



## **Annual Report & Financial Statements**

**of the Parochial Church Council**

**for 2020**

presented to the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
at 7.30pm via Zoom

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Buckingham

Castle Street, Buckingham MK18 1BS

Parish Office: 01280 830220 [www.bpchurch.uk](http://www.bpchurch.uk)

Charity No 1128704

Incumbent: The Rector, The Revd Will Pearson-Gee  
The Rectory, 8 Aris Way, Buckingham MK18 1FX

Churchwardens: Mr Mike Evans  
16 Embleton Way, Buckingham MK18 1FS

Mr Max Hailey  
53 Meadoway, Steeple Claydon, Buckingham, MK18 2PA

Banks: CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,  
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB Bank  
19 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1NP

Auditor: Hills & Burgess,  
20 Bridge Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7AL

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## Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

7.30pm

<b>Agenda</b>	
	Opening Prayer
<b>Vestry Meeting</b>	
1.	Appointment of a secretary for the meeting
2.	Apologies for absence
3.	The election of Churchwardens (during which any parishioner plus those on the electoral roll may vote)
<b>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</b>	
1.	Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
2.	Matters arising.
3.	Presentation of the Electoral Roll.
4.	Elections and Appointments (only those on Electoral Roll may vote).  Election of Deputy Wardens Election of PCC Members
6.	Finance and Stewardship Reports.
7.	Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts.  Appointment of the Auditor for 2021
8.	Note other reports as necessary.
9.	Rector's Report and look ahead.
10.	AOB (Any items for discussion should be notified to the Rector at least 24 hours before the meeting or they may not be taken).
11.	Q&A
12.	Closing Prayer

# MINUTES

**MEETING OF:** Annual Church Meeting of Buckingham Parish Church

**DATE & TIME:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm on Zoom

## **Opening Prayer**

Prayers were led by Revd. Will Pearson-Gee.

## **Vestry Meeting**

### **1 Appointment of PCC secretary for the meetings**

Helen Grimditch was proposed by Christine Barrell and seconded by Max Hailey as PCC Secretary for the meeting. All were in favour.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Approximately 90 people attended the meeting and 3 apologies were recorded.

### **3. Election of Church Wardens**

3.1 There were two nominations for Churchwarden. Mike Evans was proposed by Keith Croxton and seconded by Sophie Rudolf. Max Hailey was proposed by Harry Morten and seconded by Helen Grimditch. There being no other nominations they were duly elected.

### **4. Prayers for Churchwardens**

Prayers were led by Tina Mitchell.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

### **1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Max Hailey proposed and Paul Hirons seconded that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the APCM meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019. All were in favour.

### **2 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **3 Presentation of the Electoral Roll**

3.1 Heidi Buchan read out her report. At last year's APCM, there were a total of 275 names on the roll. This was a renewal year and the current total for the new list was 285, of which 96 are non-resident in this ecclesiastical parish.

3.2 The Electoral Roll was proposed by Harry Morten and seconded by Robert O'Connell and carried unanimously.

4 Resolution: PCC propose that, with effect of the APCM 2020, the number of reps of the laity be increased from 12 to 15 in line with the entitlement under the church rep rules.

4.1 This was proposed by Robert O'Connell and seconded by Paul Hirons; all were in favour

## **5 Election and Appointments (Only those on the electoral Roll may vote.)**

### **5.1 Election of deputy wardens**

There were no nomination papers needed for Deputy Churchwarden. They are as follows: Paddy Collins, Pam Fox, Paul Hirons, Bob/Lynne Legrove, Robert O'Connell officiate at the Traditional Service. Then at the evening service there are Andrew Grimditch, Steve Tayfield, Matt Lambert, Mike Evans and Max Hailey. This was proposed by Daphne Brown and Seconded by David Squibb. All agreed.

A big thank you to all of these people mentioned, for their vital help in getting our services going again.

### **5.2 Election of PCC members**

There were eight nominations to serve on the Parochial Church Council:

- Vicky Hughes was proposed by Susan Mileham and seconded by Paul Mileham
- Andrew Miscampbell was proposed by Harry Morten and seconded by Pam Fox
- Pam Fox was proposed by Sarah Dumbleton and seconded by Jo Ashpool
- Helen Grimditch was proposed by Max Hailey and seconded by Sarah Dumbleton
- Jeremy Grinyer was proposed by Andrew Miscampbell and seconded by Sarah Dumbleton
- Brian Roskell was proposed by Tracey Roskell and seconded by Harry Morten
- Mike Roskell was proposed by Elizabeth Longinotti and seconded by Mark Chapman
- David Squibb was proposed by Paul Hirons and seconded by Brian Hirst

All were in favour.

Thanks was expressed to Pam Mason-Evans who has stepped down from the PCC and had instead moved to more pastoral work instead.

### **5.3 Appointment of Deanery Synod Members for the coming year**

There were five nominations to serve on the Deanery Synod:

- Pauline Stanton-Saringer was proposed by Ruth Newell and seconded by Paul Wallace
- Gerry Causer was proposed by Pat Cox and seconded by Jenny Stone
- Ruth Newell was proposed by Pauline Stanton-Saringer and seconded by Robert Munday
- Andrew Gibson was proposed by Jennifer Metcalfe and seconded by Gwilym Mason-Evans
- Beth Jeremy was proposed by Helen Venn and seconded by Tim Venn

### **5.4 Appointment of Sides-persons for the coming year.**

Sides- persons will be appointed at the next PCC Meeting.

5.5 Prayers for the elected wardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod members were led by Paul Wallace.

## **6 Finance and Stewardship Report**

The Meeting thanked Judith Bundock for all her fantastic work over many years as our Stewardship Coordinator.

6.1 Harry Morten, Head of Finance, and Brian Roskell, Head of Stewardship, presented a series of slides giving the financial highlights/ situation for 2019 as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and looking forward to 2020. Tracey Roskell was introduced as the other half of the stewardship team with additional responsibility for acting as the treasurer of The Centre.

### **6.2 Harry reported on Financial highlights for 2019:**

- The total incoming resources were £401k, this has increased by £72k compared to the previous year.
- £326k came from regular giving, and the remainder of the income came from grants, events, investment income and Ancillary Trading such as wedding fees, use of the church and The Centre.

- Total expenditure was £491k (an increase of £127k on the previous year, due to a higher spend on the Projects Fund - we spent £128k on new chairs, the organ and the building alarm).
- The General Fund showed a decrease in our balance to £22K, with a legacy being received of £25k.
- Staff team costs were the single highest item of expenditure at nearly £117K.
- Other expenditure included £83k for the Parish Share (which includes The Rector's salary and house) and £21k on building maintenance.
- Charitable Giving at £24k came in on budget due to the great work of Keith Croxton and the MOG Team. Total mission costs were nearly £60k or 18% of our expenditure, which is great news.

### 6.3 Stewardship in 2020:

Brian reported that 2020, so far, has been a very unusual year regarding where our money will go and where we think it will come from:

- This is partly due to lockdown in April, resulting in a huge reduction in people attending the church and yet the congregation has continued to give generously.
- There has been an increase in standing orders (62% of our income.)
- The congregation has responded with more people claiming Gift Aid on any money given (21% of our income.)
- More one-off donations were being given (originally this was 3% of our income and this has increased to 6%.)

A big thank you to everyone.

#### Where our money will go and where we think it will come from:

- There has been a big reduction in expenditure within the church.
- We spent a bigger share on buildings and staff but less on charitable giving, children's work and Youth work especially without Messy Church or the Holiday Club in August.
- It's obviously a challenging situation; we need people and money resources as we want to support and pay our staff.
- Giving is good for all of us as individuals and God promises to bless us.
- The focus of BPC continues to be as a giving, loving church and the Finance team continues to look to the generosity of the congregation.

## 7 Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts and Appointment of the Auditor for 2020

7.1 Harry Morten proposed and Rob Tucker seconded that Financial Statements for 2019 be approved. All were in favour.

7.2 Harry Morten proposed that the same accountants, Hills & Burgess, be used again. Paul Wallace seconded, and all agreed.

7.3 Judith Wigley led prayers for the church's finances and stewardship and these included thanks for meeting our church's financial needs through wise stewardship.

## 8 An update on the Lady Chapel from a report by Tim Jones

8.1 The Rector thanked Tim Jones for the fantastic job he has done and for his ongoing efforts with this. Exciting things are happening to the fabric of the church especially the Lady Chapel.

8.2 Currently waiting to make sure there are no objections to moving the windows (due by 16<sup>th</sup> October). If there are none the window on the left of the chapel can be reinstated from its current position in the kitchen. Both windows can be in situ before Christmas.

8.3 The panelling has been reduced in the chapel so that the two stained glass windows can be seen.

- 8.4 A wooden chest to go at the front has already been purchased.
- 8.5 Heidi Buchan had one question regarding the window being moved as it has links to her next door neighbours, if appropriate Heidi will invite them to church to see it.
- 8.6 Mary Williams commented that the chapel looks really beautiful.
- 8.7 Paul Wallace commented that a wonderful job had been done despite its 5 years 'gestation period.'
- 8.8 The Rector added other great news that the unneeded Edwardian panelling is being taken to a church in London and they are thrilled to be receiving it.

## **9 Rector's Report**

- 9.1 The Rector spoke of his initial wish to celebrate his 10<sup>th</sup> year in Buckingham in March 2020 with a special service had had to be cancelled due to Covid and its restrictions.
- 9.2 The Rector thanked everyone in the old guard who had welcomed him and his family. He mentioned several individuals by name but apologized that he was bound to have missed someone out. He made clear that his huge volunteer army had been indispensable to his ministry. Thanks to all of them.
- 9.3 Thanks too to the wonderful congregation who have given so generously, enabling him to recruit great staff teams over the years all of whom it has been a privilege to work alongside.
- 9.4 The Rector directed people to his Vision Sermon on the You Tube Channel (from 4<sup>th</sup> October).
- 9.5 Stewardship Sunday took place on October 11<sup>th</sup> and so ongoing giving is crucial. The Rector spoke of his delight when £1,000 had been given online during one of his services last weekend.
- 9.6 The exciting launch of the 11am family service has taken place. A mother and a child in Buckingham commented that people could see God at work in Buckingham. A homeless chap has been found shelter successfully.
- 9.7 With Covid restrictions aside the start of the 9am service has been really successful. So too with the 11am service which had 75 adults and 35 children which is way more than pre lock down. Our 6 pm service numbers are up to the maximum that we are allowed.
- 9.8 The future vision for Buckingham: The Rector concluded that he has only 9 more years of paid ministry so he is currently praying about his next phase as his current vision is only for the next 6-12 months. Psalm 46 with its vivid picture of "God is our refuge and our strength" means we must not live in fear but instead look at God's will for us in our lives.

## **10.0 And a look ahead**

- 10.1 The Rector spoke of what could be happening in 5 years' time here in Buckingham. Hopefully there will be a church school with a Christian Ethos. There is certainly a fresh impetus with Prof James Tooley committed to building new schools around the world It is no coincidence that he worships at our church. We must pray that we've heard right and that this vision is blessed; if we had a new school we would have more space to do other Christian Ministry.

- 10.2 The Rector spoke of his hope that there will be a replacement building for the Church Centre soon, transitioning to a new building where the library is now. We must pray that Bucks Council honours this rebuild commitment.
- 10.3 He concluded that this exciting vision for the above in Buckingham makes him want to stay. As Nehemiah said “Let your ear be attentive to your servants...” He will continue to pray about this.
- 11 Any Other Business**  
None
- 12 Question & Answer session**
- 12.1 Pauline Stanton-Saringer said ‘how much we value Will’s leadership as you take the vision forward. A big thank you.’
- 12.2 Maurice Stanton–Saringer commented “The Buckingham Parish Church linen and altar is always perfect and all honouring to God.”
- 12.3 The answer to a written question by Ruth Newell “Seven people have failed to train with safeguarding”. The Rector was able to reassure Ruth that ‘5 have repented and completed the training now with 2 people to go.
- 12.4 The Rector took the opportunity to thank several people. He thanked Gill Stopps for the lovely harvest loaf and Val and the flower team for their fantastic displays too.
- 12.5 Thank you to all the congregation who have tuned in to the meeting this evening,
- 12.6 Finally, a big thank you to all the retired clergy.
- 13.0 Finished with the Grace, led by the Rector.



## The Annual Report 2020

**Background** St Peter & St Paul Buckingham is part of the Buckingham Benefice along with the Parishes of Beachampton, Radclive cum Chackmore, Thornborough, Thornton with Nash, and Whaddon.

The Rector and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC co-operates with the Rector in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in order to implement its vision "To Worship God, Make Friends and Change the World". The PCC also considers and discusses matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious and public interest (but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question) and raises such matters as the Council considers appropriate with the Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod.

### The Parochial Church Council

The following served as members of the PCC during the year 2020.

Incumbent	The Rector, Revd Will Pearson-Gee
Curate	The Revd Kate Pellereau
Churchwardens	Mr Mike Evans (from ACM 2018) Mr Max Hailey (from ACM 2019)
Deputy Churchwardens	Mrs Pam Fox (from ACM 2013) (Treasurer) Mr Paul Hirons (from ACM 2014) Mr Paddy Collins Mr Bob Legrove Mrs Lynne Legrove Mr Robert O'Connell Mr Andrew Grimditch Mr Steven Tayfield Mr Matt Lambert
Diocesan Synod Rep	Mr Paul Hirons (until July 2021)
Deanery Synod Reps (Until ACM 2023)	Ms Ruth Newell Mrs Pauline Stanton-Saringer Mr Paul Hirons Mr Gerry Causer Dr Andrew Gibson Ms Beth Jeremy
<b>Elected Members:</b>	(In 2020 it was agreed at the APCM that from October 2020 there should be 15 elected members on the PCC, 4 being elected each year to serve for 3 years.)
Until ACM 2021	Mr Tim Jones (Fabric) Mr Harry Morten (Head of Finance) Mr Harry Stolze
Until ACM 2022	Mr Robert O'Connell Mrs Lorna Piper Mr Andrew Miscampbell

Until ACM 2023  
Mr David Squibb

Mrs Vicky Hughes (HR Lead)

Mr J Grinyer  
Ms Pam Fox  
Mr Brian Roskell  
Mr Mike Roskell  
Mrs H Grimditch (PCC Sec)

The PCC also has the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Parish Church (SS Peter & Paul), the lavatory block on Church Hill, 5 Chandos Close (the Curate's house) and The Centre in Verney Close.

### **Review of the PCC discussions in 2020**

During the year the PCC met for 4 scheduled meetings and had an average attendance of 84%, thanks in part to meetings on Zoom. Main items discussed were:

- Future direction of Discipleship, Alpha and Connect Groups
- The Service Pattern
- Fire Risk Assessment, Emergency Fire Policy & Action Plan
- Covid policies
- Staffing
- Church holiday weekend away
- Safeguarding
- Holiday Club
- Restoration and mechanisation of the Church Clock and Chimes
- The creation of a new post of Associate Minister
- Diocesan Development Fund Bid
- Chairs
- The fabric of the church re the Chapel, kitchen subsidence and stonework repairs
- Pastoral reorganisation

### **Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee (SC) is a statutory requirement. It meets to prepare the agenda for the PCC and has power to transact business of the PCC in emergencies between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The PCC has delegated to the SC responsibility for Human Resources (HR) matters concerning non-clergy paid members of staff. The Curate, Churchwardens, Head of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and up to two other members of the PCC serve on the SC which is chaired by the Rector.

### **Safeguarding Policy – Denise Evans and Jane Wardale**

Buckingham Parish Church places the highest priority on safeguarding the welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults in its care, and as is required by the Church of England and by law, it has effective arrangements in place to protect them. These are set out in the parish Safeguarding Policy which was reviewed and approved for 2020-21 by the PCC in November 2020. The PCC has a 'Promoting a Safer Church' Action Plan in place, which is reviewed annually. The Safeguarding Policy is on display in church and is available on the Safeguarding page of the church website. The parish safeguarding procedures and volunteer recruitment processes are also available on the website. Jane Wardale and Denise Evans have been appointed by the PCC as the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

### **OTHER COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees and working groups, which are responsible for areas of activity. They meet between PCC meetings giving reports and, where appropriate, making recommendations to the PCC and implementing decisions by the PCC when asked to do so. These sub-groups are The Mission and Outreach Group (MOG), Stewardship & Finance and The Children, Young People and Families Group and are listed below.

### **Finance & Stewardship Committee**

This committee oversees the finances of Buckingham Parish Church by monitoring the income and expenditure, preparing an annual budget and coordinating the promotion of the Christian stewardship of money through planned and regular giving. The Finance and Stewardship Committee was chaired by Harry Morten (Head of Finance) and Pam Fox was Church Treasurer. Stewardship Coordinators are Brian and Tracy Roskell. (For the accounts see Finance reports on page 20)

## **Children, Youth & Families**

Reaching out to children, youth and families is seen as a key area of mission activity. A wide variety of groups and activities are organised by a growing number of volunteers resulting in many new children, youth and families attending.

**BPC Kids Groups** came to a temporary halt in 2020, but the ages were still catered for with YouTube content.

A family style YouTube service, as well as other initiatives such as 'Pyjama Prayers', were provided online at the start of lockdown. A Families Service at 11am was established, open to all ages, once we were able to meet in person and this has been well received.

**Annual Events** Glow Party in 2020 became the 'Light Trail'- an in-town event. This was extremely well attended, with calls for it to repeat in this format in 2021. This event still operates under Buckingham Churches. Crib Service was altered and integrated into family services, spread out to tell the story each week rather than on one morning.

## **Families**

**The Ark** reaches out to non-church going families with children under school age, by providing a safe place for the children to have fun and the adults to make friends on Thursday mornings. In 2020 this moved onto YouTube and had a lower viewing rate than attendance but the families are being kept in contact.

**Messy Church** is held once a month on a Sunday afternoon for a growing number of families with children ranging from babies to teenagers who are on the edge of church providing an opportunity to encounter the Christian message in a fun and interactive environment. During 2020 this joined Ark on YouTube and had a similar attendance. The families have been keeping up with their services on the Kids and Families YouTube Channel.

**The Family Fun Day** did not take place.

## **Holiday Club**

Along with members from the other churches in the town, the CYPFam team are active in leading **Buckingham Churches Children's Holiday Club Week** across two venues for 5-18 year olds which in 2019 catered for about 250 children and youth. 2020s holiday club was virtual, and involved Young Leaders filming dramatic tellings of bible stories, as well as up-front hosting. There were around 88 registered families, all who had crafts delivered to them and joined in together that week online.

## **Schools Ministry**

The Children and Families team are usually involved in leading school assemblies in primary schools in the town. They also usually lead After School Clubs across these schools in 6-week blocks throughout the academic year. They also usually run two annual events **Easter Cracked & Christmas Unwrapped**. All these events have been done differently, via interactive Zoom sessions directly into school year classrooms.

**Youth.** A number of youth events took place in early 2020 before the coming of Covid, including four weekly youth groups, a youth church sleepover, and the establishment of a new after school club named Refresh. We also continued our weekly meetings at the Buckingham School 'lunch club'. Following the first lockdown, three weekly youth groups moved online, peaking at 21 youth in attendance throughout the week. The youth met in person again in the summer, peaking at around 19 between two groups, before moving back online later in the year. The numbers dropped slightly when moving the groups online, but we have used this time to establish relationships and build a closer sense of community between the young people. The pandemic has sadly taken a significant toll on our activities, but we are looking forward to rebuilding.

## **Mission and Outreach Group**

Mission and Outreach is a sub-group of the PCC mandated to discern and respond to the spiritual and social needs in the community and embraces a wide variety of outreach activities, including the Alpha and CAP courses, Community Lunch, Food Bank, Kit Cat Club, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, the Parish Weekends and the SOS team who help those who are homeless. The Centre continues to provide activities and facilities to meet the ever-growing needs of the community as well as providing a sacred space in the heart of the town. Sadly a number of these activities have had to be suspended during the pandemic because of restrictions.

**Alpha.** Throughout the year of 2020 we were able to quickly adapt to Alpha online. We found that there were many people who were interested in either re visiting Alpha or joining for the first time. Some were especially looking to reignite their faith.

We found that the opportunity to run flexible small groups catered for both convenience and quick formation of relationships. Many online resources and training sessions were made available as other churches followed suit.

We found that almost all participants came to the church camping weekend and have now joined our church in one capacity or another. 2020 was a huge success in this ministry area and we are filled with many ideas for 2021.

**Discipleship.** Lockdown restrictions opened up a natural opportunity to strip back and focus on people's relationship with God outside of the business of life. A new discipleship course called 'I Am' written by Olly Holland launched with 40 people attending online. We discovered that we have a very gifted church willing to serve and come together to learn. This exercise has proven very successful and there is much hope for further similar courses next year.

**The SOS Room.** Although this ministry was extremely quiet due to lockdown there was still the odd passer-by that took advantage of our facility. One particular case was extremely inspiring and we saw members of the community that don't attend church come together to help. This encouraged us and we believe this is a vital part of our ministry and hope to refine and grow this resource and use it to its full potential in 2021.

### **Fabric**

The Fabric team is overseen by Tim Jones and is responsible for overseeing the fabric of the Parish Church, a Grade 1 listed building which dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, and also the curate's house. In 2020 the Church fabric work was heavily involved with addressing the priority issues raised from the Quinquennial report. There have been urgent repairs to dangerous exterior stonework, leaking guttering and downpipes. The boiler house roof has been replaced and the old oil tank removed from the boiler room (which was found to still have 1200 Litres of oil in it!). Low level wear to the exterior stonework requires extensive repairs, scheduled for later in 2021. The quinquennial report identified suspected subsidence to the west corner wall of the kitchen and above, structural engineers made exploratory bore holes to confirm the issues. Detailed specifications for the work have been engineered ready for tendering the works. The Church clock has been restored and the chimes repaired and are now in full working order. The Lady Chapel remodelling has been completed to much acclaim. The three-year electrical systems inspection found a number of faults that have all been rectified.

### **Pastoral Care Team**

The past year has been very busy and varied. The Pastoral needs at BPC involve providing practical, emotional and spiritual support and usually fall into 1 of 3 categories

1. Crisis - This needs immediate attention and is often something that requires ongoing support. Sometimes we need to involve outside agencies.
2. Long term and ongoing - Usually elderly, lonely or ill people who need visits, shopping, lifts, encouragement and love.
3. Short term - People who have been in hospital, unwell or find themselves in a difficult situation and need help perhaps with family or meals providing for a short period of time.

Much is done by church family looking after each other. We have a small team who will visit the elderly and also a team who provide wonderful meals when needed. Many aspects of pastoral care overlap with other ministries, so communication has played a big part in finding ways to support people effectively.

The Centre and the Community Lunch are fringe groups of mainly elderly people who love feeling part of the community. They often have pastoral needs and it's so important that we have members of the church who serve and attend at both, which we do. Praise God for those who serve in this way, often quietly and generously.

The pastoral ministry is complex and demanding, and much of it goes on unseen as it is confidential in nature.

However, we try and have a visible presence to enable church members and those in need to know who to contact if they have a need or know of someone who has. The structure of this is evolving and ongoing.

### **Production**

Production in 2020 heralded sudden change from the norm when everything had to go online. Thankfully the investment the PCC has made over the years paid off and we started well ahead of the game and indeed assisting many other churches as they scrambled to get online. Most events over the year such as Easter were online only and over Christmas we did a few in person events including the outdoor carols. The changes have given us a real opportunity to develop our online skills which will benefit us for years to come. We have also invested in some new cameras that have significantly improved the quality of what we do online. The pandemic has shifted our

livestreaming priorities, as we have now started streaming all services; Wednesday Communion, Sunday Parish Communion, Sunday Family Service and Sunday Contemporary Service, with at least 100 devices joining us in real time online for services each week, and an average of 2,800 views each month.

### **Worship**

We hit the ground strong at the start of 2020, with exciting plans for the year, starting a 'Worship Leading Week' in February. With big ideas and an exciting vision for growth coming from this time together, our plans were swiftly curtailed by the pandemic. Instead of growing new leaders and developing musicians, sung worship was instead limited to those who had the technology. We experimented with getting the wider worship team involved for special services such as Easter and Pentecost, but unfortunately without specialist recording equipment or the ability to come together this wasn't sustainable for every service. As we have moved back into church and having live sung worship, we have managed to bring together a small number of musicians each week.

### **Church Attendance**

#### **Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll for the 2020 APCM had 285 names entered.

2 people have been removed from the list since then.

5 people have been added to the list since then.

**There are now 288 names on the roll as at 11 April 2021 (of which 97 are non-resident in the Ecclesiastical Parish)**

Average numbers attending at:	Adults	Children	Online average
8am Prayer Book Holy Communion	9	0	n/a
Morning Contemporary Family Service	50	34	242
Morning Worship and Parish Communion	63	3	286
6pm Contemporary Service	81	17	214
Wednesday 10am Holy Communion	24	0	103

Messy Church	59	63	n/a
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There were 8 Funerals, 2 Weddings and 7 Baptisms

## Parish Staff

- Revd Will Pearson-Gee has now been in post as Rector for 11 years
- Revd Kate Pellereau joined us as curate in July 2020
- Robert Tucker serves as Choirmaster & Organist and Ray Mitchell as Assistant Organist
- Ali Burt is the Contemporary Worship Team Leader (since May 2019)
- Jan Ballantyne is the Parish Manager (since 2013)
- Sue Fox has been PA to the Rector (since 2014)
- Jo Wigley is our Pastoral Team Leader (since January 2017) and assumed responsibility for families in 2020
- Olly Holland is our Outreach Pastor (since June 2019)
- Andrew Gibson served as our volunteer Sunday Operations Coordinator
- Lara Burt served as Youth & Young Adults Team Leader until September 2020 when she moved to a new role of Office Administrator/Communications Lead
- Jacob Wigley acted as our volunteer youth leader (since September 2020)
- Jayde Crouch is our Kid's Team Leader (since 2019)
- Jo Brice left her role as Families Team Leader in September 2020
- John Earle serves as Caretaker of BPC and The Centre
- Bob Johnstone serves as the Manager of The Centre
- Paul Wallace, Pauline Stanton-Saringer & Paul Mileham officiated as LLMs
- Keith Croxton has a preaching licence which he exercises across the Benefice.
- Revd Maurice Stanton-Saringer, Canon Dr Peter Williams, Revd Michael Greig, Revd Ron Bundock, Canon Max Wigley and Revd Chris Murray assisted as retired clergy.

## Services & Events

The Sunday worship pattern of the church went through many changes as the pandemic hit and week-by-week we pivoted to take into account the latest guidance. We started with a wide range of including an 8am Prayer Book Holy Communion, 9.30am Contemporary Family Service, 11.15am Parish Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) an informal non-Eucharistic service (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday), 6pm Contemporary Service and a monthly Messy Church at 3pm. There was also a weekly 10am Communion on Wednesdays held in the Chancel. From late March everything went online with pre-recorded services that went 'live' at the appointed hour on our YouTube channel. We started with a 10am traditional service a family service and a contemporary service as well as a midweek communion. Once we were allowed back into church from 4<sup>th</sup> July all our services became physical but also online. The 8am BCP was held in abeyance. In October we started a trial of switching the morning services around and for the remainder of 2020 we have a 9am Parish Communion, an 11am All Age Family Service and a 6pm Contemporary service. this is for a trial period but until everything returns to normal it is impossible to assess a proper trial.

Other activities and events to note, not already mentioned, were as follows:

- 'Connect' Groups became even more important so isolated people could stay in touch and continued to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and friendship.
- A church camping weekend took place in late August and was a huge success.

## Conclusion

2020 was a year like no other. Moving to a sudden lockdown in March when we were barred from entering church prevented us from using any of our Technology. Eventually we re-entered it after Easter having survived on a diet of pre-recorded services that were very stressful indeed to produce. Months of pre-recording services meant we all had to become mini Steven Spielbergs. Services remained online only but were livestream from church after Easter which was far easier. Finally in July we opened the doors and met physically again whilst continuing to livestream. Throughout some staff were furloughed but we managed to call everyone on the church's database to make sure folk were OK in the isolation. Our foodbank worked immensely hard and we partnered in many endeavours to feed the hungry and bring hope to those stuck at home. As people said "the building may be closed but the church is very much open". We were always pushing the boundaries of what was permitted and our efforts were much appreciated and indeed we grew significant online followings including from around the globe. We ended 2020 in

good heart and with a great store of goodwill from our community. The sheer hard work and determination of our staff team and many helpers has been awe-inspiring.

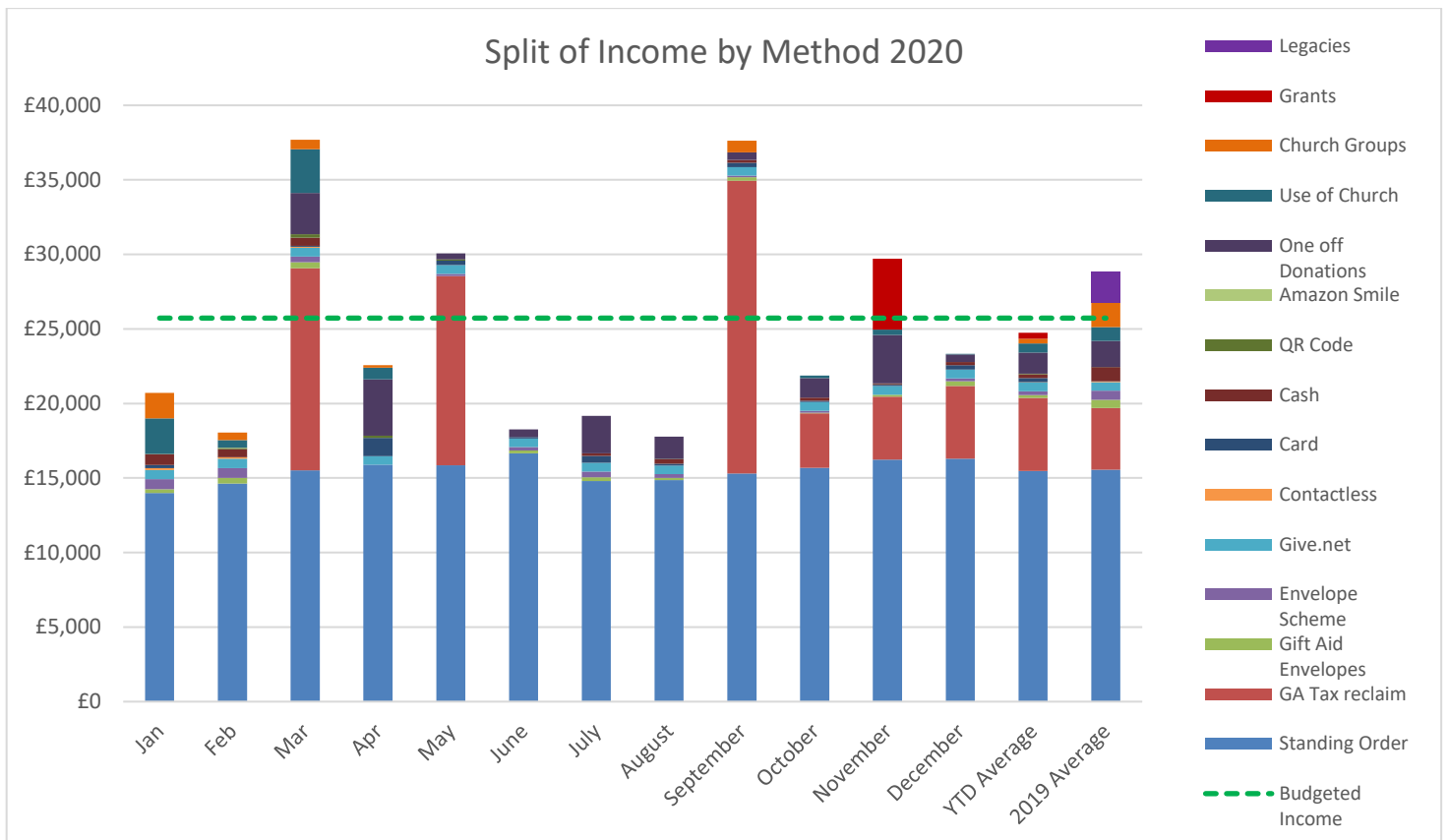
There is much to be thankful for in 2020 despite all the hardship and isolation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Pearson-Gee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Revd Will Pearson-Gee**  
Rector

## Stewardship Update for Full Year 2020

### Overview of Our Income For 2020



#### Observations

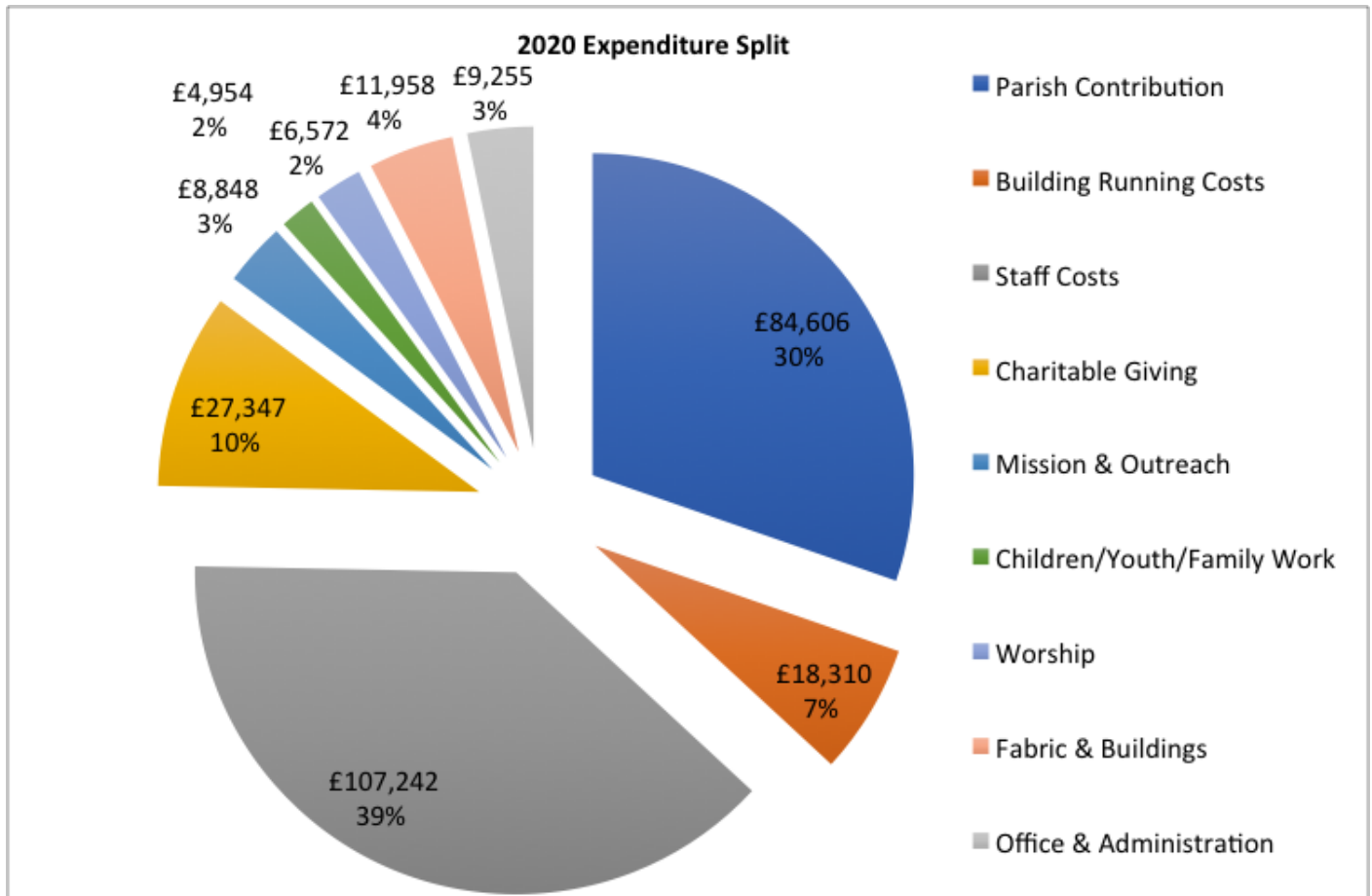
1. A challenging year for income which hit a monthly low in August but then recovered to the extent that our overall monthly average for the year, excluding legacies (£ 0 received in 2020) and use of church, ended the year almost the same as the monthly average for 2019.
2. For the last 3 months of 2020 Standing orders increased so that they ended the year ahead of 2019 average.
3. Gift Aid now accounts for 20% of our income whereas it was 15% and the value has increased to an average of £4,890 a month.
4. The increase in the percentage of our congregation who support the church through regular committed giving has been so helpful; enabling us to have confidence in meeting our financial commitments.

Thank you to all those who currently give financially to our church, we couldn't deliver the great services, facilities and support that we provide without you.

For those who haven't yet got round to setting up regular giving and would like some help, talk to Brian or Tracy Roskell in person, via [stewardship@bpchurch.uk](mailto:stewardship@bpchurch.uk) or visit the giving section of our website for full information.



**Overview of Our Expenditure For 2020.**



**Observations:**

1. There was an overall reduction in our expenditure as a consequence of the church being unable to deliver our normal services due to imposition of lockdown and social distancing.
2. We carefully managed our costs to ensure that our expenditure didn't exceed our reduced income.
3. We still tithed 10% of our income to support a variety of local and overseas charities.
4. The percentage of our expenditure spent on children's, youth and family work, mission and outreach was lower than it's usual level as a consequence of the constraints on our activity.
5. Similarly the percentage of our expenditure accounted for by our Parish Share, staff costs and maintenance of our building was slightly higher than normal.

Brian and Tracy Roskell: Stewardship at Buckingham Parish Church

## **ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH, BUCKINGHAM**

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts have been prepared under the 2011 Charities Act. The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England has produced its own financial regulations and associated Guidance in response to the Act. These have been adopted by the PCC and followed in producing these accounts.

The Guidance recommends the analysis and presentation of information under a standard set of headings, which can also be used for the annual financial return to the Diocese or the Central Board of Finance. These headings have been used in these accounts. Funds are shown as unrestricted, designated or restricted. Designated means that the funds are allocated by the PCC from the General fund and Restricted means that the funds are normally only available for purposes specified by the donor. The PCC has one general fund, five designated funds and six restricted funds. Full details of these are in the Additional Notes on pages 25-26.

The total Incoming Resources from donors was £354,800 (down marginally from £364,071 in 2019 which was due to legacies received). Other Voluntary Incoming Resources was £24,927.

Activities directly related to Church Work (£334,761) has decreased from £467,211 in 2019 reflecting a substantial fall in the running costs for the church during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

The Church's charitable giving was £25,247 (2019: £24,230) compared to a budget of £25,000 which was based on 10% of the actual planned giving received in 2020. The Mission & Outreach team has been very conscientious in making sure the whole "tithe" is spent within the year, but sometimes requests for items don't fit in neat financial years.

Our community hub at The Centre has grown from strength to strength, being occupied most of the time. The original 2-year lease on the building has already been extended by Bucks County Council to 5 years. It is noted that The Centre is totally self-sufficient financially and running at no cost to the church. At the end of 2020 The Centre's bank balance stood at £37,159 (2019: £22,509).

The auditors received £200 + VAT for carrying out the audit of the church accounts. This fee has been frozen for several years and I would like to thank Hills and Burgess for their continued support in examining and approving these accounts.

I would like to especially thank Pam Fox for maintaining the church accounts all year round and Tracy Roskell for looking after The Centre accounts and Anne Exelby for banking the weekly collections and Daphne Browne providing additional treasurer support. I would also like to thank Brian & Tracy Roskell for taking on the Stewardship role in mid-2020, where they have managed to move the whole process online, via Churchsuite.

Harry Morten  
Head of Finance

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT  
TO THE PCC OF ST PETER'S AND ST PAUL'S, BUCKINGHAM**

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This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts. You consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is our responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

**Basis of independent examiners' report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 we do not express an audit opinion or the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiners' statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention

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

*Hills and Burgess*

Hills and Burgess

Chartered Accountants

14 April 2021

23 Bridge Street  
Loughton Buzzard  
Bedfordshire  
LU7 7AL

**BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)**

**For the Period 1 January 2020 to**

**31 December 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Prior Year Total funds
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Donations and Legacies	349,508	5,292	354,800	364,071
Income from Charitable Activities	16,949		16,949	28,676
Income from Investments	7,924	54	7,978	8,732
	<b>374,381</b>	<b>5,346</b>	<b>379,727</b>	<b>401,479</b>
<b>Resources Used</b>				
Grants				3,446
Raising Funds				4,762
Activities Directly related to Church Work	330,672	4,089	334,761	467,211
Other Expenditure	43,675	-	43,675	16,151
	<b>374,347</b>	<b>4,089</b>	<b>378,436</b>	<b>491,570</b>
Net Incoming Resources Before Transfer	34	1,257	1,291	90,091
Gross Transfers In	13,798	1,500	15,298	2,759
Gross Transfers out	-	-	-	-
Gross Transfers out	1,500	13,798	15,298	2,759
Gains and Loss on Investments		17,838	17,838	39,585
				-
<b>Net Movements in Funds</b>	<b>12,332</b>	<b>6,797</b>	<b>19,129</b>	<b>50,506</b>
<b>Total Funds B.F</b>	<b>163,224</b>	<b>455,749</b>	<b>618,973</b>	<b>669,480</b>
<b>Total Funds C. F</b>	<b>175,556</b>	<b>462,546</b>	<b>638,102</b>	<b>618,974</b>

## BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH

### BALANCE SHEET DETAILED 2020

	As at 31.12.2020	As at 31.12.2019
FIXED ASSETS		
Curates House	150,000	150,000
CURRENT ASSETS		
Philip Box Charity	1,260	1,026
Harrison Bequest	290,265	273,062
Harrison Bequest Loan	-24,000	-25,500
CBF Investment Loan	4,216	3,641
	<b>271,741</b>	<b>252,229</b>
PCC Current Lloyds	92,976	75,357
CAF Accounts	28,582	56,636
CAF Gold Organ Fund	3	0
Petty Cash	132	132
Restoration Lloyds Account	5,895	5,586
Asst Curate Current	46,093	39,385
Asst Curate Deposit	282	282
Asst Curate NS	5,116	5,075
Magazine Current	0	7,337
CBF Philip Box	1,010	1,130
The Centre	36,273	25,826
Debtors/Prepayment	0	0
	<b>216,361</b>	<b>216,746</b>
	<b>488,102</b>	<b>468,975</b>

**BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH**  
**FUND ANALYSIS 1ST JANUARY 2020 to 31 DECEMBER 2020**

		Designated	Designated	Designated	Designated	Designated	Unrestricted
<b>INCOME</b>	General	Curate	Projects	Centre	Restoration	Rector	<b>TOTAL</b>
Donations and Legacies	314,365	-	4,000	30,834	309	-	349,508
Income from Charitable Activities	8,258	3,598	-	5,093	-	-	16,949
Income from Investments	447	7,477	-	-	-	-	7,924
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>323,070</b>	<b>11,075</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>35,927</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>374,381</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>							
Activities Directly Relating to Church Work	306,118	3,429	-	21,024	-	101	330,672
Other Expenditure	1,196	645	41,580	253	-	-	43,675
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>307,314</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>41,580</b>	<b>21,277</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>374,347</b>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	<b>15,756</b>	<b>7,001</b>	<b>-37,580</b>	<b>14,650</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>-101</b>	<b>34</b>
Starting Balance B/F	21,948	8,283	99,976	22,509	10,324	184	163,224
Assets Introduced	15,756	7,001	-37,580	14,650	309	-101	34
Gains/Loss on Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Transfer to Projects from Special	-	-	12,998	-	-	-	12,998
Transfer to Harrison Fund	-	-1,500	-	-	-	-	-1,500
Transfer from special	800	-	-	-	-	-	800
Transfer to Rectors Discretionary	-250	-	-	-	-	250	0
<b>Closing Balance c/f</b>	<b>38,254</b>	<b>13,784</b>	<b>75,394</b>	<b>37,159</b>	<b>10,633</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>175,556</b>

£1,500 has been transferred from the Curates Fund to the Harrison Bequest to repay the capital borrowed from this Fund for the Open Door Project

£13,798 has been transferred from the Special Fund to Projects/General for expenditure in these funds that the donation was given for

£250 has been transferred from General Fund to the Rectors Discretionary Fund

	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Funds
<b>INCOME</b>	Restoration	Funeral	Special	Harrison	Curates House	Philip Box	TOTAL	TOTAL
Donations and Legacies	-	1,428	3,864	-	-	-	5,292	354,800
Income from Charitable Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,949
Income from Investments	-	-	-	-	-	54	54	7,978
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	-	<b>1,428</b>	<b>3,864</b>	-	-	<b>54</b>	<b>5,346</b>	<b>379,727</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>								
Activities Directly Relating to Church Work	-	1,428	2,661	-	-	-	4,089	334,761
Other Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,675
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	-	<b>1,428</b>	<b>2,661</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,089</b>	<b>378,436</b>
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	-	<b>0</b>	<b>1,203</b>	-	-	<b>54</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,291</b>
Starting Balance B/F	23,516	-	32,516	247,561	150,000	2,156	455,749	618,973
Assets Introduced	-	0	1,203	-	-	54	1,257	1,291
Gains/Loss on Investments	574	-	-	17,204	-	60	17,838	17,838
Transfer to Projects from Special	-	-	-12,998	-	-	-	-12,998	-
Transfer to Harrison Fund	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Transfer from special	-	-	-800	-	-	-	-800	-
Transfer to Rectors Discretionary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Closing Balance c/f</b>	<b>24,090</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,921</b>	<b>266,265</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>462,547</b>	<b>638,102</b>

## **BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH**

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

#### **Staff**

The PCC employed, a Contemporary Worship Leader, an Organist & Assistant Organist, Pastoral Care Worker, Families Worker, Children's Worker, Youth Worker, Parish Manager, Office Administrator, the Rector's PA, Minister Trainee, Cleaner and a Caretaker for The Centre.

#### **Fixed Assets**

The PCC owns the house in Chandos Close (known as the Curate's House) which remains in the accounts at a value of £150,000. It has not been re-valued in the accounts this year however, the insurance on this house is based on a more realistic figure.

#### **Trust Funds**

Gains on investments recorded relate to variations in share prices of investments held by the Central Board of Finance (CBF).

##### Philip Box Organist Charity

Is a trust whose Custodian is the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. This trust was established to provide income to or for the benefit of the organist of the Parish Church of Buckingham.

The Capital is not available to the PCC and the interest has been reinvested in a CBF Deposit Account. The fund consists of a deposit and an investment fund. The value of the fund is £2,270 (2019: £2,156)

##### The Harrison Bequest

Is a Trust fund held by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Trustees for the provision of a curate. The income from the trust can be used 'for providing the stipend of a curate in the parish and subject thereto for any ecclesiastical purpose in the parish as the PCC shall decide'.

The capital is not expendable by the PCC but the interest is paid into the Assistant Curate's Fund. The Charity Commissioners and the Diocese agreed in 2001 that the sum of £50,000 could be advanced from the capital of this fund to the Open Door (Redevelopment) Project, subject to the recoupment of £1,500 annually until 2036 from the interest of the residual capital of the fund, to be reinvested as a permanent endowment of the charity (as above).

At the year end the amount to be recouped stood at £25,500 and the investment is valued in the accounts at £266,265 (2019: £247,561). During the year the trust fund made a gain of £17,204 (2019: £38,893).

### **DETAILS OF FUNDS HELD BY THE PCC**

#### **General Fund**

The General Fund is where our everyday income and expenditure goes through and represents the "current account" for the church. The closing balance on the fund stands at £38,254 (2019: £21,948).

#### Designated Funds

##### **Curates Fund**

This fund is for the maintenance and repair of the Curates House and also provides funds for the curate's expenses. At the end of the year the fund stood at £13,784 (2019: £10,497).



## **Projects Fund**

This fund was set up to provide a specific fund for PCC Projects. No legacy money was added in 2020. During the year £37,580 has been used by projects designated by the PCC. At the end of the year the fund stood at £75,394 (2019: £99,976)

## **BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH DETAILS OF FUNDS HELD BY THE PCC (continued)**

### **The Centre**

This fund was set up to hold funds for the ongoing missionary work in The Centre, which is currently running a surplus. The fund stands at £37,159 (2019: £22,509).

### **Restoration**

This part of the restoration fund is unrestricted. The fund stands at £10,633 (2019: £10,324).

### **Rector's Discretionary**

This fund has received specific donations from members of the congregation which the rector has used to help members of the parish at his discretion.

## **Restricted Funds**

### **Restoration Restricted**

The Restoration fund stood at £24,090 (2019: £23,516).

### **Funeral**

This fund is used to collect money from funerals where the families have specifically requested donations for charities of their choice. These are held by the PCC and then paid out as requested.

### **Special**

This fund is used for special collections, like the Christingle, Christian Aid, Bishops Outreach etc where the money is then distributed to the relevant charities. It is also used where money has been donated for specific causes, for example money donated for the food bank and paid out for this purpose and money for Kit Kat which holds regular events for vulnerable young children and money donated for the Kitchen. The balances amounted to £19,921 (2019: £32,516).