

Vale and Cotswold Edge
St Peter and St Paul Blockley Trustees Report for 2021

Achievements and performance

Blockley PCC has met 7 times since the April 2021 APCM. The PCC has largely met remotely on Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Safeguarding is an agenda item at each PCC meeting and any issues arising are discussed, excluding Standing Committee meetings.

Highlights of the year included:

- This year has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with services on Zoom, with help for people to access this from Ginny Williams Ellis and Sophie Le Metais. Dana thanked Robert Burch and Adrian Beney for technical support, and John Baldwyn and Doreen Robinson for music. Ministry and worship were sustained through the VaCE team through most difficult times, including ongoing work from our Children and Youth Leader. Shared with Bourton in the Hill, our home group became two home groups, plus a study group, and a group exploring the Christian faith. Services returned to the church building in April, including with the choir, following the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and restrictions
- The church continues to serve the local community, for example through VE Day Celebrations, Christmas services/activities, and supporting North Cotswold Foodbank.
- Dana Delap has continued to engage with other local charities, Bromford, social services and the police to care for those in need. The increase in poor mental health in the community led a number of us (including members of the Ministry Enabling Team) to take the Mental Health England Mental Health First Aid course. It has been valuable to both church and community engagement. She is also a trustee of or chair a number of charities which offer support to the most vulnerable in our community. These include educational trusts and Help in Need/Richard Perkins, alms houses and medical charities.
- The church has been trialling *Messy Church Goes Wild* as part of our Open-Door service. This service draws people from across the parishes, and it has been exciting watching this service develop its own musical group. Second Sunday at Six braved the cold church to also grow and develop its own congregation.
- Blockley Church is featuring in case study in Church of England for 'Church in Action'.
- An area of churchyard has been re-wilded with the local school with wildlife boxes and over 50 species of flower and grass growing. This included orchids. We were given a quantity of yellow rattle by Cotswold AONB to plant in both churchyards to keep the grasses from taking over. Bourton on the Hill was used by Gloucester Diocese for an inspirational video about ecological sustainability. (Bishop Robert was not told that the plant he identified as Herb Robert is a weed.)
- There are 72 people in total on the electoral roll, and none have been removed since our last APCM.
- Weddings and christenings were able to resume in church, and the BBC returned to continue filming Father Brown following the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.
- Christmas services were well attended, including a carol service, crib service, midnight mass and Christmas Day communion. Once again live Advent Calendar windows were set up around Blockley.
- The PCC has continued to work on plans for installing a new heating system in the church, and reordering plans to improve accessibility, install a toilet, and provide greater

flexibility for using the nave for community gatherings, hospitality and activities. A consultation with the congregation and wider community were undertaken in October.

Church Wardens' Fabric Report

Work on the installation of the new boilers continued but ended with only partial success. When the new plant was fired up leaks sprang from the old pipes with the result that our new system could not be commissioned. To allow continued (if somewhat chilly) use of the church, electric convactor heaters were purchased as a temporary alternative. An additional mains supply was tapped from the vicarage.

As the boiler crew moved out attention turned to updating the Vestry which was re-decorated throughout. In the Upper Vestry the window was refurbished, access created to long term roof space storage, new floor covering laid, and storage racking installed. Downstairs a self-contained sink unit, additional heating, and new lighting fitted, and finally a new carpet.

The BBC returned to film a further series of Father Brown, although use of the church interior was somewhat less than previous years. The Christmas season also saw a welcome return to normality with fresh green trees atop the tower and in church, courtesy of the Northwick Estate. The overdue Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in late January by Caroline Edwards, a conservation architect working with Acanthus Clews. Her report has yet to be received.

The revision of the Church Inventory was finally tackled with the help of Anne Packer and Rob Willott and is currently being typed up with the aim of adding an additional photographic record. During Dana's sabbatical the normal pattern of services was maintained with the help of Craig, David, Ricarda and Jay, to whom we owe an immense debt of gratitude.

The problem of replacing the churchyard floodlighting has been resolved. Lightmaster Direct kindly donated their time and expertise in giving us a professional design solution resulting in efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting that doesn't pollute the night sky, with a fraction of previous running costs.

The following reports were received from groups within the church:

Safeguarding Report

A document was collated which details the DBS number and completion dates of training for those required to undertake such training. Most training is now available online. There were no referrals to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in 2021. Online paperwork has taken us to level 3 of the parish dashboard, a significant achievement, and we have contributed to the Past Case Review 2.

Bell Ringers

After we were released from the second lockdown in June several of the Bell ringers were reluctant to restart ringing straight away as there was still so much Covid about and the ventilation in the Tower is not good even with the door open.

Regular Thursday practice nights recommenced in the Autumn and our two new ringers have been making good progress ever since, with extra tuition from a ringer in Offenham. We have not been able to return to regular ringing on Sundays before the Services but have rung for the Major Church Festivals, and hopefully with our two new local ringers we will be able to restart. on Sundays.

Children and Youth Leader

Due to the pandemic, government restrictions and guidelines meant much of my workload was held online. School work consisted of leading collective worship via Microsoft Teams, writing Newsletter prayers, and recording short videos based around the value of the term. Church work was divided up into age groups - younger youth, youth and *bedtime church*. All provided continuity and helped to maintain relationships with and among the younger members of our church family.

As restrictions lifted, the level of in person engagement also changed. School started allowing in-person collective worship. To begin with many schools held class collective worship before moving back to whole school worship. Due to COVID numbers increasing within school, collective worship would often return to teams. Towards to end of the year visits took place in 7 out of our 8 schools, with mentoring, hosting collective worship and school clubs. Mindfulness days and transition days for school leavers as well as leavers services took place.

The older youth group meets regularly as a life group to study the bible. Christmas movies night and social gatherings resumed for the children and young people in the VaCE. Community involvement increased as a group of volunteers hosting craft and games at village festivals and gatherings. Ecumenical involvement also began again in Chipping Campden.

Church Choir

By Easter of last year (2021) we were moving back into something like normality and had much pleasure in welcoming our newest members, John Connolly and Laura Shepherd. Although we have enjoyed no celebrations to compare with those of 2019 (Doreen Robinson's BEM), we have had especial joy at singing at two weddings of our own choristers, Beatrice and Andrew, and Meriel and Steve. We sang at two further weddings and one funeral at Blockley and one wedding at Chipping Campden.

The only downside to this period has been the freezing temperatures in church for services and practices. Hot water bottles were much in evidence! The choir's financial balance at 31st Dec. 2021 was £676.38p, our main expenses being music scores, music enlargements and wedding gifts for choristers.

Deanery Synod Report

Like every deanery in the Gloucester Diocese, the North Cotswolds spent much of 2021 framing a deanery strategic plan. Working together as deanery synod, chapter, benefices and parishes, we aim to reshape the mission and ministry of this deanery to be more focussed on our shared mission priorities whilst at the same time reducing our dependence on stipendiary ordained ministry to a level that is sustainable for the long term. Parish giving across the whole North Cotswolds increased and we are now closer than ever to reaching our share target.

Flower Arrangers

With no services for the first part of the year, flowers inside the church were not possible. We have been able to contribute to the reordering project. We have been very lucky to have added Jane Sked to our team. She is a professional florist with a particular interest in sustainability. She was able to create beautiful sustainable floristry arches around the door for Christmas and Easter. Because of Covid our team has been affected, a number of members have not felt able to continue as volunteers. We do need to build up a new generation of helpers who would like to contribute and are interested in sustainability.

We have continued to change floristry practices in church by reducing and finally eliminating the use and consumption of plastic and other materials which are toxic to the environment. We have begun to move away from the purchase of imported flowers for our regular

services. We are conscious of damaging air miles associated with out of season and exotic blooms.

We try to source foliage and flowers locally. Claire has been busy preparing and growing a limited number of flowers which can be used at various times of the year. This may not be possible for special occasions like weddings where particular colours or blooms are requested. If florists are employed they are asked not to use floral foam, and if they insist, they are asked to remove it immediately after the occasion. Local flowers grown in allotments in Blockley and Moreton have been donated by kind individuals for Harvest Festival and a beautiful local wedding.

Giving and Mission

Our thanks go to Robert Willott for an enlightening talk on Save The Children charity. This resulted in the sum of £1,070 being sent to the charity.

Home Groups

Despite the lockdowns, our home group continued to meet on alternate Monday evenings, as we moved our meetings onto Zoom. This worked well, enabling us to share screens, watch videos, and use breakout rooms. It also had the added benefit of enabling Vanessa Zimmerman, who now lives in Sweden, to join with us. After a long summer break, we reconvened in September, starting the new term with a bring-and-share supper. Dana joined us for this and gave us a fascinating introduction to Paul's letters to Colossians and Philemon, which we had chosen as our next study. The remaining meetings of the year were in person, but with Vanessa still joining us on Zoom, which has been great! Average attendance is generally around 6- 8, although we have reached 10 on occasions.

Ministry Enabling Team

The Ministry Team met with Dana at the vicarage on as soon as they were able after lockdown ended. We shared hopes and dreams for the future of the church and spent time in prayer, asking for Gods leading and guiding in the growing of his family in this village. Discussion took place as to who would be responsible for various tasks during Dana's sabbatical, namely the running of the Open Door service and the liaising with clergy when enquiries were made re baptisms, funerals etc.

Open the Book

There has been no Open the Book in-person collective worship since lockdown in March 2020. However, a number of videos were produced of Open the Book stories which were shared with Blockley school in the spring of 2021. We kept in contact with Ann Barry, the Head of Blockley School; she is very enthusiastic about our resuming, but Covid 19 has meant that safety remained a concern throughout the year.

The church continued to make charitable donations.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each PCC meeting and any issues arising are discussed. Our policies are on the website www.blockleychurch.org.uk.

Vale and Cotswold Edge Team

St Peter and St Paul

Blockley with Aston Magna

Annual Accounts 2021

Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- 1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - * to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- 2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

Name.....

Date.....

Address

ALAN GREEN
WILLOW TREE HOUSE
DITCHFORD HILL
GL56 9GS

ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
			TOTAL	TOTAL
INCOME				
Giving				
Parish Giving Scheme	£20,841		£20,841	£18,168
Other giving and donations	£7,102	£5,000	£12,102	£11,588
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	£4,687		£4,687	£6,647
Church activities				
Father Brown income from BBC	£10,650		£10,650	£0
Father Brown income from merchandise sales	£1,545		£1,545	£1,060
The Voice sales and advertising	£3,482		£3,482	£3,161
Legacy	£2,000		£2,000	£0
Parochial Fees income	£5,308		£5,308	£2,696
Church Room lettings/nursery garden rent	£168		£168	£0
Sundry income	£238		£238	£0
Investment income				
Interest & investment income	£947	£2,257	£3,204	£4,208
Income from extraordinary activities				
Grant re VAT refund		£2,965	£2,965	£0
Donation from the Brownes			£0	£1,000
Appeal for Save the Children		£1,070	£1,070	£0
Total incoming resources	£56,968	£11,292	£68,260	£48,528
EXPENDITURE				
Outward Giving				
Donations		-£1,020	-£1,020	-£2,368
Running expenses				
Parish Share	-£30,277		-£30,277	-£30,277
Minor repairs & routine maintenance	-£5,020		-£5,020	-£4,803
Clergy expenses	-£2,734		-£2,734	-£2,065
Heating & lighting	-£2,706		-£2,706	-£3,356
The Voice costs	-£2,770		-£2,770	-£2,655
Conservator fees re Father Brown filming			£0	£0
Father Brown merchandise costs	-£823		-£823	-£389
Insurance	-£2,416		-£2,416	-£2,385
Fundraising costs			£0	£0
Parochial Fees paid to Diocese			£0	-£1,605
Music costs, including weddings	-£690		-£690	-£489
Administration costs	-£646		-£646	-£1,964
Flowers			£0	-£152
Youth work costs	-£3,339		-£3,339	-£334
Sundry costs	-£2,528		-£2,528	-£1,368
	-£53,949	-£1,020	-£54,969	-£54,210
Extraordinary expenditure				
Refund of donation from Abacus (Automaton)		-£1,500	-£1,500	£0
Reordering project		-£27,083	-£27,083	-£23,292
Total resources expended	-£53,949	-£29,603	-£83,552	-£77,502
Surplus/(Deficit) before gains	£3,019	-£18,311	-£15,292	-£28,974
Transfers between funds	-£500	£500	£0	£0
Net outgoing resources before gains	£2,519	-£17,811	-£15,292	-£28,974
Gains on investment assets	£2,721	£6,485	£9,206	£4,114
Net movement in funds	£5,240	-£11,326	-£6,086	-£24,860
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2021	£89,848	£214,087	£303,935	£328,795
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2021	£95,088	£202,761	£297,849	£303,935

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ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
(CONTINUED)

2021	2020
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Total funds are represented by:

Lloyds Treasurers' account	£88,906	£69,926
Lloyds Instant Saver	£5,080	£4,604
Lloyds re Voice	£4,231	£1,304
CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.	£45,946	£39,089
CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.	£18,686	£16,337
Skipton Building Society	£50,000	£86,311
United Bank Trust	£85,000	£86,364
	£297,849	£303,935

Accounts approved at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 7th March, 2022.

Robert Greenstock (Churchwarden)

Marie Hildreth (Churchwarden)

Philip Gee (Treasurer)

ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA

Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. The easing of the restrictions relating to the Covid 19 pandemic meant that it was possible to resume services in church part way through the year and the BBC was able to resume filming of Father Brown giving a much needed boost to income.
3. Restricted funds are those raised explicitly for specific purposes such as for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church and its contents and for funds resulting from special appeals. These funds can only be used for these purposes.

The movements on the funds in 2021 were:

	<u>1st January, 2021</u>		<u>31st December, 2021</u>	
Restricted Funds:				
Chancel	30,032		31,259	
Robinson Organ	5,257		5,971	
Automaton	5,792		4,528	
Bells	319		332	
Reordering	--		5,000	
Other	<u>172,687</u>	214,087	<u>155,671</u>	202,761
Unrestricted Funds		<u>89,848</u>		<u>95,088</u>
		<u>£303,935</u>		<u>£297,849</u>

Each year £500 is credited to the Organ Fund. This is a donation from Doreen Robinson in lieu of notional payments that she would receive for playing the organ in regular services.

A phased scheme of a major refurbishment of the church is in progress and it is expected that the funds held by the church at the year end will be needed for this purpose.

4. Father Brown merchandise has been sold again this year, mainly through Blockley Shop; the easing of the Covid 19 restrictions has resulted in a welcome increase in sales compared with 2020. We continue to be grateful to Sam and his staff; the Shop receives part of the proceeds of each item sold.
5. A total of £5,020 was spent on minor repairs, routine maintenance and replacing items of routine use, such as candles.

6. The parish continued to pay an administrator who worked with Dana one day a week. Stacy left to take up employment elsewhere at the end of January, 2021 and was replaced by Sophie in June.
7. Amy, a Youth, Children and School's leader is employed by the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team and the costs are shared with other churches in the Team. The figure of £3,339 relates to £1,522 for 2020 and £1,817 for 2021. Contributions are paid monthly by standing order but for unknown reasons the bank ceased to make these payments in the early part of 2020. As a result a 'catch-up' payment was made in early 2021.
8. The amount of £27,083 relates to further expenditure on the installation of a new heating system for the church. This is part the first stage of the phased scheme of a major refurbishment of the church mentioned in Note 3 above.

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Signed.....

Name.....ALAN GREEN.....

Date.....9th MAY 2022.....

Address WILLOW TREE HOUSE
DITCHFORD HILL
GL56 9GS