

Holy Trinity
Amblecote

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
24 April 2022

Vicar:

The Revd Alan Williams TSSF SCP

Churchwarden:

Dennis Dipple, esq

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 24 April 2022 following the 10am Mass

AGENDA

- 1 Opening Prayer
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Approval of Minutes of the 2021 APCM
- 4 Electoral Roll report
- 5 Elections: *Forms of nomination available in church. Nominations will be permitted at the meeting in accordance with the Representation Rules*
 - a) Churchwardens (2) for the forthcoming year
 - b) Parochial Church Council (3) for a three year term
 - c) Sidespeople
- 6 To receive the Treasurer's Report and acceptance of the 2021 Accounts
Questions may be asked of the Treasurer
- 7 To appoint the Independent Examiner and to agree remuneration
- 8 To receive the reports contained in the booklet
There will be no verbal reports. Questions may be asked about the written reports.
- 9 To receive a report about Deanery Synod
- 10 Chairman's Business *Any Other Business will only be permitted if notified in writing prior to the commencement of the Mass, such notice to include full details of the nature of the business, and will be allowed at the Chairman's discretion.*
- 11 Date, time and venue of next year's APCM (*Sunday 23 April 2023 after 10am Mass*)
- 12 Closing prayer

Fr Alan Williams
Vicar and Chairman

At a brief meeting of the new PCC following the APCM, the following business will take place:

- a] Appointment of
 - 1) A lay vice-chair of the PCC
 - 2) Secretary
 - 3) Treasurer
 - 4) One ordinary member of the Standing Committee
- b] Agreeing date of first full meeting of the PCC, and of the Standing Committee

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 16 May 2021

Chair: Fr Alan Williams

1. **In attendance**

There were 26 people in attendance in person and one other via zoom

Apologies received from

Una Parsons, Anne Tomilson, Martin Taylor, Philippa Hawkins, Sue Boex and Brenda Deeley.

Fr Alan welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and opened the meeting with Prayer.

2 **MINUTES OF THE LAST APCM – Sunday 1 November 2020**

The minutes were **APPROVED** and duly signed.

3 **ELECTORAL ROLL – Barbara Banner, Electoral Roll Officer.**

At 16 May 2021 the number on the roll was 83 – 47 resident and 36 non-resident

There was one new member – Brian Buck

The revised roll was **ACCEPTED**.

4 **ELECTIONS**

Forms had been available in Church and nominations were permitted at the meeting in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

a) Churchwardens (2 for the forthcoming year)

No nominations had been received prior to the meeting and no nominations were forthcoming from the floor. The meeting was suspended at 11.11am, Fr Alan left the meeting, allowing time for discussion. On Fr Alan's return, Dennis Dipple agreed to stand.

Fr Alan nominated Dennis Dipple from the chair, which was unanimously **ACCEPTED**.

Fr Alan thanked Andrew Riches and Sue Boex (who stepped down last year) for their wardenship. Andrew Riches is stepping down after serving five years as churchwarden.

Fr Alan will speak with the Archdeacon on this matter, and it will be considered again at a special meeting in the near future and urged everyone to serious thought to it.

(b) Parochial Church Council Members (3 for a 3 year-term)

Anne Tomilson is the retiring councillor, and we have two further vacancies, Brenda Deeley retiring last year after covering a one-year vacancy. Joan Bartlett, Paul Wilson, Helen Shakespeare, and Anne Tomilson were willing to continue and were duly **ELECTED** for a further three-year term. Helen Shakespeare agreed to be a co-opted member, and this will be ratified when the PCC have a brief meeting following the APCM.

(c) Sidespeople

This most important duty before and during services has been in abeyance during the pandemic and had been carried out by the following people at: 10.00am Mass. Hilary Atkins, Brenda Deeley, John Easthope, Doreen Easthope, Sheila Hill, Jean Latham, Beverley Langford, Joyce Matthews, Pat Overfield, Helen Shakespeare and Anne Tomlinson. At 8.00am Lillian Pearson and Graham Perks. All persons named were **APPROVED**

As in previous years, it was **AGREED** that the PCC was permitted to engage further sides people during the year.

(d) One Sponsor's Trustee for Amblecote Scout Group

Subject to the following, no appointment was required.

Following last year's meeting and Bernard Hewins willingness to continue as trustee we have been in communication with the scout district, scout county and regional scout commissioners regarding Bernard's appointment. In the absence of sight of the Sponsorship agreements, which both parties have mislaid, there is doubt on the scouting side as to existence. It has been hinted that the Scout Leaders have been

considering ending the agreement, regardless. The inability to find the agreement {which needs to be reviewed every five years), leads to a difficult decision being made.

The motion was put to the meeting that, 'we write to the district commissioner and formally remove our sponsorship of the Amblecote Scout Group.'

After discussion it was **AGREED** that we make it clear we repudiate the agreement with the scout group and with reluctance and deep regret let them go with our blessing.

Those in favour 16

Those against 1

Abstentions 6

Fr Alan suggested that we seek the support of the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association, with whom he is a Scout Master for their Telford Group for the formation of a Sea Scout Group sponsored by the Parish and perhaps the Vicar. This was broadly agreed by those present and will be subject to further discussion by the PCC.

4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Fr Alan expressed his gratitude to Sue Johnson for all her hard work looking after the accounts.

Questions were invited – none were raised, and the annual accounts for 2020 were unanimously **APPROVED**.

5 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER (and to agree remuneration)**

Mike Fisher had once again agreed to examine the Church and Church Hall Accounts. Fr Alan was thankful for this service and the appointment was **APPROVED**. As a token of gratitude for his willingness to carry on, a suitable gift was proposed, despite Mike's continued insistence not to receive remuneration. **APPROVED**.

6 **REPORTS**

Fr Alan thanked everyone for submitting reports. There were no questions, and the reports were **APPROVED**.

7 **DEANERY SYNOD**

The deanery structure has changed. We are now part of the Greater Dudley Deanery, uniting Dudley, Kingswinford and Stourbridge deaneries. This is an exciting opportunity for churches to work collaboratively, share resources and put in place the foundations to enable the new deanery in a purposeful way. There is a need for individual people and churches to get to know each other. The Area Dean is David Hoskin, with Rachel Newell and Andrew Sillis as sub-Deans.

The next meeting is in September.

This report was **ACCEPTED**.

8 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The chair did not have any business to discuss and similarly nothing had been received in writing.

9 **DATE OF NEXT APCM**

Sunday 24 April 2022 following 10.00am Mass

The meeting closed with Prayer.

Signed

Date

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC :: 2021 – 2022

CHAIRMAN	Fr Alan Williams	since 2008
CHURCHWARDENS (2)	Dennis Dipple Vacancy	since 2021
DEANERY SYNOD REPS (2) <i>Until APCM 2023</i>	Elizabeth Walker Mary Phillips	
EX-OFFICIO		
Licensed Lay Ministers	Eirlyn Jenkins Mary Phillips	
Treasurer	Mary Phillips	
COUNCILLORS (10)		<i>Term ends at apcm of</i>
	Hilary Atkins	2022
	Jean Latham	2022
	Susan Riches	2022
	Helen Shakespeare	2022 [Co-opted on 16 May 2021]
	Doreen Easthope	2023
	Sheila Hill	2023
	Philippa Hawkins	2023
	Joan Bartlett	2024
	Anne Tomlinson	2024
	Paul Wilson	2024
SECRETARY	Susan Riches	
MEETINGS (<i>May 2021 – April 2022</i>)	Amblecote PCC has met on six scheduled occasions	

PURPOSE AND AIMS OF THE PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the executive body of a Church of England parish. It is constituted as a body corporate by the Church Representation Rules set out in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, and consists of the clergy and Churchwardens of the parish, together with a number of representatives of the laity elected by the annual parochial church meeting of the parish. Its powers and duties are defined by certain Acts of Parliament and other legislation, principally the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (rector, vicar or priest-in-charge) in promoting the mission of the Church in its parish.

Formally, the PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the Church and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents. These latter responsibilities are executed by churchwardens. It also has a voice in the forms of Service used by the church and may make representations to the bishop on matters affecting the welfare of the parish.

PCCs were set up in 1919 as a successor to the Vestries, which had had their civil functions removed in 1894 with the establishment of civil parishes.

PCC members are Trustees of the religious charitable body which is the Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote, whose charitable aims are the furtherance of the Christian religion within the Parish of Amblecote.

INCUMBENT'S REPORT

We were able to start worshipping in church fully on Maundy Thursday 2021, though not with the ceremonial with which we are accustomed. That has been maintained, with the various mask wearing restrictions (now voluntary, of course) ever since. It is my sincere hope that from this Easter onwards we will start to relax and reinstate our serving team and occasional choir.

It is important though to acknowledge those who have helped maintain the openness of our building, the accessibility of the worship, the liturgy and the mission of the Church in this place. I pay tribute to my fellow ministers – Lyn Jenkins and Mary Phillips – to those who read lessons and deliver the intercessions, all who sing the Psalms, Phil our organist, and the entire congregation for participating in our weekly and weekday worship.

Dennis Dipple is doing a fine solo job as Churchwarden. Our further attempt at finding a second churchwarden failed, sadly. It is my hope this year that someone just might feel willing to sacrifice some time to give to this important role. Dennis will be happy to chat about what the role entails, as will any previous warden. The Vicar is not that difficult to work with ☺

It is also good that we have committed members of our Parochial Church Council, and I am enormously thankful for their support, advice and counsel.

We are still coming through this COVID crisis, while all around us real life continues: people get sick with other things, and with life-threatening and -shortening conditions; there remains a high-level of anxiety; war is on the continent of Europe as I write; folk still deny the virus and the effectiveness of the vaccine as a community protection measure; children are born and nurtured, special days are celebrated, and love is shown.

We sadly and regretfully let go of our sponsored scout group, and since then we have established another. A report about this appears later.

Life in general continues to be a mix of joys and woes, and Holy Trinity remains in place to be a beacon of God's love and generosity in an uncertain world.

We have said goodbye to loved members and former members of our church: among them Bernard Hewins, Sheila West, Nick Boex, Mike Walker, Christine Corker, Jean Geeves, and Olga Ainley. **May they all rest in peace, and rise in glory.**

We have only seen one wedding these past twelve months and a handful of church funerals. I have not been invited to conduct funerals at the crematorium as often as I would have been five years ago, but this seems a universal trait. Secular celebrants seem to be promoted by funeral directors as they are often available at the drop of a hat, and are more likely to concede to some of the odder requests from families.

We are seeing a growth in the number of requests for Baptism, even in the 10am service. This is a good and healthy thing – we can all remember when there were two or three families twice a month at 12.

Finance is always a concern for us, as we like to pay our bills. Thankfully, Mary is looking after the Treasury well, as did Sue before her. So a big thank you to each of you who continues to faithfully contribute money to help in our mission and ministry to the parish.

As we look forward to the forthcoming year, let us commit ourselves to worthy worship, and outreach to the community we serve.

Fr Alan Williams

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Church of England (of which Amblestone Holy Trinity is a part) is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church community.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Bishop John of Worcester writes: "The Diocese of Worcester is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults to worship and grow in Christ safely. I take that commitment very seriously and believe that making our churches safe for all is everyone's responsibility. To enable that, our diocesan safeguarding team provides professional advice and training, as well as supporting those who may have suffered abuse. I commend to you the important policies and procedures detailed here. It is my prayer that they will help to ensure that all can flourish as God's Kingdom".

If you or someone you know is feeling unsafe you can contact the following people and organisations:

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer	Elizabeth Walker	01384 831469
The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser	Nancy Gibson	07495 060869
Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser	Diana Stokes	07376 374380
Dudley Adult & Children's Social Care	0300 555 0055 (out of hours 0300 555 8574)	
Childline, for children and young people		0800 1111
NSPCC, for adults concerned about a child		0808 800 5000
Local police		101

If you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, please contact the emergency services on 999

Elizabeth Walker writes:

It is a very high concern of every organisation that the safety of both children and adults who have specific learning difficulties is considered to be a very high priority. If we add all those who have a degree of autism, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, those who feel lonely or those for whom life is difficult then those of us who care safeguarding is the business of us all.

The Diocese has invested a considerable amount of funds to support parishes ensuring we are aware of all the issues which surround safeguarding. I am the safeguarding officer for the parish. I have completed a large amount of training over recent years. We are registered on the Diocesan dashboard which is a tool to monitor both training and issues in every parish. I am pleased that I have not received any major or minor safeguarding issues.

I trust that if anyone has any concerns they would make me aware of them but in the meantime let us continue the care and concern we should and do have for each of us. Safeguarding is everyone's business

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT FOR 2022 APCM

CHURCH

We have continued to be vigilant around covid restrictions to keep each other safe and to encourage members of the congregation still reluctant to attend in person to return to church worship.

The issues we had with the church boiler have now been resolved and all current regulations are now complied with.

The sounds system has been improved and I have not received any complaints about its effectiveness.

Fire Extinguishers have been inspected and new certificate been issued for both the Church and Church Hall. Fire Signage has been updated in accordance with Fire Policy and first aid kits have been replaced.

CHURCHYARD

Buildings

The brick buildings adjacent to the Church Hall has become over-grown with Ivy and in need of serious pruning/removal. Especially as the Ivy is now impacting on our neighbour's garden. We are in the process of completing these works.

The passage behind the Church Hall and the same neighbour's garden was also overgrown we have completed those works and will make regular visits to keep the growth under control.

We are also trying to identify the owners of the two buildings adjacent to the Church Hall.

The Diocesan Registrar states that records show the details of the conveyance dated 7 April 1922 where the land was conveyed, the custodian trustees being the Diocesan Trust and the managing trustees being the PCC. You can see, when cross-referenced with a modern plan, that this land includes those outbuildings.

There is no record of the erection of those buildings, or any other transfer of ownership, leasehold etc. That doesn't mean that there weren't matters that haven't made their way to our records. Notably, there are no indorsements on the conveyance to state that it has been superseded or amended by other conveyances.

The Registrar is confident therefore that the buildings are not owned by anyone else so they would be the responsibility of the PCC. Any proposals to demolish the buildings or replace them would require the consent of the Diocesan Trust but does not require Faculty as this land is outside of the consecrated land of the church/churchyard.

To confirm the information from the Diocesan Registrar we need to check with the records at Dudley Records Office as they may shed some light on matters or rule out any final concerns as to ownership, ongoing.

We are hopeful that we can utilise these buildings after refurbishment provide emergency night accommodation for the homeless.

Equipment

During the year we have with the standing committee's agreement sold the sit on mower and trailer. purchased a new motorised lawn mower, strimmer and woodchipper. All of which are helping to keep the Churchyard tidy and the compost heap down.

Trees

Approved works from before Covid have now been completed and in addition old tree stumps have been ground out to assist us mowing the grass.

A further tree safety inspection has just been completed March 22 and recommendations made, which may require permission from Dudley Council as some of the trees are subject of tree protection orders, ongoing.

Silver Birch Trees subject of Vandalism in 2021

We are about to undertake reseeding of the damaged area now that there is evidence of growth of weeds indicating that the soil is ready to be reseeded.

Car Park Railings

These have been two incidents of damaged opposite the church hall doors, repairs have been completed. No persons have come forward to admit to causing the damage.

Wall in Car Park

It is possible that the high car park wall which was repaired by the garden owner a few years ago may be subject of some slight further movement no obvious risk at present. A surveyor has inspected it there is no current danger of the wall collapsing and we should not be overly concerned. The surveyor's report of his inspection and findings is awaited. The report will outline some remedial works that could be carried out by our neighbour to prolong the safety of the wall. Once received I will visit our neighbour and discuss matters with them, ongoing. I have continued to make weekly visual inspections and can see no obvious changes taking place.

Car Park

Valid comments have been received from users of the Church Hall about the condition of the tarmac in the car park. We have obtained three quotes the quotes are based on

What needs to be done: Quote 1. £5,200+Vat Quote 2. £5,250+Vat Quote 3. £4,000+Vat.

What would be nice to do, the remaining part of the car park later: Quote 1. £11,650+Vat Quote 2. £15,000+Vat Quote 3. £12,300+Vat.

What would be great to do a full retarmacking of the car park: Quote 1. £13,460+Vat Quote 2. £20,250+Vat Quote 3. £16,300+Vat.

We have insufficient funds in the Churchyard fund to cover even what needs to be done. We have issued our first churchyard appeal in two years to help with these costs. In the mean while we have made temporary repairs.

Working with the Community

We now have two adults working with us from our local Glasshouse College, an independent specialist day and residential establishment providing learning and training for children and adults with learning differences and disabilities.

Max and Thomas attend with their carer's and assist our volunteer churchyard workers in a variety of tasks each Monday and Wednesday respectively. It provides them the opportunity to gain experience and skills that will assist them to eventually obtain employment.

First aid Kit

New kit purchased, kept in churchyard equipment shed.

CHURCH HALL

The hall is open for hire, and although we had lost some long-term users, we have been fortunate enough to have secured replacement bookings and on that basis the increase in the hourly rate agreed by the PCC 30 months ago, with agreement of The Standing Committee was not implemented. It has now been agreed (April 22) that the increased charges be implemented.

There have been several issues with the cleaning company, not turning up, unsatisfactory cleaning etc. As a result, a new cleaner has now been in place for two or three months for both the Hall and the Church and her work is most pleasing.

Hot drinking water heater in the kitchen has been replaced after several attempts to repair the previous machine, there is a 10 year guarantee.

The hall has undergone a major painting and decoration exercise and some minor repairs, with the hall committee being very pleased with the results.

Issues regarding signage and safety were identified and have now been resolved.

Fire equipment has been checked and certified has in good working order. Replacement first aid kits purchased.

There is some considerable surface damage to the flooring in the main hall, quotes are being obtained as a matter of urgency.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all, helpers, those behinds the scenes, your advice and patience with me over the last 12 months and Fr Alan for leading us all.

Dennis Dipple

BELLRINGING REPORT

Again, a return to regular Sunday Service ringing has not been possible. Instead, the bells have been chimed thanks to the foresight of Miss Agnes Egan who donated the bells, together with the mechanism enabling one person to chime all 8 bells. Not all towers have this facility.

During September a band from Worcester Cathedral rang a peal and recently a local band visited during a ring and ramble day out.

Colin Hill

KNEELER GROUP REPORT

The kneeler group has continued to meet regularly, new kneelers have been made and some of the original ones 'retired'.

Sheila Hill

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STOURBRIDGE REPORT

Although we haven't met in person Zoom meetings have taken place appropriately. Carol singing took place in the town around Christmas time and the walk of witness on Good Friday is due to take place this year

Christian Aid is no longer all house to house collections but various methods of support are initiated.

The food bank is still one of the most important things to support, both goods and financially. The need being greater day by day. Please remember this opportunity to support our less fortunate neighbours.

Sheila Hill

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

Mothers' Union has fortunately been able to meet regularly once again this last year and an active programme has been enjoyed. Meetings involving us just sharing ideas, meditations, thoughts, and crafts - over refreshments of course! and others have been outings – Ashwoods Nursery and a most memorable and enjoyed trip to Worcester Cathedral.

A Queen Elizabeth rose bush has been planted in the churchyard by the flagpole to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We feel the important thing is to support each other and any other people who we have the opportunity to support in whatever way we can.

Sheila Hill

LIFE AS A LICENSED LAY MINISTER

In 2018 I completed my Reader training course at The Queen's Foundation and became a Licensed Lay Minister. What does this mean for me? How has it changed my life?

If it was a shock to my system to go back to college after a 48-year gap to gain a theological qualification, it was nothing like the shock of finding myself working again (albeit part-time) after being fully retired for 11 years! But it's been amazing. Over the years I had heard God calling me to a variety of roles in the Church including Sunday School teacher, organist, home group leader, PCC member and Gift Aid Secretary. I have also been closely involved over many years with Diocesan partnerships between the Church of England and Anglican churches in Kenya and South Korea, and particularly with the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Germany, which in turn led me to setting up an art exhibition in a cathedral and collaborating with a friend on developing a set of Bible study courses. But now, having responded to the call to Reader Ministry, I find the whole range of my God-given gifts, skills and experience coming together to be used directly in God's service in ways that I had never imagined. It doesn't mean that God has finished with me: I am still a work in progress – still trying to build up my faith and fit myself more closely to the Jesus pattern – but I know that this is what God wants me to be doing right now.

As an LLM, I am licensed by our Bishop to lead Services of the Word (or certain parts of other services), to preach, and to carry out pastoral and teaching functions. I also did extra training within the Diocese in order to have my licence extended to include funeral ministry. According to the Role Description that I have agreed with Father Alan, officially I have a minimum of three non-working days per week and in addition take one Sunday off a month, arranged flexibly to fit in with family requirements. In practice, I do some form of church work almost every day and don't often take a Sunday off, and there is no clear distinction between my family life and my church life. The way I see it, it's all part of my faith life, and working set hours or days just don't happen for me. If my diary is full of family events one week, I do less church work and aim to redress the balance the following week. When family circumstances allow, I attend Continuing Ministerial Development courses run by the Diocese and try to observe Quiet Days (though they usually end up as Quiet Hours). In all this, I'm blessed to have a supportive husband, who has his own very different calling.

Every LLM has their own individual Role Description. Mine has developed out of my particular strengths and interests. My greatest hope is to make a difference to people's lives by telling them of God's love and expressing that love in practical action. Opportunities can arise

anywhere and anytime – though anything I do outside Amblecote is unofficial and not covered by my licence unless I am formally invited to help in another parish. My prayer time and my best thinking about sermons and service planning takes place when I'm out walking our dog in the woods – not that you will hear formal sermons from me frequently: writing them does not come naturally to me, and I find it an exhausting process. I do spend a lot of my time talking with people in the Parish of Amblecote and teaching informally, but I also find myself doing the same with my neighbours, other dog walkers, and people at our local shops, as well as my fellow-members of an Internet forum which I joined many years ago because it was supposed to be about getting our housework done to a reasonable level in the least possible time (although after all these years it would be more accurate to call us an online mutual support group, with members throughout the UK and in France, who do housework if and when they can).

What you see me doing on Sundays is only a small part of my work. I have written a separate report on working with young families, because that is how I spend most of my time. Most recently, as well as introducing some basic teaching for the children who come to the 10.00 service, I have started up the Tuesday morning Bible study group (also reported on separately) and begun working on ideas for outreach to parts of our parish where we currently have very few contacts. Being Treasurer is not part of my LLM role, but they are complementary.

We all do our bit for God, but it's so much more fulfilling when you discover the role that God wants you to fill and respond to his call, and get the training and support to help you make the most of every opportunity. God has a role in mind for you too - maybe LLM, or ALM (authorised lay minister) or even ordained minister. Listen carefully for his call. It will change your life, as it has changed mine.

Mary Phillips

WORKING WITH YOUNG FAMILIES

The church's first contact with young families is often made when they decide that they want their child christened. Before the service can take place, they are asked to attend a preparation session with Father Alan or another member of the Ministry Team. It is an enormous privilege to meet these families at such an important point in their child's life. They are planning a family party to celebrate the birth of this child and then discover that not only is their child about to become a member of God's much bigger family – the universal Church – but that baptism is only the start of an amazing journey that will last a lifetime! How can we as the church here in Amblecote encourage families to continue that journey with us and not give up after those initial steps?

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them" (Luke 18:16). The Church of England maintains that children and young people can follow Jesus and be full members of the church, and that discipleship is possible at any age. Children are integral to our churches, but we need to make sure there are no obstacles preventing them from getting involved.

Many young parents do not have much experience of church themselves, so they need guidance in how to help their children to grow in faith – which can also lead to significant growth in the parent's faith. Each month the Diocesan *Calling Young Disciples* team produces an activity sheet for parents to use with their children, based on popular books for under-5s and cartoons for 5-year-olds and upwards. It may surprise you to know that I have a mailing list of more than 30

families, with 60 children under 9 years of age between them, to whom I send out these sheets by email.

Even when we could not meet in church, families came to our churchyard to follow our Easter trail, and more trails for festivals and other special events – including a National Biodiversity Network ‘citizen science’ churchyards project – are planned for the coming year. In December, we had the joy of welcoming several young families back to church again for the Christingle service, and others came to the carol service.

Our Trinity Tots group ran very successfully for nearly 3 years, providing companionship for parents and fun for the little ones, but sadly Covid restrictions and the effects of lockdown on our social lives meant that we had to close it down, and although we have not yet found a way to re-open the group, young families are asking for it. The same applies to the Family@3.30 services, where members of God’s family of all ages from 0 to 100+ are welcome: we were about to change their frequency from four times a year to every month when Covid struck. It’s simply not possible for one person to run these groups and services on their own. Could you help to make children and adults welcome and lend a hand with simple craft activities or serving refreshments?

Please talk to me if you want to know more, or if you have any ideas for other things we could do.

Mary Phillips

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The group started up in February at the request of two people and has now grown to five participants, including myself. Between us we have a wide range of age and experience, which results in a lot of interesting discussions!

The group decided to begin by looking at the life of one person in the Old Testament and trying to relate it to our own lives. Together we read Daniel chapters 1 to 6, which led to discussions on topics such as exile and cultural assimilation, faithfulness in worship and prayer, the power – or lack of it – of human beings, and the power of God. These themes took on new significance as the invasion of Ukraine unfolded.

In our final session on Daniel we looked at two very different art works – the painting *Belshazzar’s Feast* by a 17th century Dutch Protestant (Rembrandt) and an 18th century Greek Orthodox icon *The Story of Daniel and the Three Youths in the Fiery Furnace* – and asked ourselves, “What stood out in Daniel’s story for these two artists? What particular insights did they want to give us into these events?”

We have now started reading through the Gospel according to St Luke, chapter by chapter. If you want to look deeper into the Bible and would like to join us, you would be very welcome.

Mary Phillips

BLACK COUNTRY BADEN-POWELL SCOUTS' GROUP

On 28 October we held the first meeting of the Scout Group which last year's APCM and the subsequent PCC meeting approved the setting up of. As of the time of writing we have a leadership team of three: Fr Alan as Group Scout Master (and Akela), Jon Shaw as Scout Master, and Michelle Jones as Beaver Master. We have three Beavers, eight Wolf Cubs and Six Scouts. We are still being processed as part of the Registration process, and the youngsters are not yet in uniform, though they have now been ordered. We also have three other adult volunteers, who enable us to meet and keep the adult to child ratios proper.

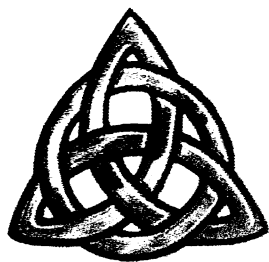
Because the B-PSA is volunteer led and managed, the processing of our application is taking rather a time. Anticipating this, all the adults involved have had their DBSs processed by the diocese, as I declared us to be a church youth scouting group, and the diocese was happy with this. Until such a time as at least two of us have become warranted with the B-PSA (I have, but not the others yet) we won't be considered registered. In the meantime, the other two leaders are having their DBSs processed by the Association.

The Sponsorship agreement between the PCC and the Vicar together, and the Group will be formally agreed and signed as part of this process, but in essence, the church is offering the Group free accommodation for a while, and in return the Group will support the parish church as we are able.

There is an executive committee for the group of me, Paul Wilson as Chair, Mary Phillips as Treasurer, Susan Riches as Secretary, and Anne Tomlinson, plus the other two leaders. We will formally meet as soon as the Registration Process is finally completed. In the meantime I thank the Committee members for being willing to serve, and hope very much that the Congregation will support us in this endeavour, as we restore a scouting presence to the life of the parish.

The B-PSA method is very much that of the old Boy Scout Association before the reforms of the late 1960s. Beavers were not created before the mid-70s, so this is a bit of an innovation, and the programme for them has been developed with the Founder's ideas in mind. So, you will see us in berets, caps and hats. There may be staves involved, but no, we will definitely not be wearing shorts!

Fr Alan Williams



Holy Trinity
Amblecote

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2021

Incumbent

The Revd Alan Williams TSSF
4 The Holloway
Amblecote
Stourbridge
DY8 4DL

Hon. Treasurer

Mary Phillips LLM
7 Clent View Road
Norton
Stourbridge
DY8 3JE

Bankers

HSBC plc
114 High Street
Stourbridge
DY8 1DZ

TREASURER'S REPORT 2021

The big increase in voluntary giving in 2021, compared to that in 2020, is partly due to church members bringing in the backlog of their weekly cash offerings as lockdown lifted in the spring – for which we are very grateful. However, by far the major part of the increase is the £60,000 legacy received from the estate of Betty Griffin: the use of this is restricted to, first, the installation of a small memorial window (the design and cost of which is still under discussion) and, second, the general maintenance of the church, so we are unable to access the balance until the window is paid for.

Other voluntary giving included donations made in response to our Harvest Appeal to support Afghan refugees arriving in the UK, and collections at the Christingle service and carol singing at Sainsbury's in aid of The Children's Society.

Income from life events has risen, helped by one wedding and two sets of banns. After fixed payments to the Diocesan Board of Finance, the PCC retains the balance of all fees received.

We were unable to hold any major fundraising events, and there was no Churchyard Appeal.

We are most grateful to the Church Hall committee for passing on to us almost the full amount of their Covid-19 grants.

The separate 150 Club bank account was frozen by HSBC, resulting in the stoppage of a cheque paid to the church (see notes 1g and 3j). Although a formal request was made in October to close the 150 Club account and transfer the full balance to the PCC account, to be held in a Designated fund, the closure was not actioned by the bank until January 2022.

The rate of interest on our HSBC Community Savings deposit account dropped further during the year, in line with the Bank of England base rate. As HSBC was introducing bank charges on Community current accounts from November (even for excepted charities such as Church of England parishes) the PCC agreed that we should move to a different bank. To facilitate a switch, the deposit account was closed and the balance transferred to our HSBC current account. However, due to unforeseen difficulties with our preferred bank, we have remained with HSBC – for now.

In 2021 we paid £16,000 towards the Parish Share request of £34,127, with a late payment of £6,000 agreed by the PCC at their meeting in January 2022. The final total of £22,000 amounts to 64% of the sum requested, which is a lot higher than the 43% we paid in 2020, but still well below the £33,456 full payment we achieved in 2019.

Our vicar's expenses and the cost of cover for him and our organist in their absences were slightly lower than in 2020. We are grateful to other clergy for their generosity with time and expenses, but would always encourage our vicar and organist to take their full holiday entitlement, even if we have to pay for the cover!

The reduction in church running expenses is accounted for by the 2020 figures including the cost of major repairs to the church floor and to the altar frontal. We are fortunate that our energy supplier SSE is still in business: we are on a fixed rate for gas and electricity until March 2023.

The Church Hall running costs (paid by the church) were offset by payments from the Church Hall account. Churchyard expenses were boosted by the essential costs of tree surgery and a new mower.

The annual payment to Churches Together in Stourbridge is included under Mission Giving because it supports local events such as Love Stourbridge, though none took place in 2021.

The PCC agreed readily to the request of the Walker family that all donations made in memory of Michael Walker, together with the Gift Aid recovered on some of them, should be transferred from the General Fund to the Church Improvements fund (Restricted), to be put towards the cost of replacing the altar platform.


It is pleasing that we ended the year in a slightly better financial position than we started.

Mary Phillips, Treasurer

Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts page 1

	Note	Unrestricted (General) fund £	Unrestricted designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Planned giving	1a	19,269	-	30	19,299	15,694
Collections at services	1b	2,225	-	-	2,225	2,183
Legacies / In Memoriam	1c	867	-	60,000	60,867	30
All other giving / voluntary receipts	1d	1,687	-	741	2,428	1,389
Gift Aid recovered	1e	5,018	-	-	5,018	5,803
		29,066	-	60,771	89,837	25,098
Parochial (life events) fees	1f	6,709	-	-	6,709	4,587
Fundraising activities	1g	12	704	-	716	656
Church Hall	1h	15,554	-	-	15,554	10,617
Interest on bank account	1j	1	-	-	1	8
All other receipts	1k	433	-	-	433	-
Total receipts c/fwd to page 2		51,775	704	60,771	113,250	40,966


 16 Mar 22

Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts page 2

	Note	Unrestricted (General) fund £	Unrestricted designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Total receipts b/fwd from page 1		51,775	704	60,771	113,250	40,966
PAYMENTS						
Parish Share	3a	16,000	-	-	16,000	15,000
Clergy expenses and staffing costs	3b	1,333	-	-	1,333	1,502
Parochial (life events) fees and extras	3c	2,039	-	-	2,039	1,748
Church running costs	3d	8,946	110	267	9,323	26,324
Church Hall running costs	3e	2,554	-	-	2,554	9,244
Churchyard expenses	3f	-	-	2,499	2,499	157
Mission giving and charitable donations	3g	50	-	488	538	-
Bank charges	3h	13	-	-	13	-
All other payments	3j	-	704	-	704	-
Total payments		30,934	814	3,254	35,002	53,975
Excess of receipts over payments		20,841	- 110	57,517	78,248	(13,010)
Transfers between funds	4	(5,845)	4,628	1,217	-	-
		14,996	4,518	58,734	78,248	(13,010)
Cash at bank at 1 January		8,575	8,119	10,980	27,674	37,772
Cash/cheques at bank and in hand at 31 December		23,571	12,637	69,714	105,922	24,762
LIABILITIES at 31 December 2021						
Wedding and funeral fees to WDBF		(357)			(357)	13/01/2022
Churchyard expenses (Timber Tim invoice 1039)				(1,896)	(1,896)	26/01/2022
Vicar's expenses: December 2021		(140)			(140)	03/02/2022
Refugee Action: Gift Aid recovered				(44)	(44)	07/03/2022
		(497)		(1,940)	(2,437)	

ARW
16 Mar 22

Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021

NOTES to the Receipts and Payments Accounts 2021 page 1

NOTE	Unrestricted (General) fund £	Unrestricted designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
1a <u>Planned giving</u>				
Standing orders	13,035.22	-	30.00	13,065.22
Weekly envelopes	6,233.70	-	-	6,233.70
	19,268.92	-	30.00	19,298.92
1b <u>Collections</u>				
Open plate and wall safe.	2,225.35	-	-	2,225.35
1c <u>Legacies / In Memoriam</u>				
Betty Griffin Legacy	-	-	60,000.00	60,000.00
In Memoriam Michael Walker	867.00	-	-	867.00
	867.00	-	60,000.00	60,867.00
1d <u>All other giving / voluntary receipts</u>				
Other donations to General Fund	1,686.97	-	-	1,686.97
Other donations to Churchyard Fund	-	-	315.00	315.00
Charities: Harvest appeal (Refugee Action)	-	-	216.70	216.70
Charities: Christingle/carols (Children's Society)	-	-	209.41	209.41
Donations to other funds	-	-	-	-
	1,686.97	-	741.11	2,428.08
1e <u>Gift Aid recovered</u>				
Re: donations made 1/10/2020 to 30/09/2021.	5,017.78	-	-	5,017.78
1f <u>Parochial (life events) fees</u>				
Banns, weddings, funerals, monuments	6,709.10	-	-	6,709.10
1g <u>Fundraising activities</u>				
150 Club	-	703.80	-	703.80
Sundry fundraising	12.00	-	-	12.00
	12.00	703.80	-	715.80
1h <u>Church Hall</u>				
Cost of boiler installation and servicing	2,525.00	-	-	2,525.00
Cost of First Aid kit	28.74	-	-	28.74
Grants	13,000.00	-	-	13,000.00
	15,553.74	-	-	15,553.74
1j <u>Interest on bank account</u>				
HSBC savings account, closed 25 Nov 2021	0.76	-	-	0.76
1k <u>All other receipts</u>				
SSE-Hydroelectric: refund of credit	383.20	-	-	383.20
Hire of church	50.00	-	-	50.00
	433.20	-	-	433.20

tin
20 Mar 22

Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021

NOTES to the Receipts and Payments Accounts 2021 page 2

NOTE	Unrestricted (General) fund £	Unrestricted designated funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
3a <u>Parish Share</u> Paid to WDBF	16,000.00	-	-	16,000.00
3b <u>Clergy expenses and staffing costs</u> Vicar's expenses	1,082.89	-	-	1,082.89
Cover for absence: clergy	40.00	-	-	40.00
Cover for absence: organists	210.00	-	-	210.00
	1,332.89	-	-	1,332.89
3c <u>Parochial (life events) fees and extras</u> DBF fees	1,329.05	-	-	1,329.05
Sundry payments: organist/verger/sexton/etc	710.00	-	-	710.00
	2,039.05	-	-	2,039.05
3d <u>Church running costs</u> Altar supplies	658.43	-	-	658.43
Bell tower	-	-	-	-
Council rates: waste disposal	450.77	-	-	450.77
Family outreach	-	-	-	-
Floor	-	-	-	-
General repairs and maintenance	1,244.20	-	-	1,244.20
Insurance	2,978.29	-	-	2,978.29
Licences: CCLI, Zoom	577.44	-	-	577.44
Organ	-	-	252.00	252.00
Printing, stationery and postage	665.09	-	-	665.09
Subscriptions: RSCM, W&DCRA	-	110.00	15.00	125.00
Utilities: electricity, gas, water	2,371.30	-	-	2,371.30
	8,945.52	110.00	267.00	9,322.52
3e <u>Church hall running costs</u> Boiler installation and servicing	2,525.00	-	-	2,525.00
First Aid kit	28.74	-	-	28.74
	2,553.74	-	-	2,553.74
3f <u>Churchyard expenses</u>	-	-	2,498.75	2,498.75
3g <u>Mission giving and charitable donations</u> Churches Together in Stourbridge	50.00	-	-	50.00
Refugee Action	-	-	226.60	226.60
The Children's Society	-	-	261.76	261.76
	50.00	-	488.36	538.36
3h <u>Bank charges</u> Monthly charges imposed by HSBC from 3 Nov 2021	12.53	-	-	12.53
3j <u>All other payments</u> Costs incurred in generating funds	-	-	-	-
150 Club	-	703.80	-	703.80
	-	703.80	-	703.80
4 <u>Transfers between funds</u> In Memoriam M Walker to Church Improvements	(867)	-	867	-
Gift Aid applied to In Memoriam donations	(178)	-	178	-
Gift Aid applied to Charity donations	(107)	-	107	-
Gift Aid applied to Churchyard Fund donations	(66)	-	66	-
Organist's honorarium	(2,608)	2,608	-	-
Churchyard honorarium	(1,000)	1,000	-	-
Decorating contingency	(1,020)	1,020	-	-
	(5,845)	4,628	1,217	-

ARW
16 Mar 22

NOTE

3

FUNDS 2021					
	01/01/2021 Bal b/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	31/12/2021 Bal c/fwd £
Restricted					
Altar frontal	66	0	0	0	66
Bell Tower	1,474	0	(15)	0	1,459
Betty Griffin Legacy	0	60,000	0	0	60,000
Charities	0	426	(488)	107	45
Church Improvements	1,000	0	0	1,045	2,045
Churchyard	5,541	345	(2,499)	66	3,453
Decorating	1,360	0	0	0	1,360
Family Outreach	231	0	0	0	231
Floor	100	0	0	0	100
Sound system	1,208	0	0	0	1,208
	<u>10,980</u>	<u>60,771</u>	<u>(3,002)</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>69,967</u>
Designated					
Churchyard	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Decorating	340	0	0	1,020	1,360
Organ	7,779	0	(362)	2,608	10,025
150 Club	0	704	(704)	0	0
	<u>8,119</u>	<u>704</u>	<u>(1,066)</u>	<u>4,628</u>	<u>12,385</u>
Unrestricted					
General	<u>9,580</u>	<u>51,358</u>	<u>(30,934)</u>	<u>(5,846)</u>	<u>15,919</u>
Balance at bank and in hand	28,679				98,506

Accounts approved by the CC
 AR Williams
 16 March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report

to the P.C.C. Holy Trinity, Amblecote, Stourbridge.

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of Holy Trinity's P.C.C. for the year ended 31st December, 2021

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the P.C.C you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the P.C.C.'s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



15th March, 2022.

Michael John Fisher,
91, Trinity Road,
Amblecote,
Stourbridge
West Midlands,
DY8 4LZ.

Receipts and Payments Account 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Receipts from Regular Lettings</u>	10,554.00	9,757.00
Dance Classes	5,677.00	3,745.00
Wargamers	1,274.00	
SlimmingWorld	1,281.00	798.00
Weightwatchers	420.00	770.00
Theatrical Groups	910.00	4,444.00
Others	560.00	
Yoga	432.00	
<u>Receipts from other sources</u>	600.00	860.00
Parties		260.00
DMBC	600.00	600.00
Other Occasional Hirers		
Other (Donation) COVID GRANTS	13,034.00	
Total Receipts	24,188.00	10,617.00

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Transfer to main church account</u>	13,000.00	4,000.00
<u>Regular Expenditures</u>	8,398.11	5,528.00
Utilities	1,479.94	471.09
Insurance	1,139.25	1,105.76
Cleaning	4,615.18	4,333.07
General Maintenance	1,163.74	560.26
<u>One-time / Irregular expenditure</u>	2,525.00	3,715.90
Building Work	2,525.00	3,715.90
Misc		
Total Payments	23,923.11	13,243.90

Account balances

	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>	
	Current Account	Reserve Account	Current Account	Reserve Account
Brought forward	3963.95	2.06	6590.85	2.06
Net transfers between accounts				
Receipts from above	24,188.00	-	10,617.00	-
Payments from above	23,923.11	-	13,243.90	-
Interest		-		-
Closing Balance	4,228.84	2.06	3,963.95	2.06

Approved by the
PCF

AR Williams.

16 March 2022

Independent Examiner's Report

to the P.C.C. Holy Trinity, Amblecote, Stourbridge.

Church Hall Accounts

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of Holy Trinity's P.C.C. Church Hall Sub-Committee for the year ended 31st December, 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the P.C.C you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the P.C.C.'s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination.

I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

14th March 2021



Michael John Fisher,
91, Trinity Road,
Amblecote,
Stourbridge
West Midlands,
DY8 4LZ.