

2021 Report for the Parochial Church Council

All Saints' Church, Hartford

Aims and Objectives

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

We are called to be a local church, learning and growing together, rooted in the love of God, and bound up in all sorts of everyday ways with the life of our community. Our mission is to reach open hearts with the love of Christ, and to help all the people of Hartford to find Christ, to be found by Him, and to respond to His love through the life and worship of their Parish Church.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to be part of the parish community at All Saints.

Reaching out to the wider community various activities are held in our Church Room some run by members of our church family and others through the hire of the room by external groups. *(These activities have been severely restricted during the Covid19 Pandemic)*

Worship and Prayer

As of December 2021 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 81 of which 43 were residents and 38 non-residents of the parish.

Covid19 again disrupted church services with no services for most of the first three months of the year. The 11am resumed on the 28th March but the bimonthly 8.30am and the monthly 6pm did not resume until July. For those services which did take place the average Sunday 11am attendance was 32 adults and 1 child, the 8.30am was 9, and the 6pm was 9.

Attendances at special services held during the year were Maundy Thursday –13, All Souls – 8, Christmas Carol service - 48 adults / 5 children, Nativity service - 16 adults / 6 children, Christmas Midnight service - 22 adults and Christmas Day 11am - 21 adults / 2children.

During the year 7 baptisms, 5 weddings, 10 funerals in church, 4 funerals at the crematorium and 3 interments of ashes took place.

Rector's Report

The year began with the continuation of lockdown measures due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This brought many constraints to daily living, including not gathering in church for worship.

Pat and Haleema continued to produce a weekly service on our website to unite us, and many of us were in contact with each other offering care and mutual support. The zoom 'Tea and Chat' on Sundays and the Lent course, also via zoom, provided opportunity to meet virtually. Later in the year a few of us trialled Clifford's course 'Baggage and Treasures' which the Diocese has adopted as its Lent Course for 2022.

Preparations were made for the return to worship in the church building. The organ which had been taken away and completely repaired and renovated was returned in March, new curtains were hung at the south door and choir vestry, and comfortable cushioning softened the pews. We were able to return to church on Palm Sunday, 28th March in time for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. It was a great joy not only to return but to hear the sound of the organ beautifully enhanced, and to appreciate the warmth and comfort of the curtains and cushions.

There was much discussion about returning to social activity and we are so grateful to everyone who made this happen. Mike and Daphne's Garden Party was a wonderful beginning; Clifford's walk continued the good work and Sue, Pam and their team put on two particularly special Cream Teas. Pam and Paul organised an evening with Richard Bower which combined music and the story of our organ; The Art Group delighted us again with their exhibition and the Christmas Fayre was a social and fundraising success once more. Thank you to all who contributed to and supported these events in so many ways.

The church building and churchyard were kept as beautiful as ever and were much appreciated by people who visited not only on Sundays but through the week. The flower displays were particularly stunning at the major festivals and the Remembrance Sunday displays honouring and moving. Our thanks to Colin Jones for his work this year in providing us with a Christmas tree and Easter Cross in the churchyard. Thank you too to Pauline and David who are once again opening the church on Friday mornings.

In October we held an 'Away Day' so that we could reflect on 'where we are' and 'where we are going' centred around a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) discussion. Thank you to all who attended and for the many good questions and positive contributions. We identified six priority areas - Communication, Pastoral Care, Social Activity, Worship, Occasional Offices and Discipleship. We will continue to address these through 2022.

Life brings change, it brings endings and beginnings. We have been very blessed in Linda's playing of the organ for 30 years and for her leading, encouraging and inspiring the choir. We were pleased to be able to make a presentation to Linda as her time as organist completed, and also to present Linda, Pauline and David with RSCM medals. It was a

delight to welcome Tony as our new organist and to witness the prayerful creativity in the new and changed roles and relationships in the choir.

We have been blessed too in Janet Boston's presence and prayer, wisdom and encouragement as Churchwarden. Janet completed her time in that office, and we offer her our deep gratitude for all that she has brought to us in the role.

Thank you also to Peter Levitt for editing and producing the Hartfordian. The final issue was produced in 2021 and we congratulate Peter on a production that has informed and entertained over many years and helped to bind our community. Amanda Smith generously offered to produce a quarterly newsletter and quickly got to grips with the task. The first issue was produced in October and was much appreciated. The distribution list continues to grow.

The PCC met six times during the year. Pam Fearon, PCC Secretary, unfailingly made sense of our discussions and gave us clear and purposeful minutes which helped us navigate through the year. Paul, as ever, gave us very clear information in the accounts and enabled us to address important questions and decisions not just on finance but our life as church.

We are especially grateful to Elaine and to Mary for leading our worship and to Sue for the dependability of her presence, organisation and wisdom as Churchwarden.

Thank you all for your participation in and contributions to our worship together and the sharing of life. It has been a joy and strength to be together again. - Reverend Geoff Boucher

Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod

This was another difficult year for both the Deanery and Diocese in regard to Synodical meetings.

Both managed meetings to close the three year cycles. Again by zoom. The new Deanery Synod came in after the APCMs in May.

Both Helen Dowzall and Elaine Levitt were returned as representatives.

Huntingdon Deanery has again been fortunate to be in a position to pay the shortfall in parish share from reserves. This gives a rebate, which is less than the amount paid, but means reserves are a little healthier than otherwise, to cover any future shortfalls or possible aid to parishes. (for repairs etc in loans)

The new Diocesan Synod was elected and met in November to complete business as demanded in law.

Elaine Levitt is again representative on this.

The main focus for the Synods has been the future of the Deaneries in the aftermath of the pandemic and planning for the future. Also to be considered at some time will be "Living in Love and Faith"; focussing on being a more inclusive church

It is good to be able to emphasise how well the Diocese has done in 2021 to be able to return only a very small deficit. Praise has been given to all parishes and Deaneries in

their efforts to pay Parish Shares and together with careful budgeting elsewhere this has meant the deficit was much less than anticipated. – Elaine Levitt

Churches Together in Huntingdon and Godmanchester

Most of the member churches of CTHG were pre-occupied during 2021 with maintaining the hybrid 'worship on line/worship live'. Most churches reported surviving satisfactorily though some leakage of members was experienced across the spectrum of churches. The standing Committee met four times during the year either by zoom or from July in person. The AGM in November was held in the new Methodist Church Extension.

The regular CTHG sponsored functions continued: Thought for the Day on Huntingdon Community Radio (Elaine Levitt and Clifford Owen do two talks a month) Men's bi-monthly breakfasts have been mainly by Zoom.

HOMELESSNESS was the main topic considered thoroughly during the early part of the year. After much discussion (including an outside speaker) it was decided that the Huntingdon churches lacked the essential resources required to support such a venture. Nevertheless Christchurch Huntingdon promoted the group offering FURNITURE and HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS for NEEDY FAMILIES.

WEBSITE: Lindsay, the Chaplain of the Salvation Army Hostel in Kings Ripton Road, will be revamping the CTHG website which has 'gone cold'.

Our own, Helen Dowzall, came up with ideas about pilgrimage around our churches as a result of the Baggage and Treasures course we did at Hartford in the autumn. This chimes with an idea Clifford had about pilgrimage around the local churches. Helen and Clifford will be working on it!

The Chair for 2022 will be Revd. Elaine Blundell, Baptist Minister at Trinity Church (by the Lord Protector). – Reverend Clifford Owen

Achievements and Activities

Due to Covid-19 our social and fund-raising events only gradually started to reappear as restrictions lightened with refreshments after Sunday morning services beginning again in December.

Events resumed slowly from the end of June and included Daphne and Mike's Garden Party, Clifford's Walk / Cycle, Cream Teas, Organ Recital, Harvest Lunch, Art Exhibition and Christmas Fayre.

Crafty Saints

During the last year a small group of us have continued to meet as often as circumstances have allowed. We have now started meeting again regularly on Monday mornings from 10 am until 12 noon.

We were able to make a significant contribution to the money raised at the Christmas Fayre through our craft stall where we sold various items.

We are all appreciating being able to get together again and as hopefully the situation with Covid19 improves we look forward to welcoming new people and learning new skills. –
Mary Adlam

Hartfordian

The Hartfordian magazine ceased publication in paper booklet and electronic formats with the

June/July 2021 edition. The P.C.C. was unable to find anyone willing to continue with these magazine formats and an email newsletter has been produced. The archive of copies and materials has been placed at the disposal of the P.C.C. and will be held for 1 year before deletion. All personal data held for subscription and other purposes has been deleted to satisfy general GDPR requirements. Peter Levitt formerly Editor, The Hartfordian

Sincere thanks to Peter for all his hard work and dedication over many years of producing the Hartfordian. - Sue Craven

Financial Review

Please see the Annual Accounts for details.

Structure, governance, and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, associated clergy, elected and coopted members drawn from members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll.

The full PCC meets six times a year to discuss and make decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how church funds are spent. A smaller Standing Committee meets prior to the PCC meeting to collate and prepare information for PCC consideration but it has no powers to make decisions unless specifically instructed by the PCC at a prior meeting.

To facilitate the worship and outreach activities that take place at All Saints it is important that we maintain the fabric of our church and church room. We are very grateful to the small army of unsung heroes who regularly carry out cleaning and maintenance tasks in

and around our church and those who look after the church contents and consumable supplies.

Churchwardens' Fabric Report for 2021

January - 22 new cushions for nave pews delivered

February – old curtains and rails from South door and choir vestry removed and new rails fitted

March – organ rebuilt in church; church major clean; inspection visits from organ consultant; new curtains hung; new pew cushions put in place; Fire Alarm serviced

April – leaking cistern in disabled toilet repaired

May – new fire alarms fitted

June – installation of Denon DNF 350 USB/Bluetooth Media Player: organ tuned

July – boiler annual service and safety check; new organ mirror installed

August – Replacement Pressurisation Unit; revarnishing of and repairs to glass fronted notice board in churchyard

September – Smart Water applied to outside metalwork; Fire alarms and Fire extinguishers checked – one extinguisher replaced

October – sound system checked to identify fault with microphones

November — lower gutters cleaned; sound system rechecked to identify persistent fault with microphones; installation of new microphone and stand

December – lock in south door removed, overhauled and replaced; work on south door to ease closing; – lantern seat replaced

The Log Book and the Church Property Register are up to date. They have been checked and signed off as an accurate record. – Sue Craven

Church Flowers

Despite the Covid19 restrictions we have done our best to keep the church looking welcoming and cheerful again this year.

The flowers in church are generally arranged all year round on a rota except during Lent. Special displays at Christmas, Easter and Harvest are part of the cycle when all the arrangers work together. We are once again able to offer special flowers for weddings as we have some experienced flower ladies.

We would be still very pleased if new people joined the current group and if they felt under-confident they could be with one of the established group until they felt ready to work on their own arrangements.

Money is available to pay for flowers but currently few, if any, of the ladies accept payment and this saves the Church a considerable amount of cash. Donations are given by some members of the congregation especially for the lilies in memory of loved ones at Easter. Although we were unable to collect for this this year, hopefully this will happen in 2022. - Pam Clark

Organ and Choir

I became the organist in August and feel very privileged to be playing the newly restored Hill organ and thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and to Linda for helping me feel my way through these early days.

In September Richard Bower came back and gave a recital together with a very informative talk about the history and various aspects of the instrument, even playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor – no mean feat on a single manual organ!

The small but dedicated choir are a joy to work with and their singing really adds something to our Sunday worship as well as leading the singing at weddings and other occasional services. I particularly enjoyed the Carol Service when the choir were able to sing two items on their own. It is good that David Brown is still willing to play at Evening Prayer and also that Helen is able to help out in the event of me missing a Sunday morning service. – Tony Humes / Linda Davies.

Health and Safety

I carried out a slightly delayed annual Health and Safety inspection of the church and its grounds in January 2022. Most comments on previous reports had been actioned; outstanding matters were raised in the report following the inspection.

It was noted that the church followed the Government regulations and Church of England guidelines on precautions during the Covid-19 pandemic, and individual risk assessments were raised where appropriate for specific church events and services. These risk assessments were regularly reviewed following changing regulations and guidance. – Vaughan Clark

Safeguarding

Due to the difficulty in finding a replacement Safeguarding Officer the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher has taken on the role as interim named officer. Paul Fearon agreed to undertake the role of DBS Administrator to support the Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' was updated and approved by the PCC in September 2021 and is displayed on the Church Notice Boards and Website. All people including Members of the Ministry Team, Members of the PCC and other members of the congregation requiring a Criminal Record Check (DBS) have a current certificate and all these people have completed the necessary Safeguarding Training for their roles.

Administrative information

All Saints Church is situated at The Hollow, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1YF. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England.

The Rector, the Reverend Geoffrey Boucher, who is responsible for the benefice of All Saints Hartford and St Mary the Virgin Houghton with Wyton, resides at The Rectory, 3 Rectory Lane, Wyton PE28 2AQ.

PCC members who have served at any time during 2020 are listed below.

Ex-Officio Members:-

The Rector - Reverend Geoffrey Boucher

Associate Ministers – Reverend Clifford Owen, Reverend Catherine Wright

Licensed Lay Minister – Mrs Elaine Levitt

Churchwardens - Mrs Janet Boston (until 23rd October 2021), Mrs Sue Craven

Deanery Synod Representatives – Mrs Elaine Levitt, Mrs Helen Dowzall

Elected Members:-

Mrs Mary Adlam

Mrs Pam Clark

Mrs Nanette Cleghorn (until 20th April 2021)

Mr Derek Colbert (from 20th April 2021)

Mrs Pam Fearon

Mr Paul Fearon

Mr Colin Jones

Mrs Carol King (from 20th April 2021)

Mr Peter King (from 20th April 2021)

Mrs Amanda Smith

Appointed

Positions:- Treasurer

–Mr Paul Fearon

PCC Secretary – Mrs Pam Fearon

Fabric Officer –Mr Victor Phillips

Organist and Choirmaster – Mrs Linda Davies (Organist until 19th July 2021 but continuing as Choirmistress)

Organist – Mr Tony Humes (from 1st August 2021)

Health and Safety Officer – Mr Vaughan Clark

Gift Aid Coordinator – Mrs Helen Dowzall

Electoral Roll Officer – Mrs Helen Dowzall

Churches Together Representatives – Mrs Janet Boston (until 23rd October 2021),
Reverend Clifford Owen

Safeguarding Officer – Reverend Geoffrey Boucher interim named officer (from 7/9/2021)

DBS Administrator – Mr Paul Fearon

Data Protection Officer – Mr Patrick Hawkins (from December 2021)

Website – Mrs Haleema Hawkins

Flower Arranging Coordinator – Mrs Pam Clark

Independent Examiner - Mr David Ebdale

Authorised Worship Leader – Mary Adlam

Magazine Editor – Mr Peter Levitt (until 31st May 2021)

Newsletter Editor – Mrs Amanda Smith (from 1st September 2021)

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HARTFORD

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HARTFORD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of All Saints Church Hartford

I have examined the Report and Financial Statements of the PCC set out on pages 3 to 8, in accordance with the instructions which have been given to me without carrying out a full audit.

The Independent Examination has been carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

In my opinion the report and Financial Statements which have been prepared by the Treasurer on behalf of the PCC, in so far as those records concern the running of the PCC, is a fair summary of the accounting records for the year ended 31 December 2021 and is sufficiently supported by accounts, receipts and records.

Signature:

Date: 1st February 2022

D Ebdale
Independent Examiner
Clock Tower Cottage,
The Green,
Houghton,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire PE28 2AX

These accounts were approved by the Parochial Church Council at the meeting on 21st March 2022.

Signed for and on the behalf of the PCC:

Rev Geoff Boucher

Rector

Mr Paul Fearon

Treasurer

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Receipts and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021					
Receipts			Expenditure		
	2021	2020		2021	2020
Planned Giving	5,128.99	2,728.71	Cost of Generating Funds	186.26	85.85
Parish Giving Scheme	12,953.64	13,163.20	Mission Giving & Charitable Donations	3,634.90	3,419.90
Cash Collections	2,713.24	587.79	Ministry Share	28,158.61	28,175.63
Donations	2,180.00	5,634.14	Organist Fees & PCC Expenses	1,372.83	1,070.00
Gift Aid	8,210.73	5,512.44	Expenses for clergy & pastoral staff	0.00	0.00
Legacies	0.00	0.00	Mission & Evangelism costs	35.00	0.00
VAT reclaimed	8,315.26	0.00	Equipment	4,431.00	0.00
Fund Raising (gross amount)	4,438.08	971.00	Regular Expenses	3,561.53	2,441.69
Income from property & Interest	389.02	368.02	Utilities	2,295.96	2,935.74
Statutory fees retained by PCC	2,835.00	2,935.00	Insurance Premiums	2,337.56	2,396.34
Church Room Lettings	2,082.25	1,766.50	Repairs & Maintenance	12,733.60	42,290.37
Other Income	368.00	360.00	Contra Out	3,072.10	1,487.00
Contra In	2,982.80	1,937.00	Parochial Fees	3,157.00	4,117.50
Parochial Fees	3,157.00	4,165.00	LLM & SSM Fees	100.00	185.00
LLM & Visiting Clergy	100.00	185.00			
Organ Appeal Fund	9,171.00	21,399.00			
Total Income	65,025.01	61,712.80	Total Expenditure	65,076.35	88,605.02
			Total Income	65,025.01	61,712.80
			Surplus / Deficit	-51.34	-26,892.22
Transferred from Reserves	0.00	50,000.00	Transferred to Reserves	0.00	0.00

Statement of Bank Funds for the year ended 31st December 2021

£'s

	RESTRICTED 2021	UNRESTRICTED 2021	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
LLOYDS GENERAL FUND	0.00	6,913.05	6,913.05	6,964.39
LLOYDS IAS GENERAL FUND	0.00	8,961.84	8,961.84	17,630.75
CBF INVESTMENT FUND	0.00	40,687.48	40,687.48	34,625.67
TOTAL	0.00	56,562.37	56,562.37	59,220.81

TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

SUMMARY

The annual accounts are prepared on a receipts and expenditure basis. The total income for the year ended 31st December 2021 was £65,025 and total expenditure was £65,076 resulting in a deficit of £51 for the year.

Total funds held in the three bank accounts were £56,562 at the 31st December 2021, a decrease of £2,658 compared with the 31st December 2020.

At the end of 2021 there were reserves of £32,493 compared with £26,492 at the end of 2020, an increase of £6,001. These funds are available if required.

The Covid-19 pandemic again presented a significant challenge in managing the church finances. Prudent management of our expenditure coupled with an increase in Direct Giving has enabled us to cope with a much lower contribution from other income which we receive in a normal year from Fundraising, Church Room Lettings and Parochial Fees.

INCOME

Our income came from six main sources:

- Direct Giving
- Church Room Lettings
- Fundraising
- Parochial Fees (PCC)
- VAT Refund
- Organ Appeal

In a normal year 30% of our income comes from Church Room Lettings, Fundraising and Statutory Fees and in 2021 the income received from these three sources was just 15% of our total income.

Direct Giving – this includes the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), planned giving, collections, donations, and tax refunds from Gift Aid and the Small Donations Scheme. Direct Giving was £31,186 in 2021 compared with £27,626 in 2020. Direct Giving was up by £3,560 which is very encouraging given the closure of the church for services for three months at the beginning of 2021. However, it should be noted that the Gift Aid receipt of £8,210 included £2,420 from the donations to the Organ Appeal and adjusting for this the increase in Direct Giving was 4.1%.

Church Room Lettings – the income from Lettings was £2,082 in 2021 compared with £1,610 in 2020. Lettings restarted in July and understandably have been at a much lower level than in previous years. The White Swan Academy is the main hirer of the Church Room and accounts for over 60% of our income from Church Room Lettings.

Fundraising – the gross income received in 2021 was £4,438 compared with £971 in 2020, an increase of £3,467. The cost of generating these funds was £186 leaving net income from fundraising of £4,252 compared with £886 in 2020.

Parochial Fees (PCC) – the income in 2021 was £2,835 and comes from Weddings, Funerals and the Interment of Ashes and is the part retained by the PCC. This represents a decrease of £100 compared with 2020. In 2021 there were five weddings, ten funerals in church and four funerals at the crematorium. There were four Interment of Ashes. In the case of funerals, the PCC only receives fees for those held in church.

VAT Refund - £8,315 was received from two claims submitted under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. All the VAT was reclaimed for eligible invoices from 2020 and 2021 including the 5 Year Electrical Report and subsequent electrical work, repair to damage to the Chancel Ceiling, repairs identified in the 2017 Quinquennial Report, repairs to the Organ Chamber and Vestry and the renovation of the Organ.

Organ Appeal – the balance of £9,171 was transferred from the Organ Appeal Fund in March and was used to pay the final invoice from Bower & Co for the refurbishment of the organ. The Organ Appeal Fund is now closed.

EXPENDITURE

Our expenditure is from seven main captions:

- Ministry Share
- Parochial Fees (Diocese)
- Mission and Charitable Giving
- Utilities
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Equipment and Furnishings
- Insurance

Ministry Share - all parishes in the diocese contribute towards the Ministry Share which is used to cover the cost of Clergy Stipends. Our contribution in 2021 was £28,158 and was paid in full. All other Diocesan costs are covered by income from the Diocesan Investment Fund.

Parochial Fees (Diocese) – £3,157 of Statutory Fees was paid to the Diocese for the Weddings, Funerals and Interment of Ashes conducted in 2021.

Mission and Charitable Giving – The PCC agreed that despite the continuing financial impact of Covid-19 it was important to maintain our Mission and Charitable Giving. In 2021 we gave £3,634 with donations to the following organisations: Children’s Society £250; Fusion £960; Godmanchester Food Bank £250 in addition to gifts of tins and packets of food; Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chaplaincy £250; Huntingdon Area Money Advice £420; Kairos Prison Ministry for their work in Littlehey Prison £250; Kitegomba – Church of Uganda Primary School £400; Mid Cambs Women’s Refuge £250; Salvation Army for Kings Ripton Court £250; Royal British Legion £100; Thrive £250.

Utilities – the cost for utilities totalled £2,295 in 2021 compared with £2,935 in 2020. The charge by utility was £1,618 for gas, £605 for electricity and £72 for water. There was a reduction in the use of gas and electricity due to the lockdown in quarter one. We have a contract with Total Energies using the Energy Basket negotiated for the Church of England through the Parish Buying Organisation which provides green energy at competitive prices. However, it should be noted that in the last quarter of 2021 the price we paid for energy increased by 15% following the large increase in global energy prices. The budget for utilities in 2022 of £3,500 reflects this based on our normal annual usage.

Repairs and Maintenance – £12,733 was spent on repairs and maintenance and includes the payment of £9,171 for the final invoice for the organ renovation. The following repairs were also undertaken; replacement of the pressurisation unit for the church heating system - £1,053; the new Lectern Microphone - £435; the new Lantern Seat - £1,600; and rehangng the main Church Doors £150.

Equipment and Furnishings - £4,431 includes £1,825 paid to Pedlars for the pew cushions and £1,132 to Cambridge Interiors for the curtains. £1,000 has been transferred into the contra account and ringfenced as the deposit for the Oak Audio Unit which has been ordered from Jacowe Joinery. The Oak Audio Unit will house the PA and music systems and is the final part of the works arising from the organ renovation.

Insurance - our insurance cover is provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance and the premium paid in 2021 was £2,337. A three-year agreement with Ecclesiastical Insurance was renewed in 2021 using the Parish Plus Scheme and is next due for renewal in June 2024. The PCC reviews the level of cover it holds annually.

Recognition – We owe a big ‘thank you’ to everyone who gives regularly to the Church. In doing so we must never forget the people who give freely of their time, talent, and energy some of whom provide goods to support the church which has a real benefit in helping us to reduce our expenditure. **Thank you.**

BANK FUNDS AND OTHER ASSETS

Bank Funds

The PCC holds three bank accounts: a Current Account and Instant Access Savings (IAS) Account with Lloyds Bank and an Investment Account with the CCLA. Money excess to our day-to-day needs is held in The CBF Church of England Investment Fund at the CCLA enabling us to get the best return on the funds we hold.

At the 31stDecember 2021 there was £6,913 in our Lloyds Bank Current Account and £8,961 in the Instant Access Savings Account (IAS).

We hold 1739.77 shares in The CBF Church of England Investment Fund and at the 31stDecember 2021 the value of this investment was £40,687 compared with £34,625 at the 31stDecember 2020, an increase in value of £6,001.

£22,961 from the Chancel Designated Fund is held in this account as well as £107 in the Church Enhancement Designated Fund.

The CBF Church of England Investment Fund was set up in 1958 and its aim is to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and distributions. We reinvest all the distributions received. In 2021 the gross income yield for the CBF Church of England Investment Fund was 2.71% and the overall growth in capital value was 16.13%. The financial performance of this fund has remained good, and our investment has been protected. It should be noted that the value of the investment may fluctuate up or down in the short term.

The total funds held in all our bank accounts at the 31stDecember 2021 was £56,562 compared with £59,220 at the 31stDecember 2020, a decrease of £2,658 in total funds.

Other Assets

Grazing Land (6.434 acres) in Hartford is held by the Churchwardens and generates an annual grazing income. The grazing licence was renewed in 2021 through our land agents Brown & Co and we received an income of £368.

During the year the PCC received an unsolicited offer to purchase the Grazing Land which led to a full discussion about what the church should do with the land. The offer was considerably more than the indicative value of £4,400 shown in recent accounts. Advice has been sought from Brown & Co, our Land Agents about the various options open to us and following this the PCC has decided to put the land on the market for sale.

Under the Incumbents and Churchwardens (Trusts) Measure 1964 the Grazing Land is vested to the Diocesan Authority. Ely Diocese as the legal custodian of the Grazing Land must give consent to the sale of the land. The Charities Act states that a Qualified Surveyors Report is required before the legal custodian, (in this instance the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance) can consider an application. We have obtained this valuation and submitted a request for consent to sell the grazing land which should be granted. Whilst the Diocesan Authority is the legal custodian the land belongs to the Church and any rental income or sale proceeds belong to the church and not the diocese.

The proceeds of the sale of the Grazing Land will enable us to invest the money which will provide a far greater return than the current Rental Income.

Silver belonging to All Saints Church Hartford is on loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and was valued in March 2019 at £8,500. This valuation was agreed with the Registration and Loans Department to enable them to apply for a Government Indemnity Insurance on our behalf. The next valuation and renewal date is in 2022.

GOING FORWARD

Managing our Finances

The PCC have adopted four principles for managing our finances:

- To balance income and expenditure and when possible, generate a small annual surplus

- To maintain funds in the current account at a level sufficient to manage normal day to day activities
- To have available funds equivalent of six months of annual expenditure
- To hold reserves including any Designated Fund(s) in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund

2022 Budget

The PCC has approved the budget for 2022 showing a deficit of £2,265.

We hope to reduce this budgeted deficit by increasing Direct Income and Other Income received from Church Room Letting, Fundraising and Parochial Fees above the sums budgeted whilst sensibly managing the level of Expenditure.

Except for the Oak Audio Unit, no other capital projects are planned for 2022. The next Quinquennial Inspection is due in May 2022.

CONCLUSION

The deficit of £51 against a budgeted deficit of £6,235 for 2021 is remarkable especially in the context of the ongoing effect of the Covid pandemic. This outcome is due to Direct Giving being higher than budget including the Gift Aid received from the donations to the Organ Appeal. As always Expenditure was tightly managed throughout the year.

At the end of 2021 we had funds in our bank accounts of £56,562 including available funds in our reserves of £32,493.

We have a great deal to be thankful for as the net surplus generated over the last ten years has enabled us to fund some large capital projects during that period and still have sufficient reserves to sustain us from the significant impact of the pandemic on our financial position during the last two years.

Our principal goal is to continue to manage our finances prudently.

Paul Fearon
Treasurer

January 2022