

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS, ELMDON, DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

England & Wales - Charity number 1182226

## Details

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**Other names** ELMDON PCC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2019-02-27

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

## Contact

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**Address** Elmdon Rectory  
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**Website** <https://www.elmdonchurch.org/>

## Activities

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

**Activities:** The charity is a Church of England parish church holding regular religious services

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Birmingham City
- Solihull

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£88,101	£88,579	-	-
2023-12-31	£99,347	£156,413	-	-
2022-12-31	£63,619	£56,820	-	-
2021-12-31	£64,148	£84,605	-	-
2020-12-31	£71,382	£100,934	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Rev Rebekah Amy Clark</b>	Chair	2023-05-23
Alan Francis Doyle		2019-02-27
Ann Maureen Davis		2025-05-20
CHERYL ANN DOYLE		2018-04-24
Christine Valerie Lesley Arnsby		2019-02-27
Jean Ann Davies		2025-07-08
Karen Christine Matthews		2019-02-27
Lesley Marion Huss		2019-02-27
Lynda Bird		2025-05-20
Martin Alan Hewings		2022-05-24
Richard William Salt		2025-05-20
Sarah Helen Leckie		2021-05-18
Susan Jane Kimber		2021-05-18

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# Accounts

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# Annual report for 2024

[www.elmdonchurch.org](http://www.elmdonchurch.org)  
[@elmdonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/elmdonchurch)

Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,  
to be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church.

# Church Information

Address **Elmdon Church, Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ**

Rector **Revd Bekah Clark**

Licensed Readers **Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews**

Churchwarden **Sue Kimber**

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met seven times in person during 2024: six regular meetings, and one meeting immediately after the APCM to appoint PCC officers. Further decisions were taken by email, in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. The role of the PCC remains one of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

## **PCC members**

Revd Bekah Clark Chair

Carol Janes (until May 2024) Churchwarden, ex officio member  
Sue Kimber (from May 2024) Churchwarden, ex officio member

Karen Matthews Reader, appointed by the 2024 APCM

Christine Arnsby Deanery Synod, ex officio member  
Cheryl Doyle Deanery Synod, ex officio member  
Jamie Oldham (resigned January 2025) Deanery Synod, ex officio member

## **Elected Members:**

To serve until APCM in 2025: Alan Doyle  
Martin Hewings  
Anne Milne  
To serve until APCM in 2026: Sarah Leckie  
David Maguire (resigned March 2025)  
Vacancy  
To serve until APCM in 2027: Lesley Huss  
Graham Smye (resigned December 2024)  
Lynda Bird

## **Officers appointed by the PCC, 2024 - 2025**

Safeguarding Lesley Huss  
PCC Treasurer Alan Doyle  
PCC Secretary Christine Arnsby  
Lay Vice-Chair Graham Smye (until December 2024)  
Sue Kimber (from January 2025)  
Parish Identify Verifier Lesley Huss  
Electoral Roll Officer Jamie Oldham (until January 2025)  
Richard Huss (from January 2025)

# PCC and Diocese

## Rector's Introduction

As I reflect on 2024 in the life of Elmdon Church, there is much to give thanks for. One of the things that brings me enormous joy is seeing others exercise and grow in their God-given gifts, and 2024 saw a number of people step into new roles and take on new responsibilities. Whilst it often feels as though 'the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few' (Matthew 9.37), as we've asked the Lord of the harvest to provide (verse 38), the Lord has indeed provided for us - a new churchwarden, a new Kids-in-Christ team leader, new occasional vergers and new people on many of our teams. I wholeheartedly believe that we are all ministers of the Gospel and daily delight in the gifts and skills we have amongst us at Elmdon Church, and the blessing and privilege of sharing in ministry and leadership.

Sunday sermons usually follow a series, with sermons in 2024 on 'God's Grace in the Wilderness' (Numbers), 'Luke: God News for Everyone', 'I believe...' (The Apostles' Creed) and 'Instructions to God's People from the Epistles' (Family Services). Average Sunday attendance was around 50, with all generations represented most weeks.

After Easter, we reordered our time together, beginning with refreshments at 10.30 am, with our service at 11 am, to enable service leaders and preachers to be at both St Mary's Hobs Moat and Elmdon on the same Sunday. The transition has been smooth and thanks is due to the whole church family and all the Sunday teams for adjusting so graciously. The introduction of ChurchSuite is helping us to keep in touch with people and in the autumn term we saw slightly higher numbers of children attending Kids-in-Christ. Both our Sunday service and 'Tuesdays at 2' welcomed newcomers and visitors throughout the year.

We once again held an Annual Memorial Service, inviting all the loved ones of those for whom we've taken a funeral or burial of ashes to the service. The service was again well-attended by over 50 people.

We know that apart from God, we can do nothing (John 15.5) and our joint monthly prayer meeting, with St Mary's, Hobs Moat, continued throughout 2024. The PCC agreed prayer as one of our missional priorities, and progress has already been made with a new 'prayer tree' in the Wilberforce Hall. We had a very encouraging retreat day led by Roger Jones, of ReSource, in October, which was attended by around 25 people and focused on just being in God's presence.

Developing our Children's, Youth and Families Ministry was also agreed as a missional priority, and following on from the success of our first 'Light Party', which we repeated in 2024, we introduced an Easter family event, which was very well attended, and a new Advent family event. 2024 saw the strengthening of our team of volunteers and we are praying for numerical growth in the number of families and children within our church family. The PCC also agreed to explore starting something new for young people.

Assemblies took place in Damson Wood and Valley schools, and it was wonderful to be able to welcome Year 2 from both schools to church for our 'Encounter

Christmas' trail. It was Damson Wood's first visit to church and we were delighted that they were keen to come back at Easter.

As I look back, more was accomplished in 2024 than I realised! Although I have highlighted some specific events here, much of our ministry and mission happens in individual conversations and unseen acts of kindness, as church members live out their calling as disciples of Jesus Christ amongst the people and in the places they spend their time. Equipping people to live for Jesus on their 'frontlines' is another of our missional priorities.

People often come to a service or event, or come back to another service or an event, through a personal invitation. And so the greatest thanks of all is due to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who has extended to us the greatest invitation of all, that we in turn might extend this invitation to others.

*Bekah Clark*

## **Warden's Report**

My first year as Warden has been quite an eye opener to the life of Elmdon church and the number of things which take each week to enable things to run smoothly. My thanks go out to all the teams and especially to Richard, Lesley, Cheryl and Alan who have offered invaluable help and advice during the year, especially during the Rector's absence.

During November we produced an updated inventory of the church fabric and contents. This, along with the logbook are now available in a digital format. The quinquennial inspection which was completed in November, and the Fabric team are currently absorbing in order to take appropriate action.

We continue to progress with plans for a new roof over the extension and to replace and upgrade the paving in the church courtyard.

The churchyard maintenance team have continued to keep the churchyard looking attractive which is much appreciated by those who visit and enjoy the quiet surroundings.

All regular maintenance was carried out during the year and my thanks go to the cleaning teams who ensure the building is clean and tidy each week.

*Sue Kimber, Churchwarden*

## **PCC Secretary's Report**

Under the Church Representation Rules, we are entitled to nine elected PCC members. In addition, our Rector, Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members, any Readers appointed by the APCM, and any co-opted members serve on the PCC.

In May 2025, three elected members come to the end of their term. Last year we carried over one vacancy, and during the year one Deanery Synod member and two elected PCC members resigned. At the APCM we therefore intend to elect one Deanery Synod member and up to six PCC members.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its membership since the 2024 APCM were Graham Smye (Lay Vice Chair, until December 2024), Sue Kimber (Churchwarden), Christine Arnsby (Secretary), Alan Doyle (Treasurer) and Revd. Bekah Clark (Rector).

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in 'the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

*Christine Arnsby, PCC Secretary*

## Electoral Roll

Every sixth year, an entirely new electoral roll must be prepared, and with this process completed there are now 58 names on the new roll. Of these, 26 live within and 32 outside the parish boundary.

This compares to 66 names on the roll this time last year. During the year we mourned the loss of Allan Jones, Val Williams and Joy Hoban. Nine of those on the new roll have joined this year for the first time, or have rejoined after a gap.

*Richard Huss, Electoral Roll Officer*

## Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted and complies with the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy, Promoting a Safer Church (2017), and the practice guidance issued by the Church of England and Birmingham Diocese.

### **Elmdon Church is committed to:**

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting those with any responsibility for the under 18s and vulnerable adults within the church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

### **Policies**

During 2024 we updated the contact details in our Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse, and reviewed our Safeguarding Policy and Procedure. These are available on the church website and on the noticeboard in the church corridor.

Our Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy Statement has been updated in line with changes to the periods when convictions, cautions and other penalties become 'spent', which affects what we are entitled to know about when recruiting ex-offenders.

We are in the process of creating a Lone Working Policy. The aim of this will be to minimise instances of lone working by Rector and volunteers, and also to outline arrangements for helping to keep everyone safe in situations where lone working is necessary and unavoidable.

### **Training**

Those in the church who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults are now trained in awareness of domestic abuse. In our context this means the Kids in Christ team, who have all now completed this training.

All our training is currently up-to-date, including the basic safeguarding training which all our volunteers are required to do. Thanks are extended to all for engaging with the training, helping to make the church a safer place for everyone.

### **Responding to concerns**

Any safeguarding concerns raised during the course of the year have been responded to in accordance with our policies and guidance from the Diocesan safeguarding team.

### **Finally...**

Safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church family. Therefore, if you have a concern about anything you are encouraged to contact the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, even if you are unsure whether or not it is a safeguarding issue.

*Lesley Huss, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator*  
[safeguarding@elmdonchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@elmdonchurch.org)

## **Fabric & Buildings**

We currently have responsibility for two properties, one of which is no longer used. Our main church building is in the middle of Elmdon Park and is the venue for our Sunday service as well as all baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Our finance and fabric group, consisting of Bekah Clark, Alan Doyle, Richard Huss and Martin Hewings, has been working on fabric matters during the year. The roof of the 1970s extension to the church building now requires replacement and after considering options we are progressing a faculty application for this, as well as to lift and relay the paving in the courtyard at the entrance to the church building.

Also during the year the church inventory was checked and revised, a major exercise over several days, and the log book brought up to date. Our church inspector Derek Bate carried out the Quinquennial Inspection of the church building in late 2024, and with the report recently received the group will need to review the recommended repairs and works to be carried out over the next few years.

The site in Coppice Road remains vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees who hold property on behalf of (and acting in the interests of) Parochial Church Councils in the diocese. The Elmdon Parochial Church Council owns the

building itself, and are the managing trustees. Unfortunately, the building was broken into on a number of occasions during the year and has been secured in line with insurance requirements. We are exploring options on its long-term future.

## Deanery Synod

**Elmdon Lay Representatives:** Christine Arnsby, Cheryl Doyle, Jamie Oldham (who retired from the role in January 2025). Our electoral roll total qualifies us for three seats until Spring 2026.

### **4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - St. Mary's Church, Acocks Green.**

The Ven. Gordon Steele led the meeting where we heard from Pathways Development Manager, Jerome Turner, Caroline Egan Assistant Diocesan Environmental officer and Ben Smith, Net Zero Carbon Manager. Anyone in parishes with an interest in environmental issues, was also invited, regardless of whether they were elected deanery synod members.

We heard how **Pathways** could offer help to subscribers, both Clergy and Laity, interested in developing their life of service in the Anglican Church. He could recommend modules to church members if we noticed anything of interest to us and could forward suggestions of any topics we felt were missing.

**Ben Smith, Net Zero Carbon Manager**, gave an overview of the climate crisis, the Church of England's commitment to Net Carbon Zero by 2030 (NZC 2030) and why Christians should act now as the solution was still available to us. He said the current focus for the Diocesan team was on identifying issues across the Diocese and starting to make steps towards the goal of NZC 2030. The start, he said, was for every parish to sign up to Eco Church and try to improve its green credentials, registering their carbon footprint on the Diocesan web site (Elmdon has a bronze award and registers every year), planning our journey to NZC 2030. Grant funding of up to £5,000 on a sliding scale for 'Quick Wins', including improvements to heating, lighting, insulation, electricity supply upgrades and temporary heating in certain circumstances may be available and the team were willing and able to advise parishes on their journey.

### **8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - St. Edburgha's Church, Yardley**

We were introduced to our new Area Dean, Revd. Tony Rindl, who spoke about his past and present life, from his early years in Marston Green, worshipping with his parents in St. Edburgha's, his many years of ministry in various locations until his recent return to Marston Green with his two step-daughters. His wife soon relocated once her work was transferred to the Midlands, and together they enjoy being closer to his brother who lives in Bourneville.

We then heard from **Karen Preece**, Birmingham Diocese Board of Finance (BDBF) **Director of Finance**, explaining the challenging state of finances for the Diocese and how our Common Funds were invested into supporting the life and ministry of the Church across the Diocese. Birmingham is one of the poorest Diocese in the country and although donations and support have been given in the past by the Church of England, outgoings continue to exceed income and funds kept in reserve for mission have needed to be used to cover the shortfall. Karen and her colleague, Sonia Hudson, announced a new and less complicated method for calculating the Common Fund which has, for Elmdon, resulted in a slight reduction in our contributions for 2025. That said, with so much pressure on parishes across the

Diocese, the Common Fund is most likely to increase again next year. Karen and Sonia then answered all our questions.

### **11<sup>th</sup> February – Knowle Parish Church Hall**

**Caroline Merry, Director of Place for Hope (PfH)** gave a brief overview of what had led to her becoming part of PfH initiative, including empathising with people in foreign countries traumatised by war and its dreadful after-effects, sharing in tears and feelings of devastation and grief in silence before God.

We may not live in a war zone, she said, but we do all live in conflict areas in our communities or churches. Violence was embedded in our society. When the idea that someone has less value than others is coupled with power, horrendous things happen. If we don't want to live a violent life, we have to be counter-cultural. Non-violence can be seen as passive, weak, ineffective. We don't have to agree with someone before we are able to accept and love them, yet let them know that what they are doing is wrong. As Christians we have been shown a better way by Jesus and can learn his better way through Bible reading and prayer. Silence before God had enabled her to pick herself up and start again, living better than before. PfH works with the Church across the UK.

If we encounter confrontation, we should ask what was behind our differences when we notice them. Walking away only delays the inevitable conflict. Ask to talk over any differences. Jesus brought non-violence to change us through situations. We may not come out of it in full agreement but we can remain in a good, healthy relationship after considerate open discussion. Where we step in to prevent harm it doesn't change anything. It stops the situation escalating but only prevents further harm. Conflict Resolution gets people together to understand one another and find a way through. Power dynamics needed to be recognised and a better way found to prevent another situation. Transformation looks at what was behind the issue, putting things in place to resolve it. PfH conducts faith-based conflict transformation in a spiritual place although recognises that some conflicts are unable to be resolved by any method or tool.

**Steph Haynes, Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and Sarah Rose, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** started by saying they spend most of their day dealing with conflict resolution so please contact them if we needed help with it. They were able to form a safety plan; to take over if a person came into our church with known history as they also needed a place to worship.

Sarah said Dashboard, a system designed to help parishes deal with Safeguarding had proved helpful to many parishes. Lesley Huss looks after ours. As a result Elmdon is well on top of things, compared to other parishes which proved invaluable early in 2025. The 'HUB', a new extension to Dashboard, was being designed to deal with DBS checks and Safeguarding training, which should automatically update our parish's records for Lesley.

**Nate Glover, Children and Families Missioner (CFM)**, introduced himself, saying anyone could contact him via Tammy Tearoe if they needed his help.

The Ven. **Phelim O'Hare, Archdeacon of Aston**, introduced himself and said his aim was to be visible and available and was trying to hold onto space if we needed his help.

Our next meeting will be held on 3rd June 2025 in Burney Lane, hearing how the Diocese will have, by then, submitted a bid to the Church of England Central Board of Finance for additional funding for ministry and mission.

## Life at Elmdon Church

### Kids in Christ

We have eight children on the Kids in Christ register. We have 3 leaders and 5 helpers. We recently welcomed Maisy and June to the team and it is good to have them both on board. The children who attend, enjoy learning about Jesus and have the opportunity to pray, read the bible and make crafts which they can take home. We are very grateful to Ann Davis and Jean Davis for their help with the crafts when we hold Sunday afternoon sessions around Christmas and Easter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support since accepting the role of Kids In Christ Leader. We all pray that this small and friendly group will grow and that more children will begin to know the love of Christ in their lives.

*Lynda Bird, Kids in Christ Leader*

### Family Service

The monthly Family Service provides an opportunity for the whole church family, from the youngest to the oldest to all be able to worship God and learn together. We aim in each service to provide for a variety of learning styles, to help us all to respond to God's word, including more creative/craft activities. During 2024 our theme was "Instructions to God's People from the Epistles".

*Richard Huss*

### Music

Music is central to so much that we do as a church. In Colossians 3:16 we're instructed to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

We aim to pick songs that are singable by our congregation and that will help us all to express our faith and our praise of God joyfully and musically. As we introduce newer songs, we are aiming to select those with biblically-faithful lyrics and singable melodies that will work in our context and with our resources. Our hope is always to pick hymns and songs that fit with the theme of the service and Bible reading, whilst keeping the church familiar with a core repertoire of music in a variety of styles.

An innovation in 2024 was reintroducing the singing of the Psalms in our services - again, see Colossians 3:16 - primarily using well-known hymn tunes and metrical versions of the words. Finding good resources for this is sometimes a challenge as we work through the Psalter, but well worthwhile. I commend to you the upcoming "Psalm Roar" event in Shrewsbury.

We were pleased in 2024 to be able to use live music in church almost every Sunday, and to use our band on a monthly basis. On Sundays when we are still singing along to recorded music, this is normally because our musicians are required to be serving elsewhere instead. Everyone involved with the music also serves on other teams within the church.

My heartfelt thanks to all involved in this ministry. Do get in touch if you'd be interested in finding out more about how you can help and what would be involved in joining us.

*Richard Huss*

## **Connect Groups**

Connect groups are small groups which meet during the week for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. Currently there are 3 Connect groups with 20 members drawn from Elmdon and St Mary's Hobs Moat. Two meet on Zoom and one in person and there is opportunity to meet both in the evening and the daytime.

Connect groups are a place to share life's ups and downs with other Christians in a deeper way than is possible on a Sunday and to be supported and encouraged as a disciple of Jesus. Being a member is one of the best ways to feel part of the church family and current members recommend it as an opportunity to share news, ask hard questions and pray in a safe space.

Each group follows its own programme and in 2024/5 Bible studies covered included Ecclesiastes, Habakkuk, the 'I am' sayings of John, Old Testament characters, The Apostles Creed, Luke and Colossians.

We have been encouraged this year by a number of new members joining so, please speak to Sue or Bekah if you would like to try out a group.

## **Tuesdays at Two**

During 2024 the Tuesday afternoon service continued with variable attendance until, after discussion with Bekah our rector, this new name was chosen and the format reorganised slightly for its restart after the August break.

The 'service' is actually a group discussion around the Bible reading and sermon from the previous Sunday and is appreciated by the 5-6 people who attend each week.

We usually start with a welcome followed by a hymn chosen by someone present, an opening prayer and reading of the scripture to be discussed. Our discussions lead into a time of prayer when members can bring their concerns for themselves, family, friends or any other issues they may have. We also include requests on the Prayer Tree, designed and developed by two members over the past year. Gathering our prayers together with the Lord's Prayer, we conclude with a final hymn and the words of The Grace, followed by refreshments. Musical accompaniment to the hymns is provided by two members who play clarinet or guitar.

We offer hospitality to anyone who may come into the church hall where we meet. In the past we have had a couple of visits from two Park Rangers, two parents seeking baptism for a child and occasionally, family and friends following the Internment of ashes in the churchyard.

*Margaret Thomas, Leader of Tuesdays at Two*

## **Open Church**

We have continued to open the church every Sunday, from 2 till 3.30 pm in the winter and 2 till 4 pm in the summer to welcome people in and to have some refreshment. This is offered free of charge as an example of the church's hospitality, although donations freely offered are welcome.

Many have come in at different times: families out walking in the park, rambling groups, those visiting graves, church members and friends. We have come to know some regulars too. Some come and like to sit quietly and think, some ask questions about the history of the church, others just want some company.

We have been able to offer refreshments to helpers and visitors to our new programme of occasional family social events held in the worship area, such as the Light Party and Easter Crafts.

Opportunity is often taken to increase the use of the building for other things at the same time and take advantage of a drink and a cake, such as help with required training, conversations with bereaved families following interment of ashes, wedding couples and baptism enquiries, small meetings and setting up equipment or putting up decorations. Some have a game of draughts and sometimes the piano is played. In summary, all are welcome.

*Cheryl Doyle*

## **Joint Monthly Prayer Meeting**

First Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm in St. Mary's Chapel.

Revd. Bekah Clark mostly led the united prayer meetings for members of both churches, with occasional leadership from members of St. Mary's and Elmdon, especially since January 2025. Meetings usually start and end with a song but vary considerably according to who is leading. On average about 10 people attend each month with the breadth and depth of prayer knowing no limit, from praying for each other to praying for worldwide disasters as members feel led by the Lord.

We continue to encourage more people to come along and join in, whether speaking out their prayers or silently joining in as others lead them in prayer.

*Rob Dean*

## Churchyard

The Churchyard team continued their valuable contribution to the up-keep of the grounds. Unfortunately, the team has been smaller in the last year due to a change in people's circumstances but we will continue doing what we can

We keep an eye on the grass in the older part of the churchyard. In 2024 the PCC agreed to Peter Hobson cutting it back annually although I believe he has moved out of the area, so we will have to see how things progress.

*Sarah Leckie, Churchyard Team Leader*

## Mission Support Group

### **Crosslinks - Maria "Emi" Fernandez**

Crosslinks is an Anglican missionary society which enables partnerships with all churches, denominations and networks which share its convictions. Crosslinks also supports and enables the training of pastor/teachers and evangelists in less well-off countries, through their BEST (Bursaries Enabling Strategic Training) programme. Under this programme we have been supporting Emi Fernandez in her studies at The Centre for Pastoral Studies (CEP), Santiago, Chile. Our commitment was to support Emi through prayer and financial giving, in the amount of £600 per annum, for three years.

Sadly, we were advised by Crosslinks earlier this year that Emi had suffered a miscarriage, losing the twin babies that were expected in February, and she had made the decision not to carry on with her studies. At the suggestion of Crosslinks, we transferred our financial support to Emi's husband, Tore, who is expecting to complete his studies with CEP by the end of 2025.

We continue to uplift both Emi and Tore in prayer.

### **Wycliffe Bible Translators - Gift and Kathryn Asiku**

We also partner with Gift and Kathryn Asiku, working for Wycliffe Bible translators in Uganda. Gift serves as Language Programmes Coordinator and Kathryn as Literacy Coordinator, supporting Wycliffe's vision through overseeing and facilitating Bible translation and literacy activities in local languages.

They send us regular prayer and news updates, and in turn they pray for us as a church here in Elmdon. We were blessed to have them visit us in January 2025, taking part in the service and spending time chatting with us over lunch.

Highlights of 2024 include:

- Kathryn continued implementing the literacy project "Let's Read Together" in the Lunyole and Lugwere speaking communities. Children's reading skills have improved, adults have been challenged to read their own language, enjoyment of reading has been fostered, and children are attending school and church more regularly.
- Kathryn continued overseeing the production of literacy materials, including animal picture dictionaries, calendars and children's reading apps.

- Gift continued overseeing and supporting Old Testament translation in six languages, which have made tremendous progress over the year.
- Gift trained and supported the translation team leaders in using reporting software to help them track progress.
- As a member of Wycliffe's leadership team in Uganda, Gift contributed towards the 'localisation' of their partner organisation in Uganda, with Ugandans now responsible for overseeing the work there.

### **Ripple Effect**

Ripple Effect works with farming families in six African countries so they can learn more, grow more and sell more. Rural Africa is rich with opportunity: with resourceful communities and land from which food and futures can grow. But families face poverty that is extreme, unjust, and worst of all, unnecessary. The charity is creating a ripple effect of positive change in rural Africa. It starts with bringing farmers together to learn new skills and share knowledge, so they can improve their livelihoods and thrive. Each farmer who works with Ripple Effect promises to share what they know and what they have with their families and communities, which enables thousands to experience the benefits.

As a church we have raised many thousands of pounds over the years we have been involved with the charity, by collecting small change and from occasional donations. Thank you to all who have given so faithfully and who continue to do so. For those new to Elmdon Church, there is a basket in the Wilberforce Hall where you can deposit your small change. For further information, please speak to Eli Malkin.

We have also joined Elmdon Church with the Ripple Effect Community Garden Twinning scheme for a donation of £120, which is based on the cost of providing three years' training in sustainable agriculture to two families who are part of one of their projects in rural Africa. Please also visit [www.rippleeffect.org](http://www.rippleeffect.org) where you can find some uplifting stories about the farmers who have benefited from their association with Ripple Effect.

### **Helping Hands**

Renewal Helping Hands, based at Renewal Church Centre, has a ministry of giving food, toiletries and other essentials to the most vulnerable in Solihull and neighbouring Birmingham areas. Their ethos is to facilitate needy families and individuals to live independent and fulfilling lives through donations of food and finance during difficult times. For many people just receiving food will not address the various complex and interlinked issues in their lives. For that reason, it works with other agencies to provide a full package of support as just one step in the process of meeting the needs of those in crisis. Since COVID-19 hundreds of food parcels have been delivered but demand is still increasing. They also partner with Age UK to deliver to the elderly in need across Solihull.

Elmdon's Church members regularly supply long life and canned foods, personal hygiene items and seasonal treats at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. All donations are delivered weekly to the team at Renewal Helping Hands who gratefully receive and distribute them. Anyone in need is invited to apply for aid and any recipients are monitored by the Charity.

### **Occasional donations**

On the recommendation of the Mission Support Group, the PCC have also made some one-off donations through the year in support of God's work elsewhere:

- **Dan and Miriam**, who were part of our church family for a couple of years in the early 2020's, have been studying at All Nations Christian College in preparation for being sent overseas as missionaries with People International. £3000 was given towards the cost of their initial training.
- **ReSource** - supporting local churches in spiritual renewal. Their Alongside Scheme supports church leaders with a trained companion who meets with them regularly in a mentoring type relationship. We made a donation of £250 in support of ReSource's mission, and plan for this to be an annual recurring donation.
- **Manchester Christian Unions Carol Service** - Connor Huss, former member of Elmdon Church and currently Christian Union president at the Royal Northern College of Music, had invited a donation towards the running costs of the annual carol service, to enable students to attend free of charge. A £500 donation was given.

*Richard & Lesley Huss, Eli Malkin and Rob Dean, Mission Support Group*

## **Hatchford Brook Churches Together**

Member churches include: Lyndon Methodist; Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG); St. Giles, Sheldon; St. Thomas Moore; Sheldon Community Church (SCC) and St. Mary's Hobs Moat besides ourselves. Other churches meet in the area but do not participate in HBCT activities.

Little has changed over the past year, either in membership or the activities we enjoy seasonally each year, despite the fact that we have ceased to be a member of Churches Together UK. We no longer need a formal committee or funds to continue sharing the love of Jesus as a visible united witness of faith in Jesus to dispel the myths and confusion among members and outsiders caused by our separateness and differences in worship style.

We continue seeking to fulfil Christ's command in John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." We continue to support each other in prayer and other ways in order to win people for Christ.

Carol singing by a group of about 12 inside the entrance to Tesco's on Lyndon Road was well received again in 2024. Although the group sounds small, as the space allocated is limited the group was about the right size. Set off to one side of the exit, the location has proved more difficult to connect with the shoppers, some of whom stop to enjoy our singing while others also joined in. Afterwards we enjoy fellowship, news from our churches and any prayer needs.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday enabled us to join with members of all the other churches in celebrating God's work in Jesus on our behalf. A group of over 70 met outside Savers on the Coventry Road opposite the Wheatsheaf, with help from all the member churches, including Revd. Karen Webber, Lyndon Methodist, giving the talk and leading worship aided by Revd. Brian Atkins, Solihull Christian Church, Rob Dean reading the scripture and RCCCG leading us in a gospel-type hymn singing session.

Rob Dean organised the SonRise Service by the beacon in Elmdon Park again this year with help from HBCT members for musical accompaniment, readings etc. With a later start of 6.30 am due to clocks going forward overnight, our chorus was joined by creation on a beautiful, mild Spring morning. Fellowship was enjoyed over refreshments served in the Wilberforce Hall afterwards.

HBCT representatives for the year were Christine Arnsby and Elaine Malkin.

## Finance

### Treasurer's Report

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle who, also oversees a separate fabric fund account.

#### **Income**

Most of our income usually comes through stewardship, primarily the Parish Giving Scheme but also standing orders and donations. Other sources of income have typically been wedding and funeral fees plus occasional legacies, social events and hire fees for use of the Church Hall.

Although our bank balance is now quite healthy largely owing to the sale of our Gaydon Road site there are a number of maintenance and improvement projects at our parish church that need to be undertaken and we must therefore plan and budget for a continued increase in giving in the years ahead. The 2024 accounts show only a minor deficit for the year owing largely to the interest received on our cash reserves, this will of course reduce as the required improvement work is carried out and paid for. To ensure our ongoing financial viability we need to be cognisant of the need to increase giving from our existing generous members but perhaps more importantly look for ways to increase membership numbers. Our long-term aim is to keep our current Church up to date and fully functioning to attract new members whose generosity and prayers will help us to maintain our presence in the community and help others who may be in need.

A "Giving Station" device is installed in the Church allowing donations to be made by card and information about all the methods of supporting the church are available at church and on our website.

#### **Fees paid for church work**

In 2024 the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. Where required a vergers received a fee for duties carried out at these services. A sexton was also paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of ashes and occasionally appropriate visiting clergy fees were also paid.

#### **Financial Reserves Policy**

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings.

*Alan Doyle*

## Annual Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2024

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 which are set out on pages 17 to 25.

#### 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.



-----  
Jeremy Kitson FCA  
Prime Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull

B91 3QG  
Date: .....29.05.2025.....

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	41,982		46,242	
Loan received		-		-	
Collections and Donations		<u>8,134</u>		<u>4,548</u>	
			50,116		50,791
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		<u>120</u>		<u>524,035</u>	
			120		524,035
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Grants		7,330		-	
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>6,948</u>		<u>6,879</u>	
			14,278		6,879
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>23,586</u>		<u>5,349</u>
Total receipts			88,100		587,054
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	52,584		97,049	
Building repairs		6,848		4,043	
Charities	8	5,846		2,777	
Church running expenses		105		106	
Church and Churchyard	9	13,208		14,889	
Loan repayments		-		4,000	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,257		1,167	
Large Display Screen		1,066		-	
Sundry Expenses	10	5,565		5,684	
VCC planning fees		<u>-</u>		<u>24,688</u>	
			86,479		154,403
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>2,100</u>		<u>2,010</u>
Total payments			88,579		156,413
Transfers to / (out of) general fund			-		(18,000)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>- 479</u>		<u>412,641</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>419,091</u>		<u>6,450</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>418,612</u>		<u>419,091</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - RESTRICTED FUND  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Collections and Donations		<u>1,171</u>		<u>903</u>	
			1,171		903
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>5,603</u>		<u>5,504</u>	
			<u>5,603</u>		<u>5,204</u>
Total receipts			6,774		6,107
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Church running expenses		2,329		3,800	
English Class Grant		<u>7,081</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total payments			9,410		3,800
Transfer from general funds			-		18,000
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>(2,636)</u>		<u>20,307</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>26,503</u>		<u>6,196</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>23,867</u>		<u>26,503</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
- FABRIC FUND**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Transfer from Funds		545		2,200
Sundry income		-		-
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>67</u>		<u>39</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>612</b>		<b>2,239</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Transfer between funds	-		-	
Music Fund	265		250	
Bank charge	5		40	
Wedding fees costs	-		-	
<b>Total payments</b>		<u><b>270</b></u>		<u><b>290</b></u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>		<u><b>342</b></u>		<u><b>1,949</b></u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u><b>3,983</b></u>		<u><b>2,034</b></u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u><b>4,324</b></u>		<u><b>3,983</b></u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	General £	Designated £	Restricted	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	41,982	-	-	41,982	46,242
Collections & Donations	8,134	-	1,171	9,305	5,452
Teas	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Income	40	545	-	585	522,034
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,948	-	5,603	12,551	12,083
Investment Income	1,047	67	-	1,114	5,388
VAT refunds/Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	3,490
Interest and Dividends	22,540	-	-	22,540	-
Outside Bookings	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Rents	-	-	-	-	313
Functions	80	-	-	80	398
Grants & Donations	7,330	-	-	7,330	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>88,101</u></b>	<b><u>612</u></b>	<b><u>6,774</u></b>	<b><u>95,487</u></b>	<b><u>595,399</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Apportionment	52,584	-	-	52,584	97,049
Charities	5,846	-	-	5,846	2,777
Church Running Expenses	326	-	2,329	2,655	3,906
Church & Churchyard	3,856	-	-	3,856	8,326
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,257	-	-	1,257	1,167
Sundry Expenses	5,565	-	-	5,565	5,684
Accountancy	2,100	-	-	2,100	2,010
Building Maintenance & Repairs	6,848	-	-	6,848	4,043
Bank charges	-	5	-	5	40
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	4,000
Light & Heat	3,657	-	-	3,657	1,348
Water	673	-	-	673	593
Insurance	3,367	-	-	3,367	3,139
Telephone	1,434	-	-	1,434	1,483
Music fund	-	265	-	265	250
Large Display Screen	1,066	-	-	1,066	-
English Class Grant	-	-	7,081	7,081	-
VCC planning fees	-	-	-	-	24,688
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>88,579</u></b>	<b><u>270</u></b>	<b><u>9,410</u></b>	<b><u>98,259</u></b>	<b><u>160,503</u></b>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Total £	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Designated Funds £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
CBF deposit fund	438,142	436,815	-	1,326
Bank current accounts	7,700	1,140	3,560	2,999
Bank deposit accounts	<u>963</u>	<u>963</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	446,805	438,919	3,560	4,325
<b>Investments (at valuation at year end)</b>				
CBF Share Portfolio	40,635	40,635	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	<u>186</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>487,626</u>	<u>479,740</u>	<u>3,560</u>	<u>4,325</u>

**Other Assets**

**Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:**  
St Stephens Church Centre and Valley Church Centre

**ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	Total £	Fabric Fund £	Valley Church Centre £	St Stephens Hall Users £
CBF deposit fund	1,326	1,326	-	-
Bank current account	2,999	2,999	-	-
Bank deposit account	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>4,325</u>	<u>4,325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

.....06/05/25..... and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

Bekal Clark Chair

SO Kimber Churchwarden

\_\_\_\_\_ Churchwarden

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the year to 31 December is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 31 December in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**2. DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the Parish Church.

**3. REMUNERATION**

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

**4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS**

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

**5. PLANNED GIVING**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift aid receipts	27,770	25,882
Income tax recovered	6,943	12,902
Other giving	<u>7,270</u>	<u>7,458</u>
	<u>41,982</u>	<u>46,242</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2024	2023
	£	£
CBF Deposit account interest	19	-
CBF Dividends	1,047	1,030
Interest on Reserve fund	<u>22,521</u>	<u>4,312</u>
	<u>23,586</u>	<u>5,342</u>

**7. APPORTIONMENT**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Paid Direct	<u>52,584</u>	<u>97,049</u>

**8. CHARITIES**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	473	721
Churches overseas	4,873	2,056
Home Missions	<u>500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,846</u>	<u>2,777</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Maintenance and repairs	-	-
Water rates	673	593
Telephone	1,434	1,483
Light and heat	3,657	1,348
Insurance	3,367	3,139
Sundries	3,792	7,420
Curate's House Rent	-	-
Consumer unit test & certification	-	-
Christian Literature	64	199
Readers' Board	-	-
Visiting Clergy	<u>221</u>	<u>707</u>
	<u>13,208</u>	<u>14,889</u>

**10. SUNDRY EXPENSES**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fete floats	-	-
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>5,565</u>	<u>5,684</u>
	<u>5,565</u>	<u>5,684</u>

# MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Held 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Attendance at the annual meetings of Parishioners and Church (23):

Rev. Bekah Clark, Rector  
Christine Arnsby  
Sarah Baldwin  
Lynda Bird  
Joy Dean  
Rob Dean  
Alan Doyle  
Cheryl Doyle

Martin Hewings  
Lesley Huss  
Carol Janes  
Sue Kimber  
Sarah Leckie  
David Maguire  
Elaine Malkin  
Karen Matthews

Anne Milne  
Jamie Oldham  
Elizabeth Smye  
Joyce Taylor  
Margaret Thomas  
John Tsipouras  
Jean Wooding

## A. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Bekah welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all to join in a hymn of celebration and thanks to God.

### 1. Apologies (1)

Graham Smye.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting of parishioners, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Martin Hewings and Sarah Leckie proposed the minutes be adopted. Motion approved unanimously.

### 3 Election of Church Warden

Susan Kimber was proposed by Christine Arnsby seconded by Lesley Huss.

There were no other nominations. Sue agreed to stand as Church Warden for the coming year and was accepted unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Carol Janes for her four years' service as Warden.

## B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

### 1 Bible reflection

Bekah spoke from Acts 4: 1-31 on the outworking of abiding in Jesus before opening the meeting in prayer.

### 2 Apologies (1)

Graham Smye (Lay Chairman).

### 3 Minutes of the previous APCM held 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Lesley Huss and Carol Janes proposed the minutes be adopted. Motion approved unanimously.

### 4 Report on the revised Electoral Roll

Jamie Oldham reported that the revised roll, published 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024, contained 66 names, down one from last year, which was encouraging as there had been about 5 newcomers to offset some deaths.

**5 Election of PCC members**

Four vacancies were available for election to the PCC:

Lynda Bird was proposed by Margaret Thomas seconded by Karen Matthews  
Lesley Huss was proposed by Tony Shaw seconded by Richard Huss  
Graham Smye was proposed by Carol Janes seconded by Joyce Taylor

There were no further nominations. Lynda, Lesley and Graham were duly elected for three years, leaving one vacancy.

**6 Appointment of such Readers as wish to become PCC members**

Members approved the motion that Karen Matthews, Parish Lay Reader, be accepted as a member of the PCC.

**7 APCM Reports**

Bekah went through each report, thanking each member by name for their contributions to the life of the church and inviting comments individually. Comments were made regarding the following reports:

**7.1 Warden's report**

Carol Janes thanked everyone for their help and support over the four years, especially Sarah Leckie and other ex-Church Wardens.

**7.2 Kids In Christ**

Rob Dean said they were open to recruiting volunteers.

**7.3 Connect Groups**

Bekah said that being in a group was the best way to link church members together in order to care for each other and that if anyone wished to be a member to contact Sue Kimber, who had taken over leading.

**7.4 Tuesday Service**

Bekah thanked Karen Matthews, who had offered to lead once a month and ended up leading it every week.

**7.5 Open Church**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June the Birmingham Concert Band, of which Karen Matthews was a member, would give a concert and everyone was invited.

**8 Accounts and Financial Statements**

As the accounts had been complicated by the delayed sale of property at Gaydon Road incurring high expenditure, short term loans and delayed payments to the Diocesan Common Fund, Alan Doyle, Treasurer, read out the notes he had forwarded to members at the last PCC meeting explaining some of the unusual and high sums of money moving in and out of the accounts.

There were no questions and Alan was thanked for his thorough preparation, good explanation of the figures and detailed keeping of the records. The accounts were unanimously accepted by those present.

**9 Appointment of independent examiner**

Alan Doyle proposed using the same accountants (Prime Chartered Accountants) for the coming year. Jamie Oldham seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**10. Presentation to Carol Janes**

Bekah thanked Carol for her time as Church Warden during the pandemic and interregnum, presenting her with a pot plant and card, before inviting members to say a few words of personal thanks to Carol.

**11. Rector's Address.**

Bekah said that much had been achieved although there were still plenty of things to do. She then named and thanked individual contributors to the life of the church who had not been otherwise mentioned: Readers/Service leaders, PCC and various team members: Duty Wardens, Kids In Christ, Sound & Visuals, Welcome, Readings, Leading intercessions, Music, Bell ringers, Refreshments, Open Church, Church Maintenance, Cleaning, Visual Displays, Mission Support, Fabric, Finance, Sunday worshipper counters and Eco issues contributors.

Bekah continued her talk based on the earlier scripture reading from Acts 4:1-31 saying that, like Peter and John after being imprisoned and threatened by the authorities, we needed to pray for boldness and courage. People were spiritually hungry but the workers were few. A priority for the coming year will need to be thinking creatively about how we can best use our resources to best be the loving family of Christ and share the love of Christ across the parishes of Elmdon and Hobs Moat.

**12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**13. Closing Prayer**

After a hymn of thanksgiving, Bekah closed the meeting in prayer, thanked everyone for their time and invited non-members to leave the meeting. The new PCC then held its first meeting.

*20<sup>th</sup> May  
Bekah Clark  
Chair*

# Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church  
Refreshments available from 7pm

## Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024
3. Election of Churchwardens

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Bible reflection and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024
4. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
5. Appointment of PCC Members
  - Deanery Synod Members (1 place, for 1 year)
  - PCC Members (up to 6: 3 places for 3 years, 1 for 2 years, 2 for 1 year)
  - Reader representative
6. Receive APCM reports
7. Appointment of independent examiner
8. Rector's Address
9. Any other business
10. Closing prayer

## First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Election of:

1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Parish Identity Verifier
6. Domestic Abuse Contact



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# Accounts

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# Annual report for 2023

[www.elmdonchurch.org](http://www.elmdonchurch.org)  
[@elmdonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/elmdonchurch)

Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,  
to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church.

# Church Information

Address **Elmdon Church, Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ**

Rector **Revd Bekah Clark (from March 2023)**

Licensed Readers **Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews**

Churchwarden **Carol Janes**

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met eight times in person during 2023: six regular meetings, one PCC vision day, and one meeting immediately after the APCM to appoint PCC officers. Further decisions were taken by email, in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. The role of the PCC remains one of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

## **PCC members**

Revd Bekah Clark (from March 2023) Chair

Carol Janes Churchwarden, ex officio member

Karen Matthews Reader, appointed by the 2022 APCM

Christine Arnsby Deanery Synod, ex officio member

Cheryl Doyle Deanery Synod, ex officio member

Jamie Oldham Deanery Synod, ex officio member

## **Elected Members to serve until APCM in:**

**2024**

Lesley Huss  
Graham Smye  
Sue Kimber

**2025**

Alan Doyle  
Martin Hewings  
Anne Milne

**2026**

Sarah Leckie  
David Maguire  
Vacancy

## **Officers appointed by the PCC, 2023 - 2024**

**Safeguarding**

**PCC Treasurer**

**PCC Secretary**

**Lay Vice-Chair**

**Parish Identify Verifier**

**Electoral Roll Officer**

**Lesley Huss**

**Alan Doyle**

**Christine Arnsby**

**Graham Smye**

**Lesley Huss**

**Jamie Oldham**

# PCC and Diocese

## Rector's Introduction

At the joyful occasion of my licensing as Rector of Elmdon (& Vicar of St Mary's, Hobs Moat, held in plurality) in March 2023, I spoke of how I was looking forward to partnering and also 'partying' with the PCCs and congregations of both churches in the work of the Gospel. It is '...good news that will cause great joy for all the people...' (Luke 2.10, NIV) that is the heart of the Christian faith. What follows is an overview of some of the ways in which Elmdon Church has been seeking to live out that 'good news' over the last year, made possible by our partnership in the Gospel – all the volunteers who so generously enable ministry and mission – and the encouragement of sustaining rhythms of prayer, worship and fellowship – reminding us that in the joys and the challenges, 'the joy of the Lord is [our] strength' (Nehemiah 8.10).

Sunday sermons usually follow a series, with sermons in 2023 on 'The Childhood of Christ', 'Giving It Up', 'A Life of Joy' (Philippians), 'Journeying with Jesus', 'True Friendship', 'Inside the Christmas Story' and 'Saying Yes to God' (Family Services). Average Sunday attendance is around 50, with all generations represented most weeks. We have begun exploring ways in which we can be more truly intergenerational, enabling all ages to be able to fully participate in worship. The Tuesday Service welcomed newcomers and visitors throughout 2023 and its gentle and relaxed format makes it especially accessible for those for who would prefer a quieter, less busy setting in which to connect with God and others.

In October, the first joint monthly prayer with St Mary's, Hobs Moat was held. Open to everyone, lasting for an hour, and beginning and ending with a song, we pray for the needs of the world, our local communities and our two churches as we seek to work in complementary ways to be as effective as possible in ministry and mission. Attendance is usually around 12-15 and those who join this meeting are blessed by the opportunity to take time out together with God in the middle of our weeks.

A new addition to the Elmdon Church calendar was our first 'Light Party' on 31<sup>st</sup> October, inviting primary-school age children and their parents or carers to celebrate All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) by focusing on Jesus the Light of the World. The teatime event included crafts, activities, a Bible talk, outdoor light trail and party tea. Lots of fun was had by all who attended and by the team. This is set to be a firm fixture in the Elmdon calendar.

Elmdon Church has a particular ministry in caring for the bereaved with regular burials and burials of ashes taking place in the churchyard. The reintroduction of an Annual Memorial Service in November was well received, with the loved ones of those for whom we've taken a service in the previous 12 months receiving a letter of invitation. Attended by over 50 people and followed by refreshments, the service was an opportunity for reflection, comfort and to hear the hope of the Gospel.

Much of 2023 was, for me, spent making connections and getting to know the local community, including our local schools. Half-termly assemblies took place at Damson Wood Infant and Nursery school and we also accepted an invitation to have a stall at their Summer Fair, where we provided a craft activity. Members of Elmdon Church and friends at St Mary's, Hobs Moat crocheted and knitted an impressive

200 angels and stars to be given to each child at Damson Wood Infant and Nursery School to share the joy of Christmas. December also saw us welcome to church Reception and Year 2 from Valley Primary School, to participate in our 'Encounter Christmas' trail beautifully prepared by members of Elmdon Church and giving the children and their teachers the opportunity to experience the Christmas story as a journey.

We also opened the church to the community as part of the 'Oaks and Shires' event in Elmdon Park and the PCC approved the use of the church building for English Classes, as we seek to be a place of welcome for newly arrived communities.

Alongside the 'events' highlighted here, much of our ministry and mission happens in individual conversations and unseen acts of kindness, as church members care informally for one another. Connect Groups are an especially valuable place of support and encouragement.

Whether gathered together for services, events and activities, or 'scattered', at home, at work and out and about in our community, there is much to give thanks for and celebrate in the life and witness of Elmdon Church.

There are, of course, challenges too, in particular the maintenance of buildings and the pressure on our resources, both our finances and our volunteers. In all things we seek first to be led by Jesus and in September the PCC spent a morning together to begin the process of discerning direction and renewing our vision, asking what God is calling us to as a church community at this time, in the 'up' (worship), 'in' (fellowship and discipleship) and 'out' (mission and evangelism) dimensions of the life of Elmdon Church. A survey sought the views of the wider congregation and the PCC have since agreed new mission, vision and values statements to increase our unity in the Gospel and set priorities as we look to the future.

Rooted in the Bible and renewed by the Holy Spirit, our vision is to be a thriving Jesus-centered community playing our part in giving every person the opportunity to encounter, belong and grow in the love of Christ.

We want to be all about Sharing the Love of Christ (our mission statement) and to do this in ways that are real, generous and joyful (our values).

*Bekah Clark*

# Wardens' Report

My thanks go to everyone for all their help over the past year. It would have been harder without people stepping in where needed.

Sadly, the church was broken into one evening with a small amount of damage and mess. This was repaired and new security measures put in place, with additional locks on all three entrances. Anne Milne did a great job with the insurance claim so that things got back to normal very quickly.

The flat roof over the modern extension to the church is in a very poor condition, and it is time for it to be replaced. Preliminary work is being carried out to decide how this is to be done. It will take time as it is not just a question of appointing a builder, but there are many procedures to be followed.

The churchyard maintenance team have continued to keep the churchyard looking very attractive and get much appreciation from those who visit and who enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

All regular maintenance was carried out during the year, and the cleaning teams make sure that the building is clean and tidy each week.

*Carol Janes, Churchwarden*

# PCC Secretary's Report

Under the Church Representation Rules, we are entitled to nine elected PCC members. In addition, our Rector, Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members, any Readers appointed by the APCM, and any co-opted members serve on the PCC.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Revd. Rebekah 'Bekah' Clark was instituted as Rector of Elmdon and Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Hobs Moat at St. Mary's Church. She led her first service at Elmdon on the following Sunday.

In May 2024, three elected members come to the end of their term and we carried over one vacancy. At the APCM we therefore intend to elect up to four members to PCC.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its membership since the 2022 APCM were Graham Smye (Lay Vice Chair), Carol Janes (Churchwarden), Sarah Leckie (Churchwarden), Christine Arnsby (Secretary), Alan Doyle (Treasurer) and Revd. Bekah Clark (Rector, from April 2023).

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in 'the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and

- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

## Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll stands at 66, which is a slight decrease on last year.

*Jamie Oldham, Electoral Roll Officer*

## Safeguarding

The PCC has adopted and complies with the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policy, Promoting a Safer Church (2017), and the practice guidance issued by the Church of England and Birmingham Diocese.

### **Elmdon Church is committed to:**

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting those with any responsibility for the under 18s and vulnerable adults within the church
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

### **Policies**

During 2023 we revised our Raising Concerns ("Whistleblowing") Policy to make it clearer what the procedure is here in Elmdon, as well as carrying out the annual review of our Safeguarding Policy. These are available on the church website and on the noticeboard in the church corridor.

### **Training**

All volunteers now complete the appropriate mandatory safeguarding training on taking up their role, and refresh their training every three years. This is normally done through the Church of England's website.

Those unable to do the training online are instead supported to complete it by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

### **Domestic Abuse Contact**

The PCC has appointed Sarah Leckie as our Domestic Abuse Contact, a role which involves signposting to relevant services, receiving any concerns, and helping the church to be informed around domestic abuse issues.

### **National Safeguarding Standards**

The Church of England has launched five safeguarding standards, showing how our safeguarding activities fit into the bigger picture and helping parishes to identify their safeguarding strengths and weaknesses. They cover creating healthy cultures and leadership, prevention of abuse, recognising and managing risk, responding well to victims/survivors, and ensuring all volunteers receive appropriate safeguarding training and support.

For more information, see

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards>

*Lesley Huss, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator*  
[safeguarding@elmdonchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@elmdonchurch.org)

## Fabric & Buildings

We currently have responsibility for two properties, one of which is now closed. Our main church building is in the middle of Elmdon Park, and is the venue for our Sunday service, as well as all baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

As mentioned elsewhere, the Gaydon Road hall site was sold during the year. The site of the Coppice Road hall remains vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees who hold property on behalf of (and acting in the interests of) Parochial Church Councils in the diocese. The Elmdon Parochial Church Council owns the building itself, and are the Managing Trustees.

A small finance team, comprising Bekah Clark, Alan Doyle, Martin Hewings and Richard Huss, has included in its work progressing potential projects on the fabric of the church building, of which the most important and urgent is the roof of the 1970s church extension. The PCC has now commissioned Derek Bate MRICS to progress plans for a replacement roof, following a feasibility report giving a variety of options.

## Deanery Synod

**Elmdon Lay Representatives:** Christine Arnsby, Cheryl Doyle, Jamie Oldham. Our electoral roll total qualifies us for 3 seats until Spring 2026.

### **6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Christ Church, Sparkbrook**

We met as a newly elected Deanery for the first time so we elected officers, including Lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Barston put forward a proposal which was held over to the next meeting due to its obvious need for wider discussion. The meeting topic that day was “Tell: To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom”, one of the marks of mission for the Diocese based on a quote by Jesus from John 20:21 “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Suzette Maguire, Pioneer Minister for Solihull Parish and a Church Army Officer, told how she started meeting as a group of 2 people in a cafe in the parish, to what had become 24 members meeting twice weekly in a pub for friendship and chatting over meals, walks, board games and more. Some came from local churches, but many came with no regular church background. It was drawing people into Bible study and events in the church. She said, “This type of event should not be seen as church, but by building relationships it can feed into church life. The ministry is for the long term, for God to use as He sees fit.”

Caroline Mara, Deanery Children and Family Mission Enabler, said her aim was to help the church family, leaders and volunteers grow faith amongst families, children and young people. Two questions she asked were “Why does it matter to me personally that the church grows younger?” and “What possibilities have we to do so?” Her main point was to emphasise the importance of creating a bridge between Church, home and school for ‘telling’ about Jesus and growing faith amongst

children, youth and families: In the last 6 months she had been training four teenagers to lead worship and provided take-away discipleship questions.

Matt Vaughan, Interserve Mission Partner, said “Don’t forget Muslims!” Having worked in Pakistan he moved about before taking up his present job in Ward End – part of the Diocese with the most Muslims, so probably having a parity in numbers with Christians. Matt said ministers had a remit of cure of the souls for the whole parish, not just the Christians. Outreach was more awkward as people want to engage but do not know how, despite most Muslims being open, friendly and chatty. No-one has refused him the offer to pray for them. Muslims being in Britain was no accident for God – He had a purpose in it all but we should ask for wisdom in what it was and what our response should be.

Revd. Steve Johnson (Assoc. Vicar, Knowle) concluded the talks by speaking of his experience using CPAS resources to create a Learning Hub. He said it was all about culture, not courses. Some of the initiatives were: Praying for 5; Evangelism prayer; Sharing faith stories and Resetting expectations.

#### **20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – St. Swithin’s House, Barston**

Nick Parker’s time as Area Dean was celebrated as he had become Priest in Charge (Rector Designate) of Solihull Parish and after a ‘bring and share’ supper together he was presented with a cake and gift before more mobile members went walking and chatting together, leaving the others in the garden sunshine.

#### **19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – St. Alphege Junior School Hall, Solihull**

The Ven. Gordon Steele, a retired archdeacon assisting Archdeacon Jenny as Auxiliary Archdeacon until a new Archdeacon of Aston was appointed, introduced himself and indicated that Archdeacon Jenny had asked him to convene Deanery Chapter and share with the Lay Chair in chairing Deanery Synod until a new Area Dean was appointed. The Ven. Gordon Steele explained that as it was the first meeting of the new triennium, and that Deanery Officers and Standing Committee needed to be elected. Mark Johnson proposed adopting those lay members elected too early at the last meeting ‘as a slate’, which was seconded by Jamie Oldham and approved unanimously.

The meeting continued with discussion on the proposal by Barston for “urgent discussion with the bishop and diocesan synod and other stakeholders as to how parochial worship may be adequately spiritually and sacramentally enriched and resourced and by whom these services may be led.” The proposal was brought about as a result of how they perceived parishes were struggling to cope with limited Clergy and insufficient people licensed to give Holy Communion. Time was allowed for everyone to share their viewpoint before a secret vote resulted in the proposal being forwarded to the Bishop for discussion. Bishop Anne has since requested more clarity which is being drawn up between the Auxiliary Archdeacon, Barston PCC, Deanery staff and their minister, Revd. Stuart Dimes.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – St. Margaret’s Church, Olton**

“Transform – the 4<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission”. Fred Rattley, Community Regeneration, said that too often churches talk about social action and dismiss it, although it is at the heart of the gospel. There is only one gospel and its message is about helping the poor, oppressed and marginalised. ‘Thrive Together Birmingham’ was a movement of people rather than organisations and a call to people in churches to come alongside those in poverty in their local neighbourhoods; not employing

organisation to do it for us but supporting Christian activities that alleviate poverty and disadvantage. In Birmingham, 300,000 out of 1M people and 50% of children lived in poverty. Solihull was no exception with a poverty profile that exactly matched England as a whole, according to research.

The simplest way to engage the local community and take the first step in alleviating suffering was to host local community coffee mornings as isolation was recognized as a major social problem. It was not only those with mobility problems who felt isolated, but also immigrants and refugees. When they arrive in a busy city, where do they start to make friends and fit in? How are churches you know responding to the challenges of poverty?

**New Area Dean.** Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. an announcement was made that Revd. Tony Rindl had been appointed vicar of St Leonard's, Marston Green and Area Dean of Yardley and Solihull. Our Deanery boundaries are also being redrawn to include Marston Green. He will take up his role in July and we await news of his collation and induction before he takes up the mantle as our Area Dean.

# Life at Elmdon Church

## Kids in Christ

Kids in Christ is our Sunday morning group for children under 11, meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. Kids in Christ is an invaluable part of our Sunday worship, giving children the opportunity to learn about being a follower of Jesus and to explore the Bible and pray in an age-appropriate way, often involving craft!

Sessions usually follow a similar theme to the Sunday sermon series and the group runs from after the first song until the end of the intercessions, when we come back together as all ages for Communion.

At Elmdon Church we are passionate about every person having the opportunity to encounter, belong and grow in the love of Christ. Recent research<sup>1</sup> suggests around 75% of practicing Christians come to follow Jesus for themselves under the age of 18. Please do be praying for Kids in Christ, and for the wonderful team of helpers and leaders, and please do speak to Bekah if you would like to find out more about how you might be able to support our children's ministry.

## Music

We were pleased in 2023 to be able to use live music in church most Sundays, and to use our band on a monthly basis. A huge "thank you" to all involved in this ministry.

Under the new church mission and vision, "joyful" is one of our values, and we are keen to play our part in enabling this within our church life. We are keen to use songs that are congregationally singable and that help us all to express our faith and our praise musically and joyfully. We have continued to introduce newer songs periodically, aiming to select songs that have biblically-faithful lyrics and singable melodies.

Music is chosen, on a rota, by members of the band, aiming to pick hymns and songs that fit with the theme of the service and Bible reading, whilst keeping the church familiar with a core repertoire of music in a variety of styles.

On Sundays when we are still singing along to recorded music, this is normally because our musicians are required to be serving elsewhere instead; everyone involved with the music also serves on other teams within the church. To help us out, you don't actually need to be able to sing, or play an instrument - volunteering in another area would really help too, by easing pressure on other rotas.

Do get in touch if you'd be interested in finding out more about how you can help and what would be involved in joining us.

*Richard Huss*

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<sup>1</sup> 2022 Talking Jesus Report

## Connect Groups

Connect Groups are small groups which meet during the week for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. Currently there are 3 Connect Groups and 17 church members belong to a group. The groups all meet on different days, with 2 meeting in the evening and 1 during the daytime, and 2 meeting via Zoom and 1 in person.

Connect Groups are a place to share life's ups and downs with other Christians in a deeper way than is possible on a Sunday, and to be supported and encouraged as a disciple of Jesus. Being a member of a Connect Group is one of the best ways to feel part of the church family and current members would highly recommend being in a Connect Group to all church members.

Each group follows its own programme and in 2023 groups studied the 'Fruits of the Spirit', Luke's Gospel, 'Meeting the Spirit', the Pastoral Epistles, Ruth, Jonah, Colossians and the Psalms.

In 2023, Graham Smye stepped back from co-ordinating Connect Groups. We are thankful for Graham's oversight of this area of ministry during the Vacancy and for the energy he brought to the role. I am delighted to be able to share in this report that Sue Kimber has agreed to take on the role of Connect Group Co-ordinator.

Please do speak to Sue or Bekah if you would like to try out a Connect Group.

## Tuesday Service

The Tuesday afternoon service started at the church in Coppice Road for people unable to attend the main Elmdon Sunday worship service.

After Covid and the closure of the former Coppice building, Tuesday afternoon moved to Elmdon church to enable worship for those unable or uneasy to worship in the main Sunday service.

With the absence of Covid restrictions and falling attendance the service is now under review.

## Open Church

We have continued to open the church every Sunday afternoon, from 2 till 3.30pm in the winter and 2 till 4pm in the summer, to welcome people in and to have some refreshment. This is offered free of charge as an example of the church's hospitality, although donations freely offered are welcome.

Many have come in at different times; families out walking in the park, rambling groups, those visiting graves, church members and friends. We have got to know some regulars too. Some come and like to sit quietly and think, some ask questions about the history, some just want some company.

There is also an opportunity to increase the use of the building for other things at the same time and take advantage of a drink and a cake; such as help with required training, conversations with bereaved families following interment of ashes, wedding couples and baptism enquiries with Bekah,

small meetings and setting up equipment or putting up decorations. Some have a game of draughts and sometimes the piano is played.

All are welcome.

*Cheryl Doyle*

## Churchyard

The Churchyard team were hard at it from April to the end of October 2023. They split the days between Tuesdays and Wednesdays and made sure there was a minimum of two people at all times. They have access to the Church for the facilities, which will need to continue.

Lots of interaction was made between the team and people visiting the Churchyard; everyone, without exception, was thrilled with how the Churchyard was looked after.

This will continue throughout Summer 2024 and into the Autumn.

*Sarah Leckie*

## Mission Support Group

**Crosslinks** - Maria "Emi" Fernandez

Crosslinks is an Anglican missionary society which enables partnerships with all churches, denominations and networks which share its convictions. Crosslinks also supports and enables the training of pastor/teachers and evangelists in less well-off countries, through their BEST (Bursaries Enabling Strategic Training) programme. Under this programme we support Maria "Emi" Fernandez, who is studying at The Centre for Pastoral Studies (CEP), Santiago, Chile. Our commitment is to support Emi in her studies, through prayer and financial giving, in the amount of £600 per annum, for three years.

We continue to receive updates and prayer requests from Crosslinks and Emi.

**Wycliffe Bible Translators** - Gift and Kathryn Asiku

We also partner with Gift and Kathryn Asiku, working for Wycliffe Bible translators in Uganda. Gift serves as Language Programmes Coordinator and Kathryn as Literacy Coordinator, supporting Wycliffe's vision through overseeing and facilitating Bible translation and literacy activities in local languages. The family send us regular prayer and news updates which are handed out with our church prayer sheet, and in turn they pray for us as a church here in Elmdon.

Highlights of 2023 include:

- Gift attended the joyful celebration to launch nine portions of the Old Testament in Aringa
- Gift and James travelled with colleagues to western Uganda for the lively launch of four Old Testament books in Lubwisi, with all church denominations collaborating to organise the event.

- Kathryn organised story-writing workshops for the Lunyole and Lugwere speaking communities, as part of the literacy project "Let's Read Together!". The stories have been turned into colourful illustrated books for the new children's reading groups at churches, promoting and teaching literacy to young primary school children.

### **Ripple Effect**

Ripple Effect works with farming families in six African countries so that they can learn more, grow more and sell more. Rural Africa is rich with opportunity: with resourceful communities and land from which food and futures can grow. But families face poverty that is extreme, unjust, and worst of all, unnecessary. The charity is creating a ripple effect of positive change in rural Africa. It starts with bringing farmers together to learn new skills and share knowledge, so they can improve their livelihoods and thrive. Each farmer who works with Ripple Effect promises to share what they know and what they have with their families and communities, which enables thousands to experience the benefits.

As a church we have raised many thousands of pounds over the years we have been involved with the charity, by collecting small change and from occasional donations. Thank you to all who have given so faithfully and continue to do so. For those new to Elmdon Church, there is a basket in the Wilberforce Hall where you can deposit your small change.

Please also visit [www.rippleeffect.org](http://www.rippleeffect.org) for further information and uplifting stories about farmers who have benefited from their association with Ripple Effect.

### **Helping Hands**

We have been able to transport a significant amount of foodstuffs and other required items to the Helping Hands food bank at the Renewal Church on Lode Lane, Solihull. Of course we do not record the amounts of goods we give to them but they seem very grateful for the regular giving we are able to give.

We are told by the volunteers that last year they supplied 2,000 boxes of food regularly to around 35 families who rely on these supplies to enable them to be fed. All the clients of the Food Bank are supplied, vetted and recommended by local agencies.

We would like to thank all contributors to our basket in the Church and wholeheartedly encourage them to carry on this work, with God's encouragement and Grace. We continue to keep the Helping Hands and its clients in our Prayers and pray for a day when this scheme will no longer be required.

*Richard & Lesley Huss, Eli Malkin and Rob Dean*

# Hatchford Brook Churches Together

**Member churches include:** Lyndon Methodist; Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG); St. Giles, Sheldon; St. Thomas Moore; Sheldon Community Church (SCC) and St. Mary's Hobs Moat besides ourselves. Other churches meet in the area but do not participate in HBCT activities.

The aim of HBCT is to be a visibly united witness of faith in Christ Jesus to dispel myths and confusion among members and outsiders caused by our separateness and differences in worship style. We seek to fulfil Christ's command in John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We support each other in prayer and other ways in order to win people for Christ.

With HBCT still in 'limbo', there were no volunteers to chair the group and therefore no annual meeting but that didn't stop us witnessing to Christ together. Roger Hancock continued to act as Secretary, Christine Arnsby as Treasurer paid our annual subscription to Churches Together from HBCT funds, while Brian Atkins and Roger liaised with ministers and members to organise activities.

Carol singing by a group of about 20 inside the entrance to Tesco's on Lyndon Road was well received again last year. Although we were set off to one side of the entrance this time, which proved more difficult to connect with the shoppers, some not only stopped to enjoy our singing but also joined in. Afterwards we enjoyed fellowship, sharing what each church was doing.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we prayed for the other Churches in the HBCT area.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday enabled us to join with congregation members of St. Mary's Hobs Moat, to join believers in celebrating God's work in Jesus on our behalf, meeting up outside Savers on the Coventry Road opposite the Wheatsheaf. It was also a good opportunity for Bekah to meet other ministers in the Churches Together area.

Rob Dean organised the SonRise Service by the beacon in Elmdon Park again this year with help from HBCT members for musical accompaniment, readings etc., from a later start of 6.30 am due to clocks going forward that morning. Fellowship was enjoyed over refreshments served in the Wilberforce Hall afterwards, to warm us up.

HBCT representatives for the year were Christine Arnsby and Elaine Malkin.

# Finance

## Treasurer's Report

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle who, also oversees a separate fabric fund account.

### Income

Most of our income usually comes through stewardship, primarily the Parish Giving Scheme but also standing orders and donations. Other sources of income have typically been wedding and funeral fees plus occasional legacies, social events and hire fees for use of the Church hall. Two unusual events occurred during 2023, we were very fortunate to receive a legacy a little in excess of £32,000 and we completed the project of obtaining planning permission and the sale of our site in Gaydon Road. The site was sold for £500,000 which resulted in a net figure of £420,000 when all fees and expenses were accounted for.

Although our finances are now much healthier there are a number of maintenance and improvement projects that need to be undertaken and we must therefore plan and budget for a continued increase in giving in the years ahead. This will ensure, not only our own financial viability, but also that we can bless other churches in more straightened situations and places. We pray for even more generosity from existing church members and for many new people to join us as well, that they might become sacrificial givers in their turn.

A "Giving Station" device is installed in the Church allowing donations to be made by card and information about all the methods of supporting the church are available at church and on our website.

### Fees paid for church work

In 2023 the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. Where required a verger received a fee for duties carried out at these services. A sexton was also paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of ashes and occasionally appropriate visiting clergy fees were also paid.

### Financial Reserves Policy

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings.

## Annual Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2023

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on pages 17 to 25.

#### 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.



---

Jeremy Kitson FCA  
Prime Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG  
Date: .....03.06.2024.....

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	46,242		40,649	
Loan received		-		-	
Collections and Donations		<u>4,548</u>		<u>3,578</u>	
			50,791		44,228
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		<u>524,035</u>		<u>3,540</u>	
			524,035		3,540
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>6,879</u>		<u>7,216</u>	
			6,879		7,216
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>5,349</u>		<u>1,026</u>
Total receipts			587,054		56,010
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	97,049		16,580	
Building repairs		4,043		1,113	
Charities	8	2,777		3,227	
Church running expenses		106		32	
Church and Churchyard	9	14,889		12,037	
Loan repayments		4,000		-	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,167		1,405	
Sundry Expenses	10	5,684		7,710	
VCC planning fees		<u>24,688</u>		<u>9,766</u>	
			154,403		51,870
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>2,010</u>		<u>1,860</u>
Total payments			156,413		53,730
Transfers to / (out of) general fund			(18,000)		-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>412,641</u>		<u>2,280</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>6,450</u>		<u>4,170</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>419,091</u>		<u>6,450</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - RESTRICTED FUND  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Collections and Donations		<u>903</u>		<u>1,544</u>	
			903		1,544
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>5,204</u>		<u>5,050</u>	
			<u>5,204</u>		<u>5,050</u>
Total receipts			6,107		6,594
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Church running expenses		3,800		2,735	
VCC planning fees		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total payments			3,800		2,735
Transfer from general funds			18,000		-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>20,307</u>		<u>3,589</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>6,196</u>		<u>2,337</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>26,503</u>		<u>6,196</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
- FABRIC FUND**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Transfer from Funds		2,200		-
Sundry income		-		1,000
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>39</u>		<u>15</u>
Total receipts		2,239		1,015
<b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Transfer between funds	-		-	
Music Fund	250		295	
Bank charge	40		60	
Wedding fees costs	-		-	
Total payments		<u>290</u>		<u>355</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>		<u>1,949</u>		<u>660</u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>2,034</u>		<u>1,374</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>3,983</u>		<u>2,034</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	General £	Designated £	Restricted	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	46,242	-	-	46,242	40,649
Collections & Donations	4,548	-	903	5,451	5,123
Teas	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Income	519,834	2,200	-	522,034	2,200
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,879	-	5,204	12,083	12,266
Investment Income	5,349	39	-	5,388	1,041
VAT refunds/Insurance claims	3,490	-	-	3,490	-
Income from Organisations	-	-	-	-	-
Outside Bookings	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Rents	313	-	-	313	2,340
Functions	398	-	-	398	-
Grants & Donations	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>587,053</u></b>	<b><u>2,239</u></b>	<b><u>6,107</u></b>	<b><u>595,399</u></b>	<b><u>63,619</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Apportionment	97,049	-	-	97,049	16,580
Charities	2,777	-	-	2,777	3,227
Church Running Expenses	106	-	3,800	3,906	2,767
Church & Churchyard	8,326	-	-	8,326	4,329
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,167	-	-	1,167	1,405
Sundry Expenses	5,684	-	-	5,684	7,710
Accountancy	2,010	-	-	2,010	1,860
Building Maintenance & Repairs	4,043	-	-	4,043	1,113
Bank charges	-	40	-	40	60
Loan repayments	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Light & Heat	1,348	-	-	1,348	2,832
Water	593	-	-	593	531
Insurance	3,139	-	-	3,139	2,897
Telephone	1,483	-	-	1,483	1,448
Music fund	-	250	-	250	295
VCC planning fees	24,688	-	-	24,688	9,766
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>156,413</u></b>	<b><u>290</u></b>	<b><u>3,800</u></b>	<b><u>160,503</u></b>	<b><u>56,820</u></b>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Total £	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Designated Funds £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
CBF deposit fund	425,554	406,295	18,000	1,259
Bank current accounts	23,079	11,851	8,504	2,724
Bank deposit accounts	<u>945</u>	<u>945</u>	-	-
	449,578	419,091	26,504	3,983
 Investments (at valuation at year end)				
CBF Share Portfolio	39,668	39,668	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	<u>181</u>	<u>181</u>	-	-
	<u>489,427</u>	<u>458,940</u>	<u>26,504</u>	<u>3,983</u>

**Other Assets**

**Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:**  
 St Stephens Church Centre and Valley Church Centre

**ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	Total £	Fabric Fund £	Valley Church Centre £	St Stephens Hall Users £
CBF deposit fund	1,259	1,259	-	-
Bank current account	2,724	2,724	-	-
Bank deposit account	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,983</u>	<u>3,983</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

Bekal Clark Chair

C.H. Jones Churchwarden

\_\_\_\_\_ Churchwarden

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

### **Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the year to 31 December is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

### **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 31 December in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**2. DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the Parish Church.

**3. REMUNERATION**

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

**4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS**

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

**5. PLANNED GIVING**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gift aid receipts	25,882	27,244
Income tax recovered	12,902	5,432
Other giving	<u>7,458</u>	<u>7,973</u>
	<u><b>46,242</b></u>	<u><b>40,649</b></u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
CBF Deposit account interest	-	5
CBF Dividends	1,030	995
Interest on Reserve fund	<u>4,312</u>	<u>26</u>
	<u><b>5,342</b></u>	<u><b>1,026</b></u>

**7. APPORTIONMENT**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Paid Direct	<u>97,049</u>	<u>16,580</u>

**8. CHARITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	721	149
Churches overseas	2,056	2,286
Home Missions	<u>-</u>	<u>792</u>
	<u><b>2,777</b></u>	<u><b>3,227</b></u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Maintenance and repairs	-	1,113
Water rates	593	531
Telephone	1,483	1,448
Light and heat	1,348	2,832
Insurance	3,139	2,897
Sundries	7,420	3,170
Wine, candles etc	-	46
Curate's House Rent	-	-
Consumer unit test & certification	-	-
Christian Literature	199	-
Readers' Board	-	-
Visiting Clergy	<u>707</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>14,889</u>	<u>12,037</u>

**10. SUNDRY EXPENSES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fete floats	-	-
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>5,684</u>	<u>7,710</u>
	<u>5,684</u>	<u>7,710</u>

# MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Held 23rd May 2023

Attendance at the annual meetings of Parishioners and Church (24)

Revd. Bekah Clark, Rector	Martin Hewings	Anne Milne
Christine Arnsby	Lesley Huss	Jamie Oldham
Sarah Baldwin	Carol Janes	James Rusher
Linda Bird	Rod Janes	Elizabeth Smye
Ann Davis	Sue Kimber	Joyce Taylor
Alan Doyle	Sarah Leckie	Margaret Thomas
Cheryl Doyle	Elaine Malkin	John Tsipouras
Joan Hewings	Karen Matthews	Jean Wooding

## A. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Bekah welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all to join in a hymn of celebration and thanks to God.

### 1. Apologies (5)

Graham Smye (Lay Chairman), Val and Tony Shaw, Rob and Joy Dean.

### 2. Minutes of previous meeting of parishioners, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Sarah Leckie and Lesley Huss proposed the minutes be adopted. Motion approved unanimously.

### 3 Election of Church Warden

Carol Janes was proposed by Christine Arnsby, seconded by Cheryl Doyle.

There were no other nominations. Carol agreed to stand as Church Warden for the coming year and was accepted unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Carol and Sarah Leckie for their service as Wardens, especially during an interregnum post-lockdown.

## B. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

### 1 Bible reflection.

Bekah spoke from John 15:1-17, before opening the meeting in prayer.

### 2 Apologies (5)

Graham Smye, Lay Chairman, Val and Tony Shaw, Rob and Joy Dean.

### 3 Minutes of the previous APCM held 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Carol Janes and Jean Wooding proposed the minutes be adopted. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **4 Accounts and Financial Statements**

Alan Doyle, Treasurer, reported that Planned Giving had dropped slightly but most other income had increased slightly, resulting in a 3% rise in income overall. He then explained some of the challenges for the parish during the past year as it pursued the sale of properties on Gaydon Road involving substantial expenditure and the proposed broad plan for resolving the issues once the imminent sale was complete. There were no questions. Bekah expressed thanks to Alan, whose work often went unnoticed.

#### **5 Report on the revised Electoral Roll**

Jamie Oldham reported that the revised roll, published 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023, contained 67 names which was up from 65 names last year.

#### **6 PCC Reports**

Comments were made regarding the following reports:

##### **6.1 Wardens' report**

Sarah said that Open Church was continuing to be fruitful in unexpected ways, including donations rising over previous years. Carol reported that the Tuesday afternoon service was also continuing to bear fruit with occasional visitors 'dropping in'.

##### **6.2 Safeguarding Co-ordinator**

Thanks were expressed to Lesley for keeping the parish up to date with best practice and working to maintain a safe environment for its members in line with Church of England guidelines.

##### **6.3 Kids in Christ**

Thanks were expressed to Elizabeth Smye for the joyful work being done in which Church members could join in and which was enabling the whole church family to grow together.

##### **6.4 Connect Groups**

Several members said they found their group encouraging and enjoyable. Bekah thanked Graham for co-ordinating the groups and for people to contact him if they wished to be a member.

##### **6.5 Music Group**

Thanks were expressed to the musicians but particularly to Richard Huss for his contributions both to the worship music and technical support of the group.

##### **6.6 Mission Support Group**

Eli explained that the parish only supported Emi Fernandez, Crosslinks, as her husband was supported by other churches.

##### **6.7 Fabric Report**

Carol reported that there were jobs to be done and a priority list was

being followed. The flat roofs were currently being cleared and repaired. Sarah said the churchyard needed continual maintenance but was very enjoyable work, meeting many people who want to talk about the church, and volunteers were always welcome.

#### **6.8 Hatchford Brook Churches Together**

Christine said the group was continuing in its present format, without a Chairman, for the time being as one member had expressed a strong preference for it to do so. The Secretary and Treasurer were happy to continue in post but a new Chairman who could liaise with church leaders and organise events, was needed.

#### **7 Appointment of such Readers as wish to become PCC members**

Members approved the motion that Karen Matthews, Parish Reader, be accepted as member of the PCC.

#### **8 Election of lay representatives to the PCC**

Three vacancies were available for election to the PCC:

Sarah Leckie was proposed by Graham Smye, seconded by Carol Janes and David Maguire was proposed by Martin Hewings, seconded by Eli Malkin.

There were no further nominations and Sarah and David were duly elected for three years, leaving one vacancy.

#### **9. Election of representatives to Deanery Synod**

The parish was eligible for three representatives to Deanery Synod.

Cheryl Doyle was proposed by Carol Janes, seconded by Sue Kimber, Christine Arnsby was proposed by Carol Janes, seconded by Cheryl Doyle, and Jamie Oldham was proposed by Carol Janes, seconded by Elaine Malkin.

There were no further nominations and Cheryl, Christine and Jamie were duly elected for three years.

#### **10 Appointment of independent examiner**

Alan Doyle proposed using the same accountants (Prime Chartered Accountants) for the coming year. Martin Hewings seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with one abstention.

#### **11. Rector's Address**

Bekah spoke of her interview process saying how she had explained it to a friend as a 'really fun day' as she felt part of a community of Jesus' followers, and that the warmth of welcome, help and fellowship had continued since her arrival. She viewed Elmdon as an authentic community of Jesus with a big heart and felt very much at home. Bekah then named various members of the many teams in the life of the

church and thanked them all for their contributions, along with those fulfilling unofficial tasks, like being a listening ear, helping with lifts, shopping, welcoming and much more.

Bekah encouraged us to: Abide in Jesus and remain in Him; to know Him and be known by Him and His deep care for each of us; to Grow and bear fruit that comes not from what we've done but from knowing who we are and whose we are. She concluded with a short prayer for the Church family in Elmdon.

Bekah presented a gift and card expressing our thanks to Sarah for her 2 years of devoted work to the Church family. Sarah thanked everyone and said that after lockdown she had wanted to help people come together again and was glad we were there for bigger and better things.

12. There was no other business. After a hymn of celebration, Bekah closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their time before non-members left the meeting, leaving the PCC to continue.

# Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church  
Refreshments available from 7pm

## Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023
3. Election of Churchwardens

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Bible reflection and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023
4. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
5. Appointment of PCC Members
  - PCC Members (up to 4)
  - Reader representative
6. Receive APCM reports
7. Appointment of independent examiner
8. Rector's Address
9. Any other business
10. Closing prayer

## First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Election of:

1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Parish Identity Verifier
6. Domestic Abuse Contact

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# Accounts

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*Elmdon*  
**Church**

*“The Church in the Park”*

**Annual report  
for 2021**

[www.elmdonchurch.org](http://www.elmdonchurch.org)  
[@elmdonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/elmdonchurch)

Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,  
to be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church.

# Church information

Address	<b>Elmdon Church (also known as “the Church in the Park”) Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ</b>
Rector	<b>Revd Toby Crowe (until July 2021) Elmdon Rectory, 86 Tanhouse Farm Road, Solihull B92 9EY</b>
Licensed Readers	<b>Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews</b>
Churchwardens	<b>Carol Janes Paolo Mendonca (until May 2021) Sarah Leckie (from May 2021)</b>

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met nine times in person during 2021: six regular meetings, plus two extraordinary meetings and one meeting immediately after the APCM to appoint PCC officers. Further decisions were taken by email, in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. The role of the PCC remains one of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

## **PCC members, 2020-21**

Revd Toby Crowe (until July 2021)	Chair
Carol Janes	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Paolo Mendonca (until May 2021)	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Sarah Leckie (from May 2021)	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Karen Matthews	Reader, appointed by the 2021 APCM
Christine Arnsby	Deanery Synod, ex officio member
Cheryl Doyle	Deanery Synod, ex officio member
Jamie Rawson	Deanery Synod, ex officio member

## **Elected Members to serve until APCM in:**

2022	2023	2024
Alan Doyle	Patricia Coleman-Taylor (resigned May 2021)	Lesley Huss
Anne Milne	Elizabeth Smye (resigned Jan 2022)	Graham Smye
Vacancy	Dave Monk (resigned Jan 2022)	Sue Kimber

## **Co-opted members:**

Revd John Tsipouras (from September 2021)  
Martin Hewings (from March 2022)

## **Officers appointed by the PCC, 2021 -2022**

Safeguarding	Patricia Coleman-Taylor (until May 2021) Lesley Huss (from May 2021)
PCC Treasurer	Alan Doyle
PCC Secretary	Christine Arnsby
Lay Vice-Chair	Graham Smye
Parish Identify Verifier	Lesley Huss
Electoral Roll Officer	Jamie Rawson

# Wardens' Report

This last year has been a time to reflect on the past and think about the future.

We began this year still in Covid restrictions, not able to do much more than meet for services in a socially distanced way in 'pods' with no singing; and we had a Rector in place to lead us back to what we hoped would soon be some sort of normality. Now, although Covid restrictions have been lifted, things are still very different. We are 'in vacancy', going through the process of appointing a new Rector and relying on each other to keep church life going.

Both Wardens are very grateful for all those who have stepped forward and are helping to keep our church services and other activities going with all that is involved in preparing and running them.

We are very fortunate that John Tsipouras agreed to come whenever we need a minister for services. He not only comes when we need him, but comes at other times as a member of the congregation as well as attending PCC meetings where his advice is very valuable. Our job would be very much harder without his help.

Some activities have restarted although we aren't able to start every activity that took place pre-Covid as we don't have the people to run them but it doesn't mean that they will never begin again. We have been able to stay after services – both the Sunday morning service and the Tuesday afternoon service - for a social time over a cup of tea/coffee. This is something that was missed while we had to stay socially distanced.

We have begun to reconnect with some of the schools in our parish: the Area Dean, with Sarah, led an assembly at Damsonwood Infant School in April and year 1 of Valley School are coming to visit the church.

The church is open for visitors alongside park events, including when the Cycle Hub (the large container beside the car park) is being used, and the Elmdon Park Support Group add us to their publicity when they hold events. We are looking forward to a new Rector coming to lead our church forward into the next few years and know that everyone will welcome them and support them in whatever they decide is best for the future of Elmdon Church.

Sarah Leckie & Carol Janes  
Churchwardens

# Safeguarding

The Church of England requires its parish churches to adopt a number of processes and policies around safeguarding. This includes the appointment of a Safeguarding Coordinator and an individual with specific responsibility for safeguarding within the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Currently Elmdon has one individual with responsibility for both of these roles.

The safeguarding requirements are determined by the National Safeguarding Team who lead on these issues for the Church of England. The Diocese of Birmingham then provide guidance to each parish on how these are to be implemented.

The instructions from the National Safeguarding Team are made with the support and approval of the House of Bishops and are designed to make sure that parish churches understand and comply with increasingly complicated legal requirements whilst ensuring that the church properly fulfils its spiritual and moral obligations. The House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults can be found under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

At Elmdon, the PCC oversees the management of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the parish and determines how best to implement the requirements with consideration to the advice provided from the Diocese of Birmingham. The PCC approves and oversees all organised activities provided for children and vulnerable adults by Elmdon Church.

The PCC provides policies on Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse which can be found on the Elmdon Church website and are displayed on the church noticeboard. In addition, safeguarding forms a standing item on every PCC agenda.

All staff and volunteers in roles which involve working with children or vulnerable adults are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance. For those in eligible roles this includes us undertaking checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Training for our clergy, staff and volunteers in safeguarding matters is mandated by national Church of England requirements. The level of training required depends on the role being performed. The management of safeguarding training for clergy and staff is the responsibility of the Diocese, but the responsibility for ensuring that our volunteers are trained remains with the PCC.

From January 2022, DBS checks for volunteers in eligible roles will be required to be renewed every three years rather than every five; and **all** volunteers will be required to complete basic safeguarding training, not just those working directly with children or vulnerable adults. Achieving this will be a priority over the next 12 months.

**Contact:** Lesley Huss, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

# Electoral Roll

We currently have 65 people on our electoral roll. This is down from 87, with 22 people removed since the last revision in 2021

**Contact:** Jamie Rawson, Electoral Roll Officer

## Our Finances

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle.

Separate accounts relating to the defunct church halls were closed in 2020, and the funds transferred to the main current account (the exception being one account relating to Gaydon Road, the funds from which were transferred to the main reserves account). A fabric account for the parish is overseen by Alan Doyle.

### Income

Most of our income has come through stewardship (including direct debits), envelope-giving, cheques, standing orders, covenants, Gift Aid, plate collections and donations. Other sources of income have typically been wedding and funeral fees plus (in the past) legacies and social events.

A "Giving Station" device was purchased to allow donations to be taken by card, and this facility was also introduced via our web site. Revised information showing the available methods of supporting the church was made available at church and on our web site.

We must therefore plan and budget for a continued increase in giving in the years ahead. This will ensure, not only our own financial viability, but also that we can bless other churches in more straitened situations and places. We pray for even more generosity from existing church members, and for many new people to join us as well, that they might become sacrificial givers in their turn.

### Fees paid for church work

In 2021, the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. Where required, a vergers received a fee for duties carried out at these services. A sexton was also paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of cremated remains.

### Financial Reserves Policy

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings.

# Our buildings

We currently still have responsibility for three properties, but two of these have now closed for good. Our main building is in the middle of Elmdon Park and is known as “the Church in the Park”. The Sunday service is held here, as well as all baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Work continues on the intended sale of the Gaydon Road site. The sites of the two freestanding halls remain vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees who hold property on behalf of (and acting in the interests of) Parochial Church Councils in the diocese. The Elmdon Parochial Church Council owns the buildings themselves, and are the Managing Trustees.

# PCC membership

Under the Church Representation Rules, we are entitled to nine elected PCC members.

In 2022, two elected and one co-opted lay members come to the end of their term but are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. With other existing vacancies, we therefore intend to elect up to six PCC members at the APCM.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its members since the 2021 APCM were Toby Crowe (Rector) until July 2021, Graham Smye (Lay Vice Chair) from July 2021, Carol Janes (Churchwarden), Sarah Leckie (Churchwarden), Christine Arnsby (Secretary) and Alan Doyle (Treasurer).

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in 'the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

# Open Church

We now are open on Sunday afternoons for anyone to come and have a chat, a cup of tea/coffee or sit quietly in the church. All are welcome. Those who serve the drinks (and cake) or chat with visitors feel that this is a worthwhile way to reach out to the local community and remind them that the church is here and that they are welcome to come in. Thanks to those who come and help.

**Contact:** Sarah Leckie & Carol Janes, Churchwardens

# Kids in Christ

In September of 2021 we were finally able to restart Kids in Christ. Due to changing demographics and team, we look a little different from before. We now run one group that caters for everyone up to the end of primary school, although in practice the group is generally in the younger half of this age bracket at present.

In the first part of the Autumn term we looked at the story of Jacob and saw how God was always with us, before moving on to look at the story of Christmas. Since January we have been exploring God's Big Plan along with the rest of the congregation, even managing to cover a few more stories than everyone else!

Thank you to the 5 people who have led sessions during this time and the many very helpful, helpers.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Smye, Kids in Christ Co-ordinator

# Family Service

Once a month we have a family service where we worship as a church family from the very youngest to the very oldest. In these services we try to be a bit more creative and to explore different ways that we can worship God and learn together. Thank you to the wonderful team who have been leading these services.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Smye, Family Service Co-ordinator

# Churchyard Maintenance

A team of volunteers began work on the Churchyard after a long period of inactivity due to COVID. The grounds were very overgrown and some negative feedback had been received via social media.

The team began work in the latter half of June 2021 and continued to work once a week until the end of October 2021 when we closed down for the winter.

The overall results were very rewarding with a very positive impact on the whole of the Churchyard with much positive feedback being received. A donation of some rakes was received and also a monetary donation of £50 from an appreciative relative, this has been reinvested in a battery trimmer for use in the Churchyard.

Work has recommenced this month May 2022.

Contact: Sarah Leckie, Churchyard Maintenance Co-ordinator

# Connect Groups

Connect Groups are small groups that meet mid-week for fellowship, prayer and bible study. We currently have four groups meeting on different evenings and daytimes. Two groups meet in person and two meet via zoom: in this way we aim to cater for the different needs and availability of our group members. Connect groups are a great way to get to 'connect' with others in a deeper way and support each other in our Christian journeys, and we greatly value the time we spend together. We would highly recommend being in a Connect Group to all members of the Church.

**Contact:** Graham Smye

# Deanery Synod Report

**Elmdon Lay Representatives:** Christine Arnsby, Cheryl Doyle, Jamie Rawson. Our electoral role numbers mean we are allocated 3 seats until Spring 2023.

## **May 2021 (Via Zoom) - Various topics:**

**1) Transforming Church Action Planning (TCAPs)** Liz Dumain, Birmingham Diocese Director of Parish Mission Support, said parishes were having to revisit their vision statements since 'Lockdown' as the landscape everywhere had changed. Each parish needed to consider their story: the things that shaped them; what the wider community was calling them to be; who they were; where God was calling them to put their resources and to discern these things as a whole church while they brought together the action plan of how to get there. The essence of a TCAP was for each Church to prayerfully discern a short bullet point list of where God was calling them to be, backed up by a detailed plan of how to get there.

The role of the Deanery Project Team would be to gather all the TCAPs together and consolidate them into a Deanery Plan. Many new ideas were emerging across the Diocese, particularly in response to greater public awareness of climate change and enjoyment of nature during lockdown - with the missional question of how to connect people with the Creator of that same nature.

**2) Racial Justice.** Revd. Dele Sotonwa, Chair of BAME Reference Group, highlighted the need for the church to work together with 'black asian minority ethnic' (BAME) to stamp out racial injustice and prejudice. Members were then divided into small virtual groups to discuss questions to provoke thought on the topic.

Dele spoke about a Walk Of Witness that took place last year in Handsworth and Central Deanery to repent of the Church's past, to highlight injustice still prevalent in the Church today and to work toward equality in the future. Bishop David was keen to participate and encouraged the whole Church to work together to eradicate the issue in our Church and in our society, based on Galatians 3:26 "You are all one in Christ" .

**3) Environmental Challenge / Climate Sunday** - Beryl Moppett, Diocesan Eco-Church Coordinator. Ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) the Church of England actively lobbied the UK government. Like Elmdon, churches across the country showed their support by holding a Climate Sunday service and registering it as evidence.

Our commitment to the environment did not stop at reducing greenhouse gases through our buildings but included what we did as individuals. Each parish church was asked to nominate a Climate Champion. Nick said the issue was not a one-off exercise but was something to keep before us.

**4) Living In Love And Faith** - Nick Parker, Area Dean. Each parish was asked to make time to discuss issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. A book was available 'Living in Love and Faith' (Church House Publishing) along with a course to aid discussion. The aim was for greater understanding and genuine encounter as the national church seeks to find a way forward together in love and faith. Nick said that facilitator training was available to help create a safe space for discussion on such a sensitive issue.

**August 2021 - Social.** Allowing opportunity for members to meet each other this, the first in-person meeting of Yardley and Solihull Deanery, was a social at Hampton In Arden Sport Club playing boules or petanque. Geoff, our contact at the club, showed us the basics of how to play and score the game and shuffled members between games so there was plenty of opportunity to mingle and work together. Due to the ongoing Covid infection we brought our own supper and bought drinks at the sports club bar.

The convivial atmosphere proved to be a good way of welcoming members to a new era of common life, witness and worship post-Covid lockdown.

**October 2021 - St. Michael and All Angels' Church, South Yardley.**

Fr. Alex French, our Deanery Environmental Champion (DEC), spoke about the Park where a company has partnered with Birmingham University to create fuel from waste, e.g. biomass from wood and low/zero carbon fuels, including hydrogen for fuelling about 20 Birmingham buses. Research was underway on low carbon heating and 'incubating businesses' at the Park to focus on fuel cells, smart grids, recycling rare materials from waste and other ideas.

We were reminded that the Diocesan pledge for net zero by March 2030 was shortly followed by General Synod's further commitment. The climate challenge was the church's challenge and more people were becoming involved in Eco Church. Our Deanery had 3 bronze awards, and 3 silver awards out of only 7 silver awards across the whole Diocese.

Sheena Heaton, Sutton Coldfield, spoke of how St. Peter's Church, Maney, had achieved the Silver award and progress towards a Gold award.

Revd. Fr. Peter Thomas, St. Peter's Balsall Common, spoke about achieving the Gold award. He said that every church which registered would mean more points towards Birmingham Diocese's Silver Award.

**13th January 2022 - via Zoom**

There was an short update on progress regarding the Racial Justice Walk of Witness, Eco-Church and People and Places, followed by a time of sharing news around the churches and talk by Alisia O'Sullivan, Home For Good (H4G), a Christian organisation that supported adoption and fostering of young children.

Sonia Hudson, Finance Manager, Diocesan Board of Finance, shared an overview of Diocesan finances and how the Diocese was offering help to parishes with their finances, like book-keeping and budgeting.

Nick Parker then read a script from Guy Donegan-Cross, Diocesan champion for 'Setting God's People Free' initiative before discussion by members of 3 questions on the subject of everyday faith and God at work in everyday life.

# Hatchford Brook Churches Together (HBCT) Report

**Member churches include:** Lyndon Methodist, St. Mary's, Hobs Moat; Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG); St. Giles, Sheldon; St. Thomas Moore, Sheldon Community (SCC) besides ourselves. Other churches, such as Solihull Presbyterian Church, meet in the area but do not participate in HBCT activities.

The aim of HBCT is to be a visibly united witness of faith in Christ Jesus to dispel myths and confusion among members and outsiders caused by our separateness and differences in worship style. We seek to fulfil Christ's command in John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We support each other in prayer and other ways in order to win people for Christ. Activities in 2021 were very limited for a variety of reasons not least of all, due to Covid lockdown restrictions. With Toby Crowe starting a new job outside the area, Linda Granner retiring during the year and Fr. Christopher Miller getting to grips with a new parish after Fr. John Peyton left St. Thomas More, clergy numbers were low.

The annual meeting was delayed due to Covid restrictions and then postponed until October as the Chairman developed Covid so there was no speaker. No further meetings have been confirmed as yet.

# MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Held 18th May 2021 via Zoom

Attendance at the annual meetings of Parishioners and Church (22)

Rev. Toby Crowe, Rector and Chairman

Christine Arnsby

Linda Bird

Emma Boniwell

Patricia Coleman Taylor

Joy Dean

Rob Dean

Alan Doyle

Cheryl Doyle

Lesley Huss

Carol Janes

Sue Kimber

Sarah Leckie

Miriam Lee

Elaine Malkin

Dan Mangles

Karen Marlow Tipple

Karen Matthews

Paolo Mendonca

Anne Milne

Dave Monk

Jamie Rawson

Elizabeth Smye

Graham Smye

Margaret Thomas

Apologies: No apologies were received.

## MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

### 1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Lesley Huss and Anne Milne proposed the minutes be adopted.

Motion approved unanimously with one abstention.

### 2 Election of Church Wardens

Carol Janes was proposed by Gill Carter seconded by Joyce Taylor.

Sarah Leckie was proposed by Anne Milne seconded by Carol Janes.

There were no other nominations. Carol and Sarah agreed to stand as Church Wardens for the coming year and were accepted unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Paolo Mendonca for his service as Warden.

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1 **Bible Study.** Toby welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke from Hebrews 13: 15-21 before inviting open prayer.

2 **Apologies:** No apologies were received.

### 3 Minutes of the previous meeting, 20th October 2020

Carol Janes and Jamie Rawson proposed the minutes be adopted.

Motion approved unanimously with seven abstentions.

#### **4 Accounts and Financial Statements**

Alan Doyle, Treasurer, gave a brief explanation of some of the anomalies to portray a more accurate picture of finances than the figures alone. He said Planned Giving was up by 6% while Gift Aid had been delayed and substantial expenditure had been incurred for the Gaydon Road site in order to obtain Planning Permission and maximise its value. He then answered a few questions.

#### **5 Revised Electoral Roll Report**

The revised report, published 1st October 2020, contained 88 names, excluding four regular church members who had sadly passed away.

#### **6 PCC Report: Mission of the Church**

**6.1 Kids in Christ.** Lesley Huss was stepping down as Co-ordinator and Elizabeth Smye had offered to take up the mantle.

**6.2 Safeguarding Co-ordinator.** Patricia Coleman Taylor was stepping down and Lesley Huss had agreed to take over the role. Patricia was thanked for her four years' service which had put Elmdon ahead of many other parishes in the Diocese and established an excellent framework within which the parish could move forward in its mission and ministry.

**6.3 The future.** Toby said that, as far as he could see, it would be difficult for Elmdon to revisit many of its evangelistic activities in the near future, despite Lockdown easing, as there were insufficient personnel to take them forward safely and to do them well.

There were several suggestions for evangelism and Toby urged everyone to take any ideas to the Wardens for consideration, as they had oversight of church activities, and ideas would need to be discussed by the church via the PCC before starting anything new to ensure we were co-ordinated, moving in unity. During Lockdown, social media had shown its value for us but was something to consider improving for increased impact in the future.

**7 Fabric Report.** There were no comments.

**8 Deanery Synod report.** There were no comments.

#### **9 Appointment of Readers as ex-officio PCC members**

Lesley Huss and Elizabeth Smye proposed that Karen Matthews, Parish Lay Reader, be accepted as ex-officio member of the PCC. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

**10 Election of lay representatives to PCC**

Toby said that there were four vacancies for representatives to PCC.

- 1 **Graham Smye** was proposed by Jamie Rawson seconded by Carol Janes,
- 2 **Lesley Huss** was proposed by Karen Matthews seconded by Sue Kimber,
- 3 **Sue Kimber** was proposed by Lesley Huss seconded by Karen Matthews.

There were no further nominations and Graham, Lesley and Sue were duly elected for three years, leaving one vacancy.

**11 Appointment of independent examiners**

Alan Doyle proposed using the same accountants (Prime Chartered Accountants) for the coming year. Joy Dean seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with one abstention.

After Rob Dean closed the meeting in prayer, Toby thanked everyone for their time before non-members left the virtual meeting leaving the PCC to continue.

**Annual Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2021**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO**  
**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 which are set out on pages 17 to 27.

**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.

-----  
Jeremy Kitson FCA  
Prime Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG  
Date: .....

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	42,764		47,502	
Loan received		4,000		-	
Collections and Donations		<u>1,389</u>		<u>1,932</u>	
			48,153		49,434
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		<u>2,213</u>		<u>2,645</u>	
			2,213		2,645
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>6,810</u>		<u>6,166</u>	
			6,810		6,166
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>993</u>		<u>1,013</u>
Total receipts			58,169		59,258
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	39,378		49,740	
Building repairs		1,564		2,601	
Charities	8	1,887		2,366	
Church running expenses		46		438	
Church and Churchyard	9	9,468		12,643	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,204		1,846	
Sundry Expenses	10	4,487		1,148	
VCC planning fees		<u>8,956</u>		<u>15,000</u>	
			66,990		85,782
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>1,704</u>		<u>1,680</u>
Total payments			68,694		87,462
Transfers to / (out of) general fund			-		38,525
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>(10,525)</u>		<u>10,321</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>14,695</u>		<u>4,374</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>4,170</u>		<u>14,695</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - RESTRICTED FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Collections and Donations	<u>-</u>			<u>2,132</u>	
			-		2,132
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income	<u>-</u>			<u>-</u>	
			-		-
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>5,978</u>		<u>5,043</u>	
			<u>5,978</u>		<u>5,043</u>
Total receipts			5,978		7,175
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Church running expenses		3,929		4,829	
VCC planning fees		<u>11,687</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total payments			15,616		4,829
Transfer from general funds			-		(9,021)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>(9,638)</u>		<u>(6,675)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>11,975</u>		<u>18,650</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>2,337</u>		<u>11,975</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
– FABRIC FUND**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Transfer from Funds		-		-
 <i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Weddings & Funeral Fees		-		84
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>1</u>		<u>6</u>
Total receipts		1		90
 <b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Transfer between funds	-		-	
Music Fund	295		-	
Building Repairs	-		-	
Wedding fees costs	-		-	
Total payments	<u>295</u>		<u>-</u>	
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>		<u><u>(294)</u></u>		<u><u>90</u></u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>1,668</u>		<u>1,578</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>1,374</u>		<u>1,668</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
– VALLEY CHURCH CENTRE**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations		-		-
 <i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Income from organisations	-		1,432	
Outside Bookings	-		1,526	
Miscellaneous	-		40	
		-		2,998
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Bank Interest		-		4
Total receipts		-		3,002
 <b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Hall cleaning	-		640	
Maintenance and repair	-		-	
Light and Heat	-		880	
Water	-		108	
Insurance	-		473	
Sundries	-		-	
		-		2,101
Total payments		-		2,101
Transfer between funds		-		(18,580)
<b>Deficit of receipts over payments</b>		-		(17,679)
Bank Balances 1 January		-		17,679
Bank Balances 31 December		-		-

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
-ST STEPHENS HALL USERS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020	
£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>			
Rents	-	1,850	
Functions	-	-	
Grants and Donations	-	-	
	-----	-----	
	-		1,850
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>			
Interest Received	-----	-	----- <u>7</u>
Total receipts	-		1,857
 <b>Payments</b>			
<i>Church Activities</i>			
Insurance	-	2,466	
Water Rates	-	100	
Telephone	-	85	
Electricity	-	1,786	
Cleaning	-	416	
Fire Security	-	339	
Maintenance	-	1,348	
Sundry	-----	-----	
Total payments	-----	-	<u>6,540</u>
Transfer between funds	-		(10,925)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>	<u>-----</u>	-	<u>(15,608)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January	<u>-----</u>	-	<u>15,608</u>
Bank Balances 31 December	<u>-----</u>	-	<u>-----</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	General £	Designated £	Restricted	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	42,764	-	-	42,764	47,502
Collections & Donations	1,389	-	-	1,389	4,064
Teas	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Income	6,213	-	-	6,213	2,645
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,810	-	5,978	12,788	11,293
Investment Income	993	1	-	994	1,030
VAT refund on Building Work	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Organisations	-	-	-	-	1,432
Outside Bookings	-	-	-	-	1,526
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	40
Rents	-	-	-	-	1,850
Functions	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & Donations	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>58,169</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>5,978</u></b>	<b><u>64,148</u></b>	<b><u>71,382</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Apportionment	39,378	-	-	39,378	49,740
Charities	1,887	-	-	1,887	2,366
Church Running Expenses	46	-	3,929	3,975	5,267
Church & Churchyard	9,468	-	-	9,468	12,643
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,204	-	-	1,204	1,846
Sundry Expenses	4,487	-	-	4,487	1,148
Accountancy	1,704	-	-	1,704	1,680
Building Maintenance & Repairs	1,564	-	-	1,564	3,951
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	1,056
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	2,666
Water	-	-	-	-	208
Insurance	-	-	-	-	2,939
Telephone	-	-	-	-	85
Music fund	-	295	-	295	339
VCC planning fees	8,956	-	11,687	20,643	15,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>68,694</u></b>	<b><u>295</u></b>	<b><u>15,616</u></b>	<b><u>84,605</u></b>	<b><u>100,934</u></b>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Designated</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
CBF deposit fund	3,169	1,964	-	1,205
Bank current accounts	3,782	1,276	2,337	169
Bank deposit accounts	<u>930</u>	<u>930</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	7,881	4,170	2,337	1,374
Investments (at valuation at year end)				
CBF Share Portfolio	40,974	40,974	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>49,053</u>	<u>45,342</u>	<u>2,337</u>	<u>1,374</u>

**Other Assets**

**Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:**  
St Stephens Church Centre and Valley Church Centre

**ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Valley</b>	<b>St Stephens</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Hall Users</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>£</b>
CBF deposit fund	-	-	-	-
Bank current account	1,374	1,374	-	-
Bank deposit account	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,374</u>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

..... and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Churchwarden

\_\_\_\_\_ Churchwarden

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

### **Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the year to 31 December is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

### **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 31 December in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**2. DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the Parish Church.

The Valley Church Centre Funds are designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the Valley Church Centre situated at Gaydon Road, Solihull.

St Stephens Hall Users Fund is designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the St Stephens Church Centre situated at Coppice Road, Solihull.

**3. REMUNERATION**

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

**4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS**

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

**5. PLANNED GIVING**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gift aid receipts	27,147	27,682
Income tax recovered	5,232	5,452
Other giving	<u>10,385</u>	<u>14,368</u>
	<u>42,764</u>	<u>47,502</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
CBF Deposit account interest	6	7
CBF Dividends	982	953
Interest on Reserve fund	<u>5</u>	<u>53</u>
	<u><b>993</b></u>	<u><b>1,013</b></u>

**7. APPORTIONMENT**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Paid Direct	<u>39,378</u>	<u>49,740</u>

**8. CHARITIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	87	211
Churches overseas	1,800	2,005
Home Missions	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u><b>1,887</b></u>	<u><b>2,366</b></u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Maintenance and repairs	770	720
Water rates	456	183
Telephone	762	111
Light and heat	2,430	3,289
Insurance	2,803	2,907
Sundries	2,247	4,437
Wine, candles etc	46	64
Curate's House Rent	-	-
Consumer unit test & certification	-	840
Christian Literature	-	92
Readers' Board	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b><u>9,468</u></b>	<b><u>12,643</u></b>

**10. SUNDRY EXPENSES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fete floats	-	-
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>4,487</u>	<u>1,148</u>
	<b><u>4,487</u></b>	<b><u>1,148</u></b>

# **Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

Tuesday 24th May 2022, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church

## **Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021
3. Election of Churchwardens

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

1. Bible study and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021
4. Accounts and financial statements
5. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
6. PCC report
7. Fabric report
8. Deanery Synod report
9. Appointment of such Readers as wish to become members of the PCC
10. Election of up to six lay representatives to the PCC
11. Appointment of independent examiner
12. Closing prayer

## **First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

Election of:

1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Co-option of Revd John Tsipouras

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# Accounts

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*Elmdon*  
**Church**

*“The Church in the Park”*

**Annual report  
for 2021**

[www.elmdonchurch.org](http://www.elmdonchurch.org)  
[@elmdonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/elmdonchurch)

Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,  
to be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church.

# Church information

Address	<b>Elmdon Church (also known as “the Church in the Park”) Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ</b>
Rector	<b>Revd Toby Crowe (until July 2021) Elmdon Rectory, 86 Tanhouse Farm Road, Solihull B92 9EY</b>
Licensed Readers	<b>Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews</b>
Churchwardens	<b>Carol Janes Paolo Mendonca (until May 2021) Sarah Leckie (from May 2021)</b>

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met nine times in person during 2021: six regular meetings, plus two extraordinary meetings and one meeting immediately after the APCM to appoint PCC officers. Further decisions were taken by email, in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. The role of the PCC remains one of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

## **PCC members, 2020-21**

Revd Toby Crowe (until July 2021)	Chair
Carol Janes	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Paolo Mendonca (until May 2021)	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Sarah Leckie (from May 2021)	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Karen Matthews	Reader, appointed by the 2021 APCM
Christine Arnsby	Deanery Synod, ex officio member
Cheryl Doyle	Deanery Synod, ex officio member
Jamie Rawson	Deanery Synod, ex officio member

## **Elected Members to serve until APCM in:**

2022	2023	2024
Alan Doyle	Patricia Coleman-Taylor (resigned May 2021)	Lesley Huss
Anne Milne	Elizabeth Smye (resigned Jan 2022)	Graham Smye
Vacancy	Dave Monk (resigned Jan 2022)	Sue Kimber

## **Co-opted members:**

Revd John Tsipouras (from September 2021)  
Martin Hewings (from March 2022)

## **Officers appointed by the PCC, 2021 -2022**

Safeguarding	Patricia Coleman-Taylor (until May 2021) Lesley Huss (from May 2021)
PCC Treasurer	Alan Doyle
PCC Secretary	Christine Arnsby
Lay Vice-Chair	Graham Smye
Parish Identify Verifier	Lesley Huss
Electoral Roll Officer	Jamie Rawson

# Wardens' Report

This last year has been a time to reflect on the past and think about the future.

We began this year still in Covid restrictions, not able to do much more than meet for services in a socially distanced way in 'pods' with no singing; and we had a Rector in place to lead us back to what we hoped would soon be some sort of normality. Now, although Covid restrictions have been lifted, things are still very different. We are 'in vacancy', going through the process of appointing a new Rector and relying on each other to keep church life going.

Both Wardens are very grateful for all those who have stepped forward and are helping to keep our church services and other activities going with all that is involved in preparing and running them.

We are very fortunate that John Tsipouras agreed to come whenever we need a minister for services. He not only comes when we need him, but comes at other times as a member of the congregation as well as attending PCC meetings where his advice is very valuable. Our job would be very much harder without his help.

Some activities have restarted although we aren't able to start every activity that took place pre-Covid as we don't have the people to run them but it doesn't mean that they will never begin again. We have been able to stay after services – both the Sunday morning service and the Tuesday afternoon service - for a social time over a cup of tea/coffee. This is something that was missed while we had to stay socially distanced.

We have begun to reconnect with some of the schools in our parish: the Area Dean, with Sarah, led an assembly at Damsonwood Infant School in April and year 1 of Valley School are coming to visit the church.

The church is open for visitors alongside park events, including when the Cycle Hub (the large container beside the car park) is being used, and the Elmdon Park Support Group add us to their publicity when they hold events. We are looking forward to a new Rector coming to lead our church forward into the next few years and know that everyone will welcome them and support them in whatever they decide is best for the future of Elmdon Church.

Sarah Leckie & Carol Janes  
Churchwardens

# Safeguarding

The Church of England requires its parish churches to adopt a number of processes and policies around safeguarding. This includes the appointment of a Safeguarding Coordinator and an individual with specific responsibility for safeguarding within the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Currently Elmdon has one individual with responsibility for both of these roles.

The safeguarding requirements are determined by the National Safeguarding Team who lead on these issues for the Church of England. The Diocese of Birmingham then provide guidance to each parish on how these are to be implemented.

The instructions from the National Safeguarding Team are made with the support and approval of the House of Bishops and are designed to make sure that parish churches understand and comply with increasingly complicated legal requirements whilst ensuring that the church properly fulfils its spiritual and moral obligations. The House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults can be found under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

At Elmdon, the PCC oversees the management of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the parish and determines how best to implement the requirements with consideration to the advice provided from the Diocese of Birmingham. The PCC approves and oversees all organised activities provided for children and vulnerable adults by Elmdon Church.

The PCC provides policies on Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse which can be found on the Elmdon Church website and are displayed on the church noticeboard. In addition, safeguarding forms a standing item on every PCC agenda.

All staff and volunteers in roles which involve working with children or vulnerable adults are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance. For those in eligible roles this includes us undertaking checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Training for our clergy, staff and volunteers in safeguarding matters is mandated by national Church of England requirements. The level of training required depends on the role being performed. The management of safeguarding training for clergy and staff is the responsibility of the Diocese, but the responsibility for ensuring that our volunteers are trained remains with the PCC.

From January 2022, DBS checks for volunteers in eligible roles will be required to be renewed every three years rather than every five; and **all** volunteers will be required to complete basic safeguarding training, not just those working directly with children or vulnerable adults. Achieving this will be a priority over the next 12 months.

**Contact:** Lesley Huss, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

# Electoral Roll

We currently have 65 people on our electoral roll. This is down from 87, with 22 people removed since the last revision in 2021

**Contact:** Jamie Rawson, Electoral Roll Officer

## Our Finances

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle.

Separate accounts relating to the defunct church halls were closed in 2020, and the funds transferred to the main current account (the exception being one account relating to Gaydon Road, the funds from which were transferred to the main reserves account). A fabric account for the parish is overseen by Alan Doyle.

### Income

Most of our income has come through stewardship (including direct debits), envelope-giving, cheques, standing orders, covenants, Gift Aid, plate collections and donations. Other sources of income have typically been wedding and funeral fees plus (in the past) legacies and social events.

A "Giving Station" device was purchased to allow donations to be taken by card, and this facility was also introduced via our web site. Revised information showing the available methods of supporting the church was made available at church and on our web site.

We must therefore plan and budget for a continued increase in giving in the years ahead. This will ensure, not only our own financial viability, but also that we can bless other churches in more straitened situations and places. We pray for even more generosity from existing church members, and for many new people to join us as well, that they might become sacrificial givers in their turn.

### Fees paid for church work

In 2021, the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. Where required, a vergers received a fee for duties carried out at these services. A sexton was also paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of cremated remains.

### Financial Reserves Policy

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings.

# Our buildings

We currently still have responsibility for three properties, but two of these have now closed for good. Our main building is in the middle of Elmdon Park and is known as “the Church in the Park”. The Sunday service is held here, as well as all baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Work continues on the intended sale of the Gaydon Road site. The sites of the two freestanding halls remain vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees who hold property on behalf of (and acting in the interests of) Parochial Church Councils in the diocese. The Elmdon Parochial Church Council owns the buildings themselves, and are the Managing Trustees.

# PCC membership

Under the Church Representation Rules, we are entitled to nine elected PCC members.

In 2022, two elected and one co-opted lay members come to the end of their term but are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. With other existing vacancies, we therefore intend to elect up to six PCC members at the APCM.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its members since the 2021 APCM were Toby Crowe (Rector) until July 2021, Graham Smye (Lay Vice Chair) from July 2021, Carol Janes (Churchwarden), Sarah Leckie (Churchwarden), Christine Arnsby (Secretary) and Alan Doyle (Treasurer).

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in 'the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit' and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

## Open Church

We now are open on Sunday afternoons for anyone to come and have a chat, a cup of tea/coffee or sit quietly in the church. All are welcome. Those who serve the drinks (and cake) or chat with visitors feel that this is a worthwhile way to reach out to the local community and remind them that the church is here and that they are welcome to come in. Thanks to those who come and help.

**Contact:** Sarah Leckie & Carol Janes, Churchwardens

## Kids in Christ

In September of 2021 we were finally able to restart Kids in Christ. Due to changing demographics and team, we look a little different from before. We now run one group that caters for everyone up to the end of primary school, although in practice the group is generally in the younger half of this age bracket at present.

In the first part of the Autumn term we looked at the story of Jacob and saw how God was always with us, before moving on to look at the story of Christmas. Since January we have been exploring God's Big Plan along with the rest of the congregation, even managing to cover a few more stories than everyone else!

Thank you to the 5 people who have led sessions during this time and the many very helpful, helpers.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Smye, Kids in Christ Co-ordinator

## Family Service

Once a month we have a family service where we worship as a church family from the very youngest to the very oldest. In these services we try to be a bit more creative and to explore different ways that we can worship God and learn together. Thank you to the wonderful team who have been leading these services.

**Contact:** Elizabeth Smye, Family Service Co-ordinator

# Churchyard Maintenance

A team of volunteers began work on the Churchyard after a long period of inactivity due to COVID. The grounds were very overgrown and some negative feedback had been received via social media.

The team began work in the latter half of June 2021 and continued to work once a week until the end of October 2021 when we closed down for the winter.

The overall results were very rewarding with a very positive impact on the whole of the Churchyard with much positive feedback being received. A donation of some rakes was received and also a monetary donation of £50 from an appreciative relative, this has been reinvested in a battery trimmer for use in the Churchyard.

Work has recommenced this month May 2022.

Contact: Sarah Leckie, Churchyard Maintenance Co-ordinator

# Connect Groups

Connect Groups are small groups that meet mid-week for fellowship, prayer and bible study. We currently have four groups meeting on different evenings and daytimes. Two groups meet in person and two meet via zoom: in this way we aim to cater for the different needs and availability of our group members. Connect groups are a great way to get to 'connect' with others in a deeper way and support each other in our Christian journeys, and we greatly value the time we spend together. We would highly recommend being in a Connect Group to all members of the Church.

**Contact:** Graham Smye

# Deanery Synod Report

**Elmdon Lay Representatives:** Christine Arnsby, Cheryl Doyle, Jamie Rawson. Our electoral role numbers mean we are allocated 3 seats until Spring 2023.

## **May 2021 (Via Zoom) - Various topics:**

**1) Transforming Church Action Planning (TCAPs)** Liz Dumain, Birmingham Diocese Director of Parish Mission Support, said parishes were having to revisit their vision statements since 'Lockdown' as the landscape everywhere had changed. Each parish needed to consider their story: the things that shaped them; what the wider community was calling them to be; who they were; where God was calling them to put their resources and to discern these things as a whole church while they brought together the action plan of how to get there. The essence of a TCAP was for each Church to prayerfully discern a short bullet point list of where God was calling them to be, backed up by a detailed plan of how to get there.

The role of the Deanery Project Team would be to gather all the TCAPs together and consolidate them into a Deanery Plan. Many new ideas were emerging across the Diocese, particularly in response to greater public awareness of climate change and enjoyment of nature during lockdown - with the missional question of how to connect people with the Creator of that same nature.

**2) Racial Justice.** Revd. Dele Sotonwa, Chair of BAME Reference Group, highlighted the need for the church to work together with 'black asian minority ethnic' (BAME) to stamp out racial injustice and prejudice. Members were then divided into small virtual groups to discuss questions to provoke thought on the topic.

Dele spoke about a Walk Of Witness that took place last year in Handsworth and Central Deanery to repent of the Church's past, to highlight injustice still prevalent in the Church today and to work toward equality in the future. Bishop David was keen to participate and encouraged the whole Church to work together to eradicate the issue in our Church and in our society, based on Galatians 3:26 "You are all one in Christ" .

**3) Environmental Challenge / Climate Sunday** - Beryl Moppett, Diocesan Eco-Church Coordinator. Ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) the Church of England actively lobbied the UK government. Like Elmdon, churches across the country showed their support by holding a Climate Sunday service and registering it as evidence.

Our commitment to the environment did not stop at reducing greenhouse gases through our buildings but included what we did as individuals. Each parish church was asked to nominate a Climate Champion. Nick said the issue was not a one-off exercise but was something to keep before us.

**4) Living In Love And Faith** - Nick Parker, Area Dean. Each parish was asked to make time to discuss issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. A book was available 'Living in Love and Faith' (Church House Publishing) along with a course to aid discussion. The aim was for greater understanding and genuine encounter as the national church seeks to find a way forward together in love and faith. Nick said that facilitator training was available to help create a safe space for discussion on such a sensitive issue.

**August 2021 - Social.** Allowing opportunity for members to meet each other this, the first in-person meeting of Yardley and Solihull Deanery, was a social at Hampton In Arden Sport Club playing boules or petanque. Geoff, our contact at the club, showed us the basics of how to play and score the game and shuffled members between games so there was plenty of opportunity to mingle and work together. Due to the ongoing Covid infection we brought our own supper and bought drinks at the sports club bar.

The convivial atmosphere proved to be a good way of welcoming members to a new era of common life, witness and worship post-Covid lockdown.

**October 2021 - St. Michael and All Angels' Church, South Yardley.**

Fr. Alex French, our Deanery Environmental Champion (DEC), spoke about the Park where a company has partnered with Birmingham University to create fuel from waste, e.g. biomass from wood and low/zero carbon fuels, including hydrogen for fuelling about 20 Birmingham buses. Research was underway on low carbon heating and 'incubating businesses' at the Park to focus on fuel cells, smart grids, recycling rare materials from waste and other ideas.

We were reminded that the Diocesan pledge for net zero by March 2030 was shortly followed by General Synod's further commitment. The climate challenge was the church's challenge and more people were becoming involved in Eco Church. Our Deanery had 3 bronze awards, and 3 silver awards out of only 7 silver awards across the whole Diocese.

Sheena Heaton, Sutton Coldfield, spoke of how St. Peter's Church, Maney, had achieved the Silver award and progress towards a Gold award.

Revd. Fr. Peter Thomas, St. Peter's Balsall Common, spoke about achieving the Gold award. He said that every church which registered would mean more points towards Birmingham Diocese's Silver Award.

**13th January 2022 - via Zoom**

There was an short update on progress regarding the Racial Justice Walk of Witness, Eco-Church and People and Places, followed by a time of sharing news around the churches and talk by Alisia O'Sullivan, Home For Good (H4G), a Christian organisation that supported adoption and fostering of young children.

Sonia Hudson, Finance Manager, Diocesan Board of Finance, shared an overview of Diocesan finances and how the Diocese was offering help to parishes with their finances, like book-keeping and budgeting.

Nick Parker then read a script from Guy Donegan-Cross, Diocesan champion for 'Setting God's People Free' initiative before discussion by members of 3 questions on the subject of everyday faith and God at work in everyday life.

# Hatchford Brook Churches Together (HBCT) Report

**Member churches include:** Lyndon Methodist, St. Mary's, Hobs Moat; Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG); St. Giles, Sheldon; St. Thomas Moore, Sheldon Community (SCC) besides ourselves. Other churches, such as Solihull Presbyterian Church, meet in the area but do not participate in HBCT activities.

The aim of HBCT is to be a visibly united witness of faith in Christ Jesus to dispel myths and confusion among members and outsiders caused by our separateness and differences in worship style. We seek to fulfil Christ's command in John 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We support each other in prayer and other ways in order to win people for Christ. Activities in 2021 were very limited for a variety of reasons not least of all, due to Covid lockdown restrictions. With Toby Crowe starting a new job outside the area, Linda Granner retiring during the year and Fr. Christopher Miller getting to grips with a new parish after Fr. John Peyton left St. Thomas More, clergy numbers were low.

The annual meeting was delayed due to Covid restrictions and then postponed until October as the Chairman developed Covid so there was no speaker. No further meetings have been confirmed as yet.

# MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Held 18th May 2021 via Zoom

Attendance at the annual meetings of Parishioners and Church (22)

Rev. Toby Crowe, Rector and Chairman

Christine Arnsby

Linda Bird

Emma Boniwell

Patricia Coleman Taylor

Joy Dean

Rob Dean

Alan Doyle

Cheryl Doyle

Lesley Huss

Carol Janes

Sue Kimber

Sarah Leckie

Miriam Lee

Elaine Malkin

Dan Mangles

Karen Marlow Tipple

Karen Matthews

Paolo Mendonca

Anne Milne

Dave Monk

Jamie Rawson

Elizabeth Smye

Graham Smye

Margaret Thomas

Apologies: No apologies were received.

## MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

### 1 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Lesley Huss and Anne Milne proposed the minutes be adopted.

Motion approved unanimously with one abstention.

### 2 **Election of Church Wardens**

Carol Janes was proposed by Gill Carter seconded by Joyce Taylor.

Sarah Leckie was proposed by Anne Milne seconded by Carol Janes.

There were no other nominations. Carol and Sarah agreed to stand as Church Wardens for the coming year and were accepted unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Paolo Mendonca for his service as Warden.

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

1 **Bible Study.** Toby welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke from Hebrews 13: 15-21 before inviting open prayer.

2 **Apologies:** No apologies were received.

### 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting, 20th October 2020**

Carol Janes and Jamie Rawson proposed the minutes be adopted.

Motion approved unanimously with seven abstentions.

#### **4 Accounts and Financial Statements**

Alan Doyle, Treasurer, gave a brief explanation of some of the anomalies to portray a more accurate picture of finances than the figures alone. He said Planned Giving was up by 6% while Gift Aid had been delayed and substantial expenditure had been incurred for the Gaydon Road site in order to obtain Planning Permission and maximise its value. He then answered a few questions.

#### **5 Revised Electoral Roll Report**

The revised report, published 1st October 2020, contained 88 names, excluding four regular church members who had sadly passed away.

#### **6 PCC Report: Mission of the Church**

**6.1 Kids in Christ.** Lesley Huss was stepping down as Co-ordinator and Elizabeth Smye had offered to take up the mantle.

**6.2 Safeguarding Co-ordinator.** Patricia Coleman Taylor was stepping down and Lesley Huss had agreed to take over the role. Patricia was thanked for her four years' service which had put Elmdon ahead of many other parishes in the Diocese and established an excellent framework within which the parish could move forward in its mission and ministry.

**6.3 The future.** Toby said that, as far as he could see, it would be difficult for Elmdon to revisit many of its evangelistic activities in the near future, despite Lockdown easing, as there were insufficient personnel to take them forward safely and to do them well.

There were several suggestions for evangelism and Toby urged everyone to take any ideas to the Wardens for consideration, as they had oversight of church activities, and ideas would need to be discussed by the church via the PCC before starting anything new to ensure we were co-ordinated, moving in unity. During Lockdown, social media had shown its value for us but was something to consider improving for increased impact in the future.

**7 Fabric Report.** There were no comments.

**8 Deanery Synod report.** There were no comments.

#### **9 Appointment of Readers as ex-officio PCC members**

Lesley Huss and Elizabeth Smye proposed that Karen Matthews, Parish Lay Reader, be accepted as ex-officio member of the PCC. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

**10 Election of lay representatives to PCC**

Toby said that there were four vacancies for representatives to PCC.

- 1 **Graham Smye** was proposed by Jamie Rawson seconded by Carol Janes,
- 2 **Lesley Huss** was proposed by Karen Matthews seconded by Sue Kimber,
- 3 **Sue Kimber** was proposed by Lesley Huss seconded by Karen Matthews.

There were no further nominations and Graham, Lesley and Sue were duly elected for three years, leaving one vacancy.

**11 Appointment of independent examiners**

Alan Doyle proposed using the same accountants (Prime Chartered Accountants) for the coming year. Joy Dean seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with one abstention.

After Rob Dean closed the meeting in prayer, Toby thanked everyone for their time before non-members left the virtual meeting leaving the PCC to continue.

**Annual Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2021**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO**  
**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 which are set out on pages 17 to 27.

**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.

-----  
Jeremy Kitson FCA  
Prime Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG  
Date: .....

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	42,764		47,502	
Loan received		4,000		-	
Collections and Donations		<u>1,389</u>		<u>1,932</u>	
			48,153		49,434
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		<u>2,213</u>		<u>2,645</u>	
			2,213		2,645
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>6,810</u>		<u>6,166</u>	
			6,810		6,166
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>993</u>		<u>1,013</u>
Total receipts			58,169		59,258
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	39,378		49,740	
Building repairs		1,564		2,601	
Charities	8	1,887		2,366	
Church running expenses		46		438	
Church and Churchyard	9	9,468		12,643	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,204		1,846	
Sundry Expenses	10	4,487		1,148	
VCC planning fees		<u>8,956</u>		<u>15,000</u>	
			66,990		85,782
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>1,704</u>		<u>1,680</u>
Total payments			68,694		87,462
Transfers to / (out of) general fund			-		38,525
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>(10,525)</u>		<u>10,321</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>14,695</u>		<u>4,374</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>4,170</u>		<u>14,695</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - RESTRICTED FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Collections and Donations	_____	-	-	<u>2,132</u>	2,132
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income	_____	-	-	_____	-
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees	<u>5,978</u>	5,978	5,978	<u>5,043</u>	<u>5,043</u>
Total receipts		5,978	5,978	7,175	7,175
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Church running expenses	3,929	3,929	3,929	4,829	4,829
VCC planning fees	<u>11,687</u>	11,687	11,687	-	-
Total payments		15,616	15,616	4,829	4,829
Transfer from general funds		-	-	(9,021)	(9,021)
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>		<u>(9,638)</u>	<u>(9,638)</u>	<u>(6,675)</u>	<u>(6,675)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>11,975</u>	<u>11,975</u>	<u>18,650</u>	<u>18,650</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>2,337</u>	<u>2,337</u>	<u>11,975</u>	<u>11,975</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
– FABRIC FUND**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Transfer from Funds		-		-
 <i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Weddings & Funeral Fees		-		84
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>1</u>		<u>6</u>
Total receipts		1		90
 <b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Transfer between funds	-		-	
Music Fund	295		-	
Building Repairs	-		-	
Wedding fees costs	-		-	
Total payments	<u>295</u>		<u>-</u>	
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>		<u><u>(294)</u></u>		<u><u>90</u></u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>1,668</u>		<u>1,578</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>1,374</u>		<u>1,668</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
– VALLEY CHURCH CENTRE**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations		-		-
 <i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Income from organisations	-		1,432	
Outside Bookings	-		1,526	
Miscellaneous	-		40	
		-		2,998
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Bank Interest		-		4
Total receipts		-		3,002
 <b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Hall cleaning	-		640	
Maintenance and repair	-		-	
Light and Heat	-		880	
Water	-		108	
Insurance	-		473	
Sundries	-		-	
		-		2,101
Total payments		-		2,101
Transfer between funds		-		(18,580)
<b>Deficit of receipts over payments</b>		-		(17,679)
Bank Balances 1 January		-		17,679
Bank Balances 31 December		-		-

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
-ST STEPHENS HALL USERS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020	
£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>			
Rents	-	1,850	
Functions	-	-	
Grants and Donations	-	-	
	-----	-----	
	-		1,850
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>			
Interest Received	-----	-	----- <u>7</u>
Total receipts	-		1,857
 <b>Payments</b>			
<i>Church Activities</i>			
Insurance	-	2,466	
Water Rates	-	100	
Telephone	-	85	
Electricity	-	1,786	
Cleaning	-	416	
Fire Security	-	339	
Maintenance	-	1,348	
Sundry	-----	-----	
Total payments	-----	-	<u>6,540</u>
Transfer between funds	-		(10,925)
 <b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>	<u>-----</u>	-	<u>(15,608)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January	<u>-----</u>	-	<u>15,608</u>
Bank Balances 31 December	<u>-----</u>	-	<u>-----</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	General £	Designated £	Restricted	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	42,764	-	-	42,764	47,502
Collections & Donations	1,389	-	-	1,389	4,064
Teas	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Income	6,213	-	-	6,213	2,645
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,810	-	5,978	12,788	11,293
Investment Income	993	1	-	994	1,030
VAT refund on Building Work	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Organisations	-	-	-	-	1,432
Outside Bookings	-	-	-	-	1,526
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	40
Rents	-	-	-	-	1,850
Functions	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & Donations	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>58,169</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>5,978</u></b>	<b><u>64,148</u></b>	<b><u>71,382</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Apportionment	39,378	-	-	39,378	49,740
Charities	1,887	-	-	1,887	2,366
Church Running Expenses	46	-	3,929	3,975	5,267
Church & Churchyard	9,468	-	-	9,468	12,643
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,204	-	-	1,204	1,846
Sundry Expenses	4,487	-	-	4,487	1,148
Accountancy	1,704	-	-	1,704	1,680
Building Maintenance & Repairs	1,564	-	-	1,564	3,951
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	1,056
Light & Heat	-	-	-	-	2,666
Water	-	-	-	-	208
Insurance	-	-	-	-	2,939
Telephone	-	-	-	-	85
Music fund	-	295	-	295	339
VCC planning fees	8,956	-	11,687	20,643	15,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>68,694</u></b>	<b><u>295</u></b>	<b><u>15,616</u></b>	<b><u>84,605</u></b>	<b><u>100,934</u></b>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Designated</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
CBF deposit fund	3,169	1,964	-	1,205
Bank current accounts	3,782	1,276	2,337	169
Bank deposit accounts	<u>930</u>	<u>930</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	7,881	4,170	2,337	1,374
Investments (at valuation at year end)				
CBF Share Portfolio	40,974	40,974	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	<u>198</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>49,053</u>	<u>45,342</u>	<u>2,337</u>	<u>1,374</u>

**Other Assets**

**Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:**  
St Stephens Church Centre and Valley Church Centre

**ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Valley</b>	<b>St Stephens</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Hall Users</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Centre</b>	<b>£</b>
CBF deposit fund	-	-	-	-
Bank current account	1,374	1,374	-	-
Bank deposit account	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,374</u>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

..... and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Churchwarden

\_\_\_\_\_ Churchwarden

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

### **Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the year to 31 December is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

### **Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 31 December in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**2. DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the Parish Church.

The Valley Church Centre Funds are designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the Valley Church Centre situated at Gaydon Road, Solihull.

St Stephens Hall Users Fund is designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the St Stephens Church Centre situated at Coppice Road, Solihull.

**3. REMUNERATION**

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

**4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS**

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

**5. PLANNED GIVING**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gift aid receipts	27,147	27,682
Income tax recovered	5,232	5,452
Other giving	<u>10,385</u>	<u>14,368</u>
	<u>42,764</u>	<u>47,502</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
CBF Deposit account interest	6	7
CBF Dividends	982	953
Interest on Reserve fund	<u>5</u>	<u>53</u>
	<u><u>993</u></u>	<u><u>1,013</u></u>

**7. APPORTIONMENT**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Paid Direct	<u><u>39,378</u></u>	<u><u>49,740</u></u>

**8. CHARITIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	87	211
Churches overseas	1,800	2,005
Home Missions	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u><u>1,887</u></u>	<u><u>2,366</u></u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Maintenance and repairs	770	720
Water rates	456	183
Telephone	762	111
Light and heat	2,430	3,289
Insurance	2,803	2,907
Sundries	2,247	4,437
Wine, candles etc	46	64
Curate's House Rent	-	-
Consumer unit test & certification	-	840
Christian Literature	-	92
Readers' Board	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b><u>9,468</u></b>	<b><u>12,643</u></b>

**10. SUNDRY EXPENSES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fete floats	-	-
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>4,487</u>	<u>1,148</u>
	<b><u>4,487</u></b>	<b><u>1,148</u></b>

# **Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

Tuesday 24th May 2022, 7.30pm at Elmdon Church

## **Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021
3. Election of Churchwardens

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

1. Bible study and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021
4. Accounts and financial statements
5. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
6. PCC report
7. Fabric report
8. Deanery Synod report
9. Appointment of such Readers as wish to become members of the PCC
10. Election of up to six lay representatives to the PCC
11. Appointment of independent examiner
12. Closing prayer

## **First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

Election of:

1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Co-option of Revd John Tsipouras

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# Accounts

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*Elmdon*  
**Church**

*“The Church in the Park”*

# **Our Church in 2020**

[www.elmdonchurch.org](http://www.elmdonchurch.org)  
[@elmdonchurch](https://www.facebook.com/elmdonchurch)

Produced by the Parochial Church Council for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting,  
to be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7.30pm on Zoom

**PLEASE EMAIL [rector@elmdonchurch.org](mailto:rector@elmdonchurch.org) FOR A ZOOM INVITATION**

# Church information

Address **Elmdon Church (also known as “the Church in the Park”)**  
**Church Lane, Elmdon Park, Solihull B92 9EJ**

Rector **Revd Toby Crowe**  
**Elmdon Rectory, 86 Tanhouse Farm Road, Solihull B92 9EY**

Licensed Readers **Robert Dean, Richard Huss, Karen Matthews**  
Churchwardens **John Eyles, Morris Ross (until October 2020)**  
**Carol Janes, Paolo Mendonca (from October 2020)**

Children & Families’ Work **Kelly Purdy (until July 2020)**

The business of the Church is carried out through the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This met four times in person during 2020: three regular meetings, plus one extraordinary meeting immediately after the APCM to appoint PCC officers. Further decisions were taken by email, in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules. The role of the PCC remains one of co-operating with the Rector in promoting the mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

## **PCC members, 2020 - 21**

Revd Toby Crowe	<i>Chair</i>
Carol Janes	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Paolo Mendonca	Churchwarden, ex officio member
Karen Matthews	Reader, ex officio member
Christine Arnsby	Deanery Synod, ex officio member
Cheryl Doyle	Deanery Synod, ex officio member
Jamie Rawson	Deanery Synod, ex officio member

### *Elected Members to serve until APCM in:*

<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
Lesley Huss	Alan Doyle	Patricia Coleman-Taylor
Graham Smye	Anne Milne	Elizabeth Smye
Vacancy	Vacancy	Dave Monk

## **Officers appointed by the PCC, 2020 - 2021**

Safeguarding	Patricia Coleman-Taylor
PCC Treasurer	Alan Doyle
PCC Secretary	Carol Janes (until October 2020)
	Christine Arnsby (from October 2020)
Lay Vice-Chair	Graham Smye
Parish Identify Verifier	Lesley Huss
Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Coleman-Taylor (until October 2020)
	Jamie Rawson (from October 2020)

# Introduction by the Rector

**“One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 3:13 - 14).

This is my ninth and final introduction to one of these reports in Elmdon. There is a temptation to look back at the things we've shared during that time – and a report such as this must certainly look back over the last several months at least, even if (according to the usual and obvious ways of measuring) there's much that we haven't been able to do that we would otherwise have been wanting to see done and accomplished. So yes, let us look back.

But at least as importantly (for we are a resurrection people), we must always be looking forward as well, to the new things that the Lord will be doing among us as we wait for Jesus's glorious and promised return.

I truly believe that Elmdon Church is in a strong position to meet the challenges of the post-coronavirus world (and the vacancy!) head-on. But there will be challenges, too: big challenges. And they will require us – by which, of course, I mean they will require *you* – to work together in unity, peace and good order, for the sake of the Gospel.

I said in this preface last year that the earliest we would be able to go back to 'normal' would be the Easter just past, and that realistically we might not be able to restart many of our activities before this September. Even this, I said, might prove too soon – and this note of caution may yet prove to have been sensible. Some things probably won't start again for some time to come, and not just because of the pandemic: whether we're able to staff Acorns during the vacancy, for example, or the full range of children's groups we used to have on a Sunday remains to be seen.

But whatever you're doing in the next twelve months, and whatever the vacancy looks like, my prayer is that you will hold each other with kindness and understanding; that you will encourage one another in the ministry you share; and that, together, you will grow in the image and likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a big work remaining in Elmdon. Our heavenly Father has chosen and called *you* to do it. I'm sorry that my role is now coming to an end, and I will continue to pray for you as I begin a ministry elsewhere. May you know His blessing, and then may you be His blessing, at the heart of the Elmdon community.

**“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!”** (Philippians 4:1).

The best is still to come – praise the Lord! Stand firm and press on towards that goal with great unity and purpose, under the outstanding leadership that I know the churchwardens will provide. During the next twelve months they, and the team that they build around them, will be your leaders! Trust them!

The prize, when it comes, will be worth it, I promise. Thank you for all that we've shared along the way.

**Toby Crowe, Rector**

# Safeguarding

The Church of England requires its parish churches to adopt a number of processes and policies around safeguarding. This includes the appointment of a Safeguarding Coordinator and an individual with specific responsibility for safeguarding within the Parochial Church Council (PCC). In 2020 Elmdon had one individual with responsibility for both of these roles: Patricia Coleman-Taylor.

The safeguarding requirements are determined by the National Safeguarding Team who lead on these issues for the Church of England. The Diocese of Birmingham then provide guidance to each parish on how these are to be implemented.

The instructions from the National Safeguarding Team are made with the support and approval of the House of Bishops and are designed to make sure that parish churches understand and comply with increasingly complicated legal requirements whilst ensuring that the church properly fulfils its spiritual and moral obligations. The House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults can be found under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

At Elmdon, the Parochial Church Council oversees the management of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the parish and determines how best to implement the requirements with consideration to the advice provided from the Diocese of Birmingham. The PCC approves and oversees all organised activities provided for children and vulnerable adults by Elmdon Church.

The PCC provides policies on Safeguarding and Domestic Violence which can be found on the Elmdon Church website and are displayed on the church noticeboard. In addition, safeguarding forms a standing item on every PCC agenda.

All staff and volunteers in roles which involve working with children or vulnerable adults are recruited according to the House of Bishops Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance. For those in eligible roles this includes us undertaking checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Training for our clergy, staff and volunteers in safeguarding matters is mandated by national Church of England requirements. The level of training required depends on the role being performed. The management of safeguarding training for clergy and staff is the responsibility of the Diocese, but the responsibility for ensuring our volunteers are trained remains with the PCC.

The national and diocesan training available for staff and volunteers in 2020 was modular and included core and specialist modules (though in most cases only the core modules were relevant). For obvious reasons, this has all been online during the past year.

**Contact:** Patricia Coleman-Taylor, Safeguarding Co-ordinator

## Electoral Roll

The revised electoral roll was published on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021, containing 94 names. We mourn the loss of Ros Johnson and Anne Salter, both of whom died in the early months of 2021.

**Contact:** Jamie Rawson

# THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

## Our church in 2020

In 2020 our work retained the three emphases of 'shaping' (growing in the likeness of Christ together), 'sharing' (telling the good news of God's kingdom together) and 'supporting' (sustaining our work and our witness together); but many of our usual activities were curtailed by the pandemic and resultant changes.

## Discipleship ('Shaping')

### **Preaching** *Co-ordinated by Toby Crowe*

Most of the year was spent looking at Revelation. We paused in August, however, to go through Paul's letter to Titus. In 2021 we have so far looked at parables in Matthew's gospel, and have just started to read the book of Amos together.

### **Children** *Co-ordinated in 2020 by Lesley Huss (school age) & Jean Eyles (toddlers & pre-schoolers)*

We worked hard to continue our children's discipleship as we moved in and out of lockdowns and restrictions over the course of the year. Material was available for children on our website during the first lockdown, and we ran Kids in Christ groups on Zoom for an experimental period during the summer. We have produced weekly videos for Acorns children for the past year, though these will come to an end in May 2021. From the autumn, we produced craft packs to fit in with the Sunday readings (these have also been posted online, and feedback indicates that they are well used – see quotations scattered throughout this report). Weekly Bible study sheets, which were initially aimed at older children and teenagers, have proved helpful to adults as well! We hope to restart in-person KiC groups as soon as it is practical and safe to do so, though we have lost many members of the team (for various reasons). In terms of leadership, we bid Jean farewell when she moved to the North East in December; and Lesley is now stepping down as Kids in Christ co-ordinator, though a potential replacement has been identified.

### **Bible study groups** *Co-ordinated by Toby Crowe*

The previous arrangements were suspended when the first lockdown arrived in March. Following several months of planning, our new Connect groups were launched in their place at the end of 2020. At the time of writing these are mostly still meeting online, though one has so far made the transition to meeting in person. We hope that others will soon follow. Please speak to Toby if you would like to join one.

### **1:1 discipleship** *Co-ordinated by Toby Crowe*

This is a key element of our discipleship work, but has been superseded in the last year by another urgent pastoral task: that of reaching out to those who have been isolating, or isolated. We have been visiting at least 25 people each week.

### **Prayer meeting** *Co-ordinated by Rob Dean*

We maintained a weekly prayer meeting throughout 2020, meeting on Zoom.

### **Prayer chain** *Co-ordinated by Jean Eyles*

This is a group which prays through urgent and emergency prayer requests, maybe once or twice per month. Please contact us at [prayer@elmdonchurch.org](mailto:prayer@elmdonchurch.org)

## **Eco-Church**

*Co-ordinated by Lesley Huss*

Stewardship of God's creation is a biblical responsibility on all people, in which the Church should be taking a lead (Genesis 1:28). We continue to pray that we might look after our site, buildings and people in a more caring manner; use fewer resources; pray more frequently for those suffering the effects of global warming; and worship the God who made all things – not only in our services, but also with every part of our lives.

## **Evangelism ('Sharing')**

Much of our usual work (eg. Christian 'basics' courses, Open Church, door-to-door visiting, Acorns, schools work, most of our weddings) went into abeyance during 2020. We look forward to starting these activities again when changing circumstances allow.

## **Christmas**

*Co-ordinated by Toby Crowe and Elizabeth Smye*

This looked somewhat different to normal, but we tried to provide activities fitted to our new circumstances! There were online services (eg. Christingle), an in-person (and socially-distanced) family service and a Christmas trail in the park. We distributed nearly 50 Christmas craft packs, and about the same number of Christmas angel knitting patterns.

## **Social media**

*Co-ordinated by Richard Huss and Emma Crowe*

This work really came into its own during 2020, with a particular focus on Facebook. Besides online services (live-streamed from our building since the summer), we provided weekly song compilations and videos for toddlers & pre-schoolers. Toby, our Rector, also led daily Bible reflections on several biblical books (Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and the two books of Kings). This is an area to develop further as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and look for new ways of connecting with the communities that we are put here to serve.

## **LOOKING AHEAD...**

The future will doubtless hold great opportunities and great challenges. The coming of HS2 means that we will see many new residents moving in, some of whom will be looking for a gospel church to join. There will be Christians elsewhere in Solihull and East Birmingham who would also like to join such a church, but who do not know we are here: this is one reason why we need to build our social media profile. The sale of the Gaydon Road and Coppice Road sites will potentially release a large amount of capital for investment in kingdom work.

On the other hand, as we emerge from the pandemic, there will be an amount of rebuilding to be done – and, of course, we are about to enter a vacancy. It could easily be a year or more before a new Rector arrives, and we wait to see what responsibilities they might have for other churches besides our own.

But the PCC is committed to praying and working for a deeper discipleship and a more effective evangelism in Elmdon. We still long to see revival in this land, and why shouldn't it begin here?

***"Today the girls thought of things they could do as part of God's plan. They came up with ideas such as looking after others, being kind and sharing" – feedback from parents on our Sunday craft packs for younger (and older!) children***

# The work beyond Elmdon

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to promoting the mission of the worldwide church, and has appointed a Mission Support Group (MSG) to help it in this work. MSG members are currently Rob Dean, Lesley & Richard Huss, Allan Jones and Elaine Malkin. These are our church's mission partners:

## **Pablo Madrid Aguilera (Crosslinks BEST Study Partner, Chile)**

During 2020, we started partnering with Pablo, a former youth leader now training to become a full-time pastor for his church. Chile's evangelical Christian population is small and there is a need for more church leaders who can preach God's word faithfully. Pablo is studying for a Bachelors in Theology until the end of 2022. We have committed to praying for him and supporting him financially for the duration of his course.

## **Gift and Kathryn Asiku (Wycliffe Bible Translators, Uganda)**

During 2020, Kathryn assisted in making information about Covid available in local languages, helped produce Bible study guides, and was involved in a project enabling the Ugandan Church to be more involved with Bible translation. Meanwhile Gift has been helping to progress the translation of the Old Testament in the Lugwere, Lunyole, Lugungu, Lubwisi and Aringa languages. Covid-19 has brought challenges – some distribution targets were not met due to travel restrictions, and for much of 2020 Kathryn and Gift were home-schooling not only their own two children, but also their nephews. But the year also brought opportunities. Families and small groups made greater use of the translated Scriptures while churches were closed. The Asikus themselves felt more connected to their supporting churches through being able to watch and participate in online services: they recorded the reading and prayers for us in Elmdon one week, and someone from Elmdon took part in one of their services in Entebbe via Zoom.

## **Foodbanks**

With an increasing number of people relying on foodbanks, we continued to collect donations of food for Helping Hands and took part in the #feedbirmingham project.

## **Send a Cow**

We also supported the Send a Cow charity, whose mission is to give communities and families in Africa the hope and the means to secure their own futures from the land.

As a church we look to develop **a partnership approach to mission**, working with individuals and organisations whom we can get to know, and with whom we can join as equal partners in God's work. This will include two-way communication and praying for each other. We are also looking at our own **financial giving**, with the PCC aiming to give 10% of its income to mission support. At the same time, anyone who would like to give specifically to the work of our mission partners is encouraged to speak to treasurer, Alan Doyle, or one of the MSG.

**Contact:** Richard and Lesley Huss

*“The boys liked learning about the parable of the sower” –  
feedback from parents on our Sunday craft packs for younger (and older!) children*

# Our mission in 2021

## "A season of rebuilding and of new life"

We have been living in strange times, but the purpose of everything we do remains the same: to grow in the image of Christ as we help other people to know and follow God more, in his Son, by the power of his Spirit.

### Prayer

#### ***'Seeking the Lord's will, together, praying for the lost'***

*While coronavirus restrictions last, we will continue to make prayer a central element of all our services and meetings; to hold our weekly prayer meeting, every Tuesday evening on Zoom; and to respond to specific requests through the prayer chain.*

*As we prepare for the future we will bring new people on to the intercessions and prayer ministry rotas and train them accordingly.*

*As we emerge from the restrictions we will re-establish a monthly prayer meeting in person and aspire to return to providing prayer ministry after our Sunday services.*

### Discipleship

#### ***'Growing in the likeness of Jesus, together'***

*While coronavirus restrictions last, we will continue to run Sunday services in person when safe to do so, and in any case will also provide live-streaming, DVDs & the phone line. We will increase the musical element in our services when appropriate (and expand our musical repertoire as we do so). We will provide materials (both at in-person services and at home) for children and young people (craft packs etc). We will continue to provide pastoral care and practical support, especially to those who are unable to go out.*

*As we prepare for the future, we will firmly establish our new Connect groups – online at first. We will aspire to bring new people on to the children's work rota and train them accordingly. We will continue to expand our musical provision through establishing a music planning team and bringing new people onto the vocals rota.*

*As we emerge from the restrictions, we will relaunch at least some of our children's groups on a Sunday morning and reintroduce sung worship, using new material which we have learned over the last year as well as some of what we used previously. We will move our Connect groups into meeting in person as appropriate. We will look for more intentional opportunities for 1:1 pastoral conversations.*

# **Evangelism**

## ***'Telling the good news of Jesus, together'***

*While coronavirus restrictions last, we will continue to provide appropriate evangelistic events when possible. We will continue to develop our use of social media as an evangelistic tool. We will continue to provide a weekly Acorns video for toddlers and their families while resources permit.*

*As we prepare for the future, we will plan for a fresh approach to Acorns when this can be re-started. We will review our 'big' evangelism events (eg. Good Friday), planning to recast these as necessary when resources allow.*

*As we emerge from the restrictions, we will explore future possibilities for a regular Open Church event. We will relaunch parish-visiting and schools work if we can. We will launch an evangelistic sewing & knitting group in our church building ('Knitting Together?').*

*NB. We are unlikely to be able to relaunch Acorns, Open Church or the lunch club at this stage.*

# **Buildings**

## ***'Making them fit for today's growing church'***

*While coronavirus restrictions last, we will continue to maintain our building in Elmdon Park and to keep our other buildings safe, pending disposal. We will continue to move towards disposal of both 1960s halls later in 2021.*

*As we emerge from the restrictions we will return to our development programme at "the Church in the Park", looking especially at downstairs lighting; sound desk and visuals (including a relocation of the organ console); replacement of the flat roofs; upstairs panelling (and sound-proofing?); internal and external signage and publicity boards.*

*We will also monitor use of the carpark.*

# **Money**

## ***'Giving to pay for the ministry of the Church, both here and elsewhere'***

*While coronavirus restrictions last, we will continue to pay our parish share on time and in full, monitoring the financial implications of the ongoing People & Places programme.*

*As we emerge from the restrictions we will investigate methods for receiving online payments, in conversation with Amanda Homer (the Diocesan Finance Manager).*

**We preach Christ crucified.  
Nobody and nothing but Him.**

# Hatchford Brook Churches Together (HBCT)

The churches represented, besides ourselves, are Lyndon Methodist Church; St Mary's, Hobs Moat; the Redeemed Christian Church of God; St Giles, Sheldon; St Thomas More and Sheldon Community Church.

The aim of HBCT is to be a visibly united witness of faith in Christ Jesus, but this was difficult in 2020, when every one of our meetings was cancelled!

**Contact:** Christine Arnsby

## OUR FINANCES

The PCC is responsible for the church's finances, though it delegates management of these to the PCC Treasurer, Alan Doyle.

Separate accounts relating to the defunct church halls were closed in 2020, and the funds transferred to the main current account (the exception being one account relating to Gaydon Road, the funds from which were transferred to the main reserves account). A fabric account for the parish is overseen by Alan Doyle.

### **Income**

Most of our income has previously come through stewardship (including direct debits), envelope-giving, cheques, standing orders, covenants, Gift Aid, plate collections and donations. Other sources of income have typically been wedding and funeral fees plus (in the past) legacies, the fun day and Christmas bazaars and social events.

There were no plate or envelope collections after March 2020, and most of the few weddings we had booked were cancelled.

While our Common Fund request in 2021 is the same as last year's, our costs will inevitably rise in the future, not least if we take seriously our commitment to giving 10% of our income away to our various mission partners.

We must therefore plan and budget for a continued increase in giving in the years ahead. This will ensure, not only our own financial viability, but also that we can bless other churches in more straitened situations and places. We pray for even more generosity from existing church members, and for many new people to join us as well, that they might become sacrificial givers in their turn.

### **Fees paid for church work**

In 2020, the church paid an organist's fee for weddings and funerals at which the organ was played. While no verger was contracted during the epidemic, track-and-trace measures were put in place and charged for. A sexton was also paid a fee for digging plots for the interment of cremated remains.

### **Financial Reserves Policy**

The Charity endeavours to maintain finances at an appropriate level to facilitate day-to-day activities and also to finance upkeep of our buildings

# OTHER INFORMATION

## Our buildings

We currently still have responsibility for three properties, but two of these closed for good in 2020. Our main building is in the middle of Elmdon Park and is known as “the Church in the Park”. The Sunday service is held here, as well as all baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We expect the other sites to be sold later this year. Until then, they remain vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees who hold property on behalf of (and acting in the interests of) Parochial Church Councils in the diocese. The Elmdon Parochial Church Council owns the properties themselves, and are the Managing Trustees.

## PCC membership

Under the Church Representation Rules, we are entitled to nine elected PCC members. An attempt at last year’s APCM to reduce this to six (as the Rules permit) was defeated, although only three people stood to fill the six vacancies.

In 2021, two members come to the end of their term but are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. In addition one other member has signalled their intention to resign. With other existing vacancies, we therefore intend to elect five PCC members at the APCM.

Every year the PCC appoints a Standing Committee, which meets as necessary and reports to the next meeting of the PCC. Its members from October 2020 were Toby Crowe (Rector), Carol Janes (Churchwarden), Paolo Mendonca (Churchwarden), Christine Arnsby (Secretary) and Alan Doyle (Treasurer).

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefits in ‘the Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit’ and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the parish of Elmdon it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing a facility for public worship and pastoral care both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church can offer; and
- promoting Christian values and services by members of the Church and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole

*“We have really enjoyed receiving the craft packs and sitting as a family to talk and complete the activities” – feedback from parents on our Sunday craft packs for younger (and older!) children*

# Annual Report of the Elmdon Parochial Church Council for 2020

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (THE PCC)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 which are set out on pages 13 to 23.

### 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.



-----  
Jeremy Kitson FCA  
Prime Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG

Date: 27 May 2021

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Planned Giving	5	47,502		48,041	
Collections and Donations		<u>1,932</u>		<u>4,883</u>	
			49,434		52,924
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
B'ham International Airport Grant		-		-	
Teas		-		656	
Sundry Income		<u>2,645</u>		<u>2,719</u>	
			2,645		3,375
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
VAT refund on building work		-		6,159	
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>6,166</u>		<u>1,427</u>	
			6,166		7,586
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>					
Investment Income	6		<u>1,013</u>		<u>989</u>
Total receipts			59,258		64,874
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Apportionment	7	49,740		48,780	
Building repairs		2,601		1,660	
Charities	8	2,366		2,508	
Church running expenses		438		100	
Church and Churchyard	9	12,643		12,449	
Printing, postage and stationery		1,846		1,612	
Sundry Expenses	10	1,148		801	
VCC planning fees		<u>15,000</u>		-	
			85,782		67,910
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Accountancy			<u>1,680</u>		<u>1,656</u>
Total payments			87,462		69,566
Transfers to / (out of) general fund			38,525		3,000
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>10,321</u>		<u>(1,692)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>4,374</u>		<u>6,066</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>14,695</u>		<u>4,374</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - RESTRICTED FUND**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>					
Collections and Donations		<u>2,132</u>		<u>19,039</u>	
			2,132		19,039
<i>Receipts from Activities for generating funds</i>					
Sundry Income		-		-	
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees		<u>5,043</u>		<u>1,203</u>	
			5,043		1,203
Total receipts			7,175		20,242
<b>Payments</b>					
<i>Church Activities</i>					
Church running expenses Church and Churchyard		<u>4,829</u>		<u>1,592</u>	
Total payments			4,829		1,592
Transfer from general funds			(9,021)		-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of Receipts/Overpayments</b>			<u>(6,675)</u>		<u>(18,650)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January			<u>18,650</u>		<u>-</u>
Bank Balances 31 December			<u>11,975</u>		<u>18,650</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
- FABRIC FUND**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020		2019
	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>			
Transfer from Funds		-	-
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>			
Weddings & Funeral Fees		84	643
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>			
Interest on CBF Appeals Fund		<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
Total receipts		90	653
<b>Payments</b>			
<i>Church Activities</i>			
Transfer between funds	-		-
Music Fund	-		299
Building Repairs	-		3,996
Wedding fees costs	-		183
Total payments		<u>-</u>	<u>4,478</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>		<u>90</u>	<u>(3,825)</u>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>1,578</u>	<u>5,403</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>1,668</u>	<u>1,578</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
- VALLEY CHURCH CENTRE**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>				
Donations		-		-
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Income from organisations	1,432		6,766	
Outside Bookings	1,526		2,006	
Miscellaneous	40		90	
	-----		-----	
		2,998		8,862
<i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Bank Interest		4		8
		-----		-----
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>3,002</b>		<b>8,870</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Hall cleaning	640		2,050	
Maintenance and repair	-		638	
Light and Heat	880		2,639	
Water	108		101	
Insurance	473		1,005	
Sundries	-		39	
	-----		-----	
<b>Total payments</b>		<b><u>2,101</u></b>		<b><u>6,472</u></b>
Transfer between funds		(18,580)		(3,000)
<b>Deficit of receipts over payments</b>		<b><u>(17,679)</u></b>		<b><u>(602)</u></b>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>17,679</u>		<u>18,281</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>-----</u>		<u>17,679</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - DESIGNATED ACCOUNT  
-ST STEPHENS HALL USERS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<i>Receipts from Church Activities</i>				
Rents	1,850		8,155	
Functions	-		285	
Grants and Donations	-		74	
	<u>1,850</u>		<u>8,514</u>	
 <i>Receipts from Investments</i>				
Interest Received		<u>7</u>		<u>16</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>1,857</b>		<b>8,530</b>
 <b>Payments</b>				
<i>Church Activities</i>				
Insurance	2,466		2,905	
Water Rates	100		219	
Telephone	85		195	
Electricity	1,786		1,984	
Cleaning	416		1,352	
Fire Security	339		327	
Maintenance	1,348		506	
Sundry	<u>-</u>		<u>39</u>	
<b>Total payments</b>		<b><u>6,540</u></b>		<b><u>7,527</u></b>
Transfer between funds		(10,925)		-
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of receipts/overpayments</b>		<b><u>(15,608)</u></b>		<b><u>1,003</u></b>
Bank Balances 1 January		<u>15,608</u>		<u>14,605</u>
Bank Balances 31 December		<u>-</u>		<u>15,608</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	General £	Designated £	Restricted	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Planned Giving	47,502	-	-	47,502	48,041
Collections & Donations	1,932	-	2,132	4,064	23,922
Teas	-	-	-	-	656
Sundry Income	2,645	-	-	2,645	2,719
Wedding & Funeral Fees	6,166	84	5,043	11,293	3,273
Investment Income	1,013	17	-	1,030	1,022
VAT refund on Building Work	-	-	-	-	6,159
Income from Organisations	-	1,432	-	1,432	6,766
Outside Bookings	-	1,526	-	1,526	2,006
Miscellaneous	-	40	-	40	90
Rents	-	1,850	-	1,850	8,155
Functions	-	-	-	-	285
Grants & Donations	-	-	-	-	74
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>59,258</u></b>	<b><u>4,949</u></b>	<b><u>7,175</u></b>	<b><u>71,382</u></b>	<b><u>103,168</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Apportionment	49,740	-	-	49,740	48,780
Charities	2,366	-	-	2,366	2,508
Church Running Expenses	438	-	4,829	5,267	1,692
Church & Churchyard	12,643	-	-	12,643	12,449
Printing, Postage & Stationary	1,846	-	-	1,846	1,612
Sundry Expenses	1,148	-	-	1,148	1,361
Accountancy	1,680	-	-	1,680	1,656
Building Maintenance & Repairs	2,603	1,348	-	3,951	6,799
Cleaning	-	1,056	-	1,056	3,402
Light & Heat	-	2,666	-	2,666	4,623
Water	-	208	-	208	320
Insurance	-	2,939	-	2,939	3,910
Telephone	-	85	-	85	195
Fire Security	-	339	-	339	327
VCC planning fees	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>87,464</u></b>	<b><u>8,641</u></b>	<b><u>4,829</u></b>	<b><u>100,934</u></b>	<b><u>89,634</u></b>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Total £	General Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Designated Funds £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
CBF deposit fund	11,363	9,959	-	1,404
Bank current accounts	16,046	3,807	11,975	264
Bank deposit accounts	<u>929</u>	<u>929</u>	-	-
	28,338	14,695	11,975	1,668
<b>Investments (at valuation at year end)</b>				
CBF Share Portfolio	35,797	35,797	-	-
CBF Fixed Interest	<u>212</u>	<u>212</u>	-	-
	<u>64,347</u>	<u>50,704</u>	<u>11,975</u>	<u>1,668</u>

**Other Assets**

**Properties vested in the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Trustees on behalf of the PCC:  
St Stephens Church Centre and Valley Church Centre**

**ANALYSIS OF DESIGNATED FUNDS**

	Total £	Fabric Fund £	Valley Church Centre £	St Stephens Hall Users £
CBF deposit fund	1,404	1,404	-	-
Bank current account	264	264	-	-
Bank deposit account	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,668</u>	<u>1,668</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

These Financial Statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on

11/05/2021 and signed on behalf of the Council by:-

Toby Lough Chair

Paulo Yendonga Churchwarden

Carol Jones Churchwarden

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations issued in 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and the Charities Act 2011.

**Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Subject to the above, receipts and payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid. Income Tax recoverable in respect of the year to 31 December is included in the receipts and payments accounts.

Non-monetary donations to the PCC are not included in the receipts and payments accounts, because they are incapable of being recorded at definite amounts. Where material, such items are referred to in the Annual Report.

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

The following assets are recognised as being under the ownership of the PCC but are not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

- Movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
- Land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC.
- Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty.
- Any other amounts owing to the PCC including church hall lettings and insurance claims.
- Legacies where formal notification of entitlement and amount has been received at 31 December by the PCC.
- Income Tax recoverable from HM Revenue & Customs in respect of Gift Aid donations received after 31 December in the year.

Opening and Closing bank balances are shown in the receipts and payments accounts.

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**2. DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The Fabric Fund is designated (i.e. to be used solely) for the purpose of maintaining and improving the parish church building.

The Valley Church Centre Funds are designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the Valley Church Centre situated at Gaydon Road, Solihull.

St Stephens Hall Users Fund is designated for the purpose of maintaining and running the St Stephens Church Centre situated at Coppice Road, Solihull.

**3. REMUNERATION**

No person connected with the Parochial Church Council has been paid or is due to be paid any remuneration or other benefits from the Funds of the PCC.

**4. TRANSACTIONS WITH CONNECTED PERSONS**

There have been no material transactions undertaken in the name of or on behalf of the Council in which any person connected with the Council has a material interest.

**5. PLANNED GIVING**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gift aid receipts	27,682	30,392
Income tax recovered	5,452	8,466
Other giving	<u>14,368</u>	<u>9,183</u>
	<u>47,502</u>	<u>48,041</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**6. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2020	2019
	£	£
CBF Deposit account interest	7	8
CBF Dividends	953	926
Interest on Reserve fund	<u>53</u>	<u>55</u>
	<u>1,013</u>	<u>989</u>

**7. APPORTIONMENT**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Paid Direct	<u>49,740</u>	<u>48,780</u>

**8. CHARITIES**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Christian Relief, Development and Agencies	127	475
Churches overseas	2,005	2,033
Home Missions	<u>150</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,366</u>	<u>2,508</u>

**ELMDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**9. CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD EXPENSES**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Maintenance and repairs	720	766
Water rates	183	460
Telephone	111	209
Light and heat	3,289	4,046
Insurance	2,907	2853
Sundries	4,437	3,934
Wine, candles etc	64	96
Curate's House Rent	-	-
Consumer unit test & certification	840	-
Christian Literature	92	10
Readers' Board	<u>-</u>	<u>75</u>
	<u>12,643</u>	<u>12,449</u>

**10. SUNDRY EXPENSES**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fete floats	-	-
Other Sundry Expenses	<u>1,148</u>	<u>801</u>
	<u>1,148</u>	<u>801</u>

# The Fabric Report

From your Churchwardens in 2020: John Eyles & Morris Ross

Only routine maintenance tasks were carried out last year and, indeed, for several months we were not even able to access the building. Our portable appliance and fire equipment certification was, however, kept up to date; and the age of the bund on the fuel tank was established.

Outstanding tasks remain the commissioning of an asbestos survey (though no asbestos has been found so far) and the relocation of the organ console to a raised platform at the back of the nave downstairs. We have also identified the need for substantial (and fairly urgent) work on the roof.

## Deanery Synod 2020

A report from your representatives

Christine Arnsby, Cheryl Doyle and Jamie Rawson

The synod met only once, on 5th March, owing to coronavirus restrictions. This meeting, held at St Christopher's Church, Springfield, heard from Co-Area Dean Andrew Bullock about progress on the shape of new deaneries. It also received a resolution from St Peter's, Balsall Common: ***“that the Diocesan Board of Finance be asked to consider its investments to ensure they meet ethical and eco-friendly objectives and by implication at least to offer churches depositing funds with them the option to invest in a ‘green fund’”***. This was adopted.

Beryl Moppett gave an update on Eco-Church across the Diocese, and said that the February diocesan synod had passed a motion urging that the Church of England be carbon neutral by 2045 (this was later amended by the General Synod to move the date forward to 2030). With regard to the previous item, she added that what had been known as the Ethical Investment Fund had now morphed into a Green Fund in support of moves towards becoming carbon neutral.

Revd Tom Thomas (Vicar of Springfield) then split the meeting into breakout groups to discuss what we would like to see in a new area dean. At the end, he drew the various thoughts together for submission to those involved in the interview process.

***“Today we had a discussion about what would make the world perfect... We talked about people who aren't as fortunate as us, and what we can do to help” – feedback from parents on our Sunday craft packs for younger (and older!) children***

# MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETINGS

held in person on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at Elmdon Church, "the Church in the Park"

**Apologies** (14) were received from Emma Crowe, Jean Eyles, Lesley and Richard Huss, Sue Kimber, Pat Lyons, Dan & Miriam Mangles, Karen Matthews, Mary Reynolds, Helen and Richard Salt, Elizabeth Smye and Marilyn Walton.

## Attendance (13):

Christine Arnsby	Cheryl Doyle	Anne Milne
Sarah Baldwin	John Eyles	Jamie Rawson
Patricia Coleman-Taylor	Carol Janes	James Rusher
Toby Crowe (Chair)	Paolo Mendonca	Graham Smye
Alan Doyle	Karen Marlow-Tipple	

## A ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

### A1 Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Parishioners, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Alan Doyle and John Eyles moved *that the previous minutes be adopted*. Agreed unanimously.

### A2 Election of Church Wardens

*Carol Janes* was nominated by Patricia Coleman-Taylor and Jamie Rawson.

*Paolo Mendonca* was nominated by Jamie Rawson and Richard Huss.

There were no other nominations. Carol and Paolo agreed to stand as wardens for the coming year and were therefore appointed.

### A3 Thanks were expressed to the outgoing wardens, John Eyles and Morris Ross.

## B ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

### B1 Bible study

Toby Crowe read Ezra 3:1 - 8 and spoke of its relevance to our own situation. He then opened the meeting in prayer.

### B2 Minutes of the previous meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Carol Janes and Cheryl Doyle moved *that Jamie Rawson's name be added to the list of attendees and, this amendment made, that the previous minutes be adopted*. Agreed unanimously.

### B3 Accounts and Financial Statements

Alan Doyle (PCC Treasurer) answered a small number of questions.

### B3 Electoral Roll Revision

The new roll contained 88 names, though we felt that this would have been higher had we been seeing more people in person.

### B4 PCC Report, including Safeguarding

There were no questions.

**B5 Mission of the Church**

There were no questions.

**B6 Fabric Report**

Toby Crowe said that much clearing had been done. The building on Coppice Road was now empty, the building on Gaydon Road nearly so, and the space under the floor in our main building was substantially free. He said that the broadband upgrade should be completed soon. Thanks were expressed to the Covid-19 'team', who had worked diligently to make the building safe to meet in.

**B7 Deanery Synod**

Toby said that a new full-time Area Dean would be appointed soon.

**B8 Election of representatives to the Deanery Synod**

**Christine Arnsby** was nominated by Moyra Bate & Richard Salt. Agreed unanimously.

**Cheryl Doyle** was nominated by Alan Doyle & Anne Milne. Agreed unanimously.

**Jamie Rawson** was nominated by Lesley Huss & Carol Janes. Agreed unanimously.

**B9 Appointment of Readers as ex-officio PCC members**

Following last year's re-adoption of our long-standing policy that any Lay Reader who wished it should be invited to serve on the PCC, and Karen Matthews having expressed her willingness still to serve, it was noted that she would therefore remain a member of the Committee.

**B10 PCC membership**

Toby Crowe noted that Dave Kimber had passed away; that Richard Salt had completed his term of office; and that Alan Carter and David Cole had resigned their membership.

**B11 Election of representatives to the PCC for a three-year term**

**Patricia Coleman-Taylor** was nominated by Jamie Rawson and Richard Huss.

**Dave Monk** was nominated by Patricia Coleman-Taylor and Jamie Rawson.

**Elizabeth Smye** was nominated by Lesley Huss and Richard Huss.

There were no other nominations and all three were duly appointed.

**B12.1 PCC vacancies**

As there were three vacancies, and in line with our Electoral Roll numbers, Carol Janes and Christine Arnsby moved **that with effect from April 2021, elected members should be reduced from nine to six**. The motion was lost 2 - 7.

**B12.2 Cheryl Doyle and John Eyles then moved that Graham Smye be appointed to the PCC, and as lay vice-chair, until the next annual meeting.** Agreed unanimously.

**B13 Appointment of independent examiners**

Alan Doyle and Anne Milne moved **that Prime Chartered Accountants be appointed for 2021**. Agreed unanimously.

**B14 General questions**

The question was raised whether there would be an October attendance count. Toby said that he did not know but that, if there were, then we would fare better than many other churches. He said that around nearly 60 people were attending our socially-distanced services in person each week (as well as people watching online); and, because of the high proportion of our giving which was done remotely, that our income level was relatively strong.

# Agenda for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7.30pm on Zoom

## Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Meeting of Parishioners, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020
3. Election of Churchwardens

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Bible study and opening prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020
4. Accounts and financial statements
5. Report on the revised Electoral Roll
6. PCC report: The Mission of the Church
7. Fabric report
8. Deanery Synod report
9. Appointment of such Readers as wish to become members of the PCC
10. Election of up to **four** lay representatives to the PCC
11. Appointment of independent examiner
12. Closing prayer

## First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Election of:

1. Lay Vice Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer

Date of next regular PCC meeting: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

# **THE VACANCY...**

may last for a year or more.

## **Who's in charge?**

The churchwardens, in liaison with the Archdeacon and Area Dean. They may decide to commission a leadership team to support them.

## **Will there be any changes?**

A vacancy can be a time of growth (particularly if we're emerging from a pandemic!) but it's probably not the season for lots of bold new initiatives or fundamental changes.

## **How can I play my part?**

Pray for and support the churchwardens. Seek to move forward together as a church, and always in love.