

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST.JOHN THE BAPTIST HILLMORTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1180245

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2018-10-08

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

## Contact

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## Activities

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

**Activities:** We are a Church of England Parish Church, which offers regular public worship, occasional offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals, pastoral care to individuals as requested, and groups during the week for children and adults of all ages. In addition we keep our church building open every day for anyone who wishes to spend time in quiet reflection and/or prayer.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- Warwickshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£106,416	£124,225	-	-
2023-12-31	£117,027	£158,544	-	-
2022-12-31	£151,867	£111,048	-	-
2021-12-31	£112,042	£109,998	-	-
2020-12-31	£114,757	£145,468	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev STEPHEN ERIC GOLD	Chair	2015-07-01
DAVID FENTON BRADFORD		2012-04-17
Harriet Elisabeth Dingwall		2026-03-22
JUDITH ANN CLUCAS		2018-04-24
James Yates		2024-04-21
Joanne Jones		2024-04-21
John Merrigan		2021-04-13
Keri Barnes		2026-03-22
Louise Bradshaw		2019-04-02
Okechukwu Nnaemeka Nwokeafor		2026-03-27
Patricia Anne Lole		2020-10-06
Rev April Gold		2023-07-02
Rev Helen Merrigan		2018-04-30

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF HILLMORTON**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**To be held at St John the Baptist, Hillmorton  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 10.30am**

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# Agenda

## **2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Election of Church Wardens

## **2025 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2024 APCM
3. Electoral Roll Report
4. PCC Report
5. Vicar's report – with opportunity for questions
6. Financial Report and Accounts
7. Building and Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Pastoral Care Report
10. Safeguarding Report

## **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

11. Elections to Deanery Synod
12. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner
14. Any other business
15. Closing prayers

## 2025 APCM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2024 APCM

## REPORTS

3. Electoral Roll Report – to be provided by Val Aspeling
4. PCC Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Vicar Rev'd Steve Gold, Houlton Vicarage, 2 Maxwell Road, Houlton CV23 1AH

Curates Rev'd April Gold  
Rev'd Helen Merrigan  
Rev'd Anne-Marie Marsh (on leave throughout 2024)

Independent examiner Mr Malcolm Harrison of 14a Percival Road, Rugby, CV22 5JS

Bank HSBC, Church Street, Rugby

St. John the Baptist PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings and churchyard.

### Membership of the Parochial Church Council from April 2024

PCC members are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC has the power to co-opt if necessary.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC.

Ex-officio members:

Vicar/Chairperson	Rev'd Steve Gold
Curates	Rev'd April Gold Rev'd Helen Merrigan Rev'd Anne-Marie Marsh
Churchwardens	Judith Clucas John Merrigan Patricia Lole (deputy churchwarden)
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives</i> (4 due to size of Electoral Roll) Office runs to July 2026	Louise Bradshaw Judith Clucas Hilary Mitchell (until 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2024)

Elected members:	Joanne Isley	(3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
	Bruno Hughes	(3 <sup>rd</sup> year)
	Pat Lole	(2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
	David Bradford	(2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
	Jo Jones	(1 <sup>st</sup> year)
	Peter Webb	(1 <sup>st</sup> year)
	James Yates	(1 <sup>st</sup> year)

The PCC met 10 times in 2024, in addition to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

In 2024 there were 126 names on the Electoral Roll (up from 120 in 2023). The Electoral Roll Officer was Val Aspeling.

## **5. Vicar's review of 2024. Rev'd Steve Gold**

St John's and St Gabriel's have continued in 2024 to seek to grow in many ways; in terms of the size of our worshipping community, in terms of the depth of our knowledge and love of God and of each other - and in terms of the way our church blesses the community around us.

In 2024 we saw the size of our worshipping community (the number of people who join us regularly for worship at one or more of our services), remain stable – with higher than usual numbers of people leaving us being broadly balanced by an increase in new people joining our community. The average number of adults with us on a Sunday fell in 2024, due to number of factors, but we saw a significant number of our older members of the community finding it increasingly difficult to physically get to church for services. We have responded to this by more actively seeking to offer worship at home for those who can't join us in church, and we were delighted to commission Peter Webb to lead this ministry for us. We were also pleased that the average number of young people attending services increased again in 2024 as our St Gabriel's afternoon service continues to flourish. As a result we have the highest proportion of children and young people in our Sunday congregations of all churches in Rugby Deanery.

Our ministry at St Gabriel's CofE Academy continues to be an important part of the life of our parish. We lead collective worship in the school each week, involving around 450 children and adults. We also provide a weekly after-school group for those children who would like to learn more about Jesus, which is attended by 15 children each week. We also invest in the whole life of the school through our PCC appointed foundation governors, who are primarily responsible for helping the school to establish & maintain its Christian (and Anglican) identity and supporting the life of the school community, which is now more than 500 people. Many thanks go to Funmi Ikuomola, Georgina Newton and Judith Clucas for their work as governors.

Our missional activities within the community continue to be a blessing. Hillmorton Hub attracted a growing group who find welcome & support - and has offered a 'warm hub' during the winter months. Our baby & toddler groups in Hillmorton (Playhouse) and Houlton (Dollman Dots) continue to be very popular with young families and provide a very effective way of building relationships with young people in our community. Our coffee mornings continue to be popular monthly events. We've also continued to serve our community through the whole of life's journey, through a total of 24 baptisms (including 2 young people via immersion), 4 weddings and 26 funerals.

I continue to be hugely grateful for the way in which ministry and mission in our churches is shared so widely across our parish. In particular I would like to take the opportunity to thank our churchwardens Judith Clucas, John Merrigan and Pat Lole ; our treasurer Phil Clucas, our Parish Safeguarding Officer Jo Isley, the headteacher of St Gabriel's Andy Taylor (and his staff) and our administrator, Paula Mayfield – for all their contributions to the life of our church communities. In addition, I'd like to thank the teams who support all of our church and community groups so faithfully – without whom we would not be able to do what we do. We have a fantastic team to work amongst, bringing positivity and collaboration to all aspects of church and school life.

Can I also thank everyone who contributed to preaching and leading our services in 2024; in particular Rev'd Ted Lyons, John Merrigan and Peter Webb for their preaching, and Helen & John Merrigan, Pat Lole, and Rachel Knight for offering their musical gifts. We look forward to encouraging our community to continue growing in their gifts in preaching and leading worship.

The finances of the parish continue to be challenging. The costs of ministry and of running our buildings has continued to increase significantly more quickly than our income, and our underlying

deficit in 2024 was around £18,000. Although this compares favourably with our budget we cannot continue to operate indefinitely with a deficit as our reserves decrease. In 2025 we will continue to seek to return our finances to sustainable levels, with a challenge to both reduce our costs and also find ways to continue to grow our income.

Finally, thank you for your enduring love for each other. Thank you for your enduring patience with my many weaknesses – I cannot tell you how grateful I am for that. Thank you for your love of God and the parish he’s called us to serve and bless together. I look forward to what God will do among us on the year ahead.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## 6. Presentation of the Financial Report and Accounts – Phil Clucas

I took over responsibility for St John the Baptist & St Gabriel’s finances in January 2024 from Claire Hughes. I am not an accountant but I’m quite good with numbers and I have overseen the budget of the Harris Church of England High School (now Harris Church of England Academy) for a number of years before I retired.

When I took over as treasurer our expenditure was greater than our income, which was slightly worrying, however we had some reserves (Over £50,000). God challenges us all to use what we have to do what He wants us to do. So, during the course of the year I have been quite circumspect about payments, not paying until the last minute as well as asking the question, ‘Do we really need this?’ & ‘Are there other suppliers?’

However during the course of the year we had to transfer £30,000 from deposit into our current account. We do need to understand that whilst our expenditure was down in 2024 from 2023 our income was also down consequently our deficit of income v expenditure was only just over £17,808 rather than the 2023 deficit of over £41,517. We cannot afford a deficit in 2025. The PCC have made some budget decisions for 2025 which should bring us nearer to a zero deficit.

### Income & Expenditure Balances

	2024	2023
Statement of Accounts Income	£106,416	£117,027
Statement of Accounts Expenditure	£124,225	£158,544
Balance of Income - Expenditure	-£17,808	-£41,517

To give some idea of where our income comes from the table below shows income as percent of total. We maybe need to ask, ‘How can we increase these any or all of these percentages?’

Item	2024	2023
Income from Donors	70%	66%
Community Activities - Contactless & Cash	4%	6%
Wedding and Funerals	13%	6%
Other	11%	15%
Bank Interest and Dividends	1%	2%
Grants received	1%	5%

During the year I have tried to use less of the personal and more of the corporate ie establishing an generic email for the treasurer – [treasurer@stjohnhillmorton.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stjohnhillmorton.org.uk) and moving away from personal addresses to our business addresses as well as not using personal bank cards. This should mean that when the treasurer role is passed on all the details will be in one place. I have also tried to bring all our accounts with other organisations eg HMRC for Gift Aid into one place.

We are stewards of the world God has created and as such we need to look after our little part of it and we ALL have a part in that. Going forward we need to challenge ourselves to have the resources needed to do God's work in our community. Currently we need more resources to carry out the work we are involved in or we need to discern from God a different direction. So I ask you to prayerfully reflect on what God is calling us to do in the Parish of Hillmorton through the church of St John the Baptist & St Gabriel's Houlton.

## GENERAL FUND INCOME

	2024		2023	
<b>Income from Donors</b>				
Planned Giving	£47,688		£47,213	
Collections	£6,257		£4,428	
Contactless giving - church	£2,600		£621	
Gift Aid Claimed	£453	£56,998	£10,049	£62,311
<b>Income from Children and Family</b>	£3,695	£3,695	£5,885	£5,885
<b>Wedding and Funerals</b>				
Fees (gross 2024, net 2023)	£10,605		£5,289	
Donations at services	£0	£10,605		£5,289
<b>Other</b>				
Newsletter Advertising	£5,100		£1,790	
Donations	£3,904		£9,356	
Legacies	£0		£300	
Other	£1,676	£10,680	£2,336	£13,782
<b>Bank Interest and Dividends</b>				
Deposit account at CCLA	£2,458		£1,197	
COIF Dividends & Langton income	£504	£2,962	£441	£1,639
<b>Grants received</b>				
Grants received	£714	£714	£5,000	£5,000
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS INCOME</b>		£85,654		£93,906
<b>ROGERS HALL - Income</b>	£20,174	£20,174	£22,841	£22,841
<b>DEANERY - Income</b>	£588	£588	£0	£0
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>		£106,416		
<b>RESTRICTED FUND INCOME</b>				
Redevelopment/heating	£0		£0	
Other		£0	£280	£280
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		£106,416		£117,027

**Phil Clucas:**  
See Note 1. below

**Phil Clucas:**  
See Note 2. below

**Phil Clucas:**  
See note 3. below

**Phil Clucas:**  
This is the interest on our CCLA account CB 3923 957-001

### Note

- 1 HMRC rejected claims as our details were not accurate. Awaiting a reset, then the claim can be made and should bring in £6,500
- 2 Income from Community activities
- 3 Changed this year to income & expenditure rather than netting off

## EXPENDITURE

	2024		2023	
<b>Activities directly connected to the church</b>				
Parish Share	£64,745		£70,620	
Clergy expenses	£1,001		£1,305	
Lighting, heating and water	£709		£7,424	
Insurance	£5,110		£4,525	
Upkeep of services (incl licences)	£3,819		£2,971	
Newsletter printing	£2,303		£5,045	
Mission	£2,080		£3,102	
Church Maintenance	£2,760		£10,682	£105,674
Wedding & Funeral Disbursements - 202	£1,485	£84,011		
<b>Children and Family</b>				
Salary	£0			
Materials etc	£0	£0		£0
<b>Administration</b>				
Salaries	£12,114		£10,709	
Stationery, postage etc	£1,539	£13,653	£880	£11,589
<b>Donations</b>	£0		£8,302	
<b>Deanery Expenses (2023 only)</b>			-£1,254	
<b>Other</b>	£958	£958	£1,002	£8,051
<b>St Gabriel's</b>	£0			£0
<b>Organ &amp; Piano</b>	£0	£0		£0
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS EXPENDITUR</b>	£98,622		£125,313	£125,314
<b>ROGERS HALL - Expenditure</b>	£14,660	£14,660	£33,231	£33,231
<b>DEANERY - Expenditure</b>	£754	£754		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE</b>	£114,037			£158,544
<b>RESTRICTED FUND EXPENDITURE</b>				
Redevelopment	£10,188			
Other	£0	£10,188		£0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	£124,225			£158,544

### Note

- 1 Reduced from £73,879.80 to reflect expenditure on Hillmorton vicarage as not used during the year.
- 2 The St John's energy costs are mixed up with the Rogers Hall ones.  
There is an auto-match on the accounting software for the Direct Debits from 'Positive Energy' who supply electricity to church & Rogers Hall as well as gas to Rogers Hall. For some time the auto-match has been putting all the amounts into the Rogers Hall fund. I have not been able to redirect the ammounts to the correct place. Figures below reflect our energy usage.  
Rogers Hall Electricity: £1,621  
Rogers Hall Gas: £2,254.10  
St John's Electricity: £6,313

## Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st December 2024


	2024		2023	
<b>Cash and bank</b>				
HSBC	£24,971		£15,730	
CCLA Deposit CB3023957-001	£25,246		£52,787	
Cash	£481	£50,698	£104	£68,621
<b>Funds</b>				
General	£26,360		£39,357	
Redevelopment	£3,374		£13,562	
Rogers Hall	£16,588		£11,044	
Other	£4,376	<u>£50,698</u>	£4,658	<u>£68,621</u>
<b>Connected Charities - Langton Bequest</b>				
Balance brought forward 1st Jan 2024	£2,550	£2,550		£2,025
Interest received	£91	£91		£72
Balance carried forward 31st December 2024	£2,681	£2,641		£2,097
Money held as follows				£797
CCLA Deposit account - CB3023959-001	£888			£1,300
CCLA Investment fund - CB3023958-001	£1,793	<u>£2,681</u>		<u>£2,097</u>
<b>Connected Charities - Hillmorton Church Lands</b>				
CCLA Account - CO3055834-001				
Balance brought forward 1st Jan 2024	£10,695			£10,695
Dividends received	£504			£495
Transferred to PCC general income	-£504			-£495
Balance carried forward 31st December 2024	<u>£10,695</u>			<u>£10,675</u>

The Accounts were presented to and approved by the Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Hillmorton

**Reverend Steve Gold, Chairperson**



**Philip Clucas, Honorary Treasurer**



**Date**

29th April 2025



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Church, Hillmorton

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 Charity no (if any) 1180245

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 23rd April 2025

Name: Malcolm Harrison

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Chartered Institute of Taxation Chartered Tax Adviser

Address: 14A Percival Road, Rugby, CV22 5JS

## **7. Presentation of the Building and Fabric Report - Judith Clucas**

It has been a busy year yet again, keeping our buildings in a safe and good order. It can be quite testing at times especially as the price of materials has rocketed significantly. Our administrator does a sterling job securing estimates and arranging businesses to come onto site so we can receive the best value for the job either at the Hall or at Church.

We give thanks for the cleaning and access teams, for their hard work and often going out in unsociable hours to close and secure the hall, ensuring the hall is in a presentable state for the next set of hirers.

### **St John's Church**

There have been no major repair or improvement projects completed in 2024. However, the task of caring for and maintaining the building continues.

Harborough Stone secured the bell tower masonry which had fallen.

The outside drains were flushed out by Dyno rod, however one on both the north and south side of the church are in need of having a new soak-away dug. This will need a faculty and also a cost in the region of £3,500.

A Fire Risk Assessment was carried out and we will be working through some of the points raised in that assessment in 2025 alongside the ongoing actions from our 2023 Quinquennial Report.

Our roof alarm system has been checked, and everything was fine apart from the replacement of a new battery.

The new heating system was installed in early 2025, which is certainly more efficient, however it maybe that some of the wall heaters would be better placed at a lower level. This will be followed up when funds allow.

A hazard warning strip has been placed along the steps leading to the tower room after an accident earlier this year.

Looking forward for 2025, we expect the new noticeboard to be installed in the churchyard, and we plan on replacing the drain soakaways. We also recognise that the Church Car Park is in a poor state and are awaiting contact from Urban and Civic for an update on the White House development, so as we have a more positive idea as to when the car park will be improved.

### **Rogers Hall**

There were no major works on Rogers Hall in 2024. Entrance Porch roof and barge boards checked and made secure. A leak in female bathroom ceiling was checked and found to be coming from the pipework above, therefore this was fixed. The Boiler had an annual check.

Our church building is visited by so many people who just love being there, a haven for all. We are always looking for people to get involved with the care and maintenance of both buildings, so if you can help in any small way please contact one of the Church Wardens, we would so love to chat with you.

## **8. Deanery Synod Report - Judith Clucas**

We meet three times per year and since our last APCM, two meetings have taken place. At each meeting we hear from the incumbent of the church where we meet, who gives a brief talk on what is happening in their Parish. This part I find very interesting and often sparks new ideas etc and certainly provides good discussion at coffee and cake time!

Other business includes movement and vacancies for clergy, Parish Share, rural ministry and sharing practices and problems in a safe environment.

In the summer we visited St. Peter's in Grandborough, a beautiful rural church setting.

Steve Cockrill shared the story of 'Angels', the goodness of God, sharing 'angel stories' with each other and being more open with each other's practices, gives more opportunities for our children.

Bishop Ruth was our speaker for the evening, and how refreshing and approachable she was. She offered to answer any questions she could during the meeting and was extremely open and willing to answer. She was interested in knowing what was happening in our parishes which she really listened to.

Our second meeting was in November, held at St Mark's in Bilton, beginning with evening prayer.

The keynote speaker was April Gold speaking from both her position as Diocesan Director of Education as well as Curate at St John's and St Gabriel's. She encouraged us to be excited by the fact that although children's numbers may be low on a Sunday, but to consider the ones we engage with throughout the week eg Assemblies, After-school clubs, special events and experiences like the 'Alive' event at Stoneleigh where over five thousand children encountered a major Christian experience.

The Spring meeting hadn't taken place at the time of compiling this report.

## **9. Pastoral Care – Peter Webb, Pastoral Care Lead**

Recent experience has indicated that an increasing number of our Church Family have reached the stage where it is either very difficult or even impossible to attend Church Services on a regular basis. The reasons for this include:

- Admission to Care or Nursing Homes outside of the Parish
- Admissions to hospital
- Loss of mobility
- Increasing dementia or loss of memory
- Inability to function sufficiently until later in the day
- No family in the immediate area
- No transport

Many of these people have been long-standing members of the Church Community who have supported us in many practical ways during previous years and as such have a lot to offer from their experience.

It is important, therefore, to recognise their value and not leave them out of our service to others. If they are unable to attend Church, for many different reasons, then surely it is our responsibility to go out to them to support their spiritual needs.

As such, since my appointment as Pastoral Care Co-ordinator I currently arrange and share:

- Home Communion to 4 people (one of whom is in Nursing Care) on a fortnightly basis
- Communion for a group of three people in Webb Ellis Court once a month
- Lead a Communion Service at Crick Road for a group of 4-5 people (on a rota basis with Steve Gold) \* This involves transporting some of them.
- I have also been asked to consider sharing Home Communion with another Parishioner who has just been admitted to a Nursing Home and is suffering from developing dementia.
- I visit two more people without Communion at present but may choose to ask for this in the future.

Some people who are far from well thankfully still attend Church Services often being transported by caring members of the congregation

There is no doubt that these numbers will gradually increase as people get older or more disabled and unfortunately will only reduce as people die or move out of the areas.

It will be noticed that I am presently concentrating on more senior members of our family, but we also need to care for other people who may be facing particular troubles in their lives.

I am extremely grateful to the people who visit those in need or provide more practical help (e.g. transport to Hospital appointments but as need increases we need to spread the responsibility more widely among ourselves.

I am currently liaising with the co-ordinator of the "Gift of Years" organisation who actually provide Chaplaincy services in some of the Care Homes in Rugby.

## **10. Safeguarding – Jo Isley, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Within our parish, as throughout the world, safeguarding issues need to be identified and addressed. This means that every member of our church community has a duty to be alert to any concerns and report them, however insignificant they might seem. It is better to pass on an individual piece of information, than withhold it and later regret doing so. The onus is simply on passing on information, which may contribute to a larger picture, rather than launching an investigation. Concerns will be addressed with discretion, and on a strictly need-to-know basis. The diocesan safeguarding team are always consulted about actions required, and they have links with multiple other agencies.

Training is available to anyone who would like to learn more about how to spot concerns and who to raise them with. Certain roles require three-yearly refresher training at the relevant level required for that role. I am very grateful to those who undertake the training when requested, and I am happy to provide any support needed to complete the training.

Safeguarding continues to be included as a standing item on the agenda at every PCC business meeting. Meetings between the Parish Safeguarding Officer and clergy are held regularly in the interim to review the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and the newly introduced Safeguarding Hub (which helps us to ensure we manage recruitment and people management safely across all the activities and teams of the church) and thus to identify any required actions. I am well supported in my role as PSO and responsibility is shared between us to comply with the increasing demands of this important area of ministry.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

## **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

- 11. Elections to Deanery Synod**
- 12. Elections to the Parochial Church Council**
- 13. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 14. Any Other Business**
- 15. Closing Prayer**

## Minutes of the 2024 APCM

The meeting was held during the 10:30am service of Morning Prayer at St John the Baptist on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**Present:** Steve Gold (Vicar), Helen & John Merrigan, Ted & Heather Lyons, Tony & Brenda Pittam, Peter & Linda Webb, Don & Eleanor Thorneycroft, Cyril & Jane Franklin, James & Sarah (Esther & Iona) Yates, Rachel & Alan Knight, Joe & Angela (Lochlan & Mackenzie) Riddaway, Dawn (Jack & Evan) Kallmeier, Malcolm & Liz Ingham, Tina Davies, Pam Beech, Margaret Caygill, Janet Addison, Rae Ogden, Bill Sewell, Anne Tippett, Sue Palmer, Jane Pogson, Matt Gundel, Hazel Setchell, Jack Hardy, Pat Lole, Ruth Merrigan, Maureen Thompson, Audrey Carpenter, Charlie Ray, Val Aspinall, Ray & Emma Lenton, Ben Merrigan, David Bradford, Ruth Benn, Louise Bradshaw, Deeanne Clarke, Min Yang.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Election of Church Wardens: Nominations for Church Warden had been received from Judith Clucas and John Merrigan and Pat Lole had been nominated as deputy CW. No voting was required as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of posts, but a show of hands was offered in support of the nominations.

Steve expressed his gratitude on behalf of the clergy team and the church for all that the Church Warden team does for us and appreciating how much of a blessing they are.

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies: Phil & Judith Clucas, Chris Addison, April Gold, Marie Haydock, Georgina Lenton, Jo Isley & Bruno Hughes
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were accepted and signed as a true record.

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. **Elections to Parochial Church Council.** PCC nominations had been received from Peter Webb (St John's), James Yates and Jo Jones (both members of St Gabriel's). No voting was required as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of posts and all 3 were elected.

All members of the PCC present stood so the congregation could recognise their representatives and Steve prayed for them.

As there are 9 elected members for the PCC there are still 3 spaces.

The clergy (Steve, April & Helen), Church Wardens (Judith, John & Pat) and deanery synod representatives (Judith, Louise Bradshaw & Pat Lole) are all ex-officio members.

2. **Vicar's comments:**

- Steve noted the reports in the APCM document and assumed people had had the opportunity to read these for themselves
- Despite all we hear in the media about the supposed decline of the CofE our community in the parish of Hillmorton is in fact growing. We give thanks for an increase in numbers and the fact that this is mainly due to an increase in young people. Our Sunday numbers are slightly up on last year.  
God is breathing life into His church and will continue to do so.
- We are not without challenges!  
Finance: there was a substantial deficit last year, even without including our investment in the facilities of Rogers Hall. If this trend continued we will run out of our reserves. Somehow, as a church community, we have to balance the books.

Please pray for increase – both in numbers and knowledge and love for God that God may continue to do more in and through us and that we can grow to become financially self-sufficient and stable.

Steve invited us all to pray, reflect and review our giving, including financial.

At the same time we will also continue to seek other ways to increase our income.

Buildings: we have been entrusted with a beautiful old church building – which is an important part of our faith and our ministry, both a gift and a responsibility. However, it is not easy to steward – it takes much time and money and this is an ongoing challenge for us. We seek to maintain this place of worship whilst at the same time ensure it is fit to meet the needs of our ministry.

The Rogers Hall is also a blessing and helps us engage in our parish and community.

Please pray that we can look after these facilities well.

- Steve acknowledged that this has not been an easy year – there have been some difficult things going on in our community and we have had a number of significant pastoral situations to deal with. We have tried to act wisely and lovingly in all these things but we have not always done a perfect job.

These situations have resulted in a number of people feeling hurt and ultimately some have decided that they could no longer remain a part of our church. This has been both challenging and hurtful to our community.

Some of these situations remain unresolved and we continue to try to walk through them in a way that brings healing and restoration.

Steve had no further specific information available at this time and acknowledged that this may be the case for some time yet.

- Steve thanked all the many people who play so many different parts in the life of the church offering their gifts and time generously – much of which is unseen. All of us together make life in our church happen and Steve said that we could not do as much as we do without all of this support in the background.
- Steve reminded us that Jesus is the Cornerstone.

It is easy for us to think that the future of the church depends on our programmes and our clever strategies but as Peter told the lame man (Acts 3) – it is by faith in the Name of Jesus that we are transformed. The Church flourishes and grows one person at a time as people come to know the love God for them and enter into a relationship with their Creator.

As we know and love God more deeply and hold out that love to our community God's purposes will be fulfilled through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Steve asked if there were any comments or questions:

- Rachel, who joined us at the end of last year, expressed thanks for the wonderful welcome she had received from the St John's church community
- People asked about 'Football' and pizza so Steve explained this was after the service at St Gabriel's and was part of the community there reaching out to the youth in the Houlton area.

John Merrigan expressed our thanks to Steve, along with the support of April, for his leadership and service to us.

Morning Prayer then continued with corporate prayers and closing worship and blessing.

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, HILLMORTON**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**To be held at St John the Baptist, Hillmorton  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 at 10.30am**

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# Agenda

## **2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Election of Church Wardens

## **2024 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 APCM
3. Electoral Roll Report
4. PCC Report
5. Vicar's report – with opportunity for questions
6. Financial Report and Accounts
7. Building and Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Worship Team Report

## **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

11. Elections to Deanery Synod
12. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner
14. Any other business
15. Closing prayers

# 2024 APCM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 APCM

## REPORTS

3. Electoral Roll Report – to be provided by Val Aspeling
4. PCC Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Vicar Rev'd Steve Gold, Houlton Vicarage, 2 Maxwell Road, Houlton CV23 1AH

Curates Rev'd Anne-Marie Marsh  
Rev'd April Gold (from 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023)  
Rev'd Helen Merrigan (from 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023)

Independent examiner Mr Malcolm Harrison of 14a Percival Road, Rugby, CV22 5JS

Bank HSBC, Church Street, Rugby

St. John the Baptist PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings and churchyard.

### Membership of the Parochial Church Council from April 2023

PCC members are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC has the power to co-opt if necessary. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC.

Ex-officio members:

Vicar/Chairperson	Rev'd Steve Gold
Curates	Rev'd Anne-Marie Marsh Rev'd April Gold (from 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2023) Rev'd Helen Merrigan (from 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2023)
Churchwardens	Judith Clucas John Merrigan Patricia Lole (deputy churchwarden)
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i> (4 due to size of Electoral Roll) Office runs to July 2026	Claire Hughes (until resignation on 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept), Judith Clucas Louise Bradshaw Hilary Mitchell

Elected members:	Helen Merrigan (2 <sup>nd</sup> year – until 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 23, after which ex-officio)
	Joanne Isley (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
	Bruno Hughes (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
	Anne Tippett (2 <sup>nd</sup> year – until resignation on 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 23)
	Pat Lole (1 <sup>st</sup> year)
	David Bradford (1 <sup>st</sup> year)

The PCC met 10 times in 2023, with focus meetings on 4 of those occasions, 6 business meetings, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

In 2023 there were 120 names on the Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll Officer was Val Aspeling.

### **Committees and Administration:**

The PCC is required by law to appoint a Standing Committee that is responsible, subject to any rulings by the PCC, for dealing with urgent matters of PCC business that may arise between regular meetings of the Council. The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Associate minister (when in post), Curates, Churchwardens, and one other member of the PCC elected by the Council (elected member for 2023 Claire Hughes)

The PCC provides for sub-committees to deal with particular areas of activity or concern. The sub-committees at present are: Buildings team incorporating both the Rogers Hall and the Fabric and Churchyard teams.

## **5. Vicar's review of 2023. Rev'd Steve Gold**

St John's and St Gabriel's have continued in 2023 to seek to grow in many ways; in terms of the size of our worshipping community, in terms of the depth of our knowledge and love of God, and in terms of the way our church blesses the community around us.

In 2023 we saw our worshipping community and numbers of people attending our worship services remaining broadly stable, but are pleased that the number of young people in our Sunday congregations continues to grow, and we have seen an increase in new joiners. Our midweek services within the community continue to flourish.

Our missional activities within the community continue to be a blessing. Hillmorton Hub attracted a growing group who find welcome & support - and has offered a 'warm hub' during the winter months. Our baby & toddler groups in Hillmorton (Playhouse) and Houlton (Dollman Dots) continue to be very popular with young families and provide a very effective way of building relationships with young people in our community. Our coffee mornings continue to be popular monthly events.

Looking beyond our parish, we have been blessed by our ongoing relationship with the parish of St Andrew's Chebilat in the Kenyan Diocese of Kapsabet. We were able to make a sizeable gift to St Andrew's in 2023 through the generosity of our church members, and have delighted in seeing the construction of a parish kitchen in Chebilat using our gift. We are delighted that this will make such a difference in the life of the parish community in Chebilat.

I continue to be hugely grateful for the way in which ministry and mission in our churches is shared so widely across our parish. In particular I would like to take the opportunity to thank our churchwardens Judith Clucas, John Merrigan and Pat Lole ; our treasurer Claire Hughes, our Parish Safeguarding Officer Jo Isley, the headteacher of St Gabriel's Andy Taylor (and his staff) and our administrator, Paula Mayfield – for all their contributions to the life of our church communities. We have a fantastic team to work amongst, bringing positivity and collaboration to all aspects of church and school life.

Can I also thank everyone who contributed to preaching and leading our services in 2023; in particular Rev'd Ted Lyons, Claire Hughes, John Merrigan and Peter Webb for their preaching, and Helen & John Merrigan, Pat Lole, Hilary Mitchell, Claire Hughes, Tassy Gundel and April Gold for offering their musical gifts. We look forward to encouraging our community to continue growing in their gifts in preaching and leading worship.

I'd also like to thank our PCC-appointed foundation governors at St Gabriel's CofE Academy; Steve, Anne-Marie, Funmi Ikuomola, Rex Pogson and Georgina Newton. Rex Pogson sadly stepped down during 2023, but we were delighted that Judith Clucas was willing to take on the role. Our foundation governors are primarily responsible for helping the school to establish & maintain its Christian (and Anglican) identity and supporting the life of the school community, which is now around 400 people.

Supporting all this our ministry team has continued to evolve. We are thankful for Anne-Marie's ministry among us as she continued with her curacy. In July we welcomed April Gold and Helen Merrigan as curates after their ordination as deacons at Coventry Cathedral – and look forward to their continued ministry in the parish alongside their full-time jobs. Disappointingly we have not been successful in appointing an associate minister, and are now reviewing our plans for ministry resources in the parish.

The finances of the parish are challenging. The costs of ministry and of running our buildings has continued to increase significantly more quickly than our income, and our underlying deficit in 2023 (allowing for the Rogers Hall toilet refurbishment project) was around £18,000. Although this compares favourably with our budgeted deficit of £30,000 our reserves will not allow us to operate with this level of deficit for long. We will need to focus in 2024 on how we return our finances to sustainable levels, with a challenge to both reduce our costs and also find ways to continue to grow our income.

So – there is much to be thankful for in the life of our community in 2023. Looking to the future we will continue to seek to find ways to grow our relationship with our community and encourage them to become followers of Jesus and to be part of our church community. We have begun working with Thrive Youth ministries and we look forward to them helping us to develop our work with young people. We will need to continue to focus on growing our community – and in particular grow our income if we are to continue to be sustainable. If that cannot be achieved we will have to look for ways to reduce our costs which would likely involve some difficult decisions.

Finally, thank you for your enduring love for each other. Thank you for your enduring patience with my many weaknesses. Thank you for your love of God and the parish he's called us to serve and bless together. I look forward to what God will do among us on the year ahead.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## **6. Presentation of the Financial Report and Accounts**

**Income Statement for the year ending 31st December 2023**

<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
<b>Income from Donors</b>				
Planned Giving	47,213		44,162	
Collections	4,428		4,856	
Contactless giving - church	621		2,087	
Gift Aid Claimed	10,049	62,311	14,701	65,806
<b>Income from Children and Family</b>	5,885	5,885	2,761	2,761
<b>Wedding and Funerals</b>				
Fees (net)	5,289		5,689	
Donations at services		5,289		5,689
<b>Other</b>				
Newsletter Advertising	1,790		2,810	
Donations	9,356		4,427	
Legacies	300		40,000	
Other	2,336	13,782	1,199	48,436
<b>Bank Interest and Dividends</b>				
Deposit account at CCLA	1,197		661	
COIF Dividends & Langton income	441	1,639	491	1,152
<b>Grants received</b>				
Grants received	5,000			
Grant for Jubilee Bench			1,000	
	0	5,000	0	1,000
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS INCOME</b>		<b>93,906</b>		<b>124,844</b>
<b>ROGERS HALL</b>	22,841	<b>22,841</b>	17,663	<b>17,663</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>		<b>116,747</b>		<b>142,507</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND INCOME</b>				
Redevelopment/heating	0		8,785	
Other	280	280	575	9,360
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>117,027</b>		<b>151,867</b>

**Expenditure Statement for the year ending 31st December 2022**

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
<b>Activities directly connected to the church</b>				
Parish Share	70,620		64,999	
Clergy expenses	1,305		1,785	
Lighting, heating and water	7,424		4,027	
Insurance	4,525		4,794	
Upkeep of services (incl licences)	2,971		3,738	
Newsletter printing	5,045		2,381	
Mission	3,102		2,954	
Church Maintenance	10,682	105,674	2,336	87,014
<b>Children and Family</b>				
Salary				
Materials etc		0		0
<b>Administration</b>				
Salaries	10,709		9,172	
Stationery, postage etc	880	11,589	2,136	11,308
Donations	8,302		4,743	
Deanery Expenses	-1,254		419	
Other	1,002	8,051	1,959	7,121
St Gabriel's		0		0
Organ and Piano		0		0
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>125,314</b>		<b>105,443</b>
<b>ROGERS HALL</b>	<b>33,231</b>	<b>33,231</b>	<b>4,334</b>	<b>4,334</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>158,544</b>		<b>109,777</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND EXPENDITURE</b>				
Redevelopment			764	
Other		0	507	1,271
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>158,544</b>		<b>111,048</b>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2022**

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
<b>Cash and bank</b>				
HSBC	58,355		18,205	
CCLA	50,886		50,226	
Cash	<u>149</u>	109,389	<u>140</u>	68,571
<b>Funds</b>				
General	70,813		51,413	
Redevelopment	13,562		5,541	
Rogers Hall	21,433		8,104	
Other	<u>3,581</u>	109,389	<u>3,513</u>	68,571

**Connected Charities - Langton Bequest**

Balance brough forward 1st Jan 2022	1,968	1,922
Interest received	<u>57</u>	<u>46</u>
Balance carried forward 31st December 2022	<u><u>2,025</u></u>	<u><u>1,968</u></u>
 Money held as follows		
CCLA Deposit account	725	668
CCLA Investment fund	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,300</u>
	<u><u>2,025</u></u>	<u><u>1,968</u></u>

**Connected Charities - Hillmorton Church Lands**

Balance brough forward 1st Jan 2022	10,675	10,675
Dividends received	491	467
Transferred to PCC general income	<u>-491</u>	<u>-467</u>
Balance carried forward 31st December 2022	<u><u>10,675</u></u>	<u><u>10,675</u></u>

The investment is held with CCLA and valued on 31st December 2022 at £15,736.82

**The Accounts were presented to and approved by the Parochial Church Council of  
St John the Baptist, Hillmorton**

*Steve W*

Reverend Steve Gold, Chairperson .....

Claire Hughes, Honorary Treasurer .....

Date .....



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Church, Hillmorton		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1180245
<b>Set out on pages</b>			

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

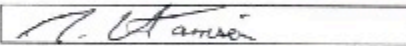
**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**  **Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Name:** Malcolm Harrison

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** Chartered Tax Adviser

**Address:** 14A Percival Road, Rugby, CV22 5JS

## **7. Presentation of the Building and Fabric Report - Judith Clucas**

It has been a busy year yet again, keeping our buildings in a safe and good order. It can be quite testing at times especially as the price of materials has rocketed significantly. Our administrator does a sterling job securing estimates and arranging businesses to come onto site so we can receive the best value for the job either at the Hall or at Church.

Ecclesiastical Insurance visited us in the Autumn, to make a detailed inspection of both the church and Rogers Hall and we await the outcome.

We give thanks for the cleaning and access teams, for their hard work and often going out in unsociable hours to close and secure the hall, ensuring the hall is in a presentable state for the next set of hirers.

### **Rogers Hall**

I'm sure most of us will agree that the refurbishment of the new washrooms and new kitchen floor covering at Rogers Hall are a great asset and a pleasure to use. Albeit we had to close the Hall's usage for three weeks, Symonds Builders fulfilled their promise of it being for no longer.

Sadly, we had a roof leak in the ladies washroom, this has now been repaired and at the same time the guttering were also cleared. The ceiling will be re-plastered and painted shortly.

During the year, the fire doors have been refurbished and the rear office door replaced.

The old flue from the boiler has been replaced.

The hall continues to be used on a very regular basis and plans are afoot to obtain new feet replacing the missing ones on the hall's chairs to prevent the scratching of the floor. Once this has happened, we hope to get the floor re-sealed by the fitters.

### **St John the Baptist Church**

What an amazing building we are blessed to be in our care.

Over the last year we have met with a heating company, you'll be pleased to hear, and are awaiting their quote. This is to replace the present under pew system with a more efficient one. Ryton Church have this system and they are extremely pleased with it.

Our roof on the south side has had some leaks, so again we are awaiting quotes.

The drains have been overflowing regularly and although we have attempted and been successful in emptying the baskets beneath of debris and tried to clear the pipes with rods this is to no avail. We met with the final company last week and await this quote, before we decide who will do the job.

The bell tower has some loose masonry, Harborough Stone have been in and quoted for the job and it is hopefully commencing in April. The east window gives cause for concern and Harborough Stone gave a detailed quote for this job, however they have warned that, when they begin work, they may discover other significant problems. This job will involve the Diocese as we'll have to apply for a faculty and also involve their architect and planning officer for advice.

Our church building is visited by so many people who just love being there, a haven for all. We are always looking for people to get involved with the care and maintenance of both buildings, so if you can help in any small way please contact one of the Church Wardens, we would so love to chat with you.

## **8. Deanery Synod Report - Judith Clucas**

Meetings are held quarterly across the Deanery.

**March 2022.** We were pleased to welcome Deanery Synod to St John's where Reverend Edmund Newey shared the vision for the Rugby Mission Hub, based at St Andrews i.e. worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities

As Christians we are bearers, bringers and agents of life, to restore health, new growth and renew relationships. Hub churches will work with other nearby churches to facilitate growth within their context. To share gifts and experiences, identifying needs and opportunities and to respond on the areas needing support.

This will be funded from strategic funding from central resources, not Parish Share. An associate minister will be recruited for a 5-year term with the anticipation of them spending 25% of their time working in their host church and 75% of their time resourcing other churches in the area.

New growth can take many forms.

1. Church Plants, replanting mini replicas.
2. Muddy/messy/café Church providing new ways of evangelising.
3. Fresh Expression eg to take a seed and plant, find out how it will grow, breaking life into it and watching what comes up.

Tim Cockell announced at this meeting that he was finishing his 5-year term as Area Dean – the Synod wished him well as he was able then to return full time to his Parish of St Marks, Bilton.

**June 2022.** Hosted by All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings where newly installed Reverend Phil Price introduced the Synod to Hollywood Style Bible study. Newly appointed Area Dean Reverend Steve Gold chaired the meeting which included reports from Diocesan Synod and Bishops Council as well as a Finance update identifying a 7% increase in Deanery ministry costs which would be included in the budget to be proposed at the November meeting. Dick Withington spoke about Creation Care and as Creation Care Champion he encouraged delegates to share news or planned events about creation care/green issues with him

**November 2022.** St Andrew's Church hosted synod where, Steve, as Area Dean, welcomed everyone.

Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at the Cathedral, spoke about aspects of her work. There was interactive discussion on how artefacts and different art forms can enhance teaching and learning about our faith as well as that of children.

The proposed budget and Parish Share figures were presented by Reverend Steve Gold on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Finance, and Dick Withington spoke briefly about 'Creation Care', explaining there would be opportunities to learn more on how, as churches, we may consider new approaches that are more eco-friendly than perhaps we have considered in the past.

**February 2023.** Hosted by St Georges Church, Rugby. The Reverend Rob Harrison, Diocesan Director of Ministry and Leadership spoke to the Synod about the proposed changes to Lay Ministry training for 2023 using a cheese triangle as a prop. The vision is to equip and empower more lay ministers in our parishes to invert the usual triangle which has the clergy at the top point of the triangle and lay ministers forming the layers beneath. Lay people will be encouraged to minister and be commissioned via a series of courses but mostly through experience in their parishes in whatever ministry they feel called to.

## **9. Safeguarding – Jo Isley, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

I am pleased to note that the profile of safeguarding within our parish, the Coventry diocese, the Church of England, and indeed society generally, continues to increase. However, every single one of us is on a learning journey regarding safeguarding. Indeed, even the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, apologised at the time of his confirmation as Archbishop of York, for failing to follow correct reporting and documenting procedures in a domestic abuse case that he became aware of, whilst serving as Area Bishop of Reading. He acknowledged that a lack of training and understanding, which he has since addressed, along with time constraints, compromised his ability to fully recognise and respond to concerns raised with him. He chose to go public with the story, as he wanted to help change the narrative for the C of E on safeguarding, by being open and transparent so that failures may be investigated and lessons learned.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am due to renew my own Safeguarding Leadership Pathway training in March. Since my initial training when new to the role three years ago, the Pathway has evolved significantly. Previously, it simply required me to attend an in-person presentation, with some audience participation, and answer a sheet of multiple-choice questions. It now includes pre-course preparation - extensive reading and written reflection on questions to be discussed during the two 90-minute virtual seminars held via Zoom a week apart – and a post-course written reflection, upon what I have learned and changes I have implemented, to be submitted within six weeks of the course for my training certificate to be issued.

Within our parish, as throughout the world, safeguarding issues need to be identified and addressed. This means that every member of our church community has a duty to be alert to any concerns and report them, however insignificant they might seem. It is better to pass on an individual piece of information, than withhold it and later regret doing so. The onus is simply on passing on information, which may contribute to a larger picture, rather than launching an investigation. Concerns will be addressed with discretion, and on a strictly need-to-know basis. The diocesan safeguarding team are always consulted about actions required, and they have links with multiple other agencies.

Training is available to anyone who would like to learn more about how to spot concerns and who to raise them with. Certain roles require three-yearly refresher training at the relevant level required for that role. I am very grateful to those who undertake the training when requested, and I am happy to provide any support needed to complete the training.

Safeguarding continues to be included as a standing item on the agenda at every PCC business meeting. Meetings between the Parish Safeguarding Officer and clergy are held regularly in the interim to review the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and thus to identify any required actions. I am well supported in my role as PSO and responsibility is shared between us to comply with the increasing demands of this important area of ministry.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

## ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

10. Elections to Deanery Synod
11. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner
13. Any Other Business
14. Closing Prayer

## APPENDIX 1 : Minutes of 2023 APCM

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Rogers Hall

**Present:** Steve Gold (Vicar), Anne-Marie Marsh, Claire Hughes, Judith Clucas, Phil Clucas, Peter Webb, Linda Webb, Louise Bradshaw, Trevor Benjamin, Shirley Webb, David Bradford, Val Aspelng, Georgina Lenton, Ray Lenton, Bill Sewell, Rae Ogden, Pat Lole, Heather Lyons, Bruno Hughes, Min Yang (20 attendees)

**Opening Prayers & reflection.** The meeting opened with the first half of evening prayer. John 12 v 20-26. It might seem a strange thing to have APCM in Holy Week, but it feels very appropriate because we find ourselves between 2 different markers in the year of the church. Palm Sunday, when the amazing message of Jesus being announced as The Messiah, who will set the propel of Israel free. A crescendo of joy and celebration. And then in 2 days time we end up at the cross – remind us powerfully of the gruesome physicality of what happened on Good Friday. Appropriate for us as a church as we live in between 2 similar moments all of the time. Our job as a church is to proclaim Jesus as King and who shows is he king by what he does on the cross. Good Friday is God's ultimate demonstration of his love for us – the greatest single demonstration of love. Jesus told his disciples between Palm Sunday and Good Friday to love one another as I have loved you. Difficult thing to do and yet that is our call. We recognise that we do not do this perfectly, but that doesn't mean we stop trying. It means we continue to resolve what we can to demonstrate our small version of God's love and what he demonstrated on the cross.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Election of Church Wardens. PW has decided to step down after 6 years, and on one level, we are very sad about that as we appreciate Pete's amazing contribution to the community, but on the other we recognise that it gives him an opportunity to focus what he has to offer in a slightly different way. SG presented PW with a gift in recognition for his service. PW responded by saying it has been hard work, but enjoyable because it is the Lord's work, and stepping down means he can concentrate on other areas of ministry. He thanked everyone for their help and prayers over the years. Nominations for Church Warden have been received from Judith Clucas and John Merrigan and Pat Lole has been nominated as Deputy CW. No voting required as the number of nominations do not exceed the

number of posts, but a show of hands was offered in support of the nominations. Thanks were offered to John, Judith and Pat for offering their services and joining the team.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies: Hilary Mitchell, Helen and John Merrigan, Anne Tippett, Chris and Janet Addison, Margaret Caygill, Audrey Carpenter, Marie Haydock, Jo Isley, Ted Lyons, April Gold, Craig Marsh, Margaret Harris
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were accepted and signed as a true record.
3. Electoral Roll Report – prepared by Val Aspelng. We had 2 deaths last year, Phyllis Burt died on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and then on 5<sup>th</sup> August both David Simmons and Rita Atkins. 5 new members, Cyril and Jane Franklin, Hayley Bradshaw, Andreana Glendenning and Eileen Tempany. Net gain of 2 members, increasing our electoral roll to 120. 2 members have moved away but remain on the roll. SG offered thanks to Val for taking on the role, it has been great to see such enthusiasm for the role. SG added that we are a much poorer community with the sad loss of our long standing faithful church family members and think of the families as they still grieve their loved ones.
4. PCC Annual Report. Nothing to add and no questions raised.
5. Vicar's reports with opportunities for questions. SG thought very important to recognise that the extent to which our church life community is affected by those who continue to make contributions. The impact is more than you probably think it is. Thanks to all those who contribute their gifts, the church community would be much the poorer without those contributions. Thank you for loving each other as best we can. God is doing good things among us, seeing exciting, good and fruitful things happenings, not only in the church building, but at RH, at the Barn, at St Gabriel's and in the community generally. Community engagement, gives a flavour of so many things we have been doing. New things introduced throughout the year, new people have visited and hopefully the seeds have been planted. Thanks to AMM for Meet the Nativity, bring the Christmas story characters to life, including real sheep. A lot of people visited and engaged with the story and gave such positive feedback and it helped build relationships in a different way with many more families.
6. Financial Report and Accounts. Nothing to add. Trevor Benjamin asked if the favourable accounts compared to 2022 was all due to the legacy. SG confirmed yes, if the legacy was taken out the figures would be very similar to those of 2022. Heather Lyons asked if there was a plan for the heating. SG confirmed that the PCC are continuing to try and find a solution that will give us the improvement in comfort that we want at a cost that is sensible and achievable. The previous approved heating was cancelled, the Diocesan heating advisor identified it would not do what we wanted, and with the energy cost increases the running costs would be prohibitive. We have removed the radiant heaters as they were using nearly half of the electricity but generating little benefit, so we have been able to run the under pew heating more. Now looking at other options that are affordable and efficient, and having identified a possible system, the plan is to visit churches with the same systems in, seek further guidance form Diocese, and make a decision prior to the next heating season. Ongoing project. Rae Ogden shared that a baptism visitor was expressed how lovely it was to have cosy loo. Trevor Benjamin asked about the gas main that is poking out of the ground at the back of church. SG confirmed that it will need to be capped off and made good and safe. Ray Lenton asked if the legacy received was restricted? SG confirmed it was not restricted, but the PCC had agreed that the money should be used to fund the heating. Ray suggested a recognition of the person donating the money somehow, spending it line with their wishes in their memory. SG confirmed that the family would be included in discussions as to how the money would be utilised. Bruno Hughes asked about the increase in salaries. Claire advised that we had employed a cleaner and that Paula's hours had increased as she took on more responsibilities. Stationery costs have increased but Claire suggested that with the new system in place, it may be that we are not comparing like with like, as 2022 figures may have apportioned costs slightly differently. David Bradford asked if HSBC paid any interest on the current account and if not should the money not be transferred to CCLA. CH confirmed this was in the process of being actioned. CG offered thanks to the continuing support of our regular givers, especially as domestic finances are a considerable challenge currently. We have a challenge this year too, with a

deficit budget being set again. Trevor Benjamin asked if bank charges have been increased by HSBC. CH confirmed that we are paying charges based on our Charitable status and there are no cheaper alternatives available to us, if we still need to use the facilities available to us, such as banking cash on a regular basis. Our income is too high for other high street banks that offer free banking. AMM offered thanks to CH for her hard work in maintaining the accounts.

7. **Building and Fabric Report.** PW added that a CW responsibility to ensure a safe building for the congregation. Grade II\* listed making it more difficult to look after. Quinquennial report adds complications too, with the required work needing to be done within a 5 year period. We are finally going to have the RH toilets refurbished, along with new flooring in the kitchen. So many people want to use the hall so its great that it is self supporting, but the more people use it the more minor damage occurs. Trevor Benjamin asked if heating could be added to the toilet areas when they are refurbished. PW confirmed heaters have been included in the project. Rae Ogden asked about the ongoing problem with the car park. PW advised it would be thousands of pounds to repair it properly. SG advised that we have been in conversation with Urban & Civic for some time. They are selling The White House – once they have sold the White House, they have indicated that they will use some of the proceeds of that to properly sort the car park out. It is a commitment they have had for a while, but hopeful that once the sale completes, it will be actioned. The car park is owned by the church, the White House and the land around it is owned by U&C. David Bradford asked if the PCC could consider doing something about the gateway when it floods. Judith Clucas suggested it could be something that could be done when the footpath is completed in the next month or so. Bruno Hughes asked if the strip of land between the church and the road is being sold with the White House – SG advised no, U&C will keep the title to that. Planning only allows the White House is to be redeveloped as a single home, and not knocked down for multiple properties to be built. The back car park is owned by U&C, nobody owns the barn. U&C have put a claim on the barn, that process takes 10 years. We are grateful to U&C for use of car park. David Bradford asked if the white house access was from the road or though the car park – unknown currently. U&C recognise they need to help sort out the car park as the farm land around the church is also accessed through the car park. Ray Lenton advised that there is a public right of way through the car park, the strip nearest the house. Pete Webb offered thanks to everyone who has done jobs down at church and RH whenever needed, their help is vital to the upkeep of the buildings.
8. **Deanery Synod Report.** Lovely to be one of the few churches who manages to elect the appropriate number of synod reps and be in full attendance each meeting.
9. **Safeguarding Report.** Phil Clucas asked if there have been any Safeguarding issues throughout the year. SG confirmed that there have and they have been dealt with appropriately and are ongoing. Thanks to Jo for her ongoing support in these situations.
10. **Worship Team Report.**
11. **Prayer Ministry Team Report.** Heather Lyons added that there is tremendous enthusiasm and expectations of what God is able to do for individuals and our church, but it would be great if we had testimonies of answers to prayer to enrich the team and the church. Ephesians CH1 v18-22, Paul is praying for the church and he is saying that they will know Him better and that they will realise the great power that is at work in us all as disciples – it is the same power that rose Christ from the dead – quite a showstopper! Pat Lole asked if it would be helpful for prayer team/worship team if as a church we had a training/learning day on the Holy Spirit. SG to pick that up and consider how that might be best offered. SG offered thanks to Heather and the team for their ministry.

## **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

12. **Elections to Deanery Synod.** Elections work on a 3-year term after which the synod is dissolved and a new synod elected. The number of representatives is based on electoral roll numbers of the parish and the next 3-year terms starts on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 running to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026. 5 nominations have been received for the 4 posts available so a ballot to be conducted. Thanks to all those who wish to be nominated – a wonderful sign for the healthy of the church, that people are prepared to be nominated

into roles in the wider deanery. The votes were cast, collected and Pete Webb and Phil Clucas collated the votes. The elected candidates are Judith Clucas, Louise Bradshaw, Claire Hughes and Hilary Mitchell. Thank you to all for being nominated.

13. **Elections to Parochial Church Council.** There are 9 elected members to the PCC each of whom serves 3 years. Louise, Hilary and Claire now become ex officio members as the Deanery Synod representatives. Judith and John are ex-officio as Church Warden. Louise and Hilary are already on PCC so that creates 2 spaces on PCC as they are now ex-officio. There are 2 existing members are at the end of the 3 year term, David Bradford and Linda Webb, David is re-standing, but Linda is stepping down. SG offered thanks to LW for being on PCC for the last 3 years, for her support and contributions during that time. PCC nominations had been received from David Bradford, Anne Tippett and Pat Lole and as there are 3 nominations for 4 posts, all candidates were elected. Jo Isley, Helen Merrigan and Bruno Hughes are the other PCC members in their second year of office. There is still one more vacancy.
14. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** Claire Hughes confirmed that Malcolm Harrison is happy to continue as independent examiner. MH does not charge a fee, but PCC make a donation to a charity of his choice.
15. **Any other business.** Pat Lole asked if there could be a meeting of the worship group. SG happy to facilitate that. Louise Bradshaw asked if we could have another Sanctuary Day in the future. SG to consider how best to do that – we used Resource last time. Heather reminded the meeting that Helen Merrigan is proceeding at great pace through her training, on the Caleb stream, for those who are experienced in lay ministry, through St Mellitus college. Training will be finished in June, that does not necessarily mean that she will be ordained, she is following a discernment process to determine whether she will be ordained deacon in July. April will be ordained Deacon in July and will serve her curacy with us. Linda Webb asked if that would affect AMM, but SG confirmed that it will not and that AMM will remain with us until summer 2024. Conversations will start for AMM as to her next steps, and the end date of her curacy will be flexible. David Bradford asked how the Associate Minister recruitment was going – SG confirmed that there had been no applicants so the PCC reflecting on what we do next. Phil Clucas asked about the £500 donation to Foodbank, as opposed to Hope 4, as one of the charities is more financially stable than the other. SG confirmed that the 2023 mission giving is currently under review and this has been addressed in that conversation.
16. The second half of evening prayer concluded the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST HILLMORTON**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**To be held in Rogers Hall  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.30pm**

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# Agenda

## **WELCOME, WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

### **2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Election of Church Wardens

### **2023 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 APCM
3. Electoral Roll Report
4. PCC Report
5. Vicar's report – with opportunity for questions
6. Financial Report and Accounts
7. Building and Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Safeguarding Report
10. Worship Team Report
11. Prayer Ministry Team Report

### **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

12. Elections to Deanery Synod
13. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
14. Appointment of Independent Examiner
15. Any other business
16. Closing prayers

1. Welcome, worship and prayer.

## 2022 Minutes

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in person and by Zoom Video Conference

**Present:** Steve Gold (Vicar), Anne-Marie Marsh, Claire Hughes, Peter Webb, Anne Tippett, Louise Bradshaw, Jane Pogson, Val Aspelng, Linda Webb, Paula Mayfield, Judith Clucas, Chris Addison, Ted Lyons, Paul Thomas, Don Thorneycroft, Eleanor Thorneycroft, David Bradford, Tina Davies, Bruno Hughes, Ray Lenton, Georgina Lenton, Phil Clucas, John Merrigan, Pat Lole (24 attendees), virtual Attendees via Zoom: Margaret Simmons, David Simmons, Margaret Harris (27 attendees in total)

### Opening Prayers & reflection

The meeting started with evening prayer. John 12, 1-11 the lectionary reading from today. Great reminder that Jesus' ministry was a ministry of welcome and hospitality and building relationships. He invites us into his powerful way of building community, to invite others to join in the life of the community through hospitality and building relationships. Steve identified 3 things from the passage. 1) We are continued to be called to do this today, to join in friendship and to open that friendship out to those in the wider community – come and share a meal/relationship with us. 2). We see Mary anointing Jesus with expensive perfume (more than a year's salary worth). This is an act of incredible love and worship for Jesus; for her the value of the perfume is not relevant, she wants to demonstrate her love for Jesus which is out of her response to what Jesus has done for her. What is our response to what God has done for us? Is our response out of a sense of love, an act of worship? 3). When the great crowd learns that Jesus was there, they came to see not only Jesus, but also to see Lazarus. The things that Jesus has done in our lives, is itself deeply attractive to people. The fact the Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead encouraged people to go and see Lazarus. We have all been raised to life by J and what he did on the cross. Our story can be incredibly attractive to people. Jesus does not attract people on his own but through what he done in his people. There is real power in our stories and testimonies that we should not forget, and in telling our story, others could see the attraction and be drawn in too. This passage and its message of welcome, hospitality, love and worship, from a community that is attractive to outside world in the way we live and speak to those around us is as relevant today as it was back in Jerusalem 2000 years ago. SG closed the reflection in prayer.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Election of Church Wardens. Since DS stepped down from the role of Treasurer at the end of 2021, CH has been looking after the role, and is happy to continue to do so. She has therefore taken the decision to step down as CW. PW has also clarified that this year will be his final year in post. There are 2 nominations, Peter Webb, proposed by Helen Merrigan, seconded by John Merrigan, and Judith Clucas proposed by Peter Webb and seconded by David Simmons. The nominations were carried unanimously. John Merrigan has offered to take on the vacancy of Deputy Church Warden. SG offered his thanks to CH for the work undertaken over the last number of years and presented her with a gift.

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies: Hilary Mitchell, Jo Isley, Helen Merrigan, April Gold, Janet Addison, Ruth Merrigan, Hazel Setchell, Jack Hardy, Maureen Thompson, Craig Marsh, Pauline Smout, Heather Lyons
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were accepted and signed as a true record.
3. Electoral Roll Report – prepared by Margaret Harris for the last time as she is standing down this year. There were 3 deaths this year, Gary Price who was a sidesman for many years until his onset of Parkinson's. Gary and his wife Kareen had only just moved to Dunchurch to be nearer their daughter when Gary died. Dorothy Fell was 101 when she died this year, who until recently had been a regular at the Thursday morning communion. We also remember Roy Herbert, the husband of Anne who attended the 8 o'clock service when her family could bring her. Carol Head, another regular at the 8am

service has moved away and Jo Jones and her 2 boys have moved to another church. Whilst not on the electoral roll, as clergy do not join, MH paid tribute to Lindsay Hughes who will be greatly missed by so many as she touched all of our lives in so many different ways.

We have 4 new members this year Jack Hardy, John Atkins and Craig and Cherish Marsh. This brings our total to 117 on the electoral roll this year. SG echoed his sentiments about Lindsay and offered his thanks to MH for being electoral roll officer and taking the role above and beyond, by building important relationships with those on the role and spending time getting to know people. The PCC will be looking to appoint new electoral roll officer as soon as possible. One person has expressed an interest, but if anyone would like to know more, please talk to Steve.

4. PCC Annual Report. Nothing to add and no questions raised.
5. Vicar's reports with opportunities for questions. SG added – last time we met for an APCM we were online and we reflected a lot on the effects of COVID, the impact it had on the life of the church, the worshipping and the wider life of the church, with a sense of lament. There was a great deal of sadness about where we were at, but a real hope that we would see things improve and get back to something like the way things were and we would return to all the things we wanted to do. That had largely happened by the end of 2021. Worshipping life was back to normal mostly, the regular community activities we offered and took part in were largely back to normal and our work in schools was back. So, a lot that we were hoping for has largely come to pass and we give thanks for that. The life of the church has recovered well, and new things have come out of that time.

It was also a year of loss for all of us with the death of Lindsay Hughes, a major loss to many not only on a personal level but also for her ministry in the church and the community. She will be sadly missed.

We can be positive about the things that have been going on in the year and encouraged by new things like the Hillmorton Hub that AMM takes the lead on. We welcomed Anne-Marie and Craig and their family, Tom and Cherish to the Parish and are blessed by their involvement. AMM is passionate about the community and being alongside people, both church family and the wider community. AMM thanked everyone for the support she has received and to the wonderful teams that are involved.

Future: SG confirmed that MS is moving onto a new role soon and took the opportunity to wish MS a very happy and fruitful move and that it could be a smooth transition. This will be a time of adjustment for all within the parish; we do not lose someone with Margaret's gifts and capacity without it making a difference to us. We will need to settle into new ways of doing things and consider what the shape of the ministry that we look to recruit into Hillmorton looks like. Long term there is an ongoing commitment to 1 stipendiary and 1 house of duty post.

Paul Thomas will be leaving too in the next few weeks; we will miss his ministry too. Not only on a personal friendship level but also the reader ministry level too.

We have fantastic opportunities ahead – the parish has grown by 20% in last 4 years and in the next 2 years will go up to 50%. In a short space of time, that is a huge change in this size of the community that we are trying to minister to. It is a huge opportunity to ask how we best connect to the new 2,000 homes and ask ourselves whether we are doing the right things for these new families.

A new heating system will hopefully be installed at St John's this year as well as planned changes for the new car park – watch this space. Times of transition are challenging but bring an opportunity for people to offer the right gifts in different ways. Bruno Hughes asked how a new Associate Minister is to be recruited? SG advised that the Parish decides is who involved in the recruitment process and also what the role looks like, ultimately making the decision as to who is recruited. BH asked about the Hillmorton Vicarage. SG confirmed that it is our responsibility to look after it until someone else moves into it.

6. Financial Report and Accounts. SG added that we should be very encouraged by the numbers as much of last year was still spent in a not normal environment. We should be thankful that we have kept our head above water – thanks to all the community who continue to give on a regular basis, despite testing times. We are in a solid financial position after 2 trying years. SG offered thanks to DS for his stewardship of the finances over the last few years, keeping us on the straight and narrow and thanks to CH for taking on the role. Thanks also to Malcolm Harrison who acted as Independent Examiner this year, at the very last minute. BH asked what happened if we fail to meet our Parish Share. SG advised that the Parish Share is always the first thing to be paid, so we should never not meet our Parish Share – it is our contribution to the cost of ministry in the Diocese. If we can't afford the Parish Share, we would have to look at different pattern of ministry that is more affordable. That is why we

see some parishes merging as they are unable to sustain the ministry they have, resulting in the merging of parishes, thus sharing resources. SG there is no reason to think we might have any problems meeting share. Our hope should be that we continue, and anticipate that this will continue, to be a Parish that continues to grow, which should equate to an increase in giving. BH asked if the heating fund donations ring-fenced – SG confirmed that it is restricted funds which will only be spent on the heating.

7. Mission Partners Report. Financial support is provided to our mission partners, but also time and ministry. 2022 has increased in line with our increased giving from 2021. If there is a view that someone else can be supported, then please let SG know. MS keen to encourage other church family members to be engaged with the mission partners. MS would particularly like someone to take responsibility for the links with Beon-Jim and Marie

8. Building and Fabric Report. Update from PW

Rogers Hall could be hired 7 days a week for 8 hours a day which would be great from an income point of view, but it would prevent church groups from using it. We should not allow it to be so booked up that church groups are unable to make use of the meeting space. Costs are increasing so the income is very welcome. The management of the hall is under review – meeting in a few weeks.

The team who open and close after private bookings has halved, Paul Thomas and David Simmons are leaving, and Tony Pittam can no longer commit. DS and MS are also regularly in RH doing bits and bobs, so we will miss their input. Craig Marsh and Trevor Benjamin have offered their support. Ted Lyons commented that the acoustics in the hall are so much better due to the sound suppressants installed. Thanks to Rob Cunningham from the local Scout Group who measured what we needed for the work. Jane Pogson advised that RC had recently suffered a heart attack and PW offered a prayer for his recovery.

Church - roof has another leak, but only when wind is in a particular direction, to be investigated.

9. Deanery Synod Report. CH reminded everyone that they were welcome to attend the first half of the Deanery Synod meetings – listening to guest speakers. Good to understand what is happening around the Deanery. New Area Dean to be appointed as Tim Cockell's 5 years ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

10. Safeguarding Report. Bruno Hughes asked if there was only one Safeguarding officer, and if so what happened if something arose in their absence? SG advised that if the Parish Safeguarding Office was not available it is clergy that take responsibility, or the Diocesan Safeguarding officer, details on the website. Ted Lyons added that the CofE have stepped up the requirements for those involved in church ministry. SG added that JI does a great job of keeping safeguarding requirements up to date, ensuring everyone is DBS checked and up to date with the relevant training.

11. Worship Team Report. SG added that our sung music and worship through music such a hugely important part of connecting with God in different ways, so we do give thanks for those brave enough for being at the front. PW commented that having microphones above the congregation would offer a richer sound when streaming the services, rather than hearing only the worship group.

12. Prayer Ministry Team Report. The team gathered for the first time a few weeks ago, and a plan has been laid out for possible prayer ministries during services. Spontaneous prayer ministry has been offered recently - but the team is significantly depleted currently. New members to the team are to be encouraged. Great that we can offer prayer in church and that people are receptive to it. Next prayer ministry team meeting is in May. Those interested should contact Ted or Heather. MS added that the team would like to start offering prayer ministry during communion services, after taking the sacrament, rather than try and find a team every week while the team is so small.

13. Cathedral Parish Partner Report. PT unlikely that this will be revived due to lack of interest.

## ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

14. **Elections to Parochial Church Council.** There are 9 elected members to the PCC each of whom serves 3 years. Ex officio members are Deanery Synod representatives, clergy and church wardens. 3 existing members are at the end of the 3 year term, Helen Merrigan, Louise Bradshaw and Jo Isley. All 3 are happy to be re-elected – thanks to those. Jo and Louise were both proposed by Pete Webb, seconded by John Merrigan and Helen Merrigan was proposed by Judith Clucas and seconded by Phil Clucas. New nominations – Bruno Hughes, proposed by Phil Clucas and seconded by Judith Clucas and Hilary Mitchell, proposed by Pat Lole, seconded by Anne Tippett. Nominations carried unanimously. Ex officio – SG, MS, AMM Church Wardens PW JC Deanery Synod CH, AT, PL, DB, LW JM HM LB JI HM BH.
15. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** Claire Hughes confirmed that Malcolm Harrison is happy to continue as independent examiner.
16. **Appointment of Cathedral Parish Partner.** PT until there is a decision as to the future of the scheme.

## LOOKING FORWARD

17. Any other business. Chris Addison – vote of thanks to Margaret and David Simmons for their service to the church, which has flourished under their care, it is much more vibrant, bubbly and they are leaving the church in a very different state to how it was when they arrived. Thank you to both of them. SG added that we are all looking forward to giving our thanks to Margaret and David personally in the next few weeks when the time comes for them to leave.
18. The meeting closed with the second half of evening prayer followed by the Grace.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

## 2023 APCM

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Approval of the minutes of the 2022 APCM**

## REPORTS

3. **Electoral Roll Report – Val Aspelng**
4. **PCC Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Vicar (Priest-in-charge)	Rev Steve Gold, Houlton Vicarage, 2 Maxwell Road, Houlton CV23 1AH
Associate Vicar (in post until 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	Rev Margaret Simmons, Hillmorton Vicarage, 18, Hoskyn Close, Hillmorton, CV21 4LA
Curate	Rev Anne-Marie Marsh, St George's Vicarage, St John's Avenue, Hillmorton, CV22 5HR
Independent examiner	Mr Malcolm Harrison of 14a Percival Road, Rugby, CV22 5JS
Bank	HSBC, Church Street, Rugby

St. John the Baptist PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings and churchyard.

## Membership of the Parochial Church Council from April 2022

PCC members are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC has the power to co-opt if necessary. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC

### Ex-officio members

Vicar/Chairperson	Reverend Steve Gold
Associate Vicar (up to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	Reverend Margaret Simmons
Curate	Reverend Anne-Marie Marsh
Churchwardens	Peter Webb Judith Clucas
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i> (4 due to size of Electoral Roll) (all in their second year of office)	Claire Hughes, Judith Clucas Anne Tippett, Pat Lole

Elected members:	David Bradford	(3rd year)
	Linda Webb	(3rd year)
	John Merrigan	(2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
	Louise Bradshaw	(1 <sup>st</sup> year)
	Helen Merrigan	(1 <sup>st</sup> year)
	Jo Isley	(1 <sup>st</sup> year)
	Bruno Hughes	(1 <sup>st</sup> Year)
	Hilary Mitchell	(1 <sup>st</sup> Year)

The PCC met 11 times in 2022, with focus meetings on 3 of those occasions, 6 business meetings, 1 social meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

In 2022 there were 117 names on the Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll Officer was Val Aspeling.

### **Committees and Administration:**

The PCC is required by law to appoint a Standing Committee that is responsible, subject to any rulings by the PCC, for dealing with urgent matters of PCC business that may arise between regular meetings of the Council. The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Associate Vicar (when in post), Curate, Churchwardens, Treasurer and one other member of the PCC elected by the Council (elected member for 2022 John Merrigan)

The PCC provides for sub-committees to deal with particular areas of activity or concern. The sub-committees at present are: Buildings team incorporating both the Rogers Hall and the Fabric and Churchyard teams.

### **5. Vicar's review of 2022. Reverend Steve Gold**

It feels appropriate to begin by recognising that 2022 was a difficult and painful year for the St John's part of our community. We have lost, for a variety of reasons, the presence of Margaret and David Simmons, Rita Atkins and Paul Thomas – all of whom were such a central part of the life of St John's over recent years. The death of David and Rita on the same day came as a particular shock to us, and we mourn their loss. We also give thanks for all that each of them brought to our shared life together, and to their varied contribution to the recovery of the St John's community over the last decade. In particular it is vital to recognise and give thanks for Margaret's fruitful ministry at St John's over that time. I pray that 2023 will be time of healing and peace for her.

I continue to be hugely grateful for the way in which ministry and mission in our churches is shared so widely across our parish. In particular I would like to take the opportunity to thank our churchwardens Judith Clucas, Pete Webb & John Merrigan; our PCC secretary and treasurer Claire Hughes, our Parish Safeguarding Officer Jo Isley, the headteacher of St Gabriel's Andy Taylor (and his staff) and our administrator, Paula Mayfield – for all their contributions to the life of our church communities. Of course, I'd like to record my thanks for the energetic and fruitful presence and ministry of Anne-Marie as she

continues her curacy among us. We have a fantastic team to work amongst, bringing positivity and collaboration to all aspects of church and school life.

Neither St John's nor St Gabriel's are large church communities, but I am constantly amazed at the way we are so focussed on blessing our wider community in many different ways. I know there are many of you who are deeply involved in all of these parts of our churches' life, and I hope that reading all that we're involved in with our community will encourage you.

Can I also thank everyone who contributed to preaching and leading our services in 2022; in particular our licensed readers Paul Thomas and Helen Merrigan, as well as Reverend Ted Lyons, Reverend Alan Scrivener, Claire Hughes, John Merrigan, Peter Webb, April Gold (3<sup>rd</sup> year ordinand) and Linda Wainscot. We look forward to encouraging our community to continue growing in their gifts in preaching and leading worship.

I'd also like to thank our PCC-appointed foundation governors at St Gabriel's; Steve, Anne-Marie, Funmi Ikuomola, Rex Pogson and Georgina Newton. Our foundation governors are primarily responsible for helping the school to establish & maintain its Christian (and Anglican) identity and supporting the life of the school community, which is now around 300 people.

Finally, thank you for your enduring love for each other. Thank you for your enduring patience with my many weaknesses. Thank you for your love of God and the parish he's called us to serve and bless together. I look forward to what God will do among us on the year ahead.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

### **Community Engagement – Reverend Anne-Marie Marsh**

We have had such a rich tapestry of Community Engagement in Hillmorton and Houlton over the last twelve months, which have enabled us to welcome and interact with many people in our community through regular groups and different community events. Here is an update....

**Hillmorton Hub** HH has continued to grow over the last year, we have had many new people come and join us, who have either been signposted to us through other people or an organisation, or they have seen us advertised. We have made many connections with many people from different situations and backgrounds within the community, some of whom are lonely, or need support in some way and others who enjoy coming to socialise with new and old friends. We have had the Community Police attending regularly as well as representatives from HEaRT and our local councillor. We are praying that we can be a beacon to others most in need in our community and we have extended the HH session to provide soup and a roll and a Warm Space for people to come, which has been very popular. We have borne much fruit from this group, with some attending now coming regularly to church and being involved in other church events, God never stops working! As a team we are praying that more people will come to know us and that it will continue to grow from strength to strength.

**Playhouse** This continues to be a popular and expanding group, where we are able to connect with young families not just from Hillmorton and Houlton, but also from other areas in Rugby. It is amazing to see how God is at work in this group which other than those attending knowing it is run by the church has no religious teaching. We have had many Baptisms and people attending other church events. As a team we have been able to build good relationships with many of the families. It is wonderful to offer this valued community group, which is well used and for those who attend is part of their weekly pattern and much appreciated.

**Dollman Dots** Under the leadership of Judith and her team, Dolmans continues to grow from strength to strength and many strong relationships have been built with many families that have led to Baptisms and families attending other church events. It has been a valuable way of connecting with new families that have moved to Houlton and it is crucial in helping to create community as the development continues to grow.

Judith adds: We took a considered and slow by-weekly return after lockdown up until the end of the summer term. This proved quite difficult, because if a family missed one session it was then a month before you met them again. Also there seemed to be no continuity between session so in September we returned to our weekly sessions which was a great relief to us all. Relationships began to become more established and themed sessions held more meaning. Our numbers are restricted due to the size of the Barn, but we are always at capacity with at least twenty children per session, which is wonderful. The parents and carers are always great in welcoming new families and we all look forward to a happy snack time followed by our

weekly singing and rhyme time. We welcomed a visit from Debbie from Barnados in the Autumn term. She was welcomed by parents and carers and managed to get around and chat to all who were present that session. She left an informative sheet on which we can refer parents to, with all sorts of courses on offer or professionals they can contact should they need support. We are greatly blessed with our reliable team of volunteers, but it would be amazing to have more people on the team, allowing others to have a break. We were sorry Pat had to leave us before Christmas and thank her for all the sessions she has supported within this ministry.

I look forward with anticipation, at what Father God has in store for us over the next twelve months.

**Teddy Bears Picnic and Movie Days** It was wonderful to be able to welcome people to St John's for various summer events which were extremely popular and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

The Teddy Bears picnic, saw us abseiling teddy bears from our church tower, sharing in a picnic and doing other craft activities. It was an event we will repeat this year and we pray that others will join us from our community. The Movie days in church were also very popular and it was so lovely to see so many families attending and sharing in a picnic afterwards, it is something we will also do this summer.

**Coffee morning** We have continued to welcome many people to CM. We have had some months where we have had stalls with cakes and crafts etc for sale, which has been very popular, and we are hoping to incorporate this more often and think about how we can encourage others from the community to join us. For those that do attend it is an event that is firmly in the calendar and appreciated and promotes community engagement.

**Meet the Nativity** This year saw the first time we held our live action walk through the Christmas story at St John's and St Gabriel's. We had people from our church congregations and community taking part in the event and we had live animals! It was a wonderful opportunity to engage with people we hadn't met before in our churches and to tell the true story of Christmas. We pray this year will see even more people attending.

**Indian Community Carol Service** This was another 'first' event that was suggested and led by those in the Indian Community in Houlton. Steve and I worked in collaboration with those leading the community group involved and we had approx. 100 people attend. The service was a lovely occasion of singing, worship and eating lovely food a wonderful chance to engage with people in our community. It will be wonderful to be able to collaborate for future events.

**Children's Sunday groups** We have continued to provide Sunday school teaching for the children who attend our Sunday services. It has been a wonderful blessing for me to work with a team that is so passionate about our children and wanting to help them know our Lord. Each week is varied depending on how many children attend St. John's and St Gabriel's, however even when there are a few, those children, can speak about what they have learned and really enjoy attending the group. We pray that more children will come and that we can connect with more families at St. John's.

**Queen Platinum Jubilee** We welcomed many people into Rogers Hall for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. It was a really popular event; we had the community choir attending and offered activities and refreshments. It was a wonderful time of community engagement, and we had lovely feedback from this event. This year we will celebrate the King's Coronation and we hope to do something similar.

Community Engagement is something that is crucial to church life and growth and being able to work and engage with people in community truly is a blessing and a privilege. Many people have personally testified as to how engagement with us as a church in community has helped them to feel valued, encouraged and included and this has had a positive affect in their lives.

God is very much at work in our Communities of Hillmorton and Houlton, we are called to be salt and light to all those around us and to spread the good news through our actions, to be flavour and a beacon. As part of Christ's body, being in community is what we are called to do, participating in His life and mission and more than this simply, 'Loving one another, as we are loved by Him'.

What a wonderful year, what an exciting next year ahead, Thank you Lord.

## **6. Presentation of the Financial Report and Accounts – Claire Hughes**

With the first full year as Treasurer under my belt I am pleased to share that God's provision continues to be above and beyond our expectations – why should I be surprised?

With the introduction of a new accounting system, Expense Plus, in January 2022, the time spent analysing income and expenditure has been greatly reduced and offers us a much quicker and more efficient way of monitoring and reporting on our finances. It is also used for sending invoices to our hall hirers and thanks go to Paula Mayfield for her work behind the scenes in running a tight ship, chasing money when it is due

but overwhelmingly being a welcoming voice at the end of the phone when people call to make bookings. My job is made so much easier with Paula's input as our Church Administrator (and much more). Expense Plus also has the facility to link directly to HMRC so all Gift Aid declarations can now be done electronically by the click of a button via the software rather than having to produce manual calculations to then be input to the HMRC website. Sincere thanks are offered to David Bradford who has faithfully continued to submit the Gift Aid declarations up until the end of the tax year 2022, at which point Expense Plus was ready and able to pick up the submissions allowing David a well-earned retirement.

Having submitted an £11,000 deficit budget to the PCC at the end of 2021, I am thankful to be able to report a surplus for the year of £40,819. We received a wonderful gift of a large legacy during the year which has made such a difference to us and the work we will be able to offer in the future. Enormous thanks go to the family for such a generous gift.

Planned giving decreased in 2022 as people struggled with the cost of living increases, but loose plate collections increased and with the introduction of a contactless giving station in church, our overall giving saw a 2.5% increase on 2021 figures.

Rogers Hall continues to provide us with a steady income and makes a good profit. These profits are used to maintain the building and we are now in a position to be able to undertake a much-needed refurbishment of the toilet facilities which is planned for the summer of 2023. We were able to secure 2 grants during the year from Warwickshire County Council towards the work the Hillmorton Hub were doing and also an Additional Restrictions Grant from Rugby Borough Council supporting us for the ongoing affects of COVID restrictions affecting our ability to hire out the hall. These grants totalled £2,293 and are included in the Rogers Hall income figures shown in the accounts.

We continue to support mission partners both at home and abroad, and the following donations were made during the year.

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Home	Rugby Foodbank	500	500
	Christians against Poverty Rugby	600	600
	Gift of years	600	600
	Rugby Revive	100	100
	Coventry Cathedral	365	365
Oversea Missions	Brenda Sheil	1,200	1,200
	CMS for Beom-Jin & Marie Shin	1,335	1,235
		<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,600</b>

We also supported the Ukranian appeal with donations collected at services as the war broke out which were gratefully received.

Thanks go to Malcolm Harrison for continuing as our Independent Examiner for which he makes no charge. The PCC make a donation to a charity of Malcolm's choice in lieu of that fee.

As we look towards 2023, we continue to prepare ourselves for a tough year of escalating costs as we have several challenges that face us, particularly but not exclusively utilities charges. We are currently benefitting from the Government's scheme of price capping but this will not run indefinitely and we have some church building maintenance to undertake in 2023 as required in the Quinquennial inspection. The PCC have approved our 2023 budget which identifies a projected deficit of £30,000 but we remain steadfast in the knowledge that God remains faithful to us and our work in the Parish we are called to serve, and we pray for His continued provision.

**Income Statement for the year ending 31st December 2022**

<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
<b>Income from Donors</b>				
Planned Giving	44,162		46,674	
Collections	4,856		3,415	
Contactless giving - church	2,087			
Gift Aid Claimed	<u>14,701</u>	65,806	<u>13,952</u>	64,041
<b>Income from Children and Family</b>	<u>2,761</u>	2,761	<u>1,313</u>	1,313
<b>Wedding and Funerals</b>				
Fees (net)	5,689		6,090	
Donations at services		5,689	<u>1,448</u>	7,538
<b>Other</b>				
Newsletter Advertising	2,810		1,121	
Donations	4,427		8,982	
Legacies	40,000			
Other	<u>1,199</u>	48,436	<u>3,291</u>	13,394
<b>Bank Interest and Dividends</b>				
Deposit account at CCLA	661		26	
COIF Dividends	<u>491</u>	1,152	<u>467</u>	493
<b>Grants received</b>				
Parish Share Grant			7,000	
Grant for Jubilee Bench	1,000			
	<u>0</u>	1,000	<u>0</u>	7,000
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS INCOME</b>		<b>124,844</b>		<b>93,779</b>
<b>ROGERS HALL</b>	<u>17,663</u>	<b>17,663</b>	<u>12,780</u>	<b>12,780</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>		<b>142,507</b>		<b>106,559</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND INCOME</b>				
Redevelopment/heating	8,785		3,022	
Other	575	9,360	2,461	5,483
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>151,867</b>		<b>112,042</b>

## Expenditure Statement for the year ending 31st December 2022

	2022		2021	
<b>Activities directly connected to the church</b>				
Parish Share	64,999		62,000	
Clergy expenses	1,785		870	
Lighting, heating and water	4,027		1,189	
Insurance	4,794		3,550	
Upkeep of services (incl licences)	3,738		1,397	
Media			488	
Newsletter printing	2,381		1,682	
Mission	2,954		1,926	
Church Maintenance	2,336	87,014	6,669	79,771
<b>Children and Family</b>				
Salary			0	
Materials etc		0	262	262
<b>Administration</b>				
Salaries	9,172		4,142	
Stationery, postage etc	2,136	11,308	699	4,841
Donations	4,743		4,600	
Other	2,378	7,121	3,539	8,139
St Gabriel's		0	57	57
Organ and Piano		0	2,240	2,240
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>105,443</b>		<b>95,310</b>
<b>ROGERS HALL</b>	<b>4,334</b>	<b>4,334</b>	<b>9,897</b>	<b>9,897</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>109,777</b>		<b>105,207</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND EXPENDITURE</b>				
Redevelopment	764		4,200	
Other	507	1,271	591	4,791
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>111,048</b>		<b>109,998</b>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2022**

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>
<b>Cash and bank</b>			
HSBC	58,355		18,205
CCLA	50,886		50,226
		109,38	
Cash	<u>149</u>	9	<u>140</u> 68,571

<b>Funds</b>			
General	70,813		51,413
Redevelopment	13,562		5,541
Rogers Hall	21,433		8,104
		109,38	
Other	<u>3,581</u>	9	<u>3,513</u> 68,571

**Connected Charities - Langton Bequest**

Balance brough forward 1st Jan 2022	1,968	1,922
Interest received	<u>57</u>	<u>46</u>
Balance carried forward 31st December 2022	<u><u>2,025</u></u>	<u><u>1,968</u></u>

Money held as follows		
CCLA Deposit account	725	668
CCLA Investment fund	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,300</u>
	<u><u>2,025</u></u>	<u><u>1,968</u></u>

**Connected Charities - Hillmorton Church Lands**

Balance brough forward 1st Jan 2022	10,675	10,675
Dividends received	491	467
Transferred to PCC general income	<u>-491</u>	<u>-467</u>
Balance carried forward 31st December 2022	<u><u>10,675</u></u>	<u><u>10,675</u></u>

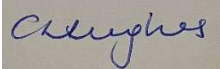
The investment is held with CCLA and valued on 31st December 2022 at £15,736.82

**The Accounts were presented to and approved by the Parochial Church Council of  
St John the Baptist, Hillmorton**

Reverend Steve Gold, Chairperson

  
.....

Claire Hughes, Honorary Treasurer

  
.....



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Church, Hillmorton		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1180245
<b>Set out on pages</b>			

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**  **Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

**Name:** Malcolm Harrison

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** Chartered Tax Adviser

**Address:** 14A Percival Road, Rugby, CV22 5JS

## 7. Presentation of the Building and Fabric Report - Peter Webb

### Church Building

Maintaining an ageing and historical church building presents us with some significant challenges and as we are somewhat limited in financial terms it is necessary to prioritise the work that needs attention.

The outstanding major areas identified in the Quinquennial Report are:

- South Aisle Roof which needs stripping down and re-installing
- Repair to the nave roof as there is still the very occasional drips when the wind is in a certain direction when it is raining
- Stone work repairs.

Recent works which have been identified and for which we have budgeted include

- the resurfacing of the footpath from the car park through the churchyard.
- treating and sealing of the wooden floor areas, although this will be delayed until the footpath is completed.
- Installation of an efficient and economic heating system. Concerns were raised about the proposed electrical clay filled radiator system we had decided on previously and after taking advice the PCC decided to undertake further investigations into alternatives to ensure the correct system is installed.

The wall heaters in the South aisle have been removed as they were not providing heat to the congregation and were using a significant amount of electricity to heat nothing but the air above. The savings made on running costs will hopefully allow us to use the under-pew heaters for a longer period of time when necessary.

Two of the remaining upright gravestones in the churchyard which were deemed unsafe and at risk of toppling over have been laid flat until advice is received from the stonemason.

A large tree in the corner of the churchyard blew down and has since been made safe.

One of the benches by the footpath became rotten and unsafe so this has been removed and disposed of. This has been replaced with a memorial bench for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Half of the cost of this has been funded by Hillmorton Charities by way of a grant.

A kind individual has donated two flower planters and has undertaken to maintain these. They have been placed on the Memorial Garden site. Thanks are due to Pat and Keith Lole who are keeping the Memorial Garden tidy and looking wonderful.

Unfortunately, we are still experiencing minor irritations including someone fiddling with the front door lock which needs regular monitoring to ensure the building is secured at night.

All necessary checks have been completed and certificates of safety issued.

Again, at the time of writing we are awaiting a visit from our insurance company to update the details of the building following the recent alterations at the West end.

### Rogers Hall

Dog training, Keep Fit, Women's Institute, Youth Club, Brownies and Guides, Radio Controlled cars, Coffee mornings, Church Worship, private bookings for children's parties etc, and of course our own Church events are just some of the activities that take place in our God given facility at the Rogers Hall. It is important that we remain good stewards of this facility, not only looking after it, but ensuring that all guidance and regulations in place for a building open for public use. As I write an electrical safety check has been carried out and the necessary remedial work has been scheduled

As such we have recently increased our lettings fees to cover, amongst other things, the vast increase in energy costs and I would encourage people to ensure that outer doors are kept shut in the winter months and lights and equipment are all switched off when not in use.

As the building is in use most days of the week throughout the year it goes without saying that there will be the usual incidents of wear and tear which need to be paid for on a priority basis. However, parts of the building are looking old and need refurbishment.

On this basis the long-awaited upgrading of the toilets has now been commissioned and new flooring for the kitchen has been agreed. We will be applying for grants where possible towards the costs but the Rogers Hall side of our balance sheet indicates that there is cash available to finance at least part of the bill.

Partly due to investigations where it was evident that locks on the outer doors had been interfered with making them unusable, it has been identified that all external doors are in need of replacement.

At the time of writing we are awaiting the installation of a new internal door which was damaged beyond repair.

Thanks are due to the small group of individuals who help care for the fabric of the hall on a regular basis. If anyone else feels that they would like to help in this way, please talk to any member of the clergy or PCC.

## **8. Deanery Synod Report - Anne Tippett, Judith Clucas, Pat Lole and Claire Hughes**

Meetings are held quarterly across the Deanery.

**March 2022.** We were pleased to welcome Deanery Synod to St John's where Reverend Edmund Newey shared the vision for the Rugby Mission Hub, based at St Andrews i.e. worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities

As Christians we are bearers, bringers and agents of life, to restore health, new growth and renew relationships. Hub churches will work with other nearby churches to facilitate growth within their context. To share gifts and experiences, identifying needs and opportunities and to respond on the areas needing support.

This will be funded from strategic funding from central resources, not Parish Share. An associate minister will be recruited for a 5-year term with the anticipation of them spending 25% of their time working in their host church and 75% of their time resourcing other churches in the area.

New growth can take many forms.

1. Church Plants, replanting mini replicas.
2. Muddy/messy/café Church providing new ways of evangelising.
3. Fresh Expression eg to take a seed and plant, find out how it will grow, breaking life into it and watching what comes up.

Tim Cockell announced at this meeting that he was finishing his 5-year term as Area Dean – the Synod wished him well as he was able then to return full time to his Parish of St Marks, Bilton.

**June 2022.** Hosted by All Saints Church, Leamington Hastings where newly installed Reverend Phil Price introduced the Synod to Hollywood Style Bible study. Newly appointed Area Dean Reverend Steve Gold chaired the meeting which included reports from Diocesan Synod and Bishops Council as well as a Finance update identifying a 7% increase in Deanery ministry costs which would be included in the budget to be proposed at the November meeting. Dick Withington spoke about Creation Care and as Creation Care Champion he encouraged delegates to share news or planned events about creation care/green issues with him

**November 2022.** St Andrew's Church hosted synod where, Steve, as Area Dean, welcomed everyone.

Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at the Cathedral, spoke about aspects of her work. There was interactive discussion on how artefacts and different art forms can enhance teaching and learning about our faith as well as that of children.

The proposed budget and Parish Share figures were presented by Reverend Steve Gold on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Finance, and Dick Withington spoke briefly about 'Creation Care', explaining there would be opportunities to learn more on how, as churches, we may consider new approaches that are more eco-friendly than perhaps we have considered in the past.

**February 2023.** Hosted by St Georges Church, Rugby. The Reverend Rob Harrison, Diocesan Director of Ministry and Leadership spoke to the Synod about the proposed changes to Lay Ministry training for 2023 using a cheese triangle as a prop. The vision is to equip and empower more lay ministers in our parishes to invert the usual triangle which has the clergy at the top point of the triangle and lay ministers forming the layers beneath. Lay people will be encouraged to minister and be commissioned via a series of courses but mostly through experience in their parishes in whatever ministry they feel called to.

## **9. Safeguarding – Jo Isley, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

I am pleased to note that the profile of safeguarding within our parish, the Coventry diocese, the Church of England, and indeed society generally, continues to increase. However, every single one of us is on a learning journey regarding safeguarding. Indeed, even the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, apologised at the time of his confirmation as Archbishop of York, for failing to follow correct reporting and documenting procedures

in a domestic abuse case that he became aware of, whilst serving as Area Bishop of Reading. He acknowledged that a lack of training and understanding, which he has since addressed, along with time constraints, compromised his ability to fully recognise and respond to concerns raised with him. He chose to go public with the story, as he wanted to help change the narrative for the C of E on safeguarding, by being open and transparent so that failures may be investigated and lessons learned.

As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am due to renew my own Safeguarding Leadership Pathway training in March. Since my initial training when new to the role three years ago, the Pathway has evolved significantly. Previously, it simply required me to attend an in-person presentation, with some audience participation, and answer a sheet of multiple-choice questions. It now includes pre-course preparation - extensive reading and written reflection on questions to be discussed during the two 90-minute virtual seminars held via Zoom a week apart – and a post-course written reflection, upon what I have learned and changes I have implemented, to be submitted within six weeks of the course for my training certificate to be issued.

Within our parish, as throughout the world, safeguarding issues need to be identified and addressed. This means that every member of our church community has a duty to be alert to any concerns and report them, however insignificant they might seem. It is better to pass on an individual piece of information, than withhold it and later regret doing so. The onus is simply on passing on information, which may contribute to a larger picture, rather than launching an investigation. Concerns will be addressed with discretion, and on a strictly need-to-know basis. The diocesan safeguarding team are always consulted about actions required, and they have links with multiple other agencies.

Training is available to anyone who would like to learn more about how to spot concerns and who to raise them with. Certain roles require three-yearly refresher training at the relevant level required for that role. I am very grateful to those who undertake the training when requested, and I am happy to provide any support needed to complete the training.

Safeguarding continues to be included as a standing item on the agenda at every PCC business meeting. Meetings between the Parish Safeguarding Officer and clergy are held regularly in the interim to review the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and thus to identify any required actions. I am well supported in my role as PSO and responsibility is shared between us to comply with the increasing demands of this important area of ministry.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

## **10. Worship Team – Helen Merrigan**

John Piper summarises the inner essence of worship as: to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by valuing God, treasuring God, prizing God, enjoying God, being satisfied with God above all earthly things. And then that deep, restful, joyful satisfaction in God overflows in demonstrable acts of praise from the lips and demonstrable acts of love in serving others for the sake of Christ.

In St John's our desire and prayer is that we as a small, inclusive team can play our part in facilitating us all in this offering of praise from our lips.

We are always open to new musicians and singers joining us – please do speak to me if you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more. God loves variety and it would also be good to share the load a little more.

As a team we really appreciate those who faithfully turn up early, set up and operate the sound system and also ensure the right words appear on the screens at the right time – especially Phil & Matt.

We are also grateful to Linda Wainscot, a true friend of St John's, who graciously steps in to support us when we need it and she is available.

At Christmas our Carols and Lessons service was supported and enhanced by the Circle Singers which was really appreciated and they have gladly accepted the invitation to come again this year.

A couple of the team recently attended a 'Worship Breakfast' organised by the diocese which they found encouraging and inspiring.

We do aim as a team to lead the sung worship in a way that is honouring to God, sensitive to the Holy Spirit and accessible to the whole family of the church. We include a mix of both traditional and more recent

songs/tunes and we hope that you are able to express your praise and worship of God through both. We are grateful for the encouraging feedback we have had from the congregation.

#### **11. Prayer Ministry Team – Heather Lyons.**

Our team this year is much smaller since we have lost Paul, Lindsay, Lillian, Margaret and of course Rita. We are now six. We have met together termly for fellowship, prayer and to review how it's working remembering that our prayer ministry is kept strictly confidential. Recently we have been offering prayer during the service itself after communion, which, as it is twice a month now, means the team is spread a bit more thinly. This of course has advantages and disadvantages. After the service we know some have to leave quickly and many want to chat with friends and enjoy the cakes on offer. Whereas after communion, prayer seems the natural response to the offering of Jesus Himself for us. It has been a joy and privilege to pray with those who come and to see people responding positively to the opportunity. We believe that the Lord is present and longs to touch each one personally with His love and healing reviving power. Our BELIEF as a team and our only validation to do this ministry is that it is not through any ABILITY of our own but only through our AVAILABILITY as channels for Him to work. Ephesian's Ch 1 18-22....

## **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

#### **12. Elections to Deanery Synod**

#### **13. Elections to the Parochial Church Council**

#### **14. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

#### **15. Any Other Business**

#### **16. Closing Prayer**

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST HILLMORTON**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**To be held in Rogers Hall  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm**

# Agenda

## **WELCOME, WORSHIP AND PRAYER**

### **2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

1. Election of Church Wardens

### **2022 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 APCM
3. Electoral Roll Report
4. PCC Report
5. Vicars' reports – with opportunity for questions
6. Financial Report and Accounts
7. Mission Partners Report
8. Building and Fabric Report
9. Deanery Synod Report
10. Safeguarding Report
11. Worship Team Report
12. Prayer Ministry Team Report
13. Cathedral Parish Partner Report

### **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

14. Elections to the Parochial Church Council
15. Appointment of Independent Examiner
16. Appointment of Cathedral Parish Partner

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

17. Any other business
18. Closing prayers

1. Welcome, worship and prayer.

## 2021 Minutes

2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 by Zoom Video Conference

**Virtually Present:** Steve Gold (Vicar) Margaret Simmons (Associate Vicar), Claire Hughes (CW & Sec), Peter Webb (CW), Linda Webb, Helen Merrigan, Margaret Harris, Anne Tippett, Louise Bradshaw, Judith Clucas, Val Aspeling, Heather Lyons, Ted Lyons, David Bradford, David Simmons, Paul Thomas, Pat Lole, April Gold, Chris Addison, Phil Clucas, Janet Addison, Lindsay Hughes (22 attendees)

### Opening Prayers & reflection

The meeting opened with scripture from John 12:17-26 read by Helen Merrigan. SG reflected that 2020 has been a really strange year for all of us and many metaphors have been used to describe the times, but he wanted to reflect on the image of a garden in winter and its connection to the reading from John 12. Much of what we recognise as being normal worshipping life of the church has either stopped or totally changed to something unrecognisable. Like the winter garden, the usual goings on in church life have been stripped away, and from the outside looks quite stark, no leaves, no fruit. But SG reminds us that as garden hunkers down and waits for the spring, whatever it might look like from the outside, the garden has not stopped being alive, it has been going through its life cycle where its life is just less obvious. There is still loads going on; life continues, just not obviously. Behind every good garden is the gardener, preparing the soil, preparing the plants, for this year's harvest. If the garden is the image for the church, then God is the ever-attentive gardener. The good gardener continues to be at work among us. We must not underestimate the grief some are experiencing, the loss of the "normal" but sometimes when you are in a dark place, it may feel like you've been buried, but the reality is that you have been planted and if we allow God to work in us, then that planting that takes place results in something new coming from that. If we allow ourselves to fall to the ground and be planted, then God will grow much fruit through us. As spring comes, the garden will look different, and so the life in the church will also look different. Some parts will die off and some will flourish in whole new ways. Our job as the people of God is to join in with the work of the gardener – He has invited us to bring our gifts and talents to bear. If we want to see the garden flourish, we in some way have to be like the kernel of wheat that falls to the ground in John Ch 12. New growth and much new fruit will come to bear as the garden comes back to life. Steve closed in prayer.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. The minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were accepted and signed as a true record.
2. Election of Church Wardens. There are 2 nominations, Claire Hughes, proposed by Peter Webb, seconded by Linda Webb, and Peter Webb proposed by Chris Addison and seconded by Janet Addison. The nominations were carried unanimously. SG expressed his thanks to Claire and Peter for their continued support and hard work during a difficult year. He also added thanks to Judith Clucas as Deputy Church Warden.

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies: Jo Isley, Hazel Setchell, John Merrigan.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were accepted and signed as a true record.
3. Electoral Roll Report – presented by Margaret Harris. Margaret was delighted to give a positive report this year with no deaths recorded, and 6 new members: Funmilayo Ikuomola, Olakunle Ikuomola, Vimbainashe Nkruma, Deane and Paula Mayfield, and John Merrigan, taking the total to 119 on the roll this year. MH added that there are still some consent forms outstanding. SG expressed thanks to MH for continuing so diligently in this role.
4. **PCC Annual Report.** Brenda Pittam is not seeking to be re-elected after completing her 3-year term. SG thanked her for her contribution over the last 3 years during which some of the time she was also Safeguarding Officer.

5. **Vicar's joint review of 2020.** SG has been struck by the extent and size of contribution to the life of the church made by so many people. So many people offer their gifts in so many different ways and those contributions make a huge difference. The way in which the church family has come together to offer their gifts in such different circumstances over the last 12 months is a wonderful testament. MS hopes that the report is an encouragement to everyone, she is most grateful for all that has been achieved and offered to the community and the church family. MS would like feedback on any of the items in the report. Claire Hughes offered thanks to SG and MS for all their newly earned skills to enable church life to carry on in its different forms during the pandemic. SG gave thanks for the technology that enabled the video production and editing. Margaret Harris agreed that the church family would have been very much drifting without the skills of MS and SG keeping us together through the services offered. Peter Webb added that the wider community has also benefitted from the different platforms available to us now. MS added that one of the joys has been creatively thinking about how to present things differently eg Vox Pops.

## Reports

6. **Financial Report and Accounts.** No questions. SG added that if we extract the investment in repairs, specifically the flooring at Rogers Hall, the overall financial picture, for a year in COVID was remarkable for which we should offer thanks. Many churches have been struggling to keep going, but our church family has continued to give and offer sacrificial financial gifts in difficult times, and thanks to our ever-faithful God. SG thanked David Simmons for all the hard work, like many jobs, all the work goes on unseen, he thanked David for his continued attention to detail and leadership in this area. **Mission Partners.** MS asked that if anyone would like to champion any of the mission partners please speak out, as it would be lovely to have more people involved. SG added that the figures were based on the same proportional level as previous years based on income. The giving has already been made from this year's budget.
7. **Building and Fabric Report.** Peter Webb added that the electrical work at church will be started this coming Monday. SG commented how wonderful it is to finally have the West End finished, and the extra facilities are most gratefully received. It is a much more welcoming place to be. Each item on the report represents a lot of work so thanks to PW for taking the lead on looking after the Grade II listed building and all the difficulties that causes.
8. **Deanery Synod.** Nothing to add and no questions. SG added that we now have 4 members on the Deanery Synod, an important connection between us at Parish level across the wider Deanery. The representatives are Claire Hughes, Judith Clucas, Pat Lole and Anne Tippet. MS commented that the Deanery reorganisation plan originally showed 1 full time stipendiary and 1 full time associate minister. The version that has been distributed to the Deanery shows only half-time associate. To be followed up with DMPC.
9. **Children and Families.** MS, SG and Judith Clucas prepared the report in the absence of a C&F minister. SG added that pre-COVID there was an intention to put together a job description and to recruit a part time C&F worker, but those plans were put on hold once COVID hit. With all the challenges we currently face with the ongoing pandemic, this still needs to be held until we formulate the plan and budget for 2022 when things have settled down somewhat.
10. **Safeguarding.** Thanks to Jo Isley for her continuing hard work keeping everything up to date. Dashboard is checked regularly, a few ongoing items which are being progressed. No concerns have been raised during the year.
11. **Worship team.** Lindsay Hughes added that we have missed so much of live music, but it has been lovely singing along at home. Wonderful to have the new organ, thanks to John and all those who helped. Looking forward to having live music in church again. Thanks to Phil for all the work on a technical front. Thanks were offered from Judith Clucas for the work the musicians put into the most recent outdoor services for Palm Sunday and Easter Day, what a joy to be able to sing outside. SG added that for many, sung worship is the way they best connect with God, and for such a long time this has been denied, it has made us realise just how precious this form of ministry is.

12. **Winter shelter.** Stopped abruptly in March 2020 due to COVID and did not restart last year at all. Phil Clucas added that although there were no sleep overs, a group of churches who were able to, due to the proximity to the town centre, had offered to cook lunch time meals, but because of the good work of the New Hope 4 Manager, Adi Robinson, there was only 1 person that actually needed this. With the help of Rugby Borough Council all Homeless people had food and accommodation up to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. Hope 4 are actively planning as to how they can keep homeless people off the streets during the winter months. SG added that we will keep an open mind as to what that ministry may look like in terms of the ministry of St John's. Phil Clucas offered his thanks to David Simmons for all the organisation, sorting out the food, and argumentative clients so well, St John's has been a stalwart contributor to the homeless shelter over the last 9 years.
13. **Prayer ministry report.** Ted Lyons added his appreciation to SG and MS for putting the services together, and also to the much wider team involved. It has been a very rich experience to see both St John's and St Gabriel's families represented in the online services. Prayer ministry has been difficult but praying has of course continued. Requests have been received in all sorts of ways, via email, text, phone calls etc. He also added that the richness of some of the prayers being led in church is amazing and offered thanks and blessings to all who prepare intercessions, they have really enriched the services.
14. **Cathedral Parish Partner.** Nothing to add as no meetings have taken place. Paul Thomas added that the future of CPP is under discussion; during the pandemic contact has still been maintained with the Cathedral so is this a role that is still needed in its existing form. Discussions to resume when able.

## **Elections and Appointments**

15. **Elections to PCC.** There are 9 elected members to the PCC each of whom serves 3 years. Brenda Pittam is stepping down at the end of her 3-year term. One nomination has been received for John Merrigan, proposed by David Simmons seconded by Brenda Pittam. SG looking forward to all John has to bring to the PCC. There are no other nominations. The PCC members for 2021/22 are confirmed as Steve Gold (Vicar), Margaret Simmons (Associate Vicar), Claire Hughes (Church Warden, Secretary and Deanery Synod Rep), Peter Webb (Church Warden), Judith Clucas, David Bradford, Anne Tippett, Jo Isley, Linda Webb, Helen Merrigan, Louise Bradshaw, Pat Lole and John Merrigan.
16. **Appointment of Independent Examiner.** David Simmons confirmed that Roger Watson is happy to continue as independent examiner. SG thanked him for his service and willingness to continue.  
**Appointment of Cathedral Parish Partner.** Paul Thomas is the existing CPP and happy to continue.
17. **Looking Forward.** SG added that in the short term, there is a desire to see the worshipping life of the church resume in a way we recognise. But is important to do this in a way that does not leave behind all the investment we have made by making things available to those online. Would be great to get back to some sense of normality. Looking forward to welcoming Curate Anne Marie Marsh and her family as they join us for the next 3 years. This brings responsibility to us in helping to equip her in readiness for wherever her ministry takes us. The heating and the car park are still projects to be accomplished somehow, these would make a huge difference to our environment at The Locks. St Gabriel's feels almost like restarting again, it seems to have taken a more serious hit than the St John's family because it was such a fledgling thing. We had been getting some good growth and momentum and connection with people there, and things were taking off before COVID. Since we last met at Houlton, the community has more than doubled in size. The opportunity is unbelievable, and the hope and prayer is that we manage to get that community back up and running and feeling like a church community again, and that we continue to see it grow and flourish. SG thanked everyone for the support in growing the Houlton community as much as it had pre Covid.

MS added that as Houlton grows, she would like to see her role reinstated as leader in Hillmorton and St Johns as she feels this has been eroded a lot over the last 12/18 months. She still has a great heart for Hillmorton and feels that is where God is still wanting her to be. This will allow SG to be released into Houlton. She would also like Children and Families Ministry to be re-started, there are 2 new team members fully DBS checked and ready to go. It would be good to restart Sunday children's groups, although leadership of this will need to be thought about now that April is an ordinand on placement elsewhere as well as working full time in a senior job. MS also stated a desire to see Messy Church

return and expressed regret that Messy Church was ever stopped. MS added that she would also like to see midweek groups restarting, eg Meet for Tea, Thursday communion. Growth – MS would love to see the prayer life of our church family deepen, and grow, in diversity, expectation and power. Small groups – she would like them to continue to grow and multiply. Youth ministry is also something to be considered. The twice postponed Sanctuary day is now booked for 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 for the whole church. As we enter the next season during the summer, MS advised that a journey through Acts is being planned for the Sunday services. One thing that COVID has done, is opened up community connections. It feels like more people know about us now than ever before.

Questions raised.

Pat Lole asked about MS comments about wanting to release SG from Hillmorton, but does SG actually want to be released from St John's more? SG responded by saying it is more about how he can spend as much time as he can to grow the church community at Houlton and not a case of being released from Hillmorton as he has no intention of not being involved at St John's.

AT asked where Anne-Marie will be based? SG responded that there are different opportunities in both church families, they complement each other really well as a training ground for Anne Marie. Margaret Harris asked where will she live? SG confirmed that she will move into St Georges vicarage in St Johns Road, just outside the parish.

Chris Addison asked if there is a plan for a St G's church building? Steve agreed that a church building in Houlton would be wonderful (either as a dedicated building or some form of joint enterprise with community facilities) and indicated this is something we will continue to seek to discuss with Urban & Civic. However, there are no current plans, and we are very grateful for the facilities offered by St Gabriel's school.

18. Any other business. Pat Lole raised concerns about the number of young people hanging around the memorial garden, playing football on the garden itself. MS can identify with the dismay. She has explained to the young people what the garden means and is developing a relationship with these young people and has asked them what support they would like from us as a church. They wanted somewhere to gather, even just a shed type of shelter, with a bench. Police are aware of their presence and visit when they can to discourage them from continuing the disrespect. MS would like to think the more that she engages with them, the more they are likely to respect the churchyard. PW added that he has experienced the group too, and he is having to clear up a lot of rubbish, including beer cans. If they are drinking or smoking drugs, PW is concerned for the safety of the people visiting the church. Ted Lyons asked how long this has been going on – MS confirmed around 3 months. PW found them climbing over the fence to the derelict building. MS commented that there has been no physical damage either inside or outside of the church despite the church being open. DB suggested that appropriate memorial garden music be played, and the children would not then hang around as it would not be to their taste! MS would like to continue to establish a relationship with them. Still waiting on Urban and Civic to see if they are going to develop the car park area. Phil Clucas suggested that we could perhaps try and achieve their request for a bench and a shelter. MS asked for us to pray for them.

19. Closing Prayers. Led by MS

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

# 2022 APCM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 APCM

## REPORTS

3. Electoral Roll Report – Margaret Harris
4. PCC Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Vicar (Priest-in-charge)	Rev Steve Gold, Houlton Vicarage, 2 Maxwell Road, Houlton CV23 1AH
Associate Vicar	Rev Margaret Simmons, Hillmorton Vicarage, 18, Hoskyn Close, Hillmorton, CV21 4LA
Curate	Rev Anne-Marie Marsh, St George's Vicarage, St John's Avenue, Hillmorton, CV22 5HR
Independent examiner	Mr Roger Watson, Wharf Farm, Kilsby Lane, Rugby Due to ill health Mr Watson was unable to fulfil the examination which was instead carried out by Mr Malcolm Harrison of 14a Percival Road, Rugby which had been approved by the PCC at a meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
Bank	HSBC, Church Street, Rugby

St. John the Baptist PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings and churchyard.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council from April 2021

PCC members are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC has the power to co-opt if necessary.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC

Ex-officio members	Vicar/Chairperson	Reverend Steve Gold
	Associate Vicar	Reverend Margaret Simmons
	Curate (from 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2021)	Reverend Anne-Marie Marsh
	Churchwardens	Claire Hughes (also PCC secretary) Peter Webb
	<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i> (4 due to size of Electoral Roll) (all in their second year of office)	Claire Hughes, Judith Clucas Anne Tippett, Pat Lole
Elected members:	Louise Bradshaw (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	
	Helen Merrigan (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	
	Jo Isley (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	
	David Bradford (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	
	Linda Webb (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	
	John Merrigan (1 <sup>st</sup> year)	

The PCC met 9 times in 2021, with "focus" meetings on 2 of those occasions, 6 business meetings with the Annual Parochial Church Meeting being held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021. January to May meetings were held using Zoom Video Conferencing due to the Coronavirus pandemic but the remainder of the year were back to being face to face meetings in the Rogers Hall.

In 2021 there were 119 names on the Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll Officer was Margaret Harris.

### **Committees and Administration:**

The PCC is required by law to appoint a Standing Committee that is responsible, subject to any rulings by the PCC, for dealing with urgent matters of PCC business that may arise between regular meetings of the Council. The Standing Committee consists of the Vicar, Associate Vicar, the two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, and one other member of the PCC elected by the Council (elected member: Judith Clucas) The PCC provides for sub-committees to deal with particular areas of activity or concern. The sub-committees at present are: Buildings team incorporating both the Rogers Hall and the Fabric and Churchyard teams, and Development project team.

### **5. Vicar's joint review of 2021.**

After the huge disruption of church life in 2020, we were delighted to see a gradual return and restoration of many parts of the life, mission and ministry of our churches in 2021. However, that does not mean that we have merely returned completely to pre-2020 ways. We hope instead that we have taken some of our new habits learned during lockdown and integrated them enduringly into our church life.

We continue to be hugely grateful for the way in which ministry and mission in our churches is shared so widely across our parish. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our churchwardens Claire Hughes (also our PCC secretary) and Peter Webb, deputy churchwarden Judith Clucas, our Gift Aid secretary David Bradford, and our Parish Safeguarding Officer Jo Isley for all their contributions to the life of our church community. It has also been a joy to work with Paula Mayfield in her first year as parish administrator. However, we would like to give particular thanks for David Simmons and his contribution as treasurer in recent years. David stood down at the end of 2021 and we will miss his typically understated contribution and his attention to detail.

It has also been a joy to welcome Reverend Anne-Marie Marsh to Hillmorton after her licensing as curate in our parish in July 2021. We have already come to appreciate her ministry among us – and we give thanks for her and for the presence and support of Craig, Cherish and Tom. We look forward to sharing the next part of Anne-Marie's ministerial journey together over the coming few years.

We also wish to thank everyone who contributed to preaching and leading our services in 2021; in particular our licensed readers Paul Thomas and Helen Merrigan, as well as Lindsay Hughes, Ted Lyons, John Merrigan, Rosemary Lowdon, April Gold, Linda Wainscot and Funmi Ikuomola – in addition of course to our musical worship team.

However, it has also been a year of loss. In particular, we continue to feel the loss caused by the death of Reverend Lindsay Hughes who was such an important part of our life together over the last few years. We give thanks for all she meant to us. We are certainly much the poorer in her absence.

We give thanks that despite all the difficulties brought about by COVID-19 God continues to grow his church in Hillmorton. St John's and St Gabriel's grew in 2021 – both in number and planned financial giving. We give thanks to all who have so generously and sacrificially continued to give to the work here despite the impacts of Covid.

As we reflect on 2021 and look forward to 2022, we give thanks for each of you. Above all we give thanks to God as he continues, by his grace and love, to bring signs of his Kingdom to this place.

In the words of St Paul we 'keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.'

### **St John's report – Reverend Margaret Simmons**

I have been amazed at all the things that have happened, and been achieved & experienced together:

Pre-recorded Sunday services; Snowdrop season; Lent course (Worship in the Wilderness), reflections and displays in and outside church; Holy week, with wonderful new ways of reflecting on-line; Easter and our amazing outdoor services; re-starting Playhouse; starting the new church heating project; Pentecost

outdoor service; Summer outdoor service with family fun day; welcoming Anne Marie; Summer Playhouse events; Family film morning in church; our special 'Sanctuary' away-day; and all our Christmas events!

All achieved within covid regulations and guidelines!

We continued contact with our Hillmorton schools by zoom and pre-recorded assemblies, as well as some class visits to church for Experience Christmas.

In addition, we have new doors & new acoustic management at Rogers Hall, and improvements to the memorial garden, with a lovely new central stone.

As well as so many pastoral encounters in the community.

As well as knowing God's precious leading and presence in our Sunday worship.

As well as deep loss in the death of Lindsay, and other significant losses.

As well as many joys in ministry.

All these are thanks to working as a team, and I thank all who have helped make these things come to fruition.

## **St Gabriel's report – Reverend Steve Gold**

### Worship.

In the first half of 2021 we had a very varied pattern of worship as we sought to find ways to meet together. We focussed on worshipping in the school grounds in the Summer, which led to some memorable services; not least worshipping in the middle of a huge rainstorm. During the last part of 2021 we were delighted to be able to return to a weekly pattern of worship.

It has been a very frustrating 15-18 months, as we've tried to nurture our fledgling worshipping community at St Gabriel's. However, we have appreciated the commitment of our families to support our worshipping life, and we look forward to 2022 with a real hope that we will be able to continue to grow our community.

We were delighted to mark a number of 'firsts' in the sacramental life of St Gabriel's in 2021 – firsts that demonstrate spiritual growth in our community. We celebrated the confirmation of 2 of our church family as well as the thanksgiving for baptism with immersion for 1 of our church family. We also shared our first service of holy communion.

We're grateful for our wonderful team who enable weekly worship to happen – and want to give thanks to in particular to Phil & Judith Clucas, Claire and Bruno Hughes, Funmi and David Ikuomola, April Gold and Anne-Marie Marsh.

### Ministry at St Gabriel's C of E Academy.

We've been delighted to recommence whole school collective worship (a weekly opportunity to worship with 240 children) as well as lead a whole school Christingle service and participate in the school 'incarnation day'. We've also enjoyed offering our after-school discipleship group Rooted. Rooted is led by Funmi Ikuomola, with support from Abi Shotade and we're thankful for their passionate and gifted contribution.

Steve continued to be deeply involved in the life and ministry of the school and in his capacity as foundation governor and vice-chair of the trust. We are deeply thankful for our ongoing relationship with St Gabriel's headteacher Andy Taylor – as we oversee the worshipping community at St Gabriel's together.

The parish/PCC have also continued to provide 4 foundation governors at St Gabriel's. In 2021 Gareth Davies and Tony O'Brien stepped down as foundation governors, but we were delighted to welcome Funmi Ikuomola as a new foundation governor. Our foundation governors (Steve, Funmi, Rex Pogson and Georgina Newton) are primarily responsible for helping the school to establish & maintain its Christian (and Anglican) identity.

### Other mission.

2021 saw the re-start of Dollman Dots, our baby & toddler group. The group continues to be oversubscribed and very popular with Houlton families. We hope to be able to recruit new members of the team in 2022 so that the sessions can be run weekly once again.

We are seeing about 25-30 new house occupations each month; and at the end of 2021 there were more than 800 occupied homes; nearly doubling the size of Houlton compared to last year. As a minimum each

new arrival receives a welcome card from St Gabriel's church – as well as a letter of welcome from the parish and information about our activities....and an invitation to join in.

In 2021 events were very limited. However, we once again organised our Christmas decoration hunt (this year our theme was hearts of peace) and the community advent windows – which have both become hugely popular community traditions enabling us to build relationships with the growing community.

### **Community Engagement – Reverend Anne-Marie Marsh**

We have been so blessed to have still had rich Community Engagement since the regulations eased in July 2021, here is an update on some of our regular groups and events ...

**Hillmorton Hub-** Since its launch in September the HH, it has become a somewhere where the community can gather to meet, chat, craft or just be. It has been a privilege for us all, in the team, to connect with many people from different situations and backgrounds within the community, some of whom have struggled during the pandemic and who are now trying to get back to normality. We have had the Community Police attending regularly as well as representatives from HEaRT and our local councillor. As a team we are praying that more people will come to know us and that it will grow from strength to strength.

**Playhouse** - This group has continued to grow each week and it is so lovely to meet and connect with new families, some of whom are new to Hillmorton or Houlton. Although we don't openly do religious things during sessions, it has been lovely to see how God is still at work within this group. It has been lovely to offer pray to those who have felt able to discuss problems and issues they are struggling with and make connections with some who have then attended St. John's on a Sunday. But irrespective of this it is wonderful that we provide a much-needed community group which is well used and much appreciated by those who attend.

**Dollman Dots** - Now running once a fortnight, DD is still a popular group attracting many parents, who have made strong connections through the group. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with families on the Houlton Estate and the team have been able to build good relationships with some of the families there. As the estate continues to grow, we pray that we can continue to welcome them and help in community cohesion and building relationships.

**Quiz night-** This was an event which was one of the first opportunities we had to come together as a church family and involve the community. It was a night of fun, facts and friendship-as well as fish and chips. This evening was well appreciated by those who attended, and we look forward to welcoming more people at future events to come.

**Coffee morning** – As people are feeling more able to attend, CM, following the pandemic, it is lovely to see that this morning, each month, is well attended and very much anticipated. The day's I have attended, I have seen not only church family, but also people visiting the area, thinking of moving to the area, or people who have put off coming many times and have plucked up the courage to come. The feedback from those people and everyone who attends, is that it is an important event in the calendar, that is appreciated and promotes community engagement.

**Children's Sunday groups** – It has been a wonderful blessing for me to work with a team that is so passionate about our children and wanting to help them know our Lord. Each week is varied depending on how many children attend St. John's, however even when there are a few, those children, can speak about what they have learned and really enjoy attending the group. We pray that more children will come and that we can connect with more families at St. John's.

That is just a snippet of our Community Engagement, which shows how we have been connecting with all people, offering outlets for them to come and be with others, or just be, helping and encouraging them to feel welcomed, valued and included. God is at work in our Communities of Hillmorton and Houlton and through our faith and belief in him, we have been able to be a beacon of light in what has been a few years in the wilderness for many. As part of Christ's body, being in community is what we are called to do, participating in His life and mission and more than this simply, 'Loving one another, as we are loved by Him'.

Looking forward to this next year

## 6. Presentation of the Financial Report and Accounts – David Simmons and Claire Hughes

Treasurer's Report to the APCM for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

At the beginning of 2021 it was not clear when, if ever during the year, it would be possible to hold services in Church again, so there was some uncertainty as to what income and expenditure might happen throughout the year. However, a budget still needed to be set and was agreed as being an income of £80,000 and an expenditure of £90,000, so a deficit of £10,000

However, by the end of 2021 we had a net surplus of £1,352 in relation to general fund and Rogers Hall income, and a £692 increase in the restricted funds – God is Good.

- General fund income was £93,779 and expenditure was £95,310 so a deficit of £1,531
- Rogers Hall income was £12,780 and expenditure was £9,897 so a surplus of £2,883
- Restricted fund income was £5,483 and expenditure was £4,791 so a surplus of £692

Giving by our church family way exceeded expectations (£6,966) and having had some exceptional and generous donations throughout the year (£6,174) as well grant and other funding (£13,956), our income was significantly boosted this year.

Rogers Hall was in need of new doors and finally there has been an improvement with the sound issues in the hall by the installation of some sound absorption boards at both ends of the hall (£4,000). Neither of these items had been budgeted for but the increase in hall hire fees and generous donations has made this all possible. We made increased donations for mission during the year (£1,300) and upgraded the footpath lighting (£700) as well purchased a new piano (paid for by a generous donation) and organ. The AV system also needed to be replaced unexpectedly (£1,450). The utilities bills were not as high as expected as the church remained only partially used during the year, but of course these will be expected to significantly increase over the coming years.

2022 will continue to offer some uncertainty in the current climate but one thing is guaranteed, that God continues to provide for which we remain ever thankful.

## Income Statement for the year ending 31st December 2021

GENERAL FUND INCOME	2021		2020	
<b>Income from Donors</b>				
Planned Giving	46,674		46,248	
Collections	3,415		2,852	
Gift Aid Claimed	<u>13,952</u>	64,041	<u>11,895</u>	60,995
<b>Income from Children and Family</b>	<u>1,313</u>	1,313	829	829
<b>Wedding and Funerals</b>				
Fees (net)	6,090		3,583	
Donations at services	<u>1,448</u>	7,538	<u>477</u>	4,060
<b>Other</b>				
Newsletter Advertising	1,121		2,056	
Donations	8,982		3,845	
Other	<u>3,291</u>	13,394	<u>136</u>	6,037
<b>Bank Interest and Dividends</b>				
Deposit account at CCLA	26		197	
COIF Dividends	<u>467</u>	493	<u>454</u>	651
<b>Grants received</b>				
Diocesan grant re Parish Share	7,000		10,000	
Gov grant re Administrators Salary	<u>0</u>	7,000	<u>805</u>	10,805
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS INCOME</b>		<b>93,779</b>		<b>83,377</b>
<b>ROGERS HALL</b>	<u>12,780</u>	<b>12,780</b>	<u>7,633</u>	<b>7,633</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>		<b>106,559</b>		<b>91,010</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUND INCOME</b>				
Redevelopment	3,022		19,740	
Other	<u>2,461</u>	5,483	<u>4,007</u>	23,747
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>112,042</b>		<b>114,757</b>

## Expenditure Statement for the year ending 31st December 2021

	2021		2020	
<b>Activities directly connected to the church</b>				
Parish Share	62,000		58,000	
Clergy expenses	870		134	
Lighting, heating and water	1,189		2,260	
Insurance	3,550		3,530	
Upkeep of services	761		956	
Media	488		739	
Licences	636		714	
Newsletter printing	1,682		1,278	
Mission	1,926		724	
Church Maintenance	<u>6,669</u>	79,771	<u>3,722</u>	72,057
<b>Children and Family</b>				
Salary	0		2,211	
Materials etc	<u>262</u>	262	<u>369</u>	2,580
<b>Administration</b>				
Salary	4,142		3,944	
Stationery, postage etc	<u>699</u>	4,841	<u>417</u>	4,361
Donations	4,600		4,265	
Other	<u>3,539</u>	8,139	<u>288</u>	4,553
St Gabriel's	57	57	41	41
Organ and Piano	2,240	2,240		
<b>TOTAL ST JOHNS AND ST GABRIELS EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>95,310</b>		<b>83,592</b>
<b>ROGERS HALL</b>	<b>9,897</b>	<b>9,897</b>	<b>23,644</b>	<b>23,644</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>105,207</b>		<b>107,236</b>
<b>FUND EXPENDITURE</b>				
Redevelopment	4,200		32,677	
Other	<u>591</u>	4,791	<u>5,555</u>	38,232
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>109,998</b>		<b>145,468</b>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2021**

	<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>
<b>Cash and bank</b>			
HSBC	18,205		
CCLA	50,226		
Cash	140	68,571	92,910
 <b>Funds</b>			
General	51,413		
Redevelopment	5,541		
Rogers Hall	8,104		
Other	3,513	68,571	

**Connected Charities - Langton Bequest**

Balance brough forward 1st Jan 2021	1,922
Interest received	46
Balance carried forward 31st December 2021	<u>1,968</u>

Money held as follows

CCLA Deposit account	668
CCLA Investment fund	<u>1,300</u>
	<u>1,968</u>

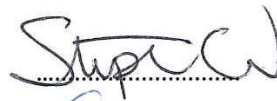
**Connected Charities - Hillmorton Church Lands**

Balance brough forward 1st Jan 2021	10,675
Dividends received	467
Transferred to PCC general income	<u>-467</u>
Balance carried forward 31st December 2021	<u>10,675</u>

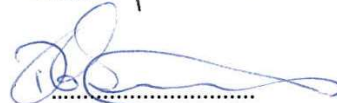
The investment is held with CCLA and valued on 31st December 2021 at £17,967.93

**The Accounts were presented to and approved by the Parochial Church Council of  
St John the Baptist, Hillmorton**

Reverend Steve Gold, Chairperson



David Simmons, Honorary Treasurer



Date

11th March 2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Church, Hillmorton

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1180245

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*M. Harrison*

Date:

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Name:

MALCOLM HARRISON

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

C.T.A. CHARTERED TAX ADVISER

Address:

14A PERCIVAL ROAD RUGBY CV22 5JS

## 7. Report on our involvement with Mission Partners - Margaret Simmons

We are pleased to support a variety of mission partners, at home and abroad.

At home, we support:

1. Foodbank – financially, as well as providing a collection point at St John's and at Rogers Hall. Two of our church members work with the central Foodbank team in Rugby.
2. Christians against Poverty – financially
3. Gift of Years – financially, as well as a church member serving on the local Steering Group
4. Hope 4 – financially, as well as a church member serving as a Director.
5. Rugby Revive – financially. St John's & St Gabriel's church leaders enjoy the fellowship and support of involvement with Rugby Revive leaders' events, and the whole church benefits from many of the town-wide activities supported and led by members of Rugby Revive.

We continue to support our overseas mission partners, Brenda Sheil and the Shin family.

We would be very pleased to encourage more contact especially with our overseas partners.

We had a speaker from Christians against Poverty, a visit from Brenda Sheil, and a video message from the Shin family at services during 2021.

### Giving to Mission Partners 2021

The proposed budget for 2021 included a sum of £4,600 to give away for mission at home and overseas, and the following amounts were donated:

<b>Home:</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Foodbank	500.00	500.00
Christians against Poverty (Rugby branch)	600.00	550.00
Gift of Years	600.00	550.00
Rugby Revive	100.00	100.00
Coventry Cathedral	365.00	365.00
<b>Overseas:</b>		
Brenda Sheil, Fashion with Heart Creations	1,200.00	1,100.00
CMS for Beom-Jin & Marie Shin	1,235.00	1,100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,600.00</b>	<b>4,265.00</b>

Note: £4,600 is 10% of the amount of regular giving in 2020

## 8. Presentation of the Building and Fabric Report - Peter Webb

As we begin to come out of the mandatory restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, we thank God that our Church building has been able, once again, to be back in full use for worship and community events. The fact that we can now leave the building unlocked during daylight hours, every day of the week, has been warmly welcomed by many people, some of whom are just casual walkers through the churchyard.

It is also good that the Rogers Hall is now back to full use. We have experienced requests to hire the premises, as many of the other venues in the town have been slower to relax their restrictions leading to unavailability. Although the extra income is welcome as well as the mission and witness opportunities this provides, we need to be careful that the hall does not become too busy, that planning Church activities becomes difficult.

### Church Building

The main event during the past twelve months has been the preparing of the Quinquennial Inspection by our architect. In addition to minor repairs, most of which can be completed by willing volunteers within our church family (!), a few major issues came to light which will need attention within the next five-year period. These include:

- Stripping down the slate roof covering the south aisle and re-installing it to render it watertight.

- Investigation (and repair if necessary) the lead roof over the nave to eliminate the very occasional drips
- Repairs to stonework around some windows and at roof level
- Repointing the stonework in various places.

One of the areas requiring prompt attention was concerning electrical safety. We needed to produce a Safety Certificate. Although some remedial work had been completed prior to the inspection, (including new light fittings in the tower room and bell chamber, an improved light fitting to the exterior of the south aisle corner and repairs to the circuit controlling the chancel lights), more work was required before the certificate could be issued. This has now been completed and the certificate has been received.

The stone plaque for the Memorial Garden is now in place and regular treatment to the grass surface has been organised.

The new organ is now commissioned and we often enjoy the wonderful music produced in our praise, worship and concerts.

Unfortunately, the Free Will Offering box was broken into yet again and was beyond repair. A new metal box has been installed and a card reader has been ordered. The total cost of these has been met from a kind donation from the Constable Neighbourhood Watch team organised by the Canal Chef Café. A letter of thanks has been sent.

The main doors have been re-oiled.

At the time of writing the footpath through the churchyard is giving concern. The frosts have broken the surface and when it becomes wet, dirt is being trodden into church potentially damaging the floor. Enquiries and investigations are taking place to see if this can be rectified at the lowest possible cost.

We have also finally been given permission to install electric radiator central heating, which is more environmentally friendly than a gas system. This will be explained more fully at the meeting.

### Rogers Hall

New external lights have been installed, including PIR sensors, eliminating the possibility of them being left on all night.

Both end walls have been covered with sound suppressant which has greatly reduced the noise factor and improved the insulation.

As part of this work, the old redundant ceiling cupboard has been removed.

The boiler decided to break down during a cold snap. A new circuit board is now installed and we are warm again! Unfortunately, during this period someone broke the Perspex cover for the thermostat programmer and had to be replaced.

A new external kitchen door has been installed as well as the two inner entrance doors. Again, there is evidence that some people prefer to kick these open resulting in dirty marks at the base.

As the hall is in use most days of the week on a regular basis, we need to continually monitor the condition in our role as stewards of this valuable building God has given to us.

I would encourage church leaders to continue to check that the building is left in an acceptable state when each session is completed, including removing rubbish (checking the nappy bin!), stacking furniture correctly and checking that all lights (including those in the cupboards) are switched off.

Thanks are due to the many people who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain the buildings in a clean, tidy and safe state. Although we are grateful to everyone, special thanks should be given to Mick Vousden, Tony Pittam, Chris Addison and David Simmons for their hard work and care of the buildings

## **9. Deanery Synod Report - Anne Tippett, Judith Clucas, Pat Lole and Claire Hughes**

The Deanery Synod met 3 times during the year

**February 2021 – Claire Hughes.** Our very own April Gold, Diocesan Director of Education was the guest speaker who delivered a talk on Growing Faith, a national initiative to improve religious education in all schools, but particularly church schools. The initiative centred on the intersection of church, school and home, with the emphasis being on the children. Experience has shown that children are deeply interested in matters of spirituality and seek answers to difficult questions that parents were unable to answer. April pointed the Synod to an online resource **Faith in the Nexus** and to a website that the Diocesan team have created [www.adventureswithgod.life](http://www.adventureswithgod.life) which aims to help parents and children alike.

Reverend Edmund Newey introduced the Synod to the Living in Love and Faith initiative with encouragement that all Parishes engage in the programme.

The synod members were reminded that elections would take place in the summer for Diocesan Synod and delegates were asked to consider if this was something they could be involved in

**September 2021 – Judith Clucas.** After a time of worship, we split into small mixed groups, each of which discussed an aspect of the new Deanery Plan format. Looking at Mission, Organisation and People.

Tim thanked everyone for all their hard work under difficult circumstances over the last year, talking of the things we may consider to 'leave behind'. He spoke of new incumbents' within the deanery and how things were beginning to move forward and wished everyone well.

Steve presented the 'Parish Share Scheme', which as yet no one had used. He explained the challenges Covid had brought but encouraged people to discuss their situations.

The COP Pilgrimage from Grandborough to Wolston was taking place on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Churches were encouraged to register for the up and coming 'Living in Love and Faith' Course in September.

**November 2021 – Anne Tippett.** The Autumn event included a very interesting and thought-provoking session on how we care for those who minister to us. This might be very practical support by providing meals or undertaking household tasks or taking the initiative to undertake a church related activity, releasing the time for other activities. It encouraged us to enable our ministers to take proper breaks and prioritise family time. As this was the first physical meeting I had been able to attend I was very struck by the commitment of those attending, many of whom were playing significant roles in their churches. But most of us were past retirement age and whilst I appreciate that we are the ones who have the time, it would be good to have the views of younger church members at these infrequent meetings. Meanwhile, Steve, Margaret and Anne-Marie should be anticipating ready meals on their doorsteps regularly!

#### **10. Safeguarding – Jo Isley, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Safeguarding continues to be included as a standing item on the agenda at every PCC business meeting. Meetings between the Parish Safeguarding Officer and clergy are held regularly in the interim to review the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and thus to identify any required actions. I am well supported in my role as PSO, and responsibility is shared between us to comply with the increasing demands of this important area of ministry. I feel that support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team has been more limited than pre-pandemic, however I have attended a few "Zoom" virtual meetings which were of some value.

The Church of England has recently revised its [Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework](#). This revised framework came into force on 4 January 2022 and some of the main changes include the requirement for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to be repeated every 3 years rather than every 5 years. The core safeguarding learning pathways (Basic Awareness, Foundation, Leadership and Senior Leadership) are to be completed in consecutive order until an individual has reached the required highest level of learning for their role, with all roles within the church now requiring a minimum of Basic Awareness training. Refresher learning should be completed at three-yearly intervals at the highest required level to keep knowledge and skills up to date.

Restrictions, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, have meant that all training over the last 2 years has been moved online with individuals accessing the National Safeguarding Training Portal via their own home computers. It is hoped that gradually it may be possible for in-person training events to recommence at the Rogers Hall.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

#### **11. Worship Team – Helen Merrigan**

As I write this I am watching the sun rise over the fields I can see from my brother's back garden, on the edge of the Yorkshire coast. The sky is clear, the sun is blindingly bright, a new day is beginning.

Two years ago we entered into the first of a series of disruptive lockdowns, in effect a time of exile from how we experienced 'church'. How hard it was not to meet together and not to be able to physically join together in singing praises to God. But what a time too, despite all the pain and suffering, of knowing and experiencing God's faithfulness and provision.

And here we are now, at what seems to be a new beginning. Appropriately we are liturgically about to move into Lent, traditionally a time of self-examination and reflection, leading into Holy week and ultimately the desolation of the Cross and then the joy of Easter Sunday.

As I look back over this time in reference to the worship team the thing that obviously stands out above all else is the loss of our dear Lindsay. Lindsay was a joy to know and was loved by many, within St John's, St Gabriel's and of course much more widely. She was first and foremost a worshipper and out of that flowed her worship leading, her preaching and her pastoral heart for people. She is deeply missed by many and has certainly left a large Lindsay-shaped hole in the worship team.

We are also very blessed that before she died, Lindsay bought St John's a new high quality piano that is real delight to all of us.

We are a small team and we would ask that you join us in praying for more musicians and singers so that we can share the load a little more as well as potentially have more God given variety.

In the past year we have welcomed Tassy into the team and are thankful for her voice and hope to hear more of her saxophone playing at some point 😊. Hilary is currently taking a break and Charlie helps out when he is able. We are also grateful to Linda Wainscot, a true friend of St John's, who graciously steps in to support us when we need it, and she is available.

As a team we would also like to express our gratitude to those who faithfully turn up early, set up and operate the amplification system and keep the words flowing on the screens.

We do aim as a team to lead the sung worship in a way that is honouring to God, sensitive to the Holy Spirit and accessible to the whole family of the church. We try to include a mix of both traditional and more recent songs/tunes and we hope that you are able to express your praise and worship of God through both.

Sung worship is of course but a small part of what true worship is. A.W. Tozer once said, "*If you're not worshiping God on Monday the way you did the day before, perhaps you're not worshiping him at all*". Our prayer is that we can play a small part in facilitating us all to do this for God's glory and his Kingdom.

## **12. Prayer Ministry Team – Reverend Margaret Simmons**

Our wonderful prayer ministry team has not met as a team throughout 2021, because of the pandemic. We have also deeply missed the shared leadership of Lindsay, who with Heather and Ted led the team with wisdom, encouragement and teaching.

However, we have often received and shared prayer requests by email and have been privileged to walk alongside many in need 'remotely'.

We hope to re-launch our 'official' team very soon and would welcome new members. Training and support are given

Having said that it has been lovely to see people spontaneously asking for and receiving prayer after our morning services at St John's. Long may that continue.

## **13. Cathedral Parish Partner**

The activities of the CPP team continue to be suspended

## **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **14. Elections to the Parochial Church Council**

### **15. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

### **16. Appointment of Cathedral Parish Partner**

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **17. Any Other Business**

### **18. Closing Prayer**

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 **Period start date**  
**To** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 **Period end date**

**Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist Hillmorton**

**Charity registration number: 1180245**

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<b>Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church.</b>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<b>Christian acts of worship, including Sunday worship and marriages, baptisms and funerals for all in the community who request it.</b> <b>Community events for all, including family fun days and concerts.</b> <b>Winter shelter for the homeless, Job Club, Toddler stay and play groups, and social groups for the lonely and elderly.</b>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<b>The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<b>None</b>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	<b>None</b>

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<b>All our activities are supported by volunteers.</b>
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<b>All our activities are intended to be of benefit to the members of the church and the wider community. Our regular worshipping community has grown in number, volunteers and financial support. Regular services are carried out in two care homes. Regular support is given to our local schools for Religious Education and school assemblies. Homeless and poorly housed people have been provided with a meal and accommodation in our church hall weekly (between Jan and March 2020). Our building has been improved to enable better hospitality to all who attend. Many of our activities were suspended during the covid-19 lockdowns, but restarted when possible</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<b>Our building development project has been fully paid for by donations and grants.</b>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	

Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<b>We consider we are in a healthy position. The expenditure exceeded our income for the year.</b>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<b>We retain reserves at a level of 4 months operational costs. Operational costs are approximately £7,000/month. Reasoning being: Approximately 80% of our income is derived from relatively stable long-term giving and income from fees.</b>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<b>£30,000</b>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	<b>N/A</b>
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	<b>None</b>
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<b>None</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules.</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>Church of England.</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>Trustees are elected for a three year term on a rotation basis.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist Church Hillmorton
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1180245

Charity's principal address	The Locks Hillmorton Rugby CV1 4PP

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Steve Gold	Priest in charge		
2	Margaret Simmons	Associate Minister		
3	Claire Hughes	PCC Secretary & Churchwarden		
4	Peter Webb	Churchwarden		
5	Judith Clucas	Deputy churchwarden		
6	David Bradford			
7	Anne Tippett			
8	Louise Bradshaw			
9	Helen Merrigan			
10	Pat Lole			
11	Joanne Isley			
12	Brenda Pittam			
13	Linda Webb			
14	Hilary Mitchell		Until Oct 2020	
15	Becky Davies		Until Feb 2020	
16	David Simmons	Treasurer		
17				
18				
19				
20				

### Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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### Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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### Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

**Signature(s)**

M Simmons

**Full name(s)**

Margaret Irene Simmons

**Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Associate Minister

**Date**

18.10.2021





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

St. John the Baptist church Hillmorton

1180245

## Receipts and payments accounts

<b>For the period from</b>	Period start date 1/1/2020	<b>To</b>	Period end date 12/31/2020
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Donations and Grants	80,576	23,669	-	104,245
Interest on Deposit Account	246	78	-	324
Dividends	454	-	-	454
Fees	5,639	-	-	5,639
Hire of Hall	4,095	-	-	4,095
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>91,010</b>	<b>23,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,757</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>91,010</b>	<b>23,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,757</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Parish Share	58,000	-	-	58,000
Church running expenses	3,241	-	-	3,241
Mission	2,002	369	-	2,371
Wages	8,005	1,027	-	9,032
Repairs andn Renovation	23,359	36,836	-	60,195
Lighting, Heating and Water	3,060	-	-	3,060
Insurance	4,634	-	-	4,634
Stationery and Telephone	670	-	-	670
Donations	4,265	-	-	4,265
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>107,236</b>	<b>38,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,468</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>107,236</b>	<b>38,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,468</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 16,226</b>	<b>- 14,485</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 30,711</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>- 16,226</b>	<b>- 14,485</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 30,711</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	16,327	-
	Deposit Account	36,617	13,582
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>52,944</b>	<b>13,582</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name
	David Simmons
	Margaret Simmons

**CC16a**



**Last year**  
**to the nearest £**

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**Endowment funds**  
to nearest £

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-
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OK

**Endowment funds**  
to nearest £

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-

**Current value (optional)**

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-

**Current value (optional)**

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-
-

**When due (optional)**


Date of approval

18.10.21
18.10.21



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Parochial Church Council of St. John the Baptist Church Hillmorton

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Charity no (if any)

1180245

Set out on pages

1-3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

R B. WATSON

Date:

15.02.2021

Name:

ROGER BURNABY WATSON

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

FCCA

Address:

WHARF FARM, KILSBY LANE  
HILLMORTON, RUGBY  
CV21 4PN