classes and courses, Pilates classes, ballroom dancing and Baby Massage/Sensory Courses and welcome a new Martial Arts group.

Wayfarers resumed in the Hall in September, Café-Worship will resume services in the hall in 2022.

Use by community groups, such as Baby and Me, along with Wednesday coffee mornings, Bereavement Support Group, Mothers Union meetings, Luncheon Club and Soup and Rolls Lunches are gradually resuming. These events provide important opportunities for outreach, as they are attended by many people from the wider community, as well as Church regulars.

We look forward to be able to welcome more groups as we move into 2022

Safeguarding

We work to provide a safe and caring community, through respectful pastoral ministry, for all our parishioners and congregation. Our clergy, Reader and all volunteers, who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, are DBS checked and attend the relevant diocesan run safeguarding training courses. The majority of members of the PCC have also renewed their safeguarding training using the new sessions available online from Birmingham Diocese and, in compliance with the directive from the Church of England, are also DBS checked. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are discussed and approved annually at PCC meetings. The PCC has also appointed a children's advocate and an adult's advocate, who sit on the PCC to represent the interests of these vulnerable groups. Our Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator resigned in

February 2021 and we would like to thank her for all her diligence in keeping our policies up to date and ensuring everyone accessed the appropriate training. A new co-ordinator was appointed in November who has now attended all recommended safeguarding training and the Diocese Resourcing day. The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. St. Mary & St. Margaret is using the new Parish Dashboard which gives us visibility of all policies, procedures and training for our church, related to keeping our church community safe.

Church/Hall Fabric

The roof in The Remembrance Chapel developed a leak and it was found to be in a bad state of repair, thankfully with the help of Ian Simpson from the diocese, a reputable company was contacted and the essential repairs were carried out. The fixed electrical report was completed and a few repairs were highlighted. After consultation with the PCC we gained permission for the repairs and upgrading and this was completed successfully. The community hall had not been decorated in a number of years and was beginning to look tired and in need of decoration, this was done and a dado rail was added to prevent damage to the wall from the back of chairs. The office in the hall was re-ordered with the addition of extra storage and work surface.

Deanery Synod

All Deanery Synod meetings in 2021 took place over Zoom

Wednesday 10th February

Rev Louise Shaw led the opening prayers and welcomed guest speakers, Revd Guy Donegan-Cross and Revd Gail Rodgers

Revd Guy Donegan-Cross talked about growing Everyday Faith. The Church recognises 2 issues. Firstly, the need to support and affirm people in what they do in their daily lives, their jobs, their networks, where we live out our faith 95% of the time outside church. The other issue is that rather than energising the faith and discipleship of absolutely everyone, and the ministry of all people, we can emphasise certain roles in the church as more significant and de-skill people in the process. Revd Guy explained that they are looking for 2 parishes to create a team who would meet every 3 months, over 2 years. They would make 7 small shifts that will change the culture of the Church to help everyone be everyday disciples.

When at least seven shifts have been achieved, the Bishop visits to celebrate them being an Everyday Faith community. They are given a visual sign. And become a model of good practice for others. In a few years time the norm will be that every parish and area would be an Everyday Faith community in which all are equipped and set free for God's work in every area of life.

Revd Gail Rodgers gave examples of three people, regarding how they use their faith outside of the Church. She spoke about how to help people by growing their confidence,

how people don't feel equipped to carry out their own ministry outside of the Church and how they didn't feel that their vocation or the ministry they were doing was any interest. Gail discussed how helpful it was to pray in the Church peoples individual daily ministry and how that interest and prayer inspires, supports and equips people going forward.

Pathways Information was given about Pathways. Their goal is to provide opportunities for growth in discipleship and leadership. Everyone was encouraged to have a look at the website <https://www.cofebirmingham.com/pathways/>

Readers – Revd Carole Young discussed the Deanery Readers group which is a safe place for the Deanery's 38 Readers to air their joys and sorrows in ministry and their lives in general, and to share and collaborate with each other.. Readers are in need of support as lay ministry grows in the whole of the CofE, but often they don't ask for help or support. This is where a 'clergy' led group specifically for all Deanery Readers aims to fill the gap.

Revd. Mark Waterstreet has expressed an interest in helping lead the group and will be involved in future meetings.

Church Wardens – Roy Baker Church Warden at St Pauls Dosthill discussed the new Church Warden group that had been created. It will be a place for Wardens to meet and talk to each other, to discuss issues and for the experienced Church Wardens to help mentor the newer ones.

News and Updates

Adam Larkin – Adam Larkin – Youth Development Worker spoke about 'Share' a new resource created especially to help churches disciple their young people, in small groups or 1-1.

It has been designed for use with young people over the age of 11 and more mature Christians in the church community as a way to discover the Bible together, learn from each other and create an intergenerational friendship. Anyone interested in joining in were to contact Adam for more information.

Revd Louise closed the meeting with thanks and prayer.

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Revd Louise welcomed everyone to the 4th Deanery Synod

Louise showed a short reflective video on nature and the environment followed by an opening prayer.

Guest Speaker **Revd Douglas Machiridza** explained that he is the Area Dean of the Deanery of Handsworth and Central and that he is one of the eight people that sit on the Environmental Board for Church of England Birmingham.

Fr Douglas explained that the Environmental Board meet to discuss what the Diocese can do to reduce our Carbon Footprint before 2030 and that the board are asking:- All Churches/Parishes appoint an Environmental Person/Climate Change Champion

At Deanery Level appoint Environmental Champions – one from Clergy and one from Laity

These will feed into a Church of England Birmingham Environmental Group composing of both Clergy and Laity.

Fr Douglas then went on to talk about things we could be doing both in our own lives and in our churches to help reduce the Carbon Footprint by 2030. The meeting was then split into Break Out Rooms for discussions about what we are currently doing in our churches to reduce the Carbon Footprint.

Louise asked the Synod to get in contact if they are interested in becoming an Environment representative as voices need to be heard.

Louise closed the Environmental discussions with a prayer.

Diocesan Synod – Revd Ben Green discussed the minutes of the last Diocesan Synod that was held in March 2021. The subjects covered were Promulgation of Canons; Update on Carbon Net Zero; Update on Reference Group for Racial Justice; Update on Living in Love and Faith; Update on People and Places Update on the Clergy Covenant of Wellbeing

Lay Chair and Standing Committee and Diocesan Synod

Archdeacon The Ven Simon Heathfield explained to the Synod the importance as well as the legalities of having both a Lay Chair, Standing Committee and Diocesan Synod Representatives. Being a representative will help keep the Deanery up to date with any information on Oversight Areas, Budgets and important information that will need to be passed down. Archdeacon Simon asked everyone to consider whether they could be our Deanery Representative.

News and Updates

Bishop's Youth Synod - Bishop David is looking for young people to join the Youth Synod.

Wednesday 6th October

Revd Louise welcomed everyone to the 5th Deanery Synod and explained that this meeting had a People and Places focus. Revd Louise welcomed Gary Killeen, Programme Manager of People and Places as our guest, as well as Ricky Sandiford who is a member of the Deanery Project Team.

Louise continued with an Opening Prayer.

New Lay Chair Michelle Withey is the newly elected Lay Chair of the Deanery. A Prayer was said to Welcome her.

There was a discussion about forming the Standing Committee for the Deanery. This will consist of Michelle as Lay Chair, Louise as Area Dean, Ruthi as Secretary, Stephen Record as Treasurer, a lay person and another clergy person. Roy Baker put his name forward for the Lay person place.

People and Places – Guest speaker Gary Killeen went through what the People and Places framework is and the updates of where abouts People and Places are. Each deanery will have around 10-12 oversight areas, each comprising of multiple parishes, that will:

- develop a shared vision for mission and ministry together
- work collaboratively in those areas to fulfil that vision
- enable and sustain the ministries of the whole people of God

Each oversight area will be resourced with a mixture of Lay and ordained people, working together under the leadership of an Oversight Minister who will ensure that the other Ministers (who may be lay or ordained, paid or a volunteer, full time or part time) are well supported.

So where have we got to so far?

2019 - laying the foundation: merging our 13 deaneries into 6 and launch our parish support services and recruiting the team

2020 - Building capacity: continued recruitment of the wider People & Places team (including our Area Deans), establishing the first of our new deaneries with their governance and structure (Chapter, Synod etc.) . And continuing to work in partnership with our parishes to start their Transforming Church Action Plans

2021: During 2021 there have been lots of conversations on how we bring our new deaneries together into the oversight areas that provide the landscape for us to grow and flourish.

Here in Coleshill & Polesworth, Louise has formed a People & Places project team to help with rolling out the framework across this deanery. The project team will ensure that there is local input into decision making as they seek to define the shape of this deanery going forward. The Deanery Project Team is a temporary capacity to support Deaneries and their Area Deans in implementing the People & Places initiatives and is complementary to the existing structures such as PCC and synod.

So the next key task under People & Places is to discern where the Oversight Areas will be. Each deanery will contain around 10-12 oversight areas which will each have a licenced oversight minister to co-ordinate mission and ministry in that area.

Louise will co-ordinate conversations between Chapter, PCC's, the Deanery Project Team, Archdeacon etc.. to work out where best these areas of mission will fit taking into account where local collaboration is already happening and lots of other factors.

And how is this actually going to work? Oversight Ministers will connect churches and ministries together. They will lead a community of communities that will 'watch for the signs of God's new creation', and with others in the Oversight Area, develop a vision for mission.

Oversight Ministry is essentially relational, but it will develop within the parochial structure of Church of England Birmingham. We anticipate different models continuing to develop, and our current thinking is that an Oversight Area might, for example, be:

1. A large single parish where the incumbent is the OM.
OR
2. A pair of parishes where the OM is incumbent of one parish, and priest in charge of the other - where a Local Minister may be serving.
OR
3. A group of say four parishes, with the OM as incumbent of one parish and priest in charge of another which has a Local Minister; and working alongside two ordained or lay leaders in the other parishes.

These models, and others which emerge, might be combined in different ways, depending on local circumstances.

In all cases, the PCC retains its usual responsibilities, and unless the OM is also the priest in charge or incumbent, the OM has no legal role in a parish. The relationship between the OM and other incumbents in the Oversight Area needs to be collaborative, with prayer at its heart.

The Oversight minister will coordinate resource that could include Ordained paid ministers, self supporting ministers, licenced lay readers, local ministers, authorised worship leaders, Every worshipping community needs to have a leader and the intention is to have more ministry under the new People & Places framework.

Deanery Project Team – The Deanery Project Team started in February 2021. The initial task of the group is to discern the planning of Oversight Areas – where parishes look to missionally, common contexts and how they work together. The group uses TCAPS and encourages TCAPs to happen. The map of Oversight Areas will be discussed with PCCs, and consultation is taken throughout the process. The plan is then for the map to be brought to Deanery Synod.

News and Updates

Readers – Revd Carole Young reported that the Deanery Readers met together at St. Peter & St. Paul, Kingsbury for their Inaugural Annual Eucharist Service on 16th September. The service was well attended (16) and feedback afterwards was that it had been a lovely service and was well received. Congratulations from the Deanery as Carole had been licensed to the group as Associate Priest at a service in Merevale.

Closing Prayer – Michelle Withey introduced the Synod to her “Prayer Plant” and closed the meeting in prayer.

Volunteers

We must thank all our volunteers, many of whom work tirelessly in the background but without whom the church and hall would not run so smoothly. We are especially grateful to those who took on the task of ensuring our buildings were 'deep cleaned' when we were able to reopen and Covid precautions were put into place. Each year we do lose one or two of our older volunteers and we particularly give thanks to these people for their many years of service.

The above report has been compiled by the PCC Secretary with input from the PCC Vice Chair, Church Wardens and Church Groups on behalf of the PCC/Trustees.

Approved by the PCC on 16th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by the PCC Vice Chair

Mr David Greaves (PCC Vice Chairman)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**Balance sheet at 31st December 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Property - Hall	4a	538098	538098
Fixtures & Fittigs - Hall	4a	0	2488
Fixtures & Fittings - Church	4b	0	0
Bells	4b	52291	52291
Organ	4b	54600	54600
		<u>644989</u>	<u>647477</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	20000	20000
Short Term Deposits		350000	350000
Cash at bank and in hand		81702	76247
		<u>451702</u>	<u>446247</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Creditors	7	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>451702</u>	<u>446247</u>
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR			
	8		
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1096691</u>	<u>1093724</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted General		403488	395613
Restricted Legacy (decoration Fund)		30000	30000
Restricted Interregnum Fund		0	0
Restricted - Hall (Captial Cost)		538098	540586
Restricted - Bells		13574	13353
Restricted Bells (Capital Cost)		52291	52291
Restricted - Organ		4640	7281
Restricted - Organ (Capital Cost)		54600	54600
		<u>1096691</u>	<u>1093724</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Meeting on

Mr David Greaves

and signed on its behalf by :

Mrs L Wakeman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	2021	2020
		£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	42667	265	42932	45430
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	468	0	468	1971
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	8011	0	8011	3405
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	291	3681	3972	17704
Income from investments	2e	346	0	346	1948
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		51783	3946	55729	70458
RESOURCES USED					
Charities	3a	0	190	190	765
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	46753	0	46753	43565
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	139	3193	3332	0
Church Management & Administration	3d	0	0	0	40
Depreciation	3e	0	2488	2488	2487
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		46892	5871	52763	46857
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		4891	-1925	2966	23601
TRANSFER OF ASSETS					
Restricted		0	-2984	-2984	5568
Unrestricted		2984	0	2984	5568
NET MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS		2984	-2984	0	0
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1ST JANUARY		395613	698111	1093724	1070123
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31ST DECEMBER		403488	693203	1096691	1093724

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2021

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving				
Covenants	23726	0	23726	27404
Income tax recoverable on covenants	9160	0	9160	9739
Collections (open plate) at all services	1331	0	1331	1272
Sundry Donations	8450	265	8715	7015
Legacy				0
	<u>42667</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>42932</u>	<u>45430</u>
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Fete & Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	0
Donations to Community Hall	0	0	0	10
Community Hall Fund Raising	468	0	468	1961
	<u>468</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>1971</u>
2c Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Community Hall Letting	3107	0	3107	2487
Fees ;- Weddings / Funerals	4544	0	4544	918
Church Bells	360	0	360	0
Church Bells Donation	0	0	0	0
	<u>8011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8011</u>	<u>3405</u>
2d Other ordinary incoming resources				
Choir / Verger / Organ	240	0	240	0
Tea & Coffee Money	51	0	51	226
Income due to Diocese	0	3129	3129	2424
Organ Fund raising	0	552	552	15054
	<u>291</u>	<u>3681</u>	<u>3972</u>	<u>17704</u>
2e Interest from Legacy	346	0	346	1948
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>51783</u>	<u>3946</u>	<u>55729</u>	<u>70458</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2021

3 RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted		TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
3a Grants				
Missionary and charitable giving:	0	190	190	765
	<u>0</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>765</u>
3b Activities directly relating to the work of the church				
Ministry: diocesan quota	14000	0	14000	15000
Clergy expenses / Visiting clergy expenses	1561	0	1561	1046
Expenses during vacancy	0	0	0	2333
Church running costs / Domestic Services	6975	0	6975	6926
Telephone / Broad Band	665	0	665	653
Church maintenance	1045	0	1045	1728
Church Materials	681	0	681	906
Church Administration	2102	0	2102	1059
Community Hall Electric	1490	0	1490	1705
Community Hall running costs	10083	0	10083	3718
Upkeep of churchyard	1200	0	1200	1200
Organist fees / Maintenance	3480	0	3480	3480
Justice Security / Alarm call outs	1449	0	1449	1417
Copier Charges	2022	0	2022	2394
	<u>46753</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>46753</u>	<u>43565</u>
3c Fund-raising/publicity/extraordinary expenses				
Costs of Fete & Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	0
Expenses re fund raising	0	0	0	0
Decorating Fund	0	0	0	0
Bells	139	0	139	0
Organ	0	3193	3193	0
	<u>139</u>	<u>3193</u>	<u>3332</u>	<u>0</u>
3d Church management and administration				
Interest on Loan	0	0	0	40
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40</u>
3e Depreciation				
Hall Fixtures & Fittings	0	2488	2488	2487
Church Fixture & Fittings	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>2488</u>	<u>2488</u>	<u>2487</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	<u>46892</u>	<u>5871</u>	<u>52763</u>	<u>46857</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2021

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	0	644989	644989	647477
Current assets	403488	48214	451702	446247
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
	<u>403488</u>	<u>693203</u>	<u>1096691</u>	<u>1093724</u>
General Fund			403488	395613
Legacy;- Decoration fund			30000	30000
New Facility Fund (Capital Cost)			538098	540586
Interegnum Fund			0	0
Bells (Capital Cost)			52291	52291
Organ fund			4640	7281
Bells Fund			13574	13353
Organ (Capital Cost)			54600	54600
Total			<u>1096691</u>	<u>1093724</u>

6 DEBTORS

Income Tax recoverable	20000	20000
Prepayment and accrued interest	0	0
Other Debtors	0	0
	<u>20000</u>	<u>20000</u>

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

a	Accruals and deferred income	0	0
b	Creditors for goods and services	0	0
c	Other creditors	0	0
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**Additional analysis of major items (for information only)****Church Running Costs**

Insurance	3724
Utilities	3251

Church Administration

Stewardship Envelopes	62
Website	185
Incidentals	667
Zoom	158
Ladders	75
New mobile for office	50
Café Worship	255

Maintenance & Repair

New boiler cover	540
Boiler maintenance	50
Electrical Work	175

Hall Running Costs

Hall Manager	4023
Hall Cleaning	1164
Window cleaning	125
Hall deep clean	270
Repainting hall, toilets, doors, new bulbs in hall, outside lockable tap	1180
New cupboards etc.in office	400
New Hall & Church lock & keys x 2	43
Work done to be able to re-open hall	1337
Licences	568
Contract for emptying / cleaning the bins	316
Water filters	30
Annual fee for Ring bell	25
Call out to fix & re set hall alarm	240
Electrical work	270

Charities

Malawi (Mens Breakfast)	190
Childrens Society (Christingle)	75

Fund Raising Events

Harvest Scarecrow Trail	464
Christmas Community Carols	395
Christmas Craft Farye	125

Donations - General Fund

Dame Mary Bridgeman	1300
Earl of Bradford	3000
Anon Don	588
In memory of Mr G Smart	2000
In memory of Joan Woodward	500
Mothers Union	50
In memory of C Smith	515
Pastoral Group	100
In memory of Janet Richards	410
Baby & Me	100
B Hopkins	100
M MacLachlan	100
M Rainey	20
M Danton	10

Donations - Hall

Pavers	420
Easy Fund Raising	48



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ICAEW
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS



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Stechford
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Telephone : 0121 784 5321
Fax : 0121 785 0688
Email: admin@mlawrence.org.uk
Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret

Castle Bromwich

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret for the period 01/01/21 to 31/12/21.

Signed *H Lawrence*
H Lawrence A.C.A.

Date *19/9/2022*

M. Lawrence F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Partner

H. Lawrence A.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Partner

A. Lawrence LLB Dip LP
Solicitor

Accounts

The Annual Report Including the Financial Statements of

**“The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Castle Bromwich”**

Year ending December 2020

(Registered Charity No. 1146681)



**Promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish
the whole mission of the church**

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended and church representation rules.

St Mary and St Margaret is registered with the Charity Commission as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich" Charity No. 1146681

The method of appointment of PCC/Trustee members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All regular attendees at the church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll which enables them to vote and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC/Trustees of "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich"

ex officio The Rector Revd Mark Hopkins MA (Cantab) MA (Bris)

ex officio 2 Churchwardens
Mrs Lisa Wakeman
Mr Barry Hopkins (elected 14th April)

ex officio 3 Deanery Synod representatives
Mr Dennis Jordan
Mrs Jane Eccleston (left 18th October)
Mrs Karon Ward
Mrs Tricia Richards (elected 18th October)

ex officio 4 Rev Margaret MacLachlan Honorary Curate
Mrs Alyson Rickus Lay Reader

12 elected members

Mrs Elaine Jeffs (Treasurer)
Mrs Lesley Dunning (Lay Chair up to 16th November)
Mr David Greaves (elected 18th October, Lay Chair from 16th November)
Mrs Shirley Middlemass
Mrs Susan Bates
Mr Trevor Jones (left 18th October)
Mrs Laura Fallows
Mrs Jackie Harris
Mrs Margaret Grady
Mrs Julie Fisher
Miss Victoria Jordan
Miss Alice Jackson
Miss Laurie Fisher

Bank Lloyds Bank, High Street, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner

Martin Lawrence, 213 Station Road, Stechford,
Birmingham, B33 8BB

This year's Annual Report will be somewhat affected in its content due to the Covid pandemic with reduced activity in many areas of the church's work in the community.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of the church remains undiminished where the mission, outreach, thanksgiving, and celebration are at the heart of the ethos in our parish. We are an open and inclusive Church and warmly welcome everyone at St. Mary and St. Margaret, whatever their background or previous experience of Christian worship. We are looking to grow every individual as a Child of God through close ties with the Church school and in our wider Church community.

Our Mission is to be relevant in this community and beyond, through loving Christian service.

Our Aim is to be a living, vibrant, witnessing Church at the centre of our Community.

Vision for the Future

Our vision over the past few years is highlighted in the following areas: - Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship and Leadership. In 2020 our Church has been tested under extreme circumstances, but we need to survive and once more become a growing and thriving church in Castle Bromwich. In times of adversity people rally round and meet the challenge and this is very evident in our congregation at St. Mary and St. Margaret. We can all look at the negatives, but the generosity of our congregation has been tremendous. Our pastoral group have maintained contact with a vast number of our older members of our congregation during the pandemic making on average 50 calls a week. We also introduced an online Church Newsletter featuring upcoming services and activities - that now has circulation of around 100. We organised online family events and activities along with weekly socials via zoom to support those who were shielding. We have volunteers who attend the local foodbank to help distribute food to those who are struggling. We thank everyone who has contributed food over the past 12 months.

We have shown that we have a very caring congregation with many phone calls, visits and food parcels being taken to people who are vulnerable and shielding.

We have all had to adjust to new ways of worship and many have needed to get to grips with Zoom, facetime, and social media. We need to continue to improve our social media and online presence so that we can make people in our community aware that our church is there for them. We have agreed to pay for the necessary equipment to enable us to live stream our services as and when required. We feel that this will be needed for the future but will also improve the Wi-Fi in church and will enable us to stream other events if needed to people in the community who are unable to attend church events.

We were fortunate during lockdown that we managed to fully restore our organ after a tremendous effort to raise all the funds necessary in 2019. Our contractor W & A Boggis did a fantastic job and during some of last year Martin managed to play and discovered its full capability – a true inspiration to all that heard it. We received a significant legacy in 2019 and although there has yet to be investment in any new initiatives, PCC have made the decision to allocate £200k to decorating the Church and £75k to employ a family worker, subject to review. We are still grappling with the vision document received from Damien Herbert, the Diocesan vision consultant. Although our income has taken a significant hit in 2020, we are still trying our utmost to find ways to support the diocese with common fund payments. The level of church funds has fallen dramatically and is affecting many church's in the area not only in our deanery but also the Birmingham diocese.

Objects and Activities

We have a thriving and inclusive all-age congregation from many walks of life. While many people come from the local community – the “village setting” of Castle Bromwich with its Hall and Gardens – many others are drawn from further afield and from different Christian traditions. By providing a variety of services and worship styles we hope that most needs are catered for while creating the conditions for discipleship and spiritual growth, development and wellbeing. We also have an excellent relationship with our local church school, St. Mary and St. Margaret CE Aided Primary School, where children participate in weekly clergy led worship, both in the school and in the church setting. Our family church team are working hard to improve these links.

Our Community Hall provides for our own needs while broadening our community outreach by offering a broad range of services and activities that have both deepened and strengthened our local ties while fostering and developing community cohesion.

Worship and Services

Worship at St. Mary & St. Margaret Church was very different in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic.

Services followed our usual pattern up until 18th March with attendances averaging 78 adults & 16 children on Sundays and 30 adults and 43 children on Wednesdays.

Following the government's lockdown announcement, our Church doors were closed. Service booklets were posted on our website to enable parishioners to follow the service at home, a provision which continued throughout 2020. The Café-Worship team held 3 Café-Worship services via zoom which were well received. When lockdown restrictions were lifted, worshippers were once again welcomed into Church, with one service on Sunday and Wednesday. There were no hymns, reduced capacity due to social distancing measures and only the bread element of Communion could be administered.

Our annual Good Friday workshop and Christingle service were replaced with on-line activities for families.

The annual Remembrance Parade was replaced by pre-recorded Parish service officiated by Rev. Mark Hopkins.

This busy parish church has one Stipendiary Incumbent, one Self-Supporting Associate Minister and one Lay Reader.

They are ably helped by our small band of loyal servers and ministrants who turn up every week to support them, their help has been an invaluable resource and they continue to support our Rector.

In 2020, the parish undertook

- 3 church funerals, 0 ashes interments
- 9 baptisms
- 1 renewal of vows. Couples cancelled weddings due to the restrictions imposed by the government,

Normal Service patterns are as follows:

- Sunday: Holy Communion 8.00 am Said Service, 10.00 am Sung Service,
- Baptism every 1st Sunday 10.00 am and 2.00 pm
- Café Worship every second Sunday 10.00 am in church community hall
- Wednesday: Morning Holy Communion 9.30 am (during term time a class from our church school attends)
- Thursday morning – 9.00 am Clergy led worship at our Church School.

Pastoral Care and Counselling

There are 13 members on the team – Shirley Middlemass (Chairperson), Jane Eccleston, Helen Giles, Elizabeth Griffin, Gordon Griffin, Rev. Mark Hopkins, Margaret Howlett, Ernie Lane, Val Lane, Rev. Margaret MacLachlan, Alyson Rickus, Tricia Richards and Lisa Wakeman.

- The Group met only once during the year, on 12 February.
- The Group held only one Luncheon Club in the Community Hall, on 18 February.
- The Group held their annual meal on 22 February, which this time was held at The Kismet in Castle Bromwich – around twenty attended, including guests/partners.
- The Summer Outing scheduled for June had to be cancelled, due to Covid restrictions. We should have been going for a meal to the George Hotel in Lichfield, followed by a visit to Barton Marina.
- The Christmas Meal scheduled for December also had to be cancelled, due to Covid restrictions.

- The Group held a few Wednesday “Drop In” tea & coffee mornings, serving tea, coffee, toast and marmalade, prior to Covid restrictions starting in March.
- House visits and hospital visits were made to the sick, bereaved and lonely, prior to Covid restrictions starting in March.
- Holy Communion was taken to the homes of those unable to attend Church, prior to Covid restrictions starting in March. Thinking of You Cards were sent to the sick and bereaved throughout the year. These are always well received.
- The Bereavement Support Group held meetings in January and February.
- The Baptism Team (Tricia Richards, Alyson Rickus, Shirley Middlemass, Laura Fallows & Lisa Wakeman) were only able to arrange a few Baptisms at the beginning of the year. They hope to resume as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted.
- The All Souls Service was held on 1 November, with invitations sent to families recently bereaved. Not as well attended as usual and no refreshments after the service this time.
- Members of the Group have been phoning Parishioners, since lockdown started in March. They have also been fetching shopping and prescriptions for them.

It is hoped that “normal service” can be resumed as soon as possible for the Pastoral Group.

Baptism Team

St. Mary and St. Margaret as an historic church building continues to attract applications for Baptisms from both within the Parish and outside the Parish. Baptisms are carried out as part of the main Sunday 10am Parish Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month or during alternate months in the afternoon at 2pm where the service is Baptism only. Our intention during 2020 was to move the Sunday 2pm Service to 12.15pm following the Sunday morning Service. We intend to look at this again in 2021.

Out of Parish families must seek permission from their home parish priest for the Baptism to be done at St. Mary and St. Margaret. Families with no qualifying connection to the Parish are required to attend a 10am Sunday service for six months prior to the Baptism and a register of attendance is kept.

Due to Covid 19 in 2020 there was only 9 Baptisms. This has caused a back log of awaiting Baptisms, for which we intend to give priority to once Services resume in 2021.

The Baptism team undertakes the following:

Saturday morning drop-in at Church for Wedding and Baptism bookings

Assisting the Rector at Quarterly Baptism Thanksgiving Service and Baptism Preparation. Refreshments are served after this service.

Pre-Baptism home visits for families living in the Parish.

Inviting out of Parish families to attend a Sunday 10am service prior to the Baptism with the option of the family attending the informal Café Worship service on the second Sunday of the month. By prior arrangement the family can instead attend the Wednesday 9.30am morning service. The visit being conducted over coffee after the service.

Assisting the Rector at 10am and 2pm Baptism services

The preparation of records, certificates and invitations to the Thanksgiving Service and Preparation, and to the fourth Sunday 10am All Age Service for the presentation of afternoon Baptism certificates, is done by the Parish Administrator.

Our challenges for 2021 will be:

To address those already waiting on the Baptism list, by having extra baptism Services.
To increase members of the Baptism Team and encourage volunteers, particularly with regard to assisting at the Thanksgiving and Preparation Services and assisting with afternoon Baptism Services .

Building on and maintaining a relationship with Baptism families.

Café Worship Team

2020 got off to a good start, with Café Worship meetings being held on the second Sunday of each month in January, February and March. The services were attended by an average of 25 adults and 20 children and the talks and crafts were well received. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic and the imposition of the first National Lockdown at the end of March, it was no longer possible to hold any services in the church or Community Hall, so Café Worship was suspended. Written services of the word were available via the Church Facebook account, but initially, there were no online services.

Recognizing that many people missed the connection with church, the Café Worship Team completed a socially distanced prayer walk in June, around the grounds of the church, to pray for the different church groups and members during a worrying and difficult time. Photographs were taken and these, with the prayers used, were posted online. Many people commented that they had found the Prayer Walk comforting while church attendance was suspended.

Following the example of other churches in the area, the church acquired a Zoom account and services were delivered via Zoom from home as no access to church was then permitted. Café Worship held online Zoom services in July, August and a special Harvest Celebration in September. Online Café Worship services continued, despite the resumption of worship in church, as many people were still shielding or felt too anxious to attend church in person.

Throughout the year, the Café Worship team remained active members of the Family Church Group and assisted in other services both in church and online. The

Birmingham Diocese Church Mission Support Team ran a number of workshops, a Christingle service and a Nativity Service. Members of the Café Worship team assisted the Family Church Group to participate and host group activities, which were well received.

This year has been a challenging one for the whole church but has also been a time of innovation and creativity, from new ways to worship online and crafts activities such as smile stones. Some of these activities may well continue when normal worship is restored, and it remains to be seen whether Café Worship continues in its present format in 2021. Due to reducing numbers on the team, the task of setting up the hall with only three people is becoming difficult. The Café Worship Team still wish to use their time and talents for the benefit of the church, however, consideration may have to be given to the way in which these are used.

The Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union usually meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month in church for corporate communion and on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, they use the church hall for their meetings. Unfortunately, during the pandemic both had to be cancelled. We turned to modern technology, meetings were done by email. For those not on email we posted prayers and info through their doors. Sadly, we went into lockdown just before Mothering Sunday, so our planned service had to go online. Members have helped our church and community with various jobs, shopping, church services, and pastoral duties! I have been so proud that our more vulnerable members have kept in touch and really supported each other. We were able to help and support our family church with smile stones earlier in the year, pumpkins at harvest, Christmas gifts for children and by knitting sheep for the Christmas messy church sheep trail, which kept children happy on their daily walks. We provided knitted extenders for National health workers masks, blankets and clothes for babies. We held our Annual Carol service on zoom, it was well attended, we displayed 2 Christmas trees for our group in church. It has been a challenge, but we are meeting it head on and hopefully in the year ahead we will embrace more Zoom meetings.

The Family Church Team

2020 was a remarkably busy year for the Family Church Team. Covid restrictions may have stopped many of our groups meeting face to face – but we moved online and hit the ground running.

During the Holy Week and Easter period we provided online family activities and ran a successful Easter Bonnet competition which attracted over 30 entries from the community. In September, to support our Café Worship Harvest service, we organised a Scarecrow competition, and a village Smile Stone Trail. December was another busy month - due to the hard work and dedication of the Harris family - who collected, wrapped, and delivered over 180 presents to our local foodbank. We also organised – with the help of the Mothers Union - a Sheep Trail around the village – culminating in the Sheep arriving in Church just in time to greet the baby Jesus. We also organised an

activity to bring together all our Church Groups who decorated the Church with bespoke Christmas Trees to remind us that our Church is made up of so many different parts. 2020 was also the year we took part in activities and services organised by Parish Mission Support – which included an online family Adventure Session when we all made Advent Calendars and their excellent All Age Christingle Service. The Family Church Team is going from strength to strength and is open to anyone with a passion for Family Church – and that includes all ages – young and old and anything in between.

‘Wayfarers’ is the Sunday school for primary aged children (3-11).

Wayfarers meet in the Community Hall, after the Gospel during the 10.00a.m. service, on the first, third and fifth Sundays (term time only). The children on our roll enjoy the group, learning about the Bible and the Christian faith in a fun and interactive way, often including messy church elements.

Our two main activities during the year are enacting the events of Holy week at the Good Friday Children’s service and the presentation of the Nativity at the Children’s Christmas Eve service, which is always supported by a packed church. However with the Pandemic and Church closing on 18th March there were very few opportunities to meet before Lockdown began and certainly our two main services could not be performed in the usual way.

The Good Friday service was posted on the church Facebook page and took the form of photographs taken around the church grounds with an appropriate Bible reading beneath each photo portraying the events of the Easter Journey.

The Children’s Christmas Eve service was conducted via Zoom and took the form of a power point presentation supported by live readings from some of our Wayfarer readers, who read really well. This was achieved with the invaluable help and support of Laurie Fisher and her technical skills and grateful thanks go to her.

Resumption of Wayfarers meetings are obviously subject to lifting of restrictions and decisions around the reopening of Church and Hall and the feelings/concerns of our volunteers.

Children at the Lord’s Table

There was no Children at the Lord’s Table course during 2020 but we hope to be able to run one in 2021.

Baby & Me Friendship Café

Baby and Me Friendship Cafe were only able to meet 4 times at the beginning of 2020 and closed in March due to rising concerns regarding the virus. We ran a small number of zoom sessions to keep in touch with parents however these were poorly attended so we took the decision to stop. In October 2020 we managed to host two more sessions which were well attended before the November lockdown, however we were unable to

reopen due to a change in personal circumstances. We look forward to reopening in 2021 when it is safe to do so.

Stay Inspired 18-30 Group

This social group no longer meet, however, some do keep in touch via social media.

Gents' Breakfast Club

Usually meets on the first or second Saturday of the month at 8 am for 1 hour to discuss a subject chosen by the host but unfortunately the meetings had to be suspended when the country was put into lockdown. The gents hope that they will once again be able to enjoy a simple breakfast together soon. They have opinions on anything and everything and nothing is taken to heart, they have a laugh, and also have Charity collections at every meeting for Malawi.

Bell Ringers

This year has been a strange year for all of us not least those wanting to find an alternative to continue their bellringing. But I am glad to say that the tower and team have stayed connected through the online bell ringing platform 'ringing room'. We have made some of the most progress we have ever made notwithstanding our inability to be in the same room as each other! The team continue to progress together and we have all enjoyed our catchups on line before our practice takes place. A big thank you to Jane for all of her help and enthusiasm for setting up the ringing room accounts and Facebook calls each week! Another vote of thanks goes to Emma, who has been instrumental in us tackling the more difficult methods. We are also joined each week by Elaine, an accomplished ringer who has previously attended sessions with our ringer Jane. Elaine has been a great addition to practice sessions as well as our social chats and catch-ups - we all look forward to her joining us in ringing at St. Mary and St. Margaret's when the restrictions allow.

Outside of our online ringing sessions, we have been able to ring with each other on several occasions! We have had socially distanced handbell sessions in the church grounds in 2020. We also rung, as permitted, for Midnight Mass 2020 - which provided us a real joy to reconnect with the bells and service for our church. Jean Willis skilfully created our beautiful Christmas tree which was displayed in church over the advent period, thank you Jean! Jane, Vicky, and Ben all rang for the services on Christmas Day using our handbells calling our Parishioners to the Church.

While this year has been odd, it has been filled with progress, resilience, and a lot of fun. We look forward to continuing our learning as we build closer relations with St. Martin's Guild of Bellringers who will help us out with teaching tips and tutelage. But most of all we look forward to our return to the tower, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

Choir and Organ

Martin Bates continues as our organist and musical director. Our thriving choir continued into 2020 with just one sad change. Peter Shipley passed on in October. He has been the backbone of the choir at St Mary and St Margaret for many years. He suggested to Martin that he might enjoy being our organist in 2008 and remained a tremendous support for over ten years. He had a fine voice and was responsible for solo singing particularly in the psalm settings. We have now 9 sopranos, 3 altos, 2 tenors and 2 basses as dedicated regular members. We continue to enjoy the company of new members Yvonne Potter and Jackie Dale in the sopranos.

Unfortunately, there were no weddings or funerals to sing and play at during the year because of the virus and after March much of the communication has been by phone, online and through emails and texts. One notable exception was at Christmas when Lisa Wakeman and Sue Bates joined Martin for a scaled-down service of Lessons and Carols. It was also a pleasure on that occasion to see Martin accompany Rev Mark playing solo violin.

The old organ was finally switched off following the afternoon concert on January 12th prior to its planned renovations by Rodney Briscoe from Boggis & Co. The choir continued to practise and sing for services for a few weeks using the electronic keyboard. They sat downstairs at the back of the church on the right hand side. We were able to say that work on the organ could start due to the generous giving now having reached a point where we knew our target would be secured. Thanks must go to all the Organ Restoration Committee for their hard work. The organ was taken apart during January, Martin and Sue visited their factory in Diss, Norfolk at the beginning of February, but the putting back together of all the renovated parts was delayed by the virus lockdowns. Eventually the organ builders were allowed access during late summer and early autumn with the work completed at the end of September. The church congregations were able to hear the newly restored organ each Sunday in the run-up to Christmas. Except for the expected small snagging problems, the sound from our restored organ is back to 100% and good for many years of good use.

Bi-monthly Sunday afternoon concerts continued and were planned well into 2021 but in fact there were only two more given: on January 12th by Steve Davis, tenor and on March 8th by Georgina Bloomfield, violinist from the National Youth Orchestra. Both concerts were accompanied by Martin. The vocal harmony group "Spectrum" gave an additional concert to raise money for the organ fund on Saturday January 25th.

The choir looks forward to returning to their places in the choir loft some time in 2021.

The Flower Arrangers bring both beauty and colour into our worship. We are thankful that we have this small and yet willing band who work hard to produce their excellent and stunning floral arrangements. Unfortunately, due to Covid and the closure of

Churches we had few opportunities to decorate the church with the usual floral displays but look forward to seeing floral arrangements again soon.

Church and Hall Cleaners another small but willing band of loyal volunteers who have the thankless task of cleaning our beautiful old church and our modern hall, their efforts are very much appreciated. Special thanks this year go to the volunteers who meticulously deep cleaned the church in preparation for re-opening after the Covid lockdown.

Gardening Group we are pleased with the success of the church and hall garden, it provides a tranquil and relaxing area to refresh the Spirit, however as it becomes more mature it is harder to keep tidy but thanks to the tireless work of the gardening group it remains a lovely place to sit and reflect.

Charity Fund Raising

Monthly charity collections had continued on the 1st Sunday of each month at the beginning of the year but unfortunately were suspended when the lockdown came. There were Lent collection boxes for Malawi but unfortunately advent collection boxes for St Basil's and the annual Christingle service envelopes could not be distributed. However, online donations to these organisations were encouraged. Our church supported the Families in Crisis toy appeal, many people donating money with which our volunteers bought and wrapped gifts on their behalf. A 185 gifts were donated in total.

The Hall/Social team

Mary Jones and Alison Jorden who have been organising social events in the Hall, and providing catering for party bookings decided to step down in 2020. We thank them for all their hard work over the years since the Hall opened. We were unable to hold events in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, but hope to resume having social events again soon. We will be looking for volunteers to help with organising these.

Hall Management Team

The Community Hall is run by the PCC. Policies and Procedures are kept up to date. The Community Hall office is staffed by a part time Parish Administrator who deals with all hall enquires and bookings as well as supporting the Rector with administration.

The Hall is licensed for music and drink and has a kitchen available for hire. Regular paid bookings have continued when possible, with Yoga classes and courses, Senior Movers and Pilates classes, ballroom dancing and a children's dancing school. The Hall is used for Wayfarers, Café-Worship and occasional services, although these have not been able to meet since the Covid lockdown.

Use by community groups, such as Jollytots Play Group and Baby and Me, along with Wednesday coffee mornings, Bereavement Support Group, Mothers Union meetings, Luncheon Club and Soup and Rolls Lunches has been on hold since the Covid lockdown. These events provide important opportunities for outreach, as they are attended by many people from the wider community, as well as Church regulars.

We look forward to be able to open up to all our groups again, hopefully in 2021

Safeguarding

We work to provide a safe and caring community, through respectful pastoral ministry, for all our parishioners and congregation. Our clergy, Reader and all volunteers, who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, are DBS checked and attend the relevant diocesan run safeguarding training courses. The majority of members of the PCC have also renewed their safeguarding training using the new sessions available online from Birmingham Diocese and, in compliance with the directive from the Church of England, are also DBS checked. Our safeguarding policies and procedures are discussed and approved annually at PCC meetings. The PCC has also appointed a children's advocate and an adult's advocate, who sit on the PCC to represent the interests of these vulnerable groups. The Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator has attended all recommended safeguarding training and the Diocese Resourcing day. The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. St. Mary & St. Margaret is using the new Parish Dashboard which gives us visibility of all policies, procedures and training for our church, related to keeping our church community safe.

Church/Hall Fabric

Emergency lighting has been fitted to the bell tower stairs and ringing room successfully. Following on from the cellar showing signs of water ingress in 2019, it was decided that a new cellar roof would be fitted, we applied for a faculty to replace this as the replacement would not be the same as was originally fitted. This was granted and we also received a grant from Dame Mary Bridgeman Trust to cover the cost which we are very grateful for.

In the community hall the defibrillator needed updating and this was organised and completed.

Works that were recommended in the quinquennial report have not yet been started but hopefully will be in the not too distant future.

Deanery Synod

Rev Canon Louise Shaw, formerly vicar of Dosthill and co-area Dean of Polesworth, was appointed to Area Dean of Coleshill and Polesworth on 16th June 2020.

Due to the Covid pandemic, there was only 1 Deanery Synod in 2020 which was held via zoom on 25th November.

Welcome and Opening Prayers - Revd Louise Shaw (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to the New Triennium and the first meeting with Louise as the new Area Dean.

Welcome was made to Ruthi Lancaster – the new Deanery Support Officer, to Archdeacon Simon Heathfield, to Liz Dumain from Parish Mission Support and Andrew Schofield the Parish Building Surveyor. Welcome was also made to the new representatives for Synod.

Thanks – Huge thanks were given to those who were standing down from their roles after substantial service to the Deanery: Roy Baker and Alannah Brennan as Lay Chairs, Beverly Garratt and Linda Pemberton as Secretaries and to the Treasurers Dorothy Chapman and Stephen Record. Stephen Record is content to look after Deanery finances. Louise asked for discernment as to someone to fill the role as Lay Chair.

Guest Speakers

Liz Domain introduced herself to the meeting and explains that the team members responsible for Mission and Ministry with Children & Families, Young Adults and Young People are Emma Sargeant and Adam Larkin.

Damian Herbert and Abbi Wells are responsible for Transforming Church Action Planning. They offer support to Parishes around Action Planning which usually takes place over a period of 3-5 years and is broken down into 3 stages.

Stage 1 Reflect on what we are doing now

Stage 2 Look at relationship with the community

Stage 3 Reflect on who God calls us to be. Identify new areas of focus.

Liz went on to tell the meeting about 'zoom' drop-in sessions that were taking place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Monday evenings. These were a chance to meet the team and people from other parishes and chat about what is going on in your churches and in the Diocese.

Andrew Schofield, Parish Building Surveyor for the Aston Archdeaconry, gave a brief resum

of his role. Everybody should have received an email with a copy of their Service Level Agreement. This is a document that briefly sets out his role, what he will do and what he won't do. It is important that this document is signed as it covers the team with our insurance when offering professional advice.

The help and advice available can relate to any aspect of buildings including church halls, car parks, land or any other property operated by the PCC. Andrew told the meeting he had recently been involved in a varied scope of works including replacement heating, stonework repairs, bee nest removal, lighting protection upgrade / servicing, fixed wiring testing and asbestos surveys to name just a few.

Andrew can also act as a gateway to the wider property team including his colleague Ben Smith as DAC Secretary and Care of Churches Officer, Ian Simpson who is our Historic Places of Worship Support Officer and Richard Hall our Clergy Housing Surveyor. His colleague Jan Bakewell who is Parish Building Surveyor for the Birmingham Archdeaconry can also be of assistance if Andrew is unavailable for any reason.

The Ven. Simon Heathfield emphasised the importance of parishes in the Deanery using these resources as they are available to them free of charge. He prompted the Parishes to sign their SLAs. He encouraged the representatives to get involved with their Transforming Church Action Plans and to use Liz Dumain's resources.

Prayers and Commissioning – Deanery Synod members were commissioned by both Revd Louise Shaw and The Ven. Simon Heathfield. Ruthi Lancaster was commissioned as Deanery Support Officer and Revd Canon Louise Shaw was commissioned as Area Dean for Coleshill and Polesworth by The Ven. Simon Heathfield.

Hopes and Dreams of the Coleshill and Polesworth Deanery – the Synod Reps were split into Break Out Rooms to discuss what their hopes and dreams for the “Super Deanery” of Coleshill and Polesworth were. When the groups were brought back together, they were asked to add a word per person in the group to describe what they would like to see in the Deanery going forward. This was fed back.

News and Updates – Louise informed the Synod members of the following.

- Revd Nick Parker is to be the new Area Dean of Yardley and Solihull
- Revd Jo Johnson is to retire from St Barnabas, Kingshurst
- Deanery Planning Group – this is being formed to help with P&P.
- There is now a Deanery of Coleshill & Polesworth Facebook Group which anyone in the Deanery can join.

Volunteers

We must thank all our volunteers, many of whom work tirelessly in the background but without whom the church and hall would not run so smoothly. We are especially grateful to those who took on the task of ensuring our buildings were ‘deep cleaned’ when we were able to reopen and Covid precautions were put into place. Each year we do lose one or two of our older volunteers and we particularly give thanks to these people for their many years of service.

The above report has been compiled by the PCC Secretary with input from the PCC Vice Chair, Church Wardens and Church Groups on behalf of the PCC/Trustees.

Approved by the PCC on 10th May 2021 and signed on their behalf by the PCC Vice Chair

Mr David Greaves (PCC Vice Chairman)

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES					
Balance sheet at 31st December 2020					
				2020	2019
				£	£
FIXED ASSETS	Note				
Property - Hall	4a			538098	538098
Fixtures & Fittigs - Hall	4a			2488	4975
Fixture & Fittings - Church	4b			0	0
Bells	4b			52291	52291
Organ	4b			54600	0
				647477	595364
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6			20000	2000
Short Term Deposits				350000	350000
Cash at bank and in hand				76247	111462
				446247	481462
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7				
Creditors				0	0
Provision for Common Fund				0	0
Diocesan Loan				0	6703
NET CURRENT ASSETS				446247	474759
LIABILITIES; AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR	8				
Diocesan Loan				0	0
NET ASSETS				1093724	1070123
FUNDS					
Unrestricted General				395613	6958
Restricted Legacy (decoration Fund)				30000	30000
Restricted Interregnum Fund				0	343
Restricted - Hall (Captial Cost)				540586	530216
Restricted - Bells				13353	13353
Restricted Bells (Capital Cost)				52291	52291
Restricted - Organ				7281	46827
Unrestricted - Legacy				0	390135
Restricted - Organ (Capital Cost)				54600	0
				1093724	1070123
Approved by the Parochial Church Meeting on			and signed on its behalf by :		
Mr D Greaves			Mrs L Wakeman		

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES					
For the year ended 31st December 2020					
		Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
		Funds	Funds	2020	2019
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	43964	1466	45430	364517
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	1971	0	1971	10903
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	3405	0	3405	75156
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	226	17478	17704	32515
Income from investments	2e	1948	0	1948	748
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		51514	18944	70458	483839
RESOURCES USED					
Charities	3a	0	765	765	2564
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	41232	2333	43565	90874
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	0	0	0	2917
Church Management & Administration	3d	40	0	40	136
Depreciation	3e	0	2487	2487	2487
TOTAL RESOURCES USED		41272	5585	46857	98978
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		10242	13359	23601	384861
TRANSFER OF ASSETS					
Restricted			5568	5568	8896
Unrestricted		-5568		-5568	-8896
NET MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS		-5568	5568	0	0
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT					
1ST JANUARY		390939	679184	1070123	685262
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT					
31ST DECEMBER		395613	698111	1093724	1070123

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)				
For the year ended 31st December 2020				
2 INCOMING RESOURCES				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
2a Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving				
Covenants	27404	0	27404	32801
Income tax recoverable on covenants	9739	0	9739	10000
Collections (open plate) at all services	1272	0	1272	7144
Sundry Donations	5549	1466	7015	24437
Legacy	0	0	0	290135
	43964	1466	45430	364517
2b Other voluntary incoming resources				
Fete & Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	6442
Donations to Community Hall	10	0	10	170
Community Hall Fund Raising	1961	0	1961	4291
	1971	0	1971	10903
2c Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Community Hall Letting	2487	0	2487	8145
Fees :- Weddings / Funerals	918	0	918	4250
Church Bells	0	0	0	10470
Church Bells Donation	0	0	0	52291
	3405	0	3405	75156
2d Other ordinary incoming resources				
Choir / Verger / Organ	0	0	0	0
Tea & Coffee Money	226	0	226	1519
Income due to Diocese	0	2424	2424	3963
Organ Fund raising	0	15054	15054	27033
	226	17478	17704	25688
2e Interest from Legacy				
	1948	0	1948	748
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	51514	18944	70458	483839

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS(continued)					
For the year ended 31st December 2020					
3 RESOURCES USED	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS		
	Funds	Funds	2020	2019	
	£	£	£	£	
3a Grants					
Missionary and charitable giving:	0	765	765	2564	
	0	765	765	2564	
3b Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Ministry: diocesan quota	15000	0	15000	47707	
Clergy expenses / Visiting clergy expenses	1046	0	1046	1517	
Fees due to the Diocese	0	2333	2333	9527	
Church running costs / Domestic Services	6926	0	6926	7204	
Telephone / Broad Band	653	0	653	645	
Church maintenance	1728	0	1728	1945	
Church Materials	906	0	906	1179	
Church Administration	1059	0	1059	2194	
Community Hall Electric	1705	0	1705	1543	
Community Hall running costs	3718	0	3718	8206	
Upkeep of churchyard	1200	0	1200	1057	
Organist fees / Maintenance	3480	0	3480	2960	
Justice Security / Alarm call outs	1417	0	1417	2243	
Copier Charges	2394	0	2394	2947	
	41232	2333	43565	90874	
3c Fund-raising and publicity					
Costs of Fete & Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	175	
Expenses re fund raising	0	0	0	0	
Decorating Fund	0	0	0	0	
Bells	0	0	0	835	
Organ	0	0	0	1907	
	0	0	0	2917	
3d Church management and administration					
Interest on Loan	40	0	40	136	
	40	0	40	136	
3e Depreciation					
Hall Fixtures & Fittings	0	0	0	0	
Church Fixture & Fittings	0	2487	2487	2487	
	0	2487	2487	2487	
TOTAL RESOURCES USED	41272	5585	46857	98978	

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)				
For the year ended 31st December 2020				
5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020	2019
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	0	647477	647477	595364
Current assets	395613	50634	446247	481462
Current liabilities	0	0	0	-6703
	395613	698111	1093724	1070123
General Fund			395613	6958
Legacy			0	390135
Legacy;- Decoration fund			30000	30000
New Facility Fund (Capital Cost)			540586	530216
Interegnum Fund			0	343
Bells (Capital Cost)			52291	52291
Organ fund			7281	46827
Bells Fund			13353	13353
Organ (Capital Cost)			54600	0
Total			1093724	1070123
6 DEBTORS				
Income Tax recoverable			20000	20000
Prepayment and accrued interest			0	0
Other Debtors			0	0
			20000	20000
7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR				
a	Accruals and deferred income		0	0
b	Creditors for goods and services		0	0
c	Other creditors		0	0
d	Diocesan Common Fund remaining for 2020		0	0
e	Diocesan Loan		0	6703
			0	6703
8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR = DB of F/Loan				
			0	6703

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020						
Additional analysis of major items (for information only)						
	Description		Amount			
			£			
Church Running Costs						
	Insurance		4075			
	Utilities		2848			
Church Administration						
	Stewardship Envelopes		101			
	Website		165			
	Incidentals		290			
	Cruet Set		340			
	Lottery Licence		20			
	New Keys		33			
	Café Worship		189			
Maintenance & Repair						
	Plastering		600			
	Lightening Conductor		132			
	Electrical Work		1447			
	Incidentals		320			
	Plumbing & Heating		60			
Other fund Raising Events						
Garden Fete	(G) 0	Net	0			
Christmas Fair	(G) 0	Net	0			

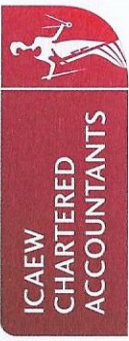
**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Castle Bromwich (Registered Charity
No1146681 from March 2012)**

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020					
Description	Amount				
	£				
Hall Fundraising					
Lent Lunch	135				
Afternoon Tea	285				
Bonus Ball	1441				
Sale of Pavers	100				
Community Hall Donations					
Soup / Roll	10				
Organ Fundraising					
Anon donations / Music/ Pipes	2129				
Grants	11100				
Sunday PM Concerts	1140				



M. LAWRENCE & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



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Website: www.mlawrence.org.uk

Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret

Castle Bromwich

I have examined the Accounts, Statements and Invoices submitted to me, and have found some minor differences, but they are so insignificant that they do not require any adjustments to the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Margaret for the period 01/01/20 to 31/12/20.

Signed
M Lawrence F.C.A.

Date 10/8/2021

M. Lawrence F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Partner

H. Lawrence A.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Partner

A. Lawrence LLB Dip LP
Solicitor