

St Mary the Virgin Alveley

Annual PCC & Trustee Report for year ended 31/12/2020

The church of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley, is a Grade II* listed building within the village conservation area. The church dates back to 1140 and is of considerable architectural beauty and historical interest. The United Benefice consists of the churches of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley, and St Andrew, Quatt. It is in the Bridgnorth Deanery within the Diocese of Hereford and situated in the county of Shropshire.

The address for correspondence is:

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Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are either ex-officio (Clergy, Readers, Church Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, Alveley Old Chapel Manager) – the latter because Alveley Old Chapel is under the ownership and jurisdiction of the church. Others are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representative Rules.

During 2020-2021 the following have served as PCC members:

Incumbent: Rev Neil Dunlop

Retired Clergy: Rev Dr Wendy Rylance

Rev Dr Ruth Sims

Reader: Mrs Sue Chidwick

Mr Barrie Jenkins (until November 2020)

Church Wardens: Mr Peter Fry

Mrs Jenny Sirrell

Deanery Synod Reps: Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler (Safeguarding Officer)

Vacancy

Alveley Old Chapel Manager tba

Elected Members: Mr Dale Chidwick (Deputy Churchwarden)

Mr Fred Cooper

Mrs Pauline Cooper

Mrs Julie Fry

Mrs Hilary Fleming (PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer)

Mrs Anne Simms (PCC Treasurer/Gift Aid Officer)

Mrs Penny Jenkins

Mrs Lynn Madden

Mrs Jean Marshall

Prof Paul Rylance

Mrs Carol Wall (Deputy Churchwarden)

Other Officers: Ms Lisa Dhillon (Independent Examiner)

Mrs Vickie Dunlop (Parish Administrator)

Aims and Purposes of the PCC: St Mary's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is now a Registered Charity.

We have continued to enjoy working with Rev Neil Dunlop and his wife Vickie within the joint benefice. We continue to feel truly blessed by his ministry and that of Vickie, not only to regular churchgoers but to the whole community. They are greatly regarded by the whole parish. Vickie continues in the role of Parish Administrator; on an informal basis this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and closure of Alveley Old Chapel for the period of the pandemic. We are immensely grateful to them both. Our Retired Clergy, Rev Dr Ruth Sims and Rev Dr Wendy Rylance, have been unable to contribute on a major scale again this year owing to family commitment and illness but we are very grateful for what they have done and wish them and their families well. We are grateful to the two Readers, Sue and Barrie, for the part they play in the church's worship. Towards the end of last year Barrie took the decision to retire from Readership owing to ill health and retired in November. As yet we have not been able to formally acknowledge his dedication and years of service in this role but hope to do so in the coming months as regulations allow. We remain indebted to him for his devotion to this work and express our sincere thanks to him.

Objectives and Activities: The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship and become part of the parish community of Alveley. To facilitate this work it is important to maintain the fabric of the church. The Quinquennial Report last year highlighted various issues to be addressed and these continue to be attended to by the Churchwardens. This year has been especially challenging and demanding on all levels. Services and worship have had to take on a completely new aspect as buildings have been closed and usual forms of worship became impossible to carry out. Online services have been aired via our website and Facebook page and these reach a world-wide congregation. These are led by Neil and Vickie and various members of the congregation to whom we are very grateful. As regulations allowed socially-distanced services have been held in the Churchyard by the Preaching Cross and eventually in Church itself although the latter necessitated thorough cleaning afterwards. We are indebted to the Rector and Wardens for carrying out this task. An online prayer meeting continues to be held each Sunday evening with grateful thanks to Vickie for leading this. The Rector has continued to officiate at Funerals as regulations have allowed. During the summer months a midweek online Coffee and Chat evening was held, attracting a large group of participants and providing much-needed social contact. All other outreach and social activities were sadly not able to take place including those at Alveley Old Chapel which has had to remain closed throughout the period of the pandemic. The appointment of a new Manager following the retirement of SP is an ongoing process.

The PCC was able to meet in person in September between the lockdowns and later in the year agreed electronically that day to day decisions concerning the running of the church should be delegated to the Rector and Churchwardens. The Rector and Churchwardens have met regularly via Zoom.

It is hoped that as regulations ease we are able to slowly and carefully steer the resumption of activities towards our "new normal" and we acknowledge that this

will not be an easy task and that many of our community have endured loss and loneliness and suffered in many ways. Hopefully we can retain some of the technological methods of communication we have come to rely on at this time to keep in touch with each other and look forward to when we can meet again face to face.

To ensure that all are cared for safely, we have a Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Kirsty Ritzenthaler, and any concerns over personal welfare and safety should be addressed to her or the Rector.

Worship Planning: has continued to place to plan Sunday services and other worship, making the best use of gifts and learning from each other.

Pastoral Care and Visiting: has had to take place technologically and at a distance.

Prayer Ministry: praying with and for people at any time. People in need are considered at each PCC meeting and a prayer meeting takes place online each Sunday evening.

Worship and Music: This has been limited to a small music group at outdoor and online services and the use of recorded music. Full congregational hymn singing and the playing of the organ seems to be our final goal in recovery.

Children and Youth: Sadly all our usual children and youth activities have had to be suspended including Youth Club, Open the Book, Sunshine Corner and Messy Church.

Small groups: held in homes, draw adults to explore the Christian faith and lead them to learn more from Bible study and discussion. These too have had to cease although personal contact has been maintained informally.

Men's outreach: "Breakfast in the Old Chapel" a meal and an outside speaker to present men with the message of Christ outside the church. A regular "Chaps' Lunch" in local pubs takes place, fostering fellowship and social needs. It is hoped to resume these activities once we are able.

Alveley Old Chapel: a church-owned and governed establishment in the redundant Methodist chapel which has continued to grow in strength and popularity with the whole village. Coffee, tea, cakes and light lunches are available on three days a week and there is a lovely garden to sit in on sunny days. AOC supports itself financially and a system of joint accounting with church has been established so that the Treasurer can easily oversee finances. A joint Management Committee has been established, consisting of Jenny Sirrell, Kirsty Ritzenthaler, SP and AL. We are very grateful to the team of volunteers who work so hard for its success. Other village organisations (Chapel Crafters, Music Club, Alveley Singers) and the Be Cafe use this as a venue as well and other social events are held here. The PCC holds its meetings here and the Parish Administrator uses the office facilities. AOC is also available for private hire.

This has become a wonderful use of a redundant building and we continue to be grateful for the generous legacy which enabled the Chapel to be purchased by the church, thus providing the whole community with hospitality and fellowship and a continuity of life for a much-loved building. Plaques recording the legacy and giving the mission statement are on display

It is sad to record that this splendid asset has been completely closed throughout the year and we are grateful to AL and KL for overseeing the security of the

building and also for setting up an outdoor book and jigsaw puzzle exchange when the Mobile Library had to stop visiting the village.

New Life Nepal: We continue to support this charitable trust, along with supporters in Thame, Tupsley, and another parish in Hereford diocese. We receive regular news and updates at PCC meetings. We are endeavouring to strengthen the link with NLN and regular meetings are held with representatives of the supporting parishes. Penny Jenkins has continued to maintain our contact with the trust and we thank her for this.

Church Attendance: The Electoral Roll is currently 86, entitling us to 3 Deanery Synod representatives. Church services outside averaged 30-40 with a similar number sharing online services. We continue to work with and share events at St Andrew's, Quatt. Online services have been a shared provision.

Fundraising and Social Events: We are still very aware of our ambitious parish promise made a few years ago and have had to reduce our offer this year as it was felt that the sum promised previously could not be sustained. We are very grateful to those in the congregation who have arranged to make their offering by Direct Debit thereby ensuring a regular income from these sources. Obviously there has been no opportunity for additional fundraising this year.

Compiling this report has made so obvious the varied and vibrant activities in which our church family engages. We hope and pray that steadily through the coming year we are able to resume these activities with renewed enthusiasm and commitment. Many members of the congregation have continued to help with ongoing practical tasks of maintenance and caring and we would again like to take this opportunity to thank **everyone** who plays a part in our church life. Without everyone's efforts in countless ways, our church would not be the spiritual, caring and loving community it is, seeking to make God's kingdom here in Alveley. Thank you so much to you all for all that you do.

Hilary Fleming (PCC Secretary), March 2021

St Mary's APCM / Trustee Financial Review for Year Ended 31/12/20

2020 was an understandably tough year for everybody. At St Mary's, we have been fortunate and incredibly grateful for the ongoing financial support we have received, both in terms of increased regular gifts direct to our bank account, parishioners playing 'catch up' with regular giving as soon as they returned to church and the generosity shown with 'one-off' donations on our Gift Day.

Fund-raising activities were curtailed from March 2020 onwards, with the bulk of our £6k of fundraising coming from the Gift Day in September. An incredible effort to be only £3k down from the previous year. PCC fees from weddings & funerals were up £1k but, with only one wedding during the year, the figures serve as a sad reflection of the human loss and tragedy experienced within our community during this pandemic.

Alveley Old Chapel has been closed for the majority of 2020, although running costs continue. However, we were fortunate to receive a £5k business grant from Shropshire County Council, which more than covered the deficit but, of course, we face further ongoing costs in 2021.

Overall our draft accounts are showing us in the unexpected position of having an excess of receipts over payments of almost £7k. This can be explained by the following 'one-off' items though:

- a) The already mentioned Gift Day raising c£5k.
- b) £5,450 received in December 2020 from the HT Bequest. £450 was to be put towards £1.2k of remedial work on overgrown trees, which unfortunately was not completed until 2021. The rest was a much needed contribution 'to help the church in this uncertain time'.
- c) Almost 3k received in November from a bequest from the SMM Loan Trust.
- d) The aforementioned £5k grant to AOC from Shropshire County Council.

e) The 'donation' of £1.5k of unclaimed verges fees from previous years, as approved by PCC in March 2020.

Without the £20k of 'one-off' gifts / grants etc. above, we would have had a deficit of c£13k, compared to £8k in 2019.

With all the uncertainty still facing us through 2021, the PCC agreed to reduce our Diocese contribution in 2021 from £50k.

Anne Simms

Treasurer, May 2021

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £	2019 Total funds £
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	26,901	-	-	26,901	24,409
Collections	11,222	-	-	11,222	17,905
All other giving / voluntary receipts	9,819	5,556	-	15,375	4,353
Gift Aid recovered	9,217	-	-	9,217	9,150
Activities for generating funds	6,164	-	-	6,164	8,790
	<u>63,323</u>	<u>5,556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,879</u>	<u>64,607</u>
Investment income	377	18	36	431	705
Church activities	7,537	-	-	7,537	7,596
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Sales	-	4,497	-	4,497	21,709
Total receipts	<u>71,237</u>	<u>10,071</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>81,344</u>	<u>94,617</u>
Payments					
Church activities					
Parish share	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Clergy running expenses	2,320	-	-	2,320	3,440
Church running expenses	14,638	-	-	14,638	22,404
Chapel running expenses	-	7,171	-	7,171	25,489
Mission giving and donations	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>66,958</u>	<u>7,171</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,129</u>	<u>101,333</u>
Cost of generating funds	289	-	-	289	1,607
Total payments	<u>67,247</u>	<u>7,171</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,418</u>	<u>102,940</u>
Excess of receipts over payments	3,990	2,900	36	6,926	(8,323)
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2020	116,681	19,268	4,020	139,969	148,292
Transfers between funds in the year	6 3,463	(2,428)	(1,035)	-	-
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2020	<u>124,134</u>	<u>19,740</u>	<u>3,021</u>	<u>146,895</u>	<u>139,969</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
ALVELEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

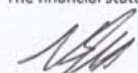
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Designated funds £	Unrestricted General fund £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets						
Buildings	3	-	69,622	-	69,622	69,622
Current Assets						
Debtors		-	-	-	-	-
Bank and cash		19,740	48,567	360	68,667	64,044
CBF accounts		-	8,047	2,661	10,709	10,681
		19,740	56,614	3,021	79,375	74,725
Current Liabilities						
Other creditors		-	2,102	-	2,102	4,378
Net current assets		19,740	54,512	3,021	77,273	70,347
Total assets less current liabilities		19,740	124,134	3,021	146,895	139,969

Movement on Funds

		Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance carried forward 31/12/2020 £
Restricted	4					
Nepal New Life		1,826	21	-	-	1,847
Church Roof		371	-	-	-	371
Fabric Fund		792	11	-	-	803
Churchyard Fund		1,031	4	-	(1,035)	-
		4,020	36	-	(1,035)	3,021
Designated	5	3,463	(2,428)			
Sunday School		856	-	-	-	856
Sunshine corner		-	-	-	-	-
Choir		-	-	-	-	-
Friends fund		2,901	14	-	(2,915)	-
The Old Chapel		15,511	10,057	(7,171)	487	18,884
		19,268	10,071	(7,171)	(2,428)	19,740
General		116,681	71,237	(67,247)	3,463	124,134
Total		139,969	81,344	(74,418)	0	146,895

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 May 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



Neil Dunlop - Chair

NOTES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

- 1 The financial statements of the Parochial Church Council have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
- 2
- 3 The fixed assets are the freehold premises at Alveley Old Chapel at cost.
- 4 The Restricted Funds are listed below:

The Nepal New Life Fund is for donations received for the project which we support in Nepal. A separate charity now exists to channel these funds.

The Church Roof Fund represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the church roof, which can only be spent for that purpose.

The Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the church fabric, which can only be spent for that purpose.

- 5 The Unrestricted Designated Funds:

Alveley Old Chapel represents the accumulated income and expenditure of Alveley Old Chapel. These are held in a separate bank account, but the Parochial Church Council is the accountable body for them.

The Sunday School fund represents accumulated donations for the Sunday School.

- 6 Transfers:

£487 transfer relates to Alveley Old Chapel's proportion of the combined insurance policy paid for by the PCC.

The Churchyard Fund, which was a restricted fund, amounting to £1,035 represents accumulated donations for maintenance of the churchyard. In a meeting held on 10th March 2020, it was agreed by all members that this fund be transferred to the general fund of the PCC.

The Friends Fund, which was an unrestricted designated fund, amounting to £2,915 represents accumulated donations and interest. This was a group that had been discontinued at the beginning of the previous incumbent's tenure. It was agreed by all members on 10th March 2020 that this fund should be transferred to the general fund of the PCC.

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Mary the Virgin, Alveley Parochial Church Council (PCC)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on the attached pages, comprising Receipts and Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Notes.

Respective responsibilities of the members and examiner

The charity's trustees, who are the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented in those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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



L Dhillon FCCA

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30 May 2021