

Report and Accounts
The Parochial Church Council
Of St Peter, Balsall Common
Year ended 31st December 2020

Registered charity number 1184291

Annual Report St Peter Balsall Common

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Trustee Report

Aim and purposes

The Parochial Church Council of St Peter, Balsall Common ("PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the present incumbent, the Reverend Peter Thomas, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church and church hall buildings and grounds.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to ensuring that as many residents of the parish as possible are able to worship at the church, and to become part of our church community. The PCC's charitable objects are primarily focused on the advancement of religion, which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit. All regular worship is provided free of charge and is open to all. In addition the PCC's activities include:

- The provision of sacred space for private prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Taking of religious assemblies in schools
- Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for parents and babies and young children
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas
- Provision and maintenance of a hall for regular public worship and other church activities, and also as a community facility available to all for recreational activities when not in use by the church

To facilitate our whole mission it is important to maintain the fabric of the church and the hall.

The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children (under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016). Dr Mark Johnson is appointed Safeguarding Officer.

Achievements and Performance

Ministry

The ministry team consists of the Reverend Peter Thomas, assisted by Moira Johnson, Alison Bennett and Chris Price as readers, and Livia Baci, Children and Families Missioner.

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Worship and Prayer

The worshipping life of our church has been very different with the church being closed for a period of time and then only open to limited numbers in order to maintain social distancing. We have had to re-imagine how we do things in order to meet government guidelines. The PCC gives thanks to all who have enabled us to record, upload, and publish our services online. The imagination of some of our families in the way they recorded some of the readings has been inspiring, ranging from acting out in their garden or using puppets or dolls houses. We were keen not to turn anyone away or have a booking system so the technical team arranged a video link to the hall when needed. In the light of all this the PCC agreed to install a permanent camera and video streaming computer with internet access into the church so that now we can livestream, record and upload our services directly to our YouTube channel with just one person 'on the desk'. We hope to refine this and use the opportunity to reach further into our community with the Gospel.

Our 3 separate teams continue to prepare and produce our non-eucharistic services, such as SWITCH (Sunday Worship in the Church Hall), Navigate and Lighthouse attracting young families alongside older members and both the young and older take their part in leading some of the prayers, activities and worship.

We must continue praying for our work with the children and their parents and new people.

Other services during the year included:

- Blessing of school bags at the beginning of the school year
- Fresh fruit and vegetable harvest service – produce donated to a local food charity
- Evensong for the Day of Remembering (All Souls Day), with memorial ribbons attached to the railings at the front of the church

At the beginning of 2020 the deanery of Solihull combined with the deanery of Yardley and Bordesley and we welcomed Reverend Nick Parker as Area Dean at a licensing service on 3rd March 2021

During the year we have been blessed to have Livia Baciú as part of the ministry team encouraging our work with children and families, although her work has necessarily been curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Throughout 2020 we have continued to offer the ministry of occasional offices, when allowed by restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic: baptisms, weddings, funerals and burial of ashes services, which are significant occasions for many members of the parish and beyond.

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Church Centre

This year we were unable to open the church daily, but it continued to be open on Wednesday mornings and Sunday afternoons, when allowed under government guidelines, for all who seek a place for quiet contemplation and prayer. The hall is usually used not only for church events, but is hired out to a range of community groups, including exercise, drama and activities for the retired, as well as being available for private parties. However, this too has had to shut its doors for much of the year, and we look forward to welcoming the community back when the government guidelines permit.

Pastoral

We organise several groups who meet regularly to learn more about Christianity, ask questions and express fears and doubts in a safe environment. This year these groups have met either online via Zoom, or have kept in touch via Whatsapp. Each group has a different audience and structure, so that as many as possible can attend one or more. Our regular services for Harper Fields Care Home residents and staff have also continued via Zoom. Home communions are also available for the sick and housebound.

Mission and Evangelism

We have a small but active branch of the Mothers' Union at St Peters, who take part in activities such as knitting clothes for premature babies, and blankets and teddies. Through the Mothers' Union we have a strong link with our sister diocese in Malawi and this year we arranged a large donation of clothes, blankets, tools and school necessities via the container that the Diocese organises. Unfortunately the delivery of this container was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, and we hope that it will be delivered later in 2021. We fundraise on a regular basis for The Childrens' Society, including at the annual Christingle service. We have continued to collect food and other essentials for Helping Hands, a local food bank.

Our church magazine has not been printed since March 2020, due to the problems that we would have experienced in distributing this. We are also active on Facebook, Twitter and recently Instagram, and we have a church website where people can contact and connect with the church. In addition we have introduced a YouTube channel, where members of the congregation, and others who would not normally attend church, may access recordings of our services, along with activities for families.

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Ecumenical Relationships

We are members of Churches Together in Balsall and Berkswell, joining with other churches in the area for coffee mornings, Lenten breakfasts, and other social activities, as well as fundraising for local and international charities. These activities have necessarily been curtailed in 2020 due to the need to socially distance, and we look forward to them starting up again when government guidelines permit.

Volunteers

The church would be unable to function without the hard work and dedication of a band of volunteers, and the PCC would like to place on record our heartfelt thanks to them all. There are too many to mention by name, but the Churchwardens, Chris Hornsby and Graham Buckingham Underhill bear a huge responsibility in organising the life of the church. This year they have been particularly hard at work, organising volunteers for services, and ensuring that hygiene and social distancing requirements are adhered to at all times when the church is open.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The current incumbent is ex officio chair of the PCC, and the Churchwardens and Deanery Synod members are ex officio members of the PCC. Other members are elected to the PCC by members of the electoral roll at the Annual General Meeting, and may also be co-opted during the year. Members of the congregation are actively encouraged to register on the electoral roll, and to stand for membership of the PCC.

The PCC are responsible for making all decisions concerning the general running of the church, the raising of funds, and the use of those funds. The PCC met 5 times during the year, and discussed a range of issues including Safeguarding, registering as a charity, discussing the Diocese's "People and Places" initiative, and fundraising. The Standing Committee, comprising of the incumbent, Churchwardens, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer also meet outside PCC meetings when there are urgent issues to discuss. There are also a number of sub-groups which meet on a regular basis, such as the Hall Committee, who are granted powers to make decisions on particular areas, and to report back regularly to the main PCC.

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Administrative Information

The church is situated in Holly Lane, Balsall Common, CV7 7EA. It is part of the Diocese of Birmingham, within the Church of England. The church does not have a parish office phone number, but emails can be sent to spcbalsall@outlook.com. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measures 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1184291.

PCC members who have served at any time since 1st January 2018 to the date of this report are:

Ex Officio Members

The Reverend Peter Thomas

Mrs Christine Hornsby (Churchwarden)

Mr Malcom Leighton (Churchwarden, resigned as churchwarden and from the PCC on 8th March 2020)

Graham Buckingham Underhill (elected as Churchwarden 8th March 2020)

Mrs Eileen Lamb (Deanery Synod member)

Elected Members

Mrs Susan Clinton (Honorary Secretary)

Mrs Christine Lee (Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Margaret Eyre

Mrs Christine Hunnisett

Dr Mark Johnson

Mrs Moira Johnson

Mrs Amy Kershaw (elected 8th March 2020)

Mr Bryan Marlow

Mrs Alla Pavuk

Ms Sarah Roth (elected 7th March 2021)

Mrs Rachel Westwood (elected 8th March 2020)

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members / trustees of St Peter Balsall Common Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustee and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

Signed



Alison Lowe

September 2021

Financial Review

The accounts for the year show a deficit of incoming to outgoing resources for the year of £13,463 as opposed to a surplus of £7,719 in the previous year. This is principally caused by a loss in income due to the coronavirus pandemic preventing fundraising, including the hire of the hall, and expenditure on camera and video streaming technology to allow the church to live-stream and record services for those unable to attend in person.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary giving, excluding legacies, increased by £9,627 this year, mostly as a result of an appeal for funds to support our Children and Families' Missioner. The PCC received legacies totalling £3,865 in 2020 which have been placed in General Funds. Other charitable activities have seen significantly reduced income due to the effect of government restrictions imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Expenditure

Day-to-day running costs are generally under control. The legacy from the estate of the late Mrs Brenda Newman has been used in part to fund the purchase of camera and video-streaming technology and improvements to the grounds to open up the area of the church facing the main road.

Reserves Policy

Following our significant refurbishment project in 2013, our reserves policy is to rebuild our financial reserves to cover our commitments, particularly in respect of necessary maintenance of the church building.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2020

		2020		2019	
	Note:	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Income and Endowments					
Donations and legacies	2	58,905	14,176	73,081	79,949
Income from charitable activities	3	10,478	1,008	11,486	31,563
Other trading activities	4	1,381	0	1,381	1,309
Total income and endowments		70,764	15,184	85,948	112,821
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds		220	0	220	440
Cost of generating funds for voluntary income			0	0	67
Charitable activities	5	83,486	15,705	99,191	104,595
		83,706	15,705	99,411	105,102
Transfer Unrestricted Funds to Restricted Fund:					
		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		-12,942	-521	-13,463	7,719
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds brought forward		46,341	8,935	55,276	47,557
Funds carried forward		33,399	8,414	41,813	55,276

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BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts at HSBC	41,587	55,591
Bank Accounts at CBF	226	226
	<u>41,813</u>	<u>55,817</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	0	541
	<u>41,813</u>	<u>55,276</u>
Net Assets	<u>41,813</u>	<u>55,276</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted Funds	33,399	46,341
Restricted Funds	8,414	8,935
	<u>41,813</u>	<u>55,276</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

6th September 2021

And signed on its behalf by: PW Thomas

Chairman

PW Thomas

The notes on pages 11 to 12 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations (2006) together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP (FRS102).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. The financial statements contain all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific purpose, and may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any surplus of income over expenditure must be carried forward to the following year, to be expended on the same object.

Unrestricted funds represent donations or grants which may be used for the PCC's ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are accounted for when they are received. Tax refunds are accounted for when they are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when they are received. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Expenditure

Donations are accounted for when they are awarded or collected. The Common Fund is accounted for when it is due. All other liabilities are recognised when they are due and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts, in accordance with s10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the incumbent Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a special faculty for disposal are inalienable church property, listed in the Church's terrier which can be inspected at any reasonable time.

Equipment used on the Church premises is capitalised if it is over £5,000 and written off over a 5 year period.

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	2020		2019	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
2) Donations and Legacies				
Planned giving: tax efficient	39,762	0	39,762	36,678
Other planned giving	2,055	0	2,055	2,702
Tax recovered from Gift Aid	11,046	0	11,046	11,313
Other giving	0	0	0	5,935
Legacy	3,865	0	3,865	20,000
Donations and charitable donations	2,177	14,176	16,353	3,321
	<u>58,905</u>	<u>14,176</u>	<u>73,081</u>	<u>79,949</u>
3) Income from charitable activities				
Lettings	6,435		6,435	18,234
Parish fees	1,371		1,371	1,468
Magazine sales	592		592	3,050
Fundraising	2,080	1,008	3,088	8,811
	<u>10,478</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>11,486</u>	<u>31,563</u>
4) Other Trading activities				
Contribution from solar panels	1,381	0	1,381	1,309
	<u>1,381</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,381</u>	<u>1,309</u>
5) Charitable activities				
Contribution to Common Fund	48,750	0	48,750	48,750
Salaries	5,255	15,351	20,606	19,754
Clergy and church expenses	2,939	0	2,939	3,473
Mission giving	93	354	447	1,555
Mission & evangelism	0	0	0	2,413
Church running costs	12,223	0	12,223	6,013
Cost of trading	12,679	0	12,679	18,106
Utilities	1,547	0	1,547	1,235
Hall repair and maintenance	0	0	0	3,246
Audit fee	0	0	0	50
	<u>83,486</u>	<u>15,705</u>	<u>99,191</u>	<u>104,595</u>
6) Creditors				
Charitable donations	0	0	0	541
7) Funds	At 1st January	At 31 December	Movement	
	2020	2020		
Unrestricted	46,341	33,399		-12,942
Fabric	2,688	2,688		0
Children's and Families	6,247	5,726		-521
	<u>55,276</u>	<u>41,813</u>		<u>-13,463</u>

