

The parish of St Michael and All Angels, Ashton on Ribble with St Mark, Preston

2021 Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council

Aim and purpose

St Michael's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of working with the incumbent - our vicar, the Revd. Canon Andrew Evans - in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, within our ecclesiastical parish of St Michael and St Mark. As well as caring for our church building itself, which is Grade 2* listed, the PCC is also responsible for maintaining the church hall, the church grounds and the memorial garden. It is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and hall, and care for the grounds, in order to provide space for our Church and community activities.

Objectives and Activities

We are an Inclusive Church: a church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. The PCC aims to offer a church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We aim to provide a range of services and worship which put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus
- providing pastoral care for people who live in the parish or are in some way linked to our Church family
- mission and outreach work in Ashton and the wider parish
- a commitment to social justice and care for God's world

Achievements and Performance this year

Our church income is such that we can only afford to pay for a half-time vicar. We have been blessed with Andrew's ministry for four years and further blessed by the ministries of Bill and Gisela Raines, and of Jeff and Rosie Radcliffe who have made significant contributions to our worship.

During 2021 COVID-19 has disrupted our planned worship and curtailed many activities, but also presented opportunities for doing things differently. Although our church building had to close in line with government guidance,

we never closed to serving our community. In the church grounds the monthly farmers' markets continued, while the Cupboard Love food hub increased its frequency.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod representatives serve a 3-year term of office. The latest cycle started in July 2020, and representatives have an automatic place on the PCC. Elaine Buckley was elected at the 2021 APCM as St Michael's representative. There was only one Deanery Synod meeting in 2021. At this, the new Archdeacon of Lancaster was introduced to the Synod, and spoke about his background and beliefs.

Worship and Prayer

The PCC usually aims to offer a range of services which our community finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Everyone is welcome to attend any of our services. During 2021 the church had to close between 3 January and 28 March in compliance with Covid restrictions. When we were able to be open, we offered a single Sunday service at 10am, and a shorter service at 10.30am on Thursday. We held family/all age services on the first Sunday of each month and celebrated the Eucharist on other Sundays; except when there were 5 Sundays in a month when we held a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion on the last Sunday. In common with other churches, the average attendance has declined from 60 (pre-Covid) to around 30 this year.

During the pandemic Andrew, our vicar, grasped the opportunity to go online and record regular video sermons for the congregation. These were popular and helped us to reach out to the local community in a different way.

Music for the services this year has been mainly from the organ or a CD. Over the last twelve months the choir have met to practise together, as and when COVID restrictions allowed. They have contributed to Sunday worship by singing during communion - socially distanced in the choir stalls - and reading the lessons. They enjoyed singing carols at the 'Words and Music for Christmas' service on Christmas Eve. The PCC is grateful to all choir members for their loyal support through what has been a very difficult year.

Church Membership

On 31 December 2021 there were 115 members on the electoral roll, with 18% living within the parish boundary. This number is sent to the Diocese for its official record. It is three years since the last new roll was compiled (a new one is due in 2025), so the figures provide a less than accurate picture of current attendance. Although the roll records 115, we estimate that this includes only 67 regular (monthly) worshippers. We hope this will increase as we emerge from the pandemic.

During the year there were 9 baptisms, 2 weddings and 9 funerals in church, and a further 3 funerals at the crematorium. There were 10 interments of ashes in the Memorial Garden. There were no confirmations.

Pastoral Care

Due to the pandemic the Pastoral Assistants [now re-designated as Pastoral Auxiliaries] have been unable to make home visits to the 15 or so people on their list. However, they have regularly kept in touch by telephone with those known to be in need of help, or of someone to talk to.

When church services recommenced, the Pastoral Assistants sent cards to those who had not been able to attend to let them know that they were not forgotten, and assuring them of help if needed.

Junior Church

Our Junior Church has not met since March 2020. It has however been folded into our new pattern of worship with a monthly (when allowed) service - 'All Angels'. This has continued to grow, and has proved popular with people of all ages. The vicar has covered a range of topical themes during the year, including linking in with national and international events such as COP 26 and the need for our church to respond to climate change.

Our mission: social justice and action in the community

We are committed to supporting Blackburn diocese's *Vision 2026: Healthy Churches Transforming Communities*. We try to demonstrate to our whole community that everyone is valued and loved by God, and that all are welcome at St Michael's. During the year, at the Vicar's invitation, Elaine Buckley took on oversight of the Mission partner role, including it in her position as our Deanery Synod representative.

St Michael's has a long-established tradition of celebrating and caring for God's creation, and a commitment to social justice. We are a Fairtrade church and aspire to becoming registered as an Eco-church.

Cupboard Love continued as our twice-monthly food distribution hub, initially handing out pre-packed bags at the door, but reverting to the supermarket model from December, when Covid restrictions were relaxed. There are 10 regular individual and family customers.

During the year Cupboard Love has received grants from various bodies, which recognise the community service provided. It was proud to receive a Mayor of Preston's *Covid Heroes Award* recognising that the service had been maintained during the pandemic. A team of 15 volunteers collect food from Fareshare at Red Scar, set out tables and serve our neighbours. The project has also been supported by young people on Duke of Edinburgh's Award assignments.

At the end of 2021 the hub started planning with Sacred Heart and SS Peter & Paul RC churches, for a weekday offer for parents of their schools.

Blue Flamingo Dementia café

Blue Flamingo - a café for dementia sufferers and carers - held its first monthly session in November 2021 and is supported by volunteers from other Ashton churches. Erin Singleton is the lead for St Michaels, and the PCC is grateful for her inspiration, vision and leadership. Sessions have been well attended and people who have suffered strokes, and some with Parkinson's disease,

also attend. Activities include music, a memory table, and resources to support carers.

Farmers' market

Since 2005 our farmers' market has been a monthly mission event for Ashton. The twelve markets in 2021 supported local producers and helped to reduce food miles. They were well attended, with an average of 100 shoppers each month. Holding the markets entirely outdoors meant that they were more visible and therefore attracted more people. The markets also raised about £1000 for church funds.

Our **Heritage Open Day** in September 2021 with its 'Edible England' theme coincided nicely with the farmers' market. The church was open, and online information helped us to reach new people.

Our Ecumenical commitment

St Michael's is committed to working closely with Ashton Methodist Church and with Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church although the local Ecumenical Committee has been suspended because of the pandemic. West Preston Methodists have gone through considerable change, including forming a new group of churches and having a new minister. Because of the pandemic there has been no active ecumenical activity although we have advertised events and groups for both churches as appropriate.

Church buildings and assets

Inspections

All inspections have been carried out at the prescribed intervals.

The chief concern has been the church boiler. After a satisfactory safety report, it failed to fire up in response to the programmer in church. Further inspection revealed an electrical fault which has now been remedied. A corroded pipe at the rear of the boiler was subsequently discovered and repaired. The eco-audit conducted several years ago showed that the boiler was working at 60% efficiency, while modern boilers operate at 90%. It is at least 15 years old. Consideration must be given to a replacement.

Major schemes

We have provided an accessible toilet for the hall and five individual cubicles. This enhances our letting potential as well as benefitting our church congregation and organisations.

Repairs to pointing round the chancel windows were completed after rain ingress onto the organ keyboard. Assessment of the damage to the organ is still in progress and will be the subject of an insurance claim.

We are developing plans to convert the choir vestry and adjoining toilet into a multi-purpose area, with a kitchenette for the preparation of hot drinks. This should allow us to host more small meetings and community groups.

Outstanding issues

The most significant issue from the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection report is the condition of the bell frame, which shows signs of corrosion.

We have been able to deal with the urgent issues by drawing on our financial reserves and through successful grant applications made by the treasurer. We will not be able to deal with further issues without significant fund-raising in the future.

Use of our buildings

The attendance at our *Little Fishes* Christian parent and toddler group increased dramatically once Covid restrictions were eased. Weekly attendances ranged from 15 to 25 children, and their Christmas Party was a great success.

Our affiliate Girl Guiding groups were unable to meet inside until September, but did often meet in the church car park. Their leaders spent a lot of time setting weekly challenges and arranging activities for the girls, often on Zoom. We have been pleased to welcome *Danceworx* as a new regular user of our church hall. This is a fledgling enterprise, aimed at teaching young people a wide variety of dance styles. They plan to extend their clientele to adults to improve mobility and fitness in the community.

Income from lettings took a hit during Covid restrictions. We lost 2 Christmas concerts and large parties were unable to be accommodated in church. Bookings for family parties in the Hall are beginning to pick up again, and there have been enquiries about long-term use of the Hall.

Church grounds

The church grounds and memorial garden are the responsibility of the PCC which ensures that major works are carried out. The grounds have been cared for by a group of volunteers from our community.

Communication

Communication has been challenging this year. Weekly sheets and a printed church magazine were not possible and many parishioners do not use email or engage with social media.

We now have hundreds of hits on the national *A Church Near You* website. We also developed a website to host video sermons which has taken over as our main church website. The PCC is very grateful to Jonathan Moss for his work on the new site. We use social media to promote St Michael's to different age groups and sectors of the community.

Our Church **Facebook page** has been going for more than five years and is growing well. It has over 432 "likes", meaning that 432 people on Facebook get updates and see our page every time we post a photo, video, link, or article. The most popular Facebook posts are the Farmers' Market and Cupboard Love, and are seen by over 1000 people each time.

Our **Twitter account** (@prestonstmics) was set up in 2018 but has been discontinued because there were only a few followers. An **Instagram account** (stmichaelschurhpreston) was set up in 2019. This now has 92 followers and continues to grow steadily.

Financial Review

The total receipts of unrestricted funds were £60,220 (similar to last year). Of this £12,149 was recovered from Gift Aid (the increase being due to changing to quarterly rather than annual claims – so six quarters in this financial year) Our giving through the weekly envelope scheme and standing orders decreased by 4% in 2021, because of the deaths of several contributors.

There were more funerals, interments of ashes, and weddings, but less income from hiring out our premises. Overall, we almost balanced annual receipts and expenditure. Our total income, including tax recovered, was £14,185 lower than in 2020.

£61,487 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide Christian ministry from St. Michael's, including a contribution of £35,758 towards the Diocesan parish share, which largely provides the stipends and housing for our clergy. The major building project in 2021 was the conversion of the existing hall toilet block to create an accessible toilet cubicle and additional unisex cubicles. The cost of this was £50,808. Grants sourced by our treasurer, totalling £28,743, helped to offset this figure.

A total of £7,000 was transferred from our Reserves to satisfy the bills and maintain cash flow.

The balance of unrestricted funds at the end of the year was £18,234.

The net result for the year was an unrestricted fund deficit of £1,267; however, there is an overall reduction in total assets of £17,024, when building activities are taken into account.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance in our unrestricted funds which equates to three months unrestricted payments. For our parish this is equivalent to £15,000, and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet unforeseen emergencies.

Structure, Governance and Management

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern, including deciding how the church funds should be spent. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met six times during 2021. The Standing Committee met once in person, otherwise it has made decisions by email. All meetings have taken place in an appropriately distanced way, and with face coverings.

The method of appointment to the PCC is set out in the *Church Representation Rules* (revised 2020). St Michael's PCC comprises the vicar, the churchwardens, up to two deanery synod representatives, and, most importantly, nine individuals elected by members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of our church. Everyone who attends our services is encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, and also to stand for election to

St Michael and All Angels Ashton with St Mark Preston

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Accessible WC (Restricted)	Foodbank (Restricted)	MP Room (Restricted)	Total 2021	Total 2020	Notes
Incoming resources							
Voluntary receipts.							
Tax efficient planned giving.	£25,686.65				£25,686.65	£25,659.50	
Other planned giving.	£2,126.00				£2,126.00	£3,299.00	3
Collections at services.	£4,003.81				£4,003.81	£2,904.39	4
All other voluntary sources.	£43.60				£43.60	£107.23	
Gift Aid recovered.	£12,149.11	£1,633.15			£13,782.26	£9,611.23	5
Fundraising activities.							
Gross income	£328.40				£328.40	£667.27	
Church activities.							
Statutory fees	£8,239.00				£8,239.00	£1,672.00	6
Gross income from Trading	£3,614.20				£3,614.20	£2,861.37	
Other incoming resources.							
Grants & Donations	£4,029.53	£28,743.26	£1,778.70	£1,000.00	£35,551.49	£48,196.63	7
Legacies					£-00	£-00	
TOTAL Incoming resources.	£60,220.30	£30,376.41	£1,778.70	£1,000.00	£93,375.41	£107,559.90	8
Outgoing resources.							
Church activities.							
Mission giving	£641.87		£2,291.35		£2,933.22	£851.36	9
Parish Share	£35,758.04				£35,758.04	£33,391.00	
Honoraria and Salary	£3,620.00				£3,620.00	£2,150.00	6
Clergy expenses	£4,649.94				£4,649.94	£3,667.12	
Church expenses.							
Running expenses	£8,070.65				£8,070.65	£8,444.87	
Utility bills	£4,878.27				£4,878.27	£4,908.49	
Cost of Trading	£198.80				£198.80	£237.89	
Property expenses.							
Church	£2,297.99				£2,297.99	£69,705.29	10
Hall	£1,371.89	£50,807.99			£52,179.88	£2,081.88	10
Other outgoings.							
Booking deposit refunds	£-00						
TOTAL Outgoing Resources	£61,487.45	£50,807.99	£2,291.35		£114,586.79	£125,772.90	
Incoming less Outgoing	-£1,267.15	-£20,431.58	-£512.65	£1,000.00	-£21,211.38	-£16,837.64	
Fund Opening Balance 1/1/21	£27,500.78	£7,290.00	£1,355.15		£36,145.93		8
Interfund Transfer	-£15,000.00	£15,000.00					
Reserve Transfer	£7,000.00				£7,000.00		
Fund Balance 31/12/21	£18,233.63	£1,858.42	£842.50	£1,000.00	£21,934.55		

Fund Financial Statements for the year ended 31 Dec 2021

Designated Fund CCLA 061S :- Organ Fund (391.46 Share Units)

Interest is paid into CCLA 007D Acct.

Closing Value at 31/12/21 £9,154.96

Designated Fund CCLA 238S :- Roof Repair Fund (575.95 Share Units)

Interest is paid into CCLA 007D Acct.

Shares sold for repairs in 2021 311.54 £ 7,000.00

Closing Value at 31/12/21 £ 13,469.57

Designated fund CCLA 007D :- General Purposes Fund

Opening Balance £ 1,831.62

Interest £ 713.58

Closing Balance £ 2,545.20

Note. CCLA 061S and 238S are accessed via the Diocesan Finance Department, whilst 007D is accessed directly by the PCC.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31/12/2021

Monetary Assets

Bank Current Account £ 21,934.55

CCLA Deposit Funds £ 25,169.73

TOTAL £ 47,104.28

Contract retention payment, due to Toilet contractor in August 2022 £1,097

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance in our unrestricted funds which equates to three months unrestricted payments. For our parish this is equivalent to £15,000 and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet unforeseen emergencies.

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Notes to 2021 Accounts

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.
2. The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: - movable church furnishings held by the Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
3. The decrease is due to fewer contributors using the envelope scheme.
4. Increased income arising from more baptisms and funeral services.
5. This reflects the change to quarterly, rather than annual claims, meaning an additional 2 quarters in this accounting year.
6. The increase is due to a greater number of Occasional Offices resulting in more payments to the organist, vergers and sexton.
7. Fewer grant applications.
8. The reduction reflects the level of necessary work carried out on the buildings. Income from Investments now appears on Page 2 as part of the summary of CCLA Investments rather than as part I of the General Fund figures. Consequently the General Fund opening balance shown in the accounts has been reduced by £1,375.36 for comparison purposes.
9. The change reflects the increased activity of the Cupboard Love foodbank project, plus more opportunities for supporting external charities.
10. The change in balance reflects completion of major repair work on the Church building and the conversion of the hall toilet area into a more accessible format.

Accounts produced by R.F Eather, Treasurer

14 January 2022

Approved by the PCC on 13/2/2022 and signed on its behalf by:-

Chairman, Canon Andrew Evans

PCC Member, J E Moss

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Independent examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ("The Trustees") of St Michaels Church, Ashton

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages 1-3 of this report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC (the Trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down under the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Church Council (the Trustees) concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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

Signed : R J Grime FMAAT

Date: 1/3/2022

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Ashton,
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