

Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity Church, Blacon for the year ended 31 December 2020



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of the charity: The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, (Without the Walls), Blacon. Known as Holy Trinity, Blacon

Charity number: 1180853

Principal office: Holy Trinity Church Office, Norris Road, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5DZ

Trustees:

1. Rev Christina Upton
2. Rev Louise Mary Annison
3. Mrs. Lynn Wakefield
4. Mr Clifford Jason Clarke
5. Mrs Susan Grocock-Colly
6. Canon Dr Christopher Burkett
7. Mrs Patricia Hughes
8. Mrs June Middleton
9. Mr Kenneth Pemberton
10. Mr Jim Middleton

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of Holy Trinity Church Blacon has the responsibility, together with its incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the adjoining Church Hall and a bungalow at 44 Southway, Blacon, Chester.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is made up of individuals voted by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for a three-year term and also ex-officio members comprising clergy, licensed workers and Deanery Synod representatives.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (INCLUDING PUBLIC BENEFIT)

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity Church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of Holy Trinity Church Blacon and its Church Hall.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

What a strange year 2020 was for everyone, and not least for the life of Holy Trinity Church. It began with so much promise.

The church began the New Year with its new worship pattern (9.30am Traditional Eucharist and 11.30am Contemporary Worship) and was gaining popularity at both times. The 11.30 congregation stayed on in church for lunch, which also proved popular.

The Outreach Project was also blooming. Mondays were a hive of activity with the Art group, knit and natter, and many coming in for soup and bread at lunchtime. Alongside this, we continued with Cooking Made Simple course in the hall kitchen. Tuesday's gardening group was growing, with groups from Bowmere coming to join us.

On Thursdays, we had an Intergenerational Project running during our very popular Playtots Café sessions. It had begun at the end of 2019, but was growing in the early months of 2020 [photo] with residents of



Florence Grogan, Lauren Court and The Willows (on different days) being brought to join in with the toddlers. Then, the Nursing homes suddenly closed in early March, because of the Coronavirus. And before we knew it, the whole Outreach project had to be closed. Sue continued to work for us, joining with the Blacon Action Team work in the hall. We also were able to provide cooked meals for families with activities, delivered to their doors.



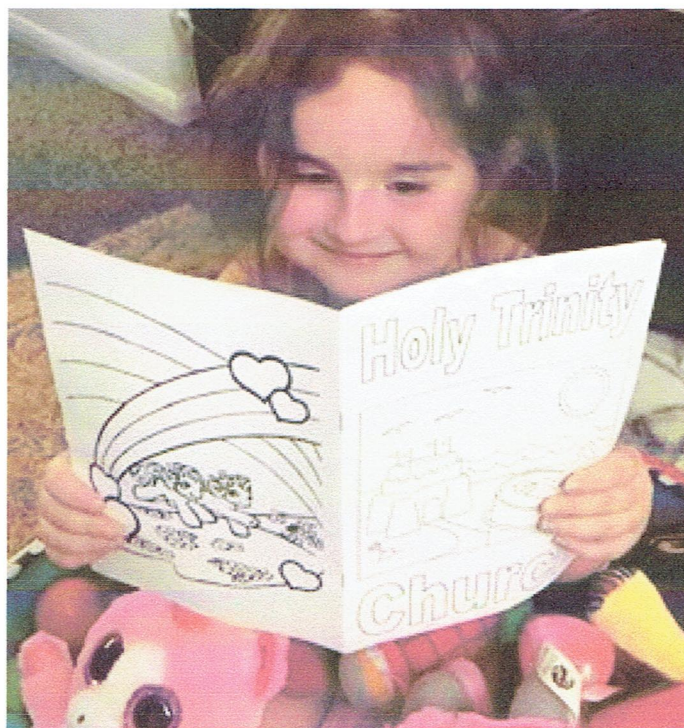
It was one of the saddest days of my life when I was instructed to lock the church and prevent anyone entering – completely the opposite of the welcome we are called to give. But at the same time, the church hall was coming to life in ways we might have only dreamed of before, as the church was able to be a major partner in Blacon Action Team which provided food for those in need in the community at this time of crisis.

With no Sunday worship, how could Holy Trinity continue to 'reach out with Christ'? Various things developed. We began to

send out newsletters, including a 'pastoral letter' each weekend – emailed to those we were able to, and hard copies posted to the others. We began to produce online worship – we created a church You Tube channel (holyltrinityblacon2020) and posted weekly videos.

We were also able to produce videos for the schools, in place of the assemblies we would have otherwise been doing. We learned how to use Zoom, not only for various meetings like PCC or staff prayers, but also we began hosting Evening Prayer at 5pm on Wednesdays, which has been faithfully attended by around half a dozen or so each week. Additionally, Bible Study (which had been held on Thursday afternoons in the Rectory until mid-March) began on Thursday evenings on Zoom, and again has continued most weeks since the summer. Additionally, we attempted to keep in touch with church members at home, through regular telephone calls. Various members of the congregation were asked to keep in touch with a small number of others, and in that way everybody was covered. This has resulted in some good fellowship among church members, in spite of not seeing each other face-to-face for months.

It was July when the first lockdown eased, and churches were allowed for the first time to open. PCC was cautious, so we waited until September before opening for weekly (said) worship ourselves, with half the pews blocked off, a one-way system installed, and hand sanitiser and masks everywhere. We decided to just provide one 'in-person' service a week, at 9.30am, and fortunately, in spite of the second lockdown in November, we have been able to continue that each week to the present day. The only exception was at Christmas when it was lovely to be able to put on a Crib Service on



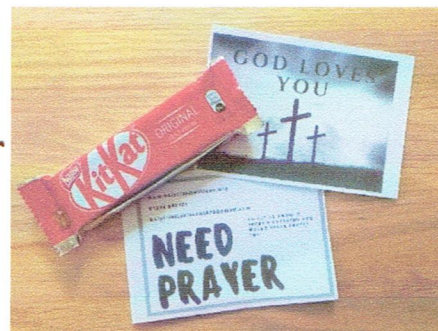
Christmas Eve (albeit smaller than usual), as well as the Midnight Communion, and a Eucharist on Christmas Day.

All that was catering for the needs of existing church members. What about our mission to reach out to others in the community with the love of God? On Easter Sunday, Louise and I went onto Burton Road with a speaker playing a track of 'Thine be the Glory' and we placed Easter Eggs on various bollards and gate posts. This was so popular, that we decided to bless the parish with chocolate every week. We began the habit of doing a prayer walk on Sundays, along the streets designated for prayer that week, and placing along the street, chocolate bars with a card with contact details and saying 'God loves you' (hygienically wrapped in a plastic bag).

This does not compensate for the many people we would have wanted to reach with the Good News of Christ crucified. There would normally have been many hundreds if not thousands of people through our doors for occasional offices, for school services, or for Christmas carol and Christingle services. None of those happened.

We instead reach thousands with practical examples of God's love, through the food we distributed.

2020 has certainly been a different year, but it is one where we seized the opportunities there were, and hopefully those will bear fruit in coming months and years.



Tina Upton

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity (Without The Walls), Blacon

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

A M Hopwood

Andrew Hopwood FCA

c/o 2nd Floor Refuge House
33-37 Watergate Row
Chester
CH1 2LE

11 April 2021

HOLY TRINITY BLACON ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

Parish Activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 TOTAL £	2019 TOTAL £
Giving & Donations	13,014.18	-	13,014.18	17,678.44
Gift Aid	3,787.60	-	3,787.60	3,849.91
PCC Fees	2,415.90	-	2,415.90	2,581.00
Hall Rent	39,790.79	-	39,790.79	40,905.00
Southway Rent	7,051.20	-	7,051.20	5,433.68
Parish Magazine & Printing	2,105.90	-	2,105.90	1,361.82
Other Income	98.55	6.61	105.16	2,341.27
Outreach Project inc Grants	1,207.64	54,147.84	55,355.48	38,245.80
Receipts	69,471.76	54,154.45	123,626.21	112,396.92
Parish Share	35,422.32	-	35,422.32	34,558.32
Ministry Expenses	6,834.53	-	6,834.53	4,923.21
Organist, Choir and Worship	1,438.82	-	1,438.82	6,126.96
Church Costs	5,854.40	-	5,854.40	7,066.24
Parish Admin	14,942.98	-	14,942.98	16,903.58
Hall Costs	5,799.22	-	5,799.22	5,873.53
44 Southway Costs	557.51	-	557.51	1,150.27
Youth Work	85.61	-	85.61	72.72
PCC Donations	750.00	-	750.00	1,000.00
Returning Church Charities money	-	613.38	613.38	-
Outreach Project	6,020.14	58,555.78	64,575.92	37,731.81
Payments	77,705.52	59,169.16	136,874.68	115,406.64
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8,233.76)	(5,014.71)	(13,248.47)	(3,009.72)
Fund Balances Brought Forward	35,391.72	23,229.08	58,620.80	61,630.52
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances Carried Forward	27,157.96	18,214.37	45,372.33	58,620.80
Analysis of Funds				
Church General Account	27,157.96	-	27,157.96	35,391.72
Outreach Project	-	17,798.46	17,798.46	22,206.40
Church Choir Fund	-	415.91	415.91	412.35
Church Charities Account	-	-	-	610.33
	27,157.96	18,214.37	45,372.33	58,620.80
Statement of Assets and Liabilities				
Royal Bank of Scotland Current Account	7,049.92	17,798.46	24,848.38	36,805.44
Church of England Deposit Fund	20,108.04	415.91	20,523.95	21,054.12
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	761.24
	27,157.96	18,214.37	45,372.33	58,620.80

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves Policy

The PCC discussed the following factors in arriving at their reserves policy:

- Money should only be kept in reserve for specific reasons – whilst the Bible clearly indicates that we should not hoard it is also clear that sensible planning for known events and responsibly for others is important.
- A significant portion of the charities income comes from the letting of the hall to the NHS. The rent is paid quarterly. It was therefore felt appropriate to keep three months general running costs (£20k) in reserve.

It is therefore the policy of this charity to keep three months general running costs (£20k) in reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies. Current free reserves stand at £27,157.96.

This policy will be reviewed in twelve months.

Review of Financial Position

Holy Trinity, Blacon accounts break down into four funds.

Fund 1 - Church General Account (Unrestricted)

This fund shows a deficit for the year of £8,233.76. This brings the total unrestricted funds available to £27,157.96 which is above the current reserves policy of £20,000.

Fund 2 - Outreach Project (Restricted)

This fund shows a deficit for the year of £4,407.94. The fund is restricted for the purpose of supporting the work of the community Outreach Project and has a balance at 31 December 2020 of £17,798.46

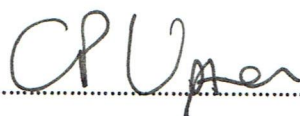
Fund 3 - Church Choir Fund (Restricted)

Other than the addition of a small amount of interest there was no activity on this account. The fund is restricted for choir use, and is used only at discretion of the choir.

Fund 4 - Church Charities Account (Restricted)

Other than the addition of a small amount of interest there was no activity on this account. The fund was returned during the year to the Church Charities and is no longer held by Holy Trinity.

Approved on behalf of the board of Trustees on 11th April 2021



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Rev CP Upton (PCC Chair)