# St. Martin-in-the-Fields,

# Finham, Coventry

Charity Commission Number 1133962

# Annual Report and Financial Statements

**of the Parochial Church Council**

**For the year ended 31st December 2021**

**Incumbent: Rev. Matthew Taylor**



**Bank: Santander**

**Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB**

**Independent Examiner:**

**Mr. Jatinder Singh Birdi**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, FINHAM, COVENTRY, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2021.

**AIM and PURPOSE**

St. Martin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Hall, Fellowship Room and Community Hub of St. Martin's.

The PCC is a charity that is registered with the Charity Commission, Number 1133962.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

St. Martin’s Church is situated in Green Lane, Finham, Coventry. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, 136 Green Lane, Finham, Coventry, CV3 6EA.

The PCC is a body corporate, operating under the PCC Powers Measure 1956 which came into effect on 2nd January, 1957 and the Church Representation Rules (within Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended).

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

At the 2001 APCM a resolution was adopted for 12 elected members to serve on the PCC. Members elected would serve for a period of three years and one third of the elected members would retire annually. Retiring members would be eligible to offer themselves for re-election.

There are 127 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of which 47 are not resident within the parish. All those attending St. Martin’s are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

The average church attendance on a normal Sunday in 2021 was 40 in person and many more watching on live stream each week.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC FOR 2021 WAS:**

Vicar: Rev Matthew Taylor

Curate: Rev Abby Rhodes

Church Wardens: Mrs Helen Spencer and Mr Dan Saxton

Lay Reader

Dr Andrew Barclay

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

Dr John Elton (Diocesan Synod)

Mr Godfrey Armitage (Diocesan Synod)

Mrs Jackie Cubitt from 2020 (Deanery Synod)

12 Elected Members

4 Deanery Synod Members

**Re-election**

2022  
1. Caroline Brown

2. Gill Blackmore   
3. Richard Morris  
   
2023

4. Martin Bint

5.Fran Armitage

2024

6. Stan McCarthy

7. Dave Foxwell

8. Andrew Spencer – cp opted

(Due to her commitments to the Revive Coffee Shop, Alison Court will no longer be standing for PCC)

**GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT and OBJECTIVES**

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 8 times during the year via Zoom. The PCC has Working Teams which during Covid have not met apart from the Building Team and the Standing Committee, on a monthly basis. The Teams met between PCC meetings when government guidance allowed and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

The Standing Committee has a core of six members who are Rev Matthew Taylor, Rev Abby Rhodes, Dr Andrew Barclay, Mrs Jackie Cubitt, Mrs Helen Spencer and Mr Dan Saxton.

Standing Committee: This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee also oversees the monitoring of income and expenditure and the preparation of the annual budget. It oversees the work of the building sub-committee which ensures that the Church, Church Hall, Fellowship Room, Community Hub and grounds are maintained in a high standard of repair and cleanliness and oversees the use of the premises.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT** The PCC continues to support and encourage a wide and growing number of church and local organisations, including the Mothers' Union and a variety of youth orientated entities.

The PCC continues with its basic mission of providing an opportunity for all in the area and further afield to join in worship and celebration of the Sacraments of the Church. All are welcome to join in our services either in person or via Live Stream.

**VICAR’S REPORT - REV MATT TAYLOR**

The second year of the pandemic brought with it the realisation that although vaccines were becoming more widely available, the variants meant it wasn’t a quick fix for the world to return to any form of normal. It seemed right, even in the face of this, for a year’s motto to help give hope again from the Gospel of John, ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full …’ John 10.10b

It remained essential for us as a church community in the midst of such struggle to remain unified and to find new ways of maintaining connections with each other and our wider community. Along with our weekly sheet and service plans we began the year of mission encouraging each other to simply tell stories of how Jesus had touched our lives, in conversation, or online. We did this by social media, our news sheet and our fascinating interviews with members of the congregation which we called ‘Life stories’.

We continued to use technology to keep ourselves connected, PCC Zoom meetings and Saturday morning prayers. I regularly kept in contact with local developments by being part of the Community messengers Teams meeting, an initiative organised by the Coventry Council. Abby and I kept apart for a while to ensure Sunday services kept going, one of us leading the worship from church, the other preaching the sermon from home. Our fantastic Youth and Children’s workers kept connections via Zoom with young people, children and their families. We ‘broadcast’ live directly into the school via Zoom or Teams to deliver interactive lessons. The St Martin’s worship team even led worship for 30 minutes for The New Wine Leadership conference in the same way.

In March we began to connect again face to face with our community through the planting of flowers to commemorate the beginning of the first lock down and to remember those who had been lost due to Covid. As restrictions lifted further, we had the joy of singing together again outside. On Good Friday we conducted an open-air service attended by members of the community as well as church family regulars and Easter day worshipping both outside and in.

This year saw the return of our Summer Holiday Club with 25-30 children attending. This year it was a self-penned presentation based on the ideas of ‘Faith, Hope and Love’ with its own theme song.

As the year of mission began to come to an end our thoughts turned to 2022 as a year of Mental Health and wellbeing, with the long term effects of the pandemic predicted to impact people in the year to come. A team went to Bristol to be part of a day aimed at Mental Health Friendly Churches, which has been helpful in our thinking, but still needs further action in 2022.

In October, Abby and Matt attended a Church Planting and New Missional Communities conference which further confirmed for us that all the work on planning the coffee shop was worthwhile, and helped us to think about how it might be developed. Though there had been heavy disappointment earlier in the year when our major grant hadn’t come through, God led us onward in our thinking.

In terms of the coffee shop, the amazing work of so many began in earnest in the later parts of 2021, more to say on that in 2021. This year although we lost out with the larger grant, we saw an enormous amount of other blessing which spurred us on. The 5k from the diocese for the floor, the offer of an outside play area the day after we found we were unable to buy and build our own. We had a donation from Golden Bottle Trust (in September) and of course the amazing generosity of an anonymous donor in October to purchase solar panels for the church. With our new tables we saw their first purposeful use at the Christmas fair as we used the hub area once again as a pop up coffee shop.

When Christmas did come again there was more a sense of celebration compared to the previous year, if still a little muted. For us personally in the days before this Sandra’s Mum passed away which made things extra difficult, Christmas unwrapped was once again live and in church and our Christmas services filled once again, with a busy Nativity and standing room only at our Christmas Eve service.

Perhaps it should also be noted that it’s been a busy year for me in my Area Dean role. In 2021, we interviewed, appointed and licensed three new ministers. Father Ed at Tile Hill in February, Father Edward at Mary Magdalene in May and finally Rev Jo Joyce in July to Eastern Green. There has been a monthly chapter Zoom meeting every month with the first face to face social in November, this alongside finalising the deanery plan and help organising the regular deanery synods.

As we look in on 2022 and see the coffee shop now opened, we have begun to see the completion of a vision which began many years ago. Yes, it is tough, but God is blessing it and I believe in the days ahead it will continue to build and grow not only our connection with our local community, but also, we hope and pray we will ultimately see people come to faith in Jesus.

Reverend Matt Taylor - Vicar

**CURATE’S REPORT - REVD ABBY RHODES**

Starting a Year of Mission in a difficult third lockdown was perhaps not ideal but we found that technology gave us opportunities to keep everyone’s minds focussed on spreading the good news of Jesus, even while we were unable to meet up!

One of the highlights of the Year of Mission for me was the 5-week series of “Stories of Life and Faith”, where Matt and I interviewed five members of our congregation to learn more about what Jesus had done in their lives. I felt very privileged to be a part of sharing those extraordinary stories. Another privilege was sharing the “Jesus Stories” of so many of our church family online and in the newsletter over the first half of the year. I pray that we all continue to feel encouraged to share our own Jesus stories with those we meet.

Whilst it had been a difficult decision to revert to online worship only again for the first few weeks of 2021, it did give us an opportunity to encourage gifts and skills in others as “Team Matt” and “Team Abby” took alternate weeks. It has been wonderful to see members of our church family, old and new, try out service leading and preaching, sometimes for the first time. I really hope that we can continue to discern and develop gifts across the congregation as we move to a new “normal.”

The pragmatic decision to keep clergy apart for the first three months of the year was sensible in terms of ensuring the continuing ministry of the church but it did have an impact on the training Matt was able to give me over those months. I’m immensely grateful to him for all the time he set aside once we started to work together in person again to allow us to “catch up.”

A huge highlight of the year was the National Day of Remembrance on 23rd March, when we marked the passing of a year since the first lockdown. The community bulb planting day was an amazing way of doing something hopeful to mark that date, but in a way that would reappear over and over again. We were glad to welcome so many of our community and share sorrows and joys from the previous year together. As I write this report, the bulbs and flowers are starting to reappear and they feel like a note of continued hope almost another year on.

Early in the spring, we began to focus on the vision for a Coffee Shop and wider uses of our spaces at St Martin’s to welcome the community. A survey of the community locally showed overwhelming support for a coffee shop, community gardening project and a Repair Café. Bids were put in for funding and we were grateful to receive Church Improvement (CHIMP) Fund money to cover the cost of new flooring in the hub and kitchen areas. Every time the PCC considered the project, it felt clear that God was leading us into this work. He certainly seems to have blessed the project in lots of ways. And, once again, St Martin’s has proved itself to be a church that gets stuck in to make something happen: from working parties to decorate the hub, to clearing the store room; from cleaning the kitchen, to making donations of money, time and skills, and volunteering to help in the kitchen; and so much more. Special mention, however, must go to Andrew Barclay and the rest of the team of talented wood-workers who have worked so hard to make truly unique and special furniture from old pews and choir stalls. It has felt so important to link the history of St Martin’s with the present and future life of the church in such a special and meaningful be offering. way – not least because it emphasises our desire to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever we can!

I feel very excited about the opportunities for mission that this whole initiative offers, but particularly the Coffee Shop. It has been hard work but also a great pleasure to work on developing the project and I can’t wait to see what happens as we begin to welcome the community in March. I know Ali’s amazing food and drink will be enough of a draw but I really hope new friendships are forged and the love of Jesus is more widely known as a result of the new kinds of welcome we will

2021 will almost certainly have been my last full year of curacy and, even with all the constraints of Covid and the unusual situations we have faced, I remain deeply grateful for all I have experienced at St Martin’s. As I finished writing my portfolio of reflections and evidence for submission to the diocese curacy assessors at the beginning of 2022, I was really struck by the depth and breadth of what I have seen and done over the last nearly three years. Not all curacies are so full and blessed, so I remain grateful for Matt’s generous, gracious guidance and friendship; for the chance to work in an amazing staff team with really talented people; for the support and companionship of such a committed, supportive Standing Committee and PCC; and for the church as a whole – we are not a perfect body of people (because no one is!) but it is such a joy to work amongst such loving, good-humoured and understanding brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you to all of you.

Reverend Abby Rhodes - Curate

**CHURCH WARDENS REPORT**

During 2021 the Church building, Hall and Fellowship Room were in and out of use depending on the government and Church of England legislation at the time. The Churchwardens would like to say a huge “thank you” to everyone who has supported them during 2021.

**Covid Risk Assessments**

The Standing Committee (Matt, Abby, Helen S, Jackie C, Andrew B, Dan S) have worked together to ensure that we remain compliant with the ever-changing government legislation and Church of England guidelines. As part of this a Covid risk assessment has to be in place for everything taking place within the church facilities. This includes all activities run by St Martins directly and also those by other groups. All risk assessments are reviewed and where necessary updated (by the group running the activity) to ensure continued compliance.

**Cleaning**

We continue to use a contract cleaning company (Spring Action Cleaning Company, run by Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre) to ensure areas of the buildings are thoroughly cleaned. The details of these arrangements were put in writing for the first time. During 2021, the cleaner attended the site on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The toilets are cleaned on each visit. Other areas cleaned at least once a week are the Church, Narthex, Hub and Hall. The Fellowship Room carpet was cleaned which removed most of the marks and dirt, but the Fellowship Room remains smelling a little musty at times. In addition to this, volunteers were needed to clean the touch points (seat backs, door handles etc.) in church between the 9am and 11am Services. St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church Green Lane South Coventry CV3 6EA saintmartins@btinternet.com 02476 692358 St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Green Lane South, Coventry, CV3 6EA Registered Charity Number 1133962

**Building Working Group**

The team continued to meet either outside ‘face to face’ or via Zoom. Some of the works discussed and carried out include:

**Flooding** – due to a burst water heater in the middle kitchen, the floors throughout the middle kitchen, toilet corridor, outside the hall doors and into the hall and fellowship rooms were flooded. This was mopped up and left to dry naturally. The damaged water heater was replaced.

**Rear Church Wall** – continued investigation into the water damage with testing

**Fire Alarm System** - Various works including:

• replacement of batteries in emergency lighting;

• additional fire call point at the rear of the church by the doors

**Middle kitchen** – repainted and cleaned to enable use once coffee shop is up and running.

**Annual jobs** – general window cleaning and gutter clearing.

**Office Heating** – various failed heaters reported and electricity tripped out in the offices on the side of the stage.

**Grounds Community Planting** – during March, we invited the community to plant spring flower in the front lawn to remember the difficult times during covid. Concrete shed/garage – This was emptied during 2021 with gardening tools and equipment moved to the larger garage at the side. This will enable to the smaller garage to be demolished and removed.

**Side Garage** – the side door and frame were repaired and/or replaced by Andrew Barclay and Alan Colliver.

**Utilities** - Like so many smaller utility suppliers, People’s Energy (our new electricity and gas supplier), went into receivership due to the rise in gas prices in the latter part of 2021. We were automatically moved to British Gas by the regulator (Ofgem) which, along with government legislation meaning the church windows had to be open to ensure free-flowing air during services, has meant a significant increase in utility prices due to the market and change of supplier. Once the credit we accrued with People’s Energy is transferred over to BG, we will, once again look to renegotiate our contracts.

**Solar Panels -** We were very fortunate to receive a £3000 grant in the autumn of 2021 towards the installation of solar panels, and this was followed very soon afterwards by a hugely generous anonymous donation of £17,000, specifically for solar panels. As a result, a Solar Panels pop-up working group was established and the planning work for this is ongoing.

Helen Spencer and Dan Saxton - Church Wardens

**VOLUNTEERS**

Our thanks are given to all those who freely give of their time, talents and treasure to all areas of the church’s ministry, from banking, dealing with Gift Aid, working with children, pastoral care, administration and all those other tasks which together fulfil the holistic role of St Martin’s both in the Church and in the wider community. Thanks too to our Vicar, Matt, Curate, Abby, the Churchwardens, Helen and Dan, Lay Reader, Andrew and all on the PCC for all their hard work in 2021. We look to the future with confidence.

**EMPLOYEES**

We are particularly appreciative of Jackie Bint our Parish Administrator, our part time Children and Family worker Kate Saxton and Lisa Clamp our part time Youth Enabler, who make a significant contribution to the mission of St Martin’s as we seek to help people Explore Faith, Love Jesus and serve our community, particularly in this second pandemic year.

**DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021**

There were three meetings in 2021. However, due to the Corona virus pandemic the September meeting was the only one when the parish representatives met in a church; the previous two were conducted via Zoom and followed the usual pattern. All meetings, therefore, began with Opening Worship and each meeting then focussed on a different theme. All meetings closed with prayer and a blessing. Brief details of the meetings are as follows:

**Monday 22nd March** – **Zoom Meeting** - chaired by Tim Pollard - Opening Worship was led by Rev Abby Rhodes.

Christine Niven – staff counsellor – then gave an introduction to the work of

**The Light House (Christian Care Ministry) Trust**. She explained that their calling is based on Isaiah 61 to help and fulfil this scripture in our communities. The LHT was started in 1986 by people who were members of Queens Road Baptist Church, Coventry, in a large house in Earlsdon and is now situated in Ball Hill. Counselling is provided, free of charge, although clients are asked to make a donation towards the cost of the course, however, no–one is turned away through lack of finance. Clients are referred through many services ie NHS, Social Services, other voluntary Agencies, Churches or through self-referral. Clinical and Pastoral supervision is offered, CPD and other courses, on request. Income varies from month to month and may come from NHS grant, grants from Charities, plus 4 churches give support each month. Christine went on to explain that anxiety and depression have become more prevalent during the pandemic also unresolved bereavement issues. Details were given on how contributions can be made and as well as financial support she asked for prayer and volunteer support in various roles.

**Deanery Parish Plan** - Rev Stella Bailey then gave an explanation of the process to date and the next steps to be taken.

**Wednesday 2nd June** – **Zoom Meeting** chaired by Mark Lovegrove - Opening Worship was led by Rev Matt Taylor.

There then followed a presentation on **Clergy Wellbeing** by the **Venerable Sue Field and Yvonne Warren**. National Synod wishes to encourage Deanery Synod members to engage their congregations and PCCs in conversation around clergy wellbeing. The Diocese of Coventry **“Document for Reflection and Action for Local Congregations”** has been produced for Coventry and Kenilworth deaneries to provoke thought processes. Yvonne shared her experiences as a clergy spouse and as a therapist, working with clergy as well as a General Synod member and part of the group working on the Covenant. Rev Sue shared some of her experience as an incumbent. curate trainer, DDO and now Archdeacon Pastor of issues around clergy wellbeing. Attendees were then split into five groups with each group focussing on a different aspect of wellbeing after which a spokesperson for each group then spoke about their findings to the assembled meeting.

**The Area Dean then gave a resumé of the Kenilworth Deanery Plan** and explained that its formation began in early 2019 with an invitation to each PCC to send a representative to various meetings that aimed to help parishes have a better understanding of each other – opportunities and challenges to look at parish boundaries and anomalies. She went on to say that after some meetings this became difficult with some parishes not engaging. When the first part of the pandemic put many things on hold, in November 2020, a Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee was formed with the formation of a new synod.

**Wednesday 15th September** – St Barbara’s Church - chaired by Rev Matt Taylor - Opening Worship was led by Rev Tulo Raistrick and followed by a parish presentation.

The topic for this meeting was **Working towards Net Zero** given by Godfrey Armitage. The question was “Where does concern for the environment fit into Christian worship and discipleship?” and how can this be reflected in the Church of England, the Diocese of Coventry and in this Deanery? Godfrey explained that the presentation moves from God’s care for creation to our responsibilities as people made in the image of God and reconciled by Christ, particularly considering our responsibilities as parishes and as a Deanery. In all, 38 points were made in this presentation.

This was followed by a presentation from Gail Phillips on **Living in Love and Faith.** This explored issues which are at the heart of what it means to be human and created in the image of God – issues to do with Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage. The LLF handbook takes as a starting point

1 John 4:8 “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear”. There is an array of LLF resources to facilitate the listening and learning process and a closer look can be taken by registering on the LLF Learning Hub its simple and free and gives access to video course material and story films. In July 2022 General Synod will revisit some of the key issues connected to the material LLF explores.

All minutes of the above meetings are available from Jackie Cubitt, John Elton or Godfrey Armitage.

Jackie Cubitt

Deanery Synod Representative

**SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

At the beginning of January 2022 new guidelines came into force, which we were required to enforce towards the end of 2021. Preparations for volunteers for The Revive Coffee Shop were made, ensuring that they were Safely Recruited and I would like to say thank you to those volunteers for filling in forms, taking the Basic Safeguarding Training and for those who have completed references.

I would like again, to say a really big thank you to everyone who either works with children, adults or who is in a Leadership Role. During the year the Safeguarding Training continued to be online. A big thank you to Kate and Lisa, who have completed so many Risk Assessment forms for the groups during the year as the guidelines change.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016, which imposes a legal duty on the PCC *to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.*

You might wonder what it means to “have due regard”, and the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) observed that this legal term was not well understood. If you would like further details, please do contact the Safeguarding Officer.

No safeguarding incidents have been reported to the DSA. The DBS checks continue to come through fairly quickly. Nine people have been DBS checked during this last year 2021.

Six people have completed their C0 training (now called Basic Safeguarding Training) during the year and fourteen completed C1 (which is now called Foundation Training). The C2 course has now changed to Leadership Training and is for Clergy and the Safeguarding Officer. For those who have responsibilities for managing others, now have to take the Safer Recruitment and People Management online Course. We continue to keep up to date with the Parish Dashboard even though it is continually changing. The Parish Dashboard forms the Action Plan from the Safeguarding Policy adopted by the PCC five years ago and is a great asset, making sure all safeguarding regulations are adhered to. There are three levels and I am pleased to say that we continue to be on level three. The PCC have regular updates at each PCC meeting and have reviewed the Cause for Concern and Allegations Policy. Safeguarding is high up on the agenda at every PCC meeting so the PCC have regular updates and receive up to date information on Safeguarding and the Action Plan from the Parish Dashboard. Please do ask if you would like to know more about the Parish Dashboard. There is more information on Safeguarding in the Narthex, Fellowship Room and the main Hall. Thank you to everyone who has made this role so much easier by completing references, filling in forms, booking on line courses and also the support I have had from Matt and Abby, Kate and Lisa. Thank you so much.

Jackie Cubitt - Safeguarding Officer

**School’s Work: Finham & Stivichall Primary**

* 2021 we worked in both schools delivering sessions and assemblies (in Finham only), planning and implementing lessons either on-line; at the beginning of the year, moving to face to face sessions, towards the end of 2021.

* We offer a varied programme (that follows the school’s requirements for curriculum) that we have adapted and developed over the years, offering a varied RE resource to all the children and teachers from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.
* The team consists of Matt / Abby / Kate and Margaret Warren joined towards the latter part of the year.

**Diary Dates / scheduled lessons / Assemblies of 2021**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Spring 1  Finham | 3/02/21  RECORDED SESSION | Yr 5 - (2 classes – delivered separately) | Lord's Prayer |
| Spring 2  Finham / Stivichall | POSTPONED | Yr 5– children visit church, am / pm sessions | Easter Cracked |
| Spring 2  Stivichall | Teams / Zoom session | Year 5 – Q&A | Christianity |
| Spring 2 | POSTPONED | Yr 2 - (2 classes – delivered separately) | Easter story & craft |
| Spring 2 | VIDEO LINK SENT | Whole school | Easter Assembly |
| Summer 1  Finham | 25th May  9:30am - 11:30am | Yr 3 -TEAMS / ZOOM  (2 classes – delivered separately) | How and why is the bible important to Christians? |
| Summer 2  Finham | 29th June  1-3pm | Yr 6 TEAMS / ZOOM  (2 classes – delivered separately) | Christianity- when life gets hard |
| Summer 2  Finham | 12th July | Yr 6 (in hall space - bubbles | Transition sessions |
| Summer 2  Stivichall | 13th July 1-3pm  60mins per class | Yr 6 TEAMS / ZOOM  (2 classes – delivered separately) | Transition sessions |
| Autumn 1 | 5th October | Key Stage 1 | Assembly / Creation |
| Autumn 1 | 12th October 2021 | Yr Reception Stivichall  (3 classes – delivered separately) | The calling of the first Disciples |
| Autumn 2 | 16th November 2021 | Yr 6 – 2 classes | How Christians live their lives… / What do religions say when life gets hard topic? |
| Autumn 2 | 30th November 2021 | Key Stage 2 | Assembly / Creation |
| Autumn 2 Finham / Stivichall | 8th & 9th DECEMBER 2021 | Year 4 – Christmas Unwrapped  Volunteers, enable us to meet the children at the church – Mary Greenfield / Caroline Brown / Joyce Bird have been involved with these sessions. | The true facts about Christmas! According to the bible |

**IGNITE group**:

After initially spending most of the beginning of the year on-line & delivering care packages, (sweets and tuck) to the current children in the group, we weren’t able to recruit new members and although we could not meet physically, mostly, the attendance was good for the group and we were able to maintain strong connections with the children and their families during this time. I particularly enjoyed our on-line Passover feast, where children made a sandwich (in their own home) and we all sat on the floor to eat it! Thanks to Dave Foxwell and Marilyn Douglas who helped me to keep this group going over what was a tricky period in children’s ministry.

We returned to face 2 face sessions after the Easter Holidays – 22nd of April.

We had 6 members of the group due to go to senior school in September, so Lisa & I, looked at ways to help them to transition into the FNY groups, to give them a smooth and less stressful time moving on.

During the year of 2021, we had 12 children – the group was very busy, majority were boys with 3 girls attending – Our new leaders, Sue Jones & Kingsley were great and a real asset to the team – bringing extra crafts and sports to the group sessions. Marilyn and Dave continued to support the group too, and I really appreciated all their hard work to help. To support me, during this very boisterous group, we had to have 3 leaders present, Matt & Abby have been stepping in to help too. We held a bring your own picnic “family” session and games afternoon on the 15th July 2021, which was well attended.

Dave stepped down from leading in September 2021, although he still keeps in-touch with me about the group.

New term, new faces –We welcomed 2 new faces over the Autumn term (girls) so as the groups stands, there are 13 members, with a mix of both genders. (Not that everyone turns up at once)

**Special activities:**

* Community outreach – project Elastic band cars – with Warwick university – thanks to Catherine Gordon who helped to coordinate this for us

**Easter Activities 2021**

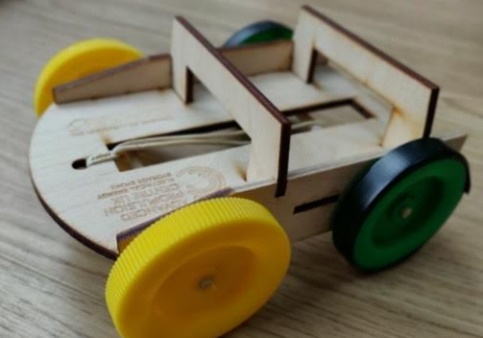
We held a family group breakout room, in the online agape meal during the Easter period and had a great turn out of families to the Easter Trail where we saw 15 children & their families in church.

**Sunday Groups**

After the challenges of 2020 – with the pandemic – it has almost been like starting again from scratch with children’s ministry on a Sunday for 2021

* Children’s sporting activities have gone back to normal, so we have the same dilemma of how to bring children and their families into church on a Sunday morning, with their sporting activities mostly clashing with our Sunday 11am service.
* Over 2021, we have seen a range of children ages 3 – 11 in the primary age group, however, Y&C group is still meeting \* See Lisa’s “Youth enabler report” for more detail regarding this. Lisa Clamp (Youth Enabler) and myself have been working together on Sunday groups with a group of volunteers, following the sermon / bible teachings in the main church – which has helped the church and children’s group stay connected in their learning.
* We introduced “busy bags” for toddlers & babies in the church – these do need maintaining regularly and checking for damaged items, to ensure they stay safe to use, but they seem to be a useful resource to parents with younger children and mean that the families can sit where they please and be fully integrated into the church congregation – maybe over both services 9am & 11am if needed.

I would like to thank our Sunday morning Children’s leaders for their support and help during 2021 (Helen Webb / Sue Jones / Linda Smith) – we certainly would not be able to run our groups without their practical and physical help – we are a very blessed church, with leaders wishing to give up their free time to support our youngsters growing Faith at St Martin’s.

**Registers for Sunday Groups Attendance all age groups: 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **3RD JAN** | **10TH JAN** | **17TH JAN** | **24TH JAN** | **31ST JAN** | **7TH FEB** | **14TH FEB** | **21ST FEB** | **28TH FEB** | **7th MARCH** | **14TH MARCH** | **21ST MARCH** | **28TH MARCH** | **4TH APRIL** | **11TH APRIL** | **18TH APRIL** |
| AA | G | G | G | G | AA | SH | SH | G | AA | G | G | G | AA | SH | SH |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 9 | 4 |

Spring 1 & 2 - 2021

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| **25/04/2021** | **02/05/2021** | **9/5/2021** | **16/5/2021** | **23/5/2021** | **30/5/2021** | **6/6/2021** | **13/6/2021** | **20/6/2021** | **27/6/2021** | **4/7/2021** | **11/7/2021** | **18/7/2021** |
| G | AA | G | G | G | SH | AA | G | G | G | AA | G | G |
| 12 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | - | 8 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 6 |

Summer 1 & 2 - 2021

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| **5th September** | **12th September** | **19th September** | **26th September** | **3rd October** | **10th October** | **17th October** | **24th October** | **31st October** | **7th November** | **14th November** | **21st November** | **28th November** | **5th December** | **12th December** | **19th December** | **26th December** |
| AA | G | G | G | AA | G | G | G | G | AA | G | G | G | AA | NG | G | NG |
|  | 6 | 10 | 5 | - | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3 | - | 6 | 6 | 5 | - | - | 4 | - |

Autumn 1 & 2 2021 (NEW SCHOOL YEAR)

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| Key: | AA = ALL AGE – register not needed, but taken on some occasions  G = GROUPS – CHILDRENS GROUPS 5YEARS – 14YEARS | NG= NO GROUPS  SH = SCHOOL HOLIDAYS / green |

**Stay & Play – Leader Alison Court**

As an associate group of St Martin’s, it’s important to notice the work that Alison and her team of volunteers (Caroline Brown / Ruth Ridlinton) have put into Stay & Play during 2021. It is a busy, thriving community group, offering support, on-line support to LIVE, fun, play for pre-schoolers, babies and parents and carers, also delivering the gospel in a child / tot friendly way. The group has been meeting throughout 2021, term time only and meets many needs in the community. It is a friendly place for supporting families, mentally and physically. Especially as many babies were born during lockdown and parents / babies hadn’t had the interaction with others – feeling isolated and alone, this group helped support and facilitated building new relationships, bridging the gap that covid had created.

**Holiday Club – Faith – Hope – Love** We had an amazing response to our holiday club 2021 - We had 25 children booked on Faith Hope & Love. Some children did not attend the whole of the 3 mornings we offered due to other commitments, but happily paid for the sessions. We received Children from Finham Primary / Stivichall Primary/ our church families / IGNITE group. Tickets were sold on Eventbrite and covered costs of crafts purchased for the club, even though Eventbrite take a small percentage on ticket sales, due to us charging and not being a free event.

Each session contained resources to support the following:

• Story telling / drama / video / story with song

• Activity – table crafts based on Faith, Hope, Love

* Daniel & the lion’s den
* Paul & the shipwreck
* The Prodigal son

• Prayer – space – children encouraged to meet with God & offer their prayers

• Songs / Dance & Worship / outdoor activities

We had an amazing group of volunteers to help support this event this year,from helping to set-up, assist with the children’s groups & pack down at the end– it was amazing to be able to meet in this way, and life felt back to normal! 😊

**Movie Morning October 2021**

We saw the return of our Movie morning in the October Half Term – we saw 7 families and their children – it was a really good turnout considering all the restrictions that have been in place. We used the church space and the community hub (soon to be a coffee shop) which was great to see the vision for what the space could be used for.

**Personal Note:**

On the whole, 2021 came with its many challenges:

* The pandemic – coming out of the pandemic – where to start?!
  + How we continue to reach out to children & families
  + How we return to groups & clubs safely & recruitment of new members inc leaders?
  + How we return to schools work safely?
  + What we decide to keep or let go of during these times!

With all these challenges, we did not stop our work in schools and in reaching out to the community. Where other churches furloughed children & family workers and simply stopped, we are one in a handful of churches that have carried on serving the children & families in our parish, we can feel proud that we used our initiative, technical know-how and many brave and sometimes whacky solutions to bring Jesus to others.

**Looking forward:** There is so much work to do in this area, we need the help and support of volunteers (enough volunteers) to be able to shoulder the load; from prepping crafts, to helping to get ready for events, to be in schools, in the classroom, helping and supporting the children in small groups. Ideally, we require a “team” that are prepared to help build relationships and to show the love of Jesus in our community, meeting the children where they are (in schools)

The current volunteers, do so much already, so to enable our children’s ministry to thrive (not just on a Sunday) –ideally, we need support from outside of our current, dedicated volunteer group. We need to be able to build up, encourage and nurture strong & able leaders within our church, where proper training and support can be given to those who step forward. We also need to recognise our regular volunteers, who without them, we would not be able to continue to do this work.

As we’ve begun to build our children’s ministry back up again, please continue to pray for Children and families is our parish, that they will meet with God and know the love of Jesus. Please Pray for our current leaders and new leaders that may feel called to serve.

Kate Saxton - Children and Family Worker

[children&family@stmartins.online](mailto:Stmartins.childrenandfamily@gmail.com)

**Lisa Clamp  
Youth Enabler - APCM report 2021**

2021 has been a very unusual year, I would like to start this report by saying We have achieved some amazing outcomes considering we have been in a world pandemic!

We continued to run youth provision Zoom sessions throughout this time (Churches to offer this were few!) Our Young people still had some kind of interaction and a team that cared at this difficult time! We really do have a group of amazing volunteers! THANK YOU. Youth Volunteers during 2021 were Dave Foxwell, Gill Lomax, Emma Beckett, Stuart Jones, Marilyn Douglas and Cameron Baxter (our Young leader) I include Matt Taylor and Abby Rhodes who also offer to attend our youth provision and Abby kindly gives her time to the new Provision (Bible studies) We also recruited Alison Court whilst we were hosting zoom sessions which really helped us to feel motivated and Rachel Douse joined us towards the end of the year as a volunteer.

We have been unable to re-open youth breakfast due to circumstances but have been able to offer new provisions which run in line with ‘this new way of life’ that the pandemic has brought.

The Youth Enabler role has been varied during 2021, not only with the unusual new way of working during a pandemic but it has required me to assist with the children’s work a lot during the first half of the year as well as the 11-18 year olds.

**Children’s work**

I started the year planning children's Sunday sessions (Kate and I led and planned alternate weeks) for children on zoom. We continued doing this face to face when guidelines allowed us to (Kate's children’s report will show numbers of Y&C in attendance) We only had a few young people attend since senior schools were holding all classes online and the zoom sessions were being held earlier than the usual church service. We concluded that the young people were zoomed out and the earlier than usual Sunday start was not ideal for this age range but at that time, and given the circumstances, this was the best solution. We also attended church on alternate weeks straight after the zoom session to tell the congregation what the zoom children's group had done during the session.

I also helped with the children’s summer 3 day holiday club, I planned and led the physical sessions for the 3 days. I was involved in a transition event at Finham primary and also Christmas unwrapped plus the end of summer Childrens Ignite party. It has been a great year of introductions and because of some of the children's work that I have been part of it has enabled me to get to know the children’s volunteers. These events have also provided the opportunity for me to involve the Young people 14+ as helpers at times.

**Youth Provision**

The Friday night zoom was much more popular with our young people and was attended well on most sessions.

During the first part of the year, our numbers were steady on zoom with participants logging on most weeks and a regular core of 6-8 participants in attendance. Once we returned face to face we lost quite a few people with Friday being a very popular evening for hobbies. We noticed that by November most of our young people had return to their pre lockdown hobbies such as drama classes, football training, ice skating Taekwondo. Also one of the young people who had been attending zoom sessions was living in Stratford upon Avon therefore it was too far for him to travel. I was able to stay in contact with the parents and make sure that they had found a suitable church for the young person to continue going to before my communications ceased..

On return to face to face sessions, the Friday numbers were up and down with a core of 5 regular attendees and at times having 10 people attending on various weeks. We went on to lose 3 of our community young people who reached 18 and no longer attended. Dave is looking to reach this group of people and I am still in contact via one of the parents.

Towards the last part of the year September onwards, we were able to welcome the transition children who have all settled well into one of our 4 provisions so take up has been 100% but numbers have remained the same due to us losing our 3 older members, this could also be due to the difference in age range, 11-18 is a huge range to cover in one session. Wednesday we have had a regular core of 4 young people come and at times up to 6.

Fruitful course, Bible studies. 2 attendees. This has been a wonderful and successful group.

Below is a snapshot of what we have achieved in 2021. In view of us not being able to hold face to face sessions for some of this time and giving quite a bit of time to children’s work, there is a lot to celebrate. One of our hopes was to bring our youth provision closer to All ages and work in unison, much of this year has been a year of building and through different events we have hopefully been able to bridge this gap.

I have expanded further on in this report if you wish to see more detail.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **What happened** | **Outcomes/ Encouraging news from this** | **Linked events** |
| senior schools work | Not able to connect during 2021 | Will continue to look for opportunities in 2022 | N/A |
| Youth Breakfast | Not able to serve food due to covid & guidelines. | Look for opportunities within the new coffee shop. | N/A |
| Friday Provision -  Renamed Friday night youth Zoom Takeaway, continued as Friday night youth Takeaway when allowed.  During Lockdown created 15 Take out Goodie boxes | Sessions held all year during term time.  Face to face where possible & moved to Zoom on line when guidelines would not allow this.  Delivered 13 | We introduced guest speakers Drumming for Health  Pets for Therapy  Professional Card making  Dementia friends certificate & badge  Young people attended online sessions & used some of the items in the sessions. |  |
| Wednesday Provision was Youth cafe renamed ‘Bat & Chat’ | Ran all year face to face term time only, when covid stopped this young people were invited to attend a Friday zoom on line session | introduced new activities  Indoor bowls  Skipping  Mini basketball  Active quizz  Card making  Crafts  Hooping |  |
| Bible studies -  We introduced an extra provision called The fruitful course | started in April and ran every week during term time.  (we provide a snack for the group) | We have seen 2 of our Young people grow in faith & confidence during this time. | This group of young people chose the verse to be used at the Harvest Festival meal.  After a session discussed relevant prayers & Lisa read out prayers which the young people had discussed.  Young people served dinner at the Harvest festival dinner |
| Children's work  Attended face to face transitions at Finham junior school and a zoom transition session from the church  Attended Final Ignite session before summer break | planned & led children’s work every other week on zoom.  Once guidelines allowed face to face to continue. I continued to plan & lead some of the Y&C sessions.  Attended to assist the already planned sessions and interacted with the year 6 children, inviting them to the youth club in the September  I made & presented 4 gift boxes to the Ignite leavers.  I introduced Hula hooping to the event  and engaged with each of the transition children. I also made contact with every parent. | All of the Ignite leavers have gone on to attend regular sessions at youth provision on one of the nights at least, some attend more than one night. |  |
| Good Friday | Good Friday Youth zoom session ‘Hot cross bun food box delivery  & The BIG Question session! | Has opened up a platform for young people to explore the Christian faith and ask questions. |  |
| maundy Thursday | Kate & I ran a zoom breakout group for families & Young people |  |  |
| Continued Connections | one of the Young people who was too old to attend youth group. | Introduced her & her mother to Mary Greenfield, with a view to arranging flowers for the church each week. | she now arranges flowers weekly  Attended Harvest Festival service & stayed for the meal.  Hired a table at St Martins Christmas fete.  Helped at Summer club  Attends Alpha Art sessions |
| Connecting All ages together. | Card making  Harvest festival crafts at Youth provision  Christmas crafts at Youth provision. | We started making cards at youth provision clubs. The Young people & volunteers design the cards & they are signed from St Martins Youth  Decorated the church window display for Harvest  Decorated the church window display for Christmas | we have received fabulous feedback and received some cards too thanking us for our kind gesture |
| Connecting All ages together events | Holiday club | The band at the holiday club was made up of Young people. They also helped with the active sessions that I planned and delivered during the 3 days. | 2 of our Young people went on to be in the All Age Sunday band. They also performed at the Monday senior citizen Christmas party performing some wonderful songs.  We also made connections & Rachel Douse went on to volunteer for youth provision. |
| Connecting All ages together  Easter in person service | Kate designed a magazine for the children | decorated 9 table settings for the lunch tables and glass tea light holders.  Young people contributed pages to this magazine for the children/congregation/ local community to enjoy. | All age Harvest festival meal  Young people waited on tables. |
| Lisa Clamp  Actively engaging with the local community and congregation. | Christingle outdoor service  planting day  Summer holiday club  Senior citizens Christmas party  Harvest lunch  Good Friday car park session | built relationships & connecting church members with one another | Young people performed in the Gospel choir at All age services & Christmas service ‘ follow that star’  Help to formulate prayers.  Introduced myself to a young person & his father whilst on the car park Good Friday session. |
| volunteers | During Lockdown and through the year I have tried to support all of our youth volunteers. I have sent out verses and little cards to stay in contact (whether they were able to volunteer during lockdown or not) |  | planned & hosted a leaders meeting which took place on the 25th February. |

**MISSION WORKING GROUP REPORT**

The PCC has a longstanding principle of supporting other Christian groups and organisations outside the church. The principle has been to give 10% of our general unrestricted income to support other organisations. For a variety of reasons this was not completed within the financial year ending December 2021 and some has been carried over into 2022. **The organisations we did support were**

1) The Osgood family working for Operation Mobilisation (OM). They are actually based in UK but supporting work along “the silk road” in central Asia. Tim is the finance officer 2) Thrive Youth ministries. Working with young people and youth workers 3) Lighthouse Christian Counselling – a ministry based in Coventry 4) Coventry City Mission – based in a deprived area of Coventry 5) We also gave small donations to Carriers of hope and Coventry food bank from our Christmas fair

**Practical Local support** This continues for the Coventry food bank and carriers of hope and various projects the Mothers Union was involved in. Many practical things were limited for a lot of 2021 due to the continuing pandemic and restrictions on meetings etc. Thank you to all who have been involved in giving time and money or in kind to generously support others. Dr. Andrew Barclay

**MOTHERS’ UNION AFTERNOON BRANCH**

We might not have held branch meetings during the lockdowns, but we did stay in touch one way or another. Some of us with access to a computer joined together once a month to pray and talk on Zoom! Some of us had to learn how to use Zoom first, but we did it. This was a lovely way to keep us going.

For those without computer access Mary Greenfield delivered a monthly news letter from our Diocesan Office and kept in touch with members. The knitters kept production going and Jill Holt kept up the ‘Cradle Role’. We made changes, we adapted, but we kept going.

We have been meeting again since July last year, and enjoyed our shared praise and prayers once more, as well as some interesting speakers and activities. Mary delivered Shoeboxes to The Haven again last Christmas, and she delivered knitting to ‘Coffee Tots’ and the neonatal Ward at the hospital in Walsgrave on a regular basis. We had great fun running the Mothers’ Union stall at the Church Christmas Fair selling Jill’s famous mince pies and members cakes and broke our own record fundraising.

At our AGM in February this year Mary Greenfield and Jill Holt stood down after years of faithful service and I took over the leadership part of our team. The Team look forward to carrying on again this year, to meet in faith, fellowship, and service with all our members, and we look forward to enrolling three new members in April.

Lynett Askew

On behalf of MU St Martin’s Finham – Afternoon Committee

**Good Neighbours Men’s Group**

To my very dear brothers and sisters, friends at St Martins,  
I would just like to tell you briefly of the men’s group running each Friday by Good Neighbours part of the Hope charity.  
I started the group in November 2021 aimed at men in the 50+ age bracket being able to meet together over coffee, tea and cake and simply chat. Men generally are not great at chatting and sharing, unfortunately honesty about our emotions and struggles can all too often be seen as weak, yet all good counsellors and mental health experts will tell you how important it is to be able to open up and share. We wanted to create a group where men felt comfortable talking, get the opportunity to find out things and get to know each other and hopefully provide an atmosphere where we could be more open with one another. I am so happy that weekly we are seeing numbers of between 8 to 13 on a weekly basis, we have been blessed by members of the local community making and donating cakes which I’m sure guarantees some to return on a regular basis.  
We have ideas for activities we want to try in future sessions but immediately I am personally so encouraged by what we are seeing. Our vision has been a church in the community for the community and I believe this group helps to do that. Let God’s love shine out in what we do.  
Please pray for this group  
God bless and thank you  
Dave Foxwell

**Seniors Citizens @ St Martins Report**

As during “Lockdown 1”, Senior Citizens Club continued working behind the scenes checking on the welfare of its members, celebrating birthdays and paying our respects to cherished members Naomie Currie and Brenda Dudley who sadly passed away at the beginning of 2021.

Senior Citizens @ St Martins re-opened from “lockdown 2” on Monday 17th May 2021 and have continued without further interruption.

We have rigorously followed the Covid guidelines given to us by St Martins, maintaining mask wearing, hand sanitizing, good ventilation, and enhanced cleaning, in our attempt to reassure our members their safety is our priority and I believe our members did feel club was a safe place to go to and our numbers reflect this with membership at almost pre- pandemic level.

We were blessed to have Abby, Matt, Owain and Zac representing church youth, and Lisa Clamp and youngsters entertain us for a magnificent Christmas Special and Abby has been a regular visitor, chatting and drinking tea with us, sharing her journey that brought her to St Martins and wowing us with her amazing singing. We very much appreciate our link with the church and are grateful for the times Matt and Abby have spent with us.

Seniors club continues to support a variety of charities which this year have included, The MS Trust and Coventry Haven.

Club celebrated its 50th Birthday with a wonderful lunch at Coventry Golf Club! We continue to add new activities to maintain interest.

I am ever grateful to my committee for their help and support and to Matt and Abby for their continued encouragement, support and prayers.

Rosemary McCarthy

**Treasurer’s Report for 2021**

2021 saw some important changes in the management of the church finances. Neville Hunt stepped down as Church Treasurer at the end of 2021 and was replaced by Paul McEwen. However, because of work pressures, Paul also stood down at the end of September 2021 and was replaced by Andrew Spencer. Also, Thomas Oliver stood down as Independent Examiner, having examined the 2020 accounts, and the PCC at their meeting on 22nd February 2022 recommended that Mr. Jatinder Singh Birdi be appointed to replace him.

The present Treasurer is indebted to Neville for the spreadsheet for recording church income and expenditure and to both him and Paul for their help and advice.

In addition to its general (unrestricted) fund, the church began 2021 with four restricted funds of which two, for the garden and EcoChurch, and for Rwanda, were dormant through the year and contain only nominal sums. Two others, for Youth and Missions, contain funds pledged by church members and the Missions fund also holds money committed by the church for supporting Christian organisations and individuals in the UK and overseas.

During the year the church set up three new restricted funds to support new projects: the Coffee Shop, the erection of solar panels, and repairs to the west wall of the church.

**Summary**

* Total church income rose from £121,917 to £130,130, an increase of 7% on the previous year. However, the increase was dominated by two large grants and donations, totalling £20,000, into the solar panels fund.
* Income for the general fund fell from £114,487 to £102,493, a reduction of 10%.
* Total church expenditure rose from £127,551 to £145,173, an increase of 14%.
* Expenditure from the general fund rose from £111,411 to £114,442, an increase of 3%.
* Expenditure exceeded income by just under £12,000. However, £5,000 of this comprised the cost of renewing the Hub floor for the Coffee Shop, reimbursed by a grant from the Church Improvements Fund that was not received until early 2022.
* Total assets rose from £253,128 to £262,840 thanks to good performance of the church’s investments.

**Income**

Income to the general fund fell in all categories except Fundraising (there was no Christmas Fair in 2020). Income from hall lettings fell by a smaller amount than between 2019 – 2020, as Covid restrictions eased, and a determined drive to increase lettings and chase up arrears has continued. Standing orders continues to be the main source of income but this fell by just over £3,000 owing to deaths, leavings and changes of circumstances. Income through planned giving envelopes, the loose plate and donations also fell.

Income to restricted funds more than tripled, from £7,429 to £27,637. £17,000 came from an anonymous donation and £3,000 as a grant from the Golden Bottle Trust, both for the solar panels fund. £1,900 in donations was received for the Coffee Shop fund and a donation of £800 for surveys of the west wall.

**Expenditure**

Parish share rose slightly. The number of staff remained the same throughout the year but a change in hours worked led to a small increase in expenditure from the general fund. The engagement of a youth enabler in late 2020 was reflected in higher staff expenditure from the youth fund in 2021. Work formerly done by the cleaner is now being handled by Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre; this is included in the Buildings figures.

The utilities supplier went out of business in September and were replaced by British Gas, whose charges (particularly standing charges) are much higher. Delays in arranging payment led to some charges not being paid until early 2022. Because of the switch, we also lost our charity’s VAT discount and exemption from Climate Change Levy. We have applied to have these reinstated, retrospectively.

Expenditure on the buildings rose considerably. For the general fund, a large proportion was taken up by the cleaning services but there was also major expenditure on boiler servicing, the fire alarms, plumbing and electrical works. The 2020 financial report noted that some essential buildings maintenance had to be postponed and the upsurge this year may reflect these arrears.

Buildings expenditure from restricted funds is dominated by the new Hub floor and refrigeration and coffee making equipment for the Coffee Shop. There was also survey work in connection with the west wall.

**Investments**

To support cash flow, £20,000 was transferred from the CCLA deposit account to the current account in July and a further £10,000 in October. As a result the balance of this account was reduced from £65,000 to £38,000 by the end of the year.

The value of the holding in CCLA income shares rose from £125,000 to £142,000, a 113% increase. The holdings also paid out £3,600 in dividends during the year; these were paid into the CCLA deposit account. The value of our endowment with Black Rock recovered from just under £50,000 at the start of the year to £56,600 at the end: a 13% rise. Last year’s report suggested possible concern at the exposure of 69% of the church’s assets to risk on the stock market and the current economic and political uncertainties may strengthen the case for a rethink.

**Reserves**

In January 2020 the PCC reviewed its policy on financial reserves and decided that sufficient accessible funds should be kept at all times to cover six months of essential expenditure. Based on 2021, the amount to be kept in reserve is estimated to be £57,000. In fact, cash reserves at the end of 2021 amounted to £63,500.

**External Giving**

Despite the pandemic, throughout 2020 the Church maintained its policy of giving away an amount of at least 10% of its unrestricted income in the preceding year. This would have amounted to £11,449. Heavy expenditure on buildings and from the restricted funds led to concerns about cash flow and this proportion was not achieved in 2021. Giving to missions, relief and development agencies totalled £7,400 this year, with the following beneficiaries:

* Operation Mobilisation: £4,200
* Coventry City Mission: £1,000
* Lighthouse Christian Counselling: £1,000
* Thrive Youth Ministries: £1,200

This has left a shortfall of £4,000 and ways are being sought to make this up. As at March 2022 the PCC has determined that £1,500 be donated to the Salvation Army for their work in Ukraine. In addition, £252 raised at the Christmas Fair was donated equally to Carriers of Hope and the Coventry Foodbank.

Andrew Spencer, March 2022

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