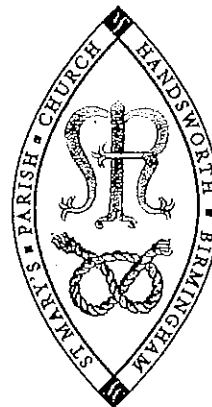


The Parish of Handsworth

The Church of St Mary

www.handsworthstmary.org



THE PARISH OF HANDSWORTH (ST. MARY)

St. Mary's Parish Church
Registered Charity Number. 1171344

St. Mary's Church Hall
Registered Charity Number: L4/603/840

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Rector:
The Revd Dr Robert Stephen BA BD MTh(Oxon)
Handsworth Rectory
288 Hamstead Road
Birmingham

Bankers:
TSB plc
Birmingham

Independent Examiner:
Mr Laurence Parkes FCA

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Preamble

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Dr Robert Stephen, in promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and also in co-operating with other faith communities. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St. Mary's, Handsworth.

Objects and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our Church and to become part of our Parish Community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture; music and sacrament; discipleship and service. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our Church through:

- * Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- * Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- * Sharing our faith and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary's as it is a physical and spiritual landmark within this community.

Worship and Prayer

This year has been something of a mixed economy. When we have been permitted, services have been held in Church and Morning and Evening Prayer has been said on weekdays. The disturbance caused by Covid-19 has eventually come to an end and the usual pattern of services (Sundays at 0800 for Holy Communion (BCP) and at 1100 for The Parish Eucharist (CW) and Evensong (BCP) at 1700 of the second Sunday of each month). The Eucharist has, from when it has been allowed, offered in bread only and then wine for those who wish to receive. We have continued to offer the Parish Eucharist via Live-Stream and have a committed on-line congregation.

All are welcome to attend our regular services and we are glad that our worshipping community remains diverse in age, ethnic origin, employment and family situations. There were 70 on the Electoral Roll (37 resident in the Parish and 33 non-resident) an increase of 1 from the previous year.

The details submitted to the Church of England on our Annual Statistical Returns show how different the year has been:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Christmass Attendance	166	236	67	77
Easter Attendance	104	107		82
Average Week (October)	142	145	67	80
Usual Sunday	69	78		-
Baptisms	6	5	3	8
Marriages	5	2	1	2
Funerals	8	17	39	31

One specific event to note is that we had a wedding in Church in December where the ceremony, reception and evening function all took place in the Church, making use of the reordered space to the full.

I have been glad to have had the support of my 3 licensed Readers who have assisted as Liturgical Deacons at the Parish Eucharist, have officiated at other services, have preached and have supported me in the pastoral care of the congregation. We were sad to see Dr Stephanie Hayton move on to become Director of Lay Ministries and Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Bristol and congratulate her on that recognition of her gifts and talents.

Attendance at worship has been affected by the varying degrees of confidence that people have following the need to self-isolate. While numbers attending services and events are showing some growth, we are still experiencing the effects of long-Covid. This does underline the need for the Church to attract new worshippers, to see people come to faith and to engage with our Parish and Community.

Deanery Synod

2 members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church, when it has been able to meet.

Pastoral Care

During this year it has continued to be difficult to offer Pastoral Care in a traditional way, especially by visiting. It has been good to know that there have been numerous ways that have continued by which people have supported each other and that this has ensured that those in particular need have had contact by telephone, email and in letters when in-person meetings have not been advised.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed at the APCM. The website is compliant with the necessary local and Diocesan details on the page on which people first land on the site. Both the Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Ethel Lubin, and the Designated Person, Mrs Penny Stephen, have had all the necessary training. All those who have need of a DBS certificate have up-to-date documentation and we are satisfied that our policies and practices are compliant.

Financial Review

The details of the Parish and Church finances follow in this report. We are particularly grateful to those who, despite the lock-down, have continued to ensure that their offerings have been maintained and have either made the effort to deliver their envelopes or have set up Standing Orders to the Church. This has been a difficult year in that we have, in the same period, had to come to terms with the significant loss in our income due to the investing our capital reserves into the reordering of the building and the decline in income due to the lock-down.

Volunteers

I owe a debt of thanks to my Churchwardens, Keith and Doreen Hemmings, who have ensured that the life of the Church continues as far as it can; to Edna Simkin, our Treasurer, for her tireless work to keep us 'afloat'; to Eddie Lear, who manages our investments and the Hall accounts; to Rosemarie Seadon for her work on the Gift Aid reclaim (as well as being Captain of the Tower); to Laurence Parkes, our independent examiner; to Margaret Thomas our PCC Secretary; and to Christopher Hazeley-Jones for managing the few Hall bookings in this year. We are grateful to the Live-Stream Team, led by Adam Lubin, for the work that they have done to offer alternatives to attending in person.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), churchwarden(s), the readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members will receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

The standing committee of the PCC is the Finance and General Purposes Committee and it is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly with regular reports given to the full PCC and discussed as necessary. Other committees deal with safeguarding, pastoral matters and social activities. The PCC are responsible to the Diocese to act as Trustees for the Church Hall.

Administrative information

St. Mary's Church is situated on Hamstead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 288 Hamstead Road, Handsworth, B20 2RB. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is an independent charity registered with the Charity Commissioners.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st April 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- * Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Robert Stephen (Chairman)
- * Readers: Mrs Ruth Cooper; Mrs Eureka Drayton; Mrs Penny Stephen
- * Wardens: Mrs Doreen Hemmings; Mr Keith Hemmings (Vice Chairman)
- * Miss E J Simkin (Parish Treasurer)
- * Mrs M Thomas, (PCC Secretary)



Elected

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| * Mrs L Colwill | (elected until 2023) |
| * Mrs Diana Duggan | (elected until 2022) |
| * Mr D Holmes | (elected until 2024) |
| * Mrs Camelia Paton-Devine | (elected until 2023) |
| * Mr Richard Paton-Devine | (elected until 2023) |
| * Mr A Lubin | (elected until 2023) |
| * Mrs E V Lubin | (elected until 2023) |
| * Mrs E Moore | (elected until 2023) |
| * Miss R J, Seadon (Electoral Roll Officer) | (elected until 2022) |
| * Mrs S Taylor | (elected until 2023) |

Co-Opted

- * Mr V F Daniel
- * Mr C Hazeley-Jones
- * Mr E Lear OBE – Hall & Investment Treasurer
- * Mr Raj Mahay
- * Mr Thaddeus Ede
- * Mr G Walters



Approved by the PCC on 23rd April 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Dr Robert Stephen (PCC chairman).

Report on the Fabric (Keith Hemmings)

The year has been dominated by the opening and closing of the Church due to Covid-19. We have therefore had to have risk assessments completed on the Church and the Hall.

We have contractors who are scheduled to examine the roof and clear guttering and downpipes twice a year. We also have maintenance contracts for the heating and alarm systems.

As the fabric is in good order, there have been no major repairs and no projects in this year.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee (as the only Standing Committee of the PCC) continues to carry most of the workload behind the scenes on behalf of the PCC. Currently serving on this committee are:

The Revd Dr Robert Stephen	(Incumbent & Chair);
Christopher Hazeley-Jones	(Hall Letting Officer);
Doreen Hemmings	(Churchwarden);
Keith Hemmings	(Churchwarden);
David Holmes	(PCC Appointment);
Eddie Lear	(Hall & Investment Treasurer);
Rosemarie Seadon	(Gift Aid & Electoral Roll);
Edna Simkin	(Parish Treasurer);
Shane Taylor	(Social & Fund-raising Committee)
Margaret Thomas	(PCC Secretary)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE P.C.C. OF ST. MARY, HANDSWORTH

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") and St. Mary's Church Hall Charity for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 16, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under S.144 of the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under S.145 of the Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under S.145 (5)(b)) of the Charities Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, and
- To state whether any particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and Church Guidance. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC officers concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with S.130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Charities Act and Regulations

have not been met: or

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

Laurence E Parkes FCA
Chartered Accountant

5 Crondal Place
Birmingham

4th March 2022

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST.MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (CONSOLIDATED)

	Unrestricted & Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
RECEIPTS			
Voluntary receipts	60,967	263	61,231
Activities for generating funds	16,917	-	16,917
Investment income	4,480	5,164	9,645
	<u>82,365</u>	<u>5,428</u>	<u>87,793</u>
PAYMENTS			
Church Activities	<u>76,836</u>	<u>609</u>	<u>77,445</u>
(Deficit) Surplus for the year	5,529	4,819	10,348
Change in value of investments	6,946	32,814	39,760
Transfers	(4,500)	4,500	-
Balances at 1st January 2021	51,525	308,594	360,119
Balances at 31st December 2021	<u>59,500</u>	<u>350,727</u>	<u>410,226</u>

PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted & Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
RECEIPTS			
Voluntary receipts	62,144	263	62,407
Activities for generating funds	5,068	-	5,068
Investment income	4,156	5,956	10,112
Other incoming resources	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>81,368</u>	<u>6,219</u>	<u>87,587</u>
PAYMENTS			
Church Activities	<u>117,680</u>	<u>6,532</u>	<u>124,212</u>
(Deficit) Surplus for the year	(36,312)	(313)	(36,625)
Change in value of investments	-	(7,630)	(7,630)
Transfers	45,842	(45,842)	-
Balances at 1st January 2020	41,995	362,379	404,374
Balances at 31st December 2020	<u>51,525</u>	<u>308,594</u>	<u>360,119</u>

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY)
PARISH BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted & Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
PARISH FUNDS			
Capital Funds	-	342,078	342,078
Church Hall Capital	-	3,228	3,228
St. Mary Fabric	-	5,421	5,421
General Funds	60,499	-	60,499
Total Funds Held	60,499	350,727	411,226
Investments	46,623	342,078	388,701
Current Assets:			
Amounts receivable	235	-	235
Bank balances	16,827	8,649	25,476
	17,062	8,649	25,711
Current Liabilities:			
Amounts payable	3,186	-	3,186
Net Current Assets	13,876	8,649	22,525
Total Net Assets	60,499	350,727	411,226
Previous year:			

	Unrestricted & Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
PARISH FUNDS			
Capital Funds	-	305,365	305,365
Church Hall Capital	-	3,228	3,228
General Funds	52,525	-	52,525
Total Funds Held	52,525	308,593	361,118
Investments	39,677	305,365	345,042
Current Assets:			
Amounts receivable	75	-	75
Bank balances	17,296	3,228	20,524
	17,371	3,228	20,599
Current Liabilities:			
Amounts payable	5,523	-	5,523
Net Current Assets	11,848	3,228	15,076

Total Net Assets	<u>51,525</u>	<u>308,593</u>	<u>360,118</u>
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HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST.MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021
PARISH ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

	St. Mary's £	Church Hall £	Total £	St. Mary's £	2020 Church Hall £	Total £
RECEIPTS						
Regular Giving:						
Gift Aided Receipts	24,748		24,748	20,507		20,507
Other Pledged Giving	10,502		10,502	9,760		9,760
Income Tax recovered	8,693		8,693	10,628		10,628
Open	1,961		1,961	2,770		2,770
	<u>45,904</u>		<u>45,904</u>	<u>43,665</u>		<u>43,665</u>
Other voluntary receipts:						
Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals	6,849		6,849	4,217		4,217
Donations	3,755		3,755	10,022		10,022
Handsworth Charity grant	250		250	3,000		3,000.00
Live Streaming & Sum Up	3,029		3,029	1,850		1,850.00
Birmingham Voluntary Service	1,000		1,000	-		-
	<u>14,882</u>		<u>14,882</u>	<u>19,089</u>		<u>19,089</u>
Receipts from activities for generating funds:						
Lettings	-	8,385	8,385	-	4,015	4,015
Fundraising	8,532		8,532	1,053		1,053
	<u>8,532</u>	<u>8,385</u>	<u>16,917</u>	<u>1,053</u>	<u>4,015</u>	<u>5,068</u>
Receipts from investments:						
Trust income	2,950		2,950	2,671	-	2,671
Parish Reserve investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Substation rent	-	75	75	-	75	75
Interest CFB	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest TSB	-	73	73	-	75	75
	<u>2,950</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>3,098</u>	<u>2,671</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>2,821</u>
Other Incoming resources:						
Sundry receipts	<u>70</u>		<u>70</u>	<u>156</u>		<u>156</u>
Total Receipts	72,338	8,533	80,871	66,634	4,165	70,799
Total Payments	70,688	9,253	79,941	36,128	6,695	42,823
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	1,650	(720)	930	30,506	(2,530)	27,976
Transfers	(4,500)	-	(4,500)	(18,446)	-	(18,446)
Gain in value of investments	6,946	-	6,946	-	-	-
Balances brought forward	32,888	18,637	51,525	20,828	21,167	41,995
Balances carried forward	<u>36,984</u>	<u>17,917</u>	<u>54,901</u>	<u>32,888</u>	<u>18,637</u>	<u>51,525</u>

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST.MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

PARISH ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

	St. Mary's £	Church Hall £	Total £	St. Mary's £	2020 Church Hall £	Total £
PAYMENTS						
Common Fund	<u>22,500</u>		<u>22,500</u>	<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>
Church Service:						
Service expenses	3,506		3,506	3,264		3,264
Ecclesiastical requisites (donated)	1,700		1,700	1,697		1,697
Organist	3,240		3,240	2,020		2,020
Organ maintenance				70		70
	<u>8,446</u>		<u>8,446</u>	<u>7,051</u>		<u>7,051</u>
Church Maintenance:						
Electricity	7,229		7,229	1,205		1,205
Gas	1,514		1,514	2,627		2,627
Insurance	9,492		9,492	9,475		9,475
Sundry repairs & maintenance	6,237		6,237	5,482		5,482
Alarm	1,486		1,486	-		-
Sound systems & card reader	2,548		2,548	-		-
Bell ropes	1,111		1,111	-		-
Cleaning	120		120	1,305		1,305
Other expenses - Welcome	120		120	120		120
	<u>29,857</u>		<u>29,857</u>	<u>20,214</u>		<u>20,214</u>
Clergy Housing:						
Water rates & insurance	373		373	373		373
Utilities	552		552	552		552
Alarm service	84		84	367		367
	<u>1,009</u>		<u>1,009</u>	<u>1,292</u>		<u>1,292</u>
Clergy Expenses						
Telephone	258		258	239		239
Motor & travelling expenses	555		555	526		526
	<u>813</u>		<u>813</u>	<u>765</u>		<u>765</u>
Church Hall Maintenance						
Cleaning		92	92		861	861
Water charges		220	220		224	224
Electricity		796	796		430	430
Gas		844	844		1,531	1,531
Repairs and maintenance		5,553	5,553		2,351	2,351
Alarm		340	-		-	-
Insurance		1,237	1,237		1,217	1,217
Other expenses		171	171		81	81
		<u>9,253</u>	<u>9,253</u>		<u>6,695</u>	<u>6,695</u>
Other:						
Printing, stationery & postage	3,404		3,404	3,746		3,746
Christmas Trees, cakes etc.	1,269		1,269	-		-
Beer Festival	1,875		1,875	-		-
Sundry expenses	1,515		1,515	2,560		2,560
	<u>8,063</u>		<u>8,063</u>	<u>6,306</u>		<u>6,306</u>
Total Payments	<u>70,688</u>	<u>9,253</u>	<u>79,941</u>	<u>36,128</u>	<u>6,695</u>	<u>42,823</u>

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST.MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER
2021
PARISH ACCOUNTS
(DESIGNATED)

	2021 St. Mary's Special Projects	2020 St. Mary's Special Projects
RECEIPTS		
Investment Income:		
CBF Investments	<u>1,382</u>	<u>1,335</u>
Other income:		
Donations and grants	<u>1,111</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>1,111</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total Receipts	<u>2,494</u>	<u>11,335</u>
PAYMENTS		
Church activities:		
Accanthus Clews Architects	-	529
A. Bird	3,342	-
EEP Heating	-	11,039
Hydro Heating	-	
IQ Glass	-	33,580
Other expenditure	<u>1,111</u>	<u>20,884</u>
	<u>4,453</u>	<u>66,032</u>
Value Added Tax recovered	(7,558)	(10,227)
Total Payments	<u>(3,105)</u>	<u>55,805</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	5,598	(44,469)
Transfer from (to) other Reserves	-	44,469
Balances carried forward	<u>5,598</u>	<u>-</u>

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST.MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021
PARISH ACCOUNTS (ENDOWMENTS)

	Timms Bequest Capital	Arrand Legacy Capital	Assistant Clergy Capital	James Watt Capital	Church Hall Residue Capital	Total 2021
RECEIPTS						
Investment income:						
CBF interest					9	9
PAYMENTS						
Investment management fees	(609)					(609)
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(609)				9	(600)
Change in value of investments	18,656	7,319	5,663	1,176	-	32,814
Transfer					4,500	4,500
Balances brought forward	195,753	61,673	39,380	8,179	379	305,364
Balances carried forward	<u>213,800</u>	<u>68,992</u>	<u>45,043</u>	<u>9,355</u>	<u>4,888</u>	<u>342,078</u>

Previous Year	Timms Bequest Capital	Arrand Legacy Capital	Arrand Legacy Income	Assistant Clergy Capital	James Watt Capital	James Watt Income	Church Hall Residue Capital	Total 2020
RECEIPTS								
Investment income:								
CBF interest	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	53	53
PAYMENTS								
Investment management fees	(532)							(532)
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(532)						53	(480)
Change in value of investments	(2,860)	(11,484)	-	2,543	529	-	-	(11,272)
Withdrawal			(13)			(3,486)	(2,501)	(6,000)
Balances brought forward	199,145	73,157	13	36,837	7,650	3,486	2,828	323,116
Balances carried forward	<u>195,753</u>	<u>61,673</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,380</u>	<u>8,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>305,364</u>

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST.MARY)
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

PARISH ACCOUNTS
(RESTRICTED)

	St. Mary Fabric	Church Hall Capital	Total 2021	St. Mary Fabric	Church Hall Capital	Total 2020
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Income:						
Gift Aid Receipts	210		210	210		210
Income Tax recovered	53		53	53		53
	<u>263</u>		<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>		<u>263</u>
Investment income:						
Tims Trust income BISL	5,158		5,158	5,903		5,903
Vaughton Trust Income	-					
Dividends CBF	<u>5,158</u>		<u>5,158</u>	<u>5,903</u>		<u>5,903</u>
Surplus for the year	5,421		5,421	6,166		6,166
Change in valuation of investments	-		-	3,642		3,642
Transfers	<u>5,421</u>		<u>5,421</u>	(45,843) (36,035)		(45,843) (36,035)
Balances brought forward	-	3,228	3,228	36,035	3,228	39,263
Balances carried forward	<u>5,421</u>	<u>3,228</u>	<u>8,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,228</u>	<u>3,228</u>

Report from the Mothers' Union (Penny Stephen)

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST MARY)
ST. MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

Officers:

Branch Leader: Ruth Cooper
Secretary: Penny Stephen
Treasurer: Edna Simkin
Chaplain: The Revd Dr Robert Stephen, Rector

Secretary's Report:

The Mothers Union reopened after Covid on the second Thursday in September 2021. Since then we have been meeting regularly. Tim Coltman gave a talk on The Day the Guns Went Silent in the October meeting that attracted 24 people. In December, the MU joined with the Ladies Who Lunch for the annual dinner. The AGM was held in March 2022, where the year's programme was decided. There are currently 10 members, but plans to recruit are in progress.

Treasurer's Report:

Receipts:	Diocesan Subs @ £29.50 per member	£324.50
	Branch Subs	£ 75.50
	TOTAL	£400.00
Payments:	Diocesan Subs @ £29.50 per member	£324.50
	Branch Running Costs	£ 95.00
	TOTAL	£419.50
Balance	at 1 st January 2021	£305.44
	at 31 st December 202	£285.91

Prepared by Edna Simkin (Treasurer)

Approved by Ruth Cooper (Branch Officer)

Independently Examined by Rosemarie J Seadon

Report from the Bellringers (Rosemarie Seadon)

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST MARY)
ST.MARY'S BELLRINGERS
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

BELL TOWER FUND

Receipts:	Wedding	<u>£ 12.00</u>
		£ 12.00
Payments:	New Bell Ropes	£1111.20
	Christmas Tree Festival	<u>£ 10.00</u>
		£1121.20
Balance in hand at 1 st January 2021		£1889.20
Balance in hand at 31 st December 2021		£ 780.00
Cash in hand		£ 34.59
TSB Bank		<u>£ 745.41</u>
		<u>£ 780.00</u>

OFFICERS Rosemarie Seadon
David Holmes

AIMS

To ring the Church bells prior to services to 'call people to worship'. We aim to ring every Sunday from 10.40 - 11am.
To ring for weddings when requested.
To teach new recruits to ring to ensure continuity of the band. New members are always welcome.
To ring commemorative quarter peals or peals to mark special events.
To maintain the ring of bells in good working order. To this end we have a bell tower fund in which we collect fees for weddings and from visitors who make a donation when they ring quarter peals, peals or visit on an outing. This money can then be used for repairs, e.g. new ropes and stays.

ANNUAL REPORT

Due to Covid lockdown we were unable to ring in the New Year and unable to ring again on a Sunday morning until the end of June (following yet another inspection of the tower and bells), continuing with masks and open windows. We had a few Wednesday evening practices but were unable to continue when the weather became too cold with the windows open.
In the summer I had a surprise delivery of our new bell ropes which we still have to install.
We rang for a wedding in December and were able to go to the tower on New Year's Eve.
We hope to have an open evening soon and aim to welcome new learners.

Report from Mums & Toddlers (Ron Hollins)

HANDSWORTH PARISH CHURCH (ST MARY)
ST MARY'S TODDLER GROUP
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2021

Opening Balance, 2021, Lloyds TSB, Great Hampton Street Branch,	£1392.36
Closing Balance at the 31 st December 2021,	£ 719.60

No Income was generated during 2021 due to closure.

Outgoings:

8 th August 2021	Donation to Church Electrics	£500.00
9 th November 2021	St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival	£ 65.00
31 st December 2021	Morton Mitchell Insurance	£107.76
Total		£672.76

RW Hollins, *Treasurer*

Mrs D Hemmings, *Volunteer Leader*

AIMS

To promote a safe and friendly church-based playgroup for pre-school children; a place, not only for mothers and carers to meet, but also a place where their children will have the opportunity to learn, to share in activities and to respect the beliefs and cultures of others and so enrich their lives within the rich diversity of our local community.

REPORT

We have been closed for the whole year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The future is unsure as we do not have any regular users of our service and lack volunteers. We are reluctant to re-open at this time as both leaders would find it too stressful to continue on their own.

Report from the Church Hall (Christopher Hazeley-Jones)

The Financial details for the Church Hall (a registered charity) are contained within the Unrestricted Funds on page 13).

REPORT

The hall recommenced bookings around April 2021. This was led by our two incumbent and regular users, Bellford Stage School and Takukon Karate. They have been followed in terms of regular booking by The Lighthouse Chapel Church every Sunday and more recently Thursday evenings. Since April 2021 we have continued to receive regular enquiries into hiring the hall. About a quarter of the enquiries are translated into bookings.

Observations

Having managed the hall for a few years observations are easier to make. In general the potential hirers who seek to hire the hall at short notice (less than 4 weeks prior to their proposed event) are most likely to have issues with payment e.g. seeking discounts, less likely to clear away rubbish and less likely to finish on time, and wanting to extend the time beyond close time of 10.30pm.

Of course we should try and be flexible and where possible treat each "late" request on its own merits but on the whole given the "pattern of behaviour" for late bookers this is not the most attractive of propositions.

Having the church hall advertised on the church website has contributed to an increase in interest. The increase in interest can lead to the need to make more bookings. Unfortunately facilitating use of the hall is still largely reliant on one person and so this reduces the capacity and opportunity to make more bookings. There has been some assistance offered from one individual but of course he's availability is also limited.

The PCC has spoken of options such as the "employment" of a full time caretaker and this may well be the way forward in terms of maximising potential. Otherwise we will have to accept the limitations that come from the existing arrangements and also continue to apply the terms and conditions to ensure they work for us as well.

Waste disposal remains an issue. Despite all hirers being informed that rubbish needs to be removed, this on most occasions does not happen. The sanction of deducting some or all of the deposit is not enough both in terms of a deterrent or in some cases actually in terms of covering cost of getting in a rubbish collection company to remove the rubbish.

The other main difficulty is events not finishing on time. At times upon arrival to close the hall, the event may be coming to an end but of course by the time the hall /kitchen is "cleaned" and cleared of people it's often an hour or more after the end time. Its pleasing that we have stated 10.30pm as the late closing time otherwise it could be 12.30am to 1.00 am before the hall can be properly cleaned and readied for the next user which on some occasions is the next day. Again the prospect of a deduction from the deposit for late finish is not a deterrent.

Technology

The church hall is advertised via the church hall website and has its own separate page providing information and contact details. Following trial of an online enquiry and booking system (November 2021 to January 2022) this was converted into an initial one year subscription. The Hallmaster system allows potential hirers to see an online diary, make request/enquiries, see the Hall Hire agreement, and allow for invoices to be created.

Hall condition

The hall is starting to show signs of wear and tear. The most obvious being the radiator covers. There are some floor boards which are loose or broken and a few areas where the boards have become warped probably due to water coming through the flooring. There are a couple of lightbulbs that need replacing. The wash basin in the disabled toilet has become slightly detached from the wall. Though it does not look like it is in danger of coming apart fully any time soon it's not going to get any better. The inner entrance doors may need the hinges repaired replaced which is what may be causing the doors to rub against each other. For a period in July/August it seemed the alarm was going off without reason but this seems now to have been rectified.

Hall Cleaning

The hall was deep cleaned in July 2021 and I understand is cleaned perhaps on a fortnightly basis. Toilet rolls, and soap are things which need continual replacement. It could be helpful if the cleaning firm when undertaking the cleaning duties could also replenish toilet rolls and soap.

Hall Payments

Traditionally/historically payments for hire of the hall have been in cash. However in keeping with the financial changes many enquirers and hall hirers have been asking to pay directly to the church hall account. For regular users we have made this facility open to them, but for "one off" casual users we still request cash though we may need to review this position again in due course as direct banking and monitoring such transactions becomes more the norm.

Hall Property

The kitchen is a big selling point for the hall. The facilities and space are good. Access to items such as pots and pans, cutlery, glasses and so forth is included in the hire and may be seen as a generous offer. In recent times we have noticed the loss of pots and possibly some other items. There are far too many items to be counted each time an event is happening and the kitchen is being used. To reduce the prospect of loss of items in this way the most practical option would be for them to be stored elsewhere and not be made available when the kitchen is hired. Kitchen hire would only include "hard goods" toaster, microwave, cooker, ovens, food warmer, hot water urn, fridge and dishwasher. This is something the PCC may wish to discuss and consider.