

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

An Anglican Methodist Partnership

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S PSALTER LANE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

AND

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S PSALTER LANE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The members of the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) have pleasure in presenting their annual report for the year ended 31 December 2020 and financial statements for the year to 31 August 2020.

Structure, governance and management

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church is an Anglican-Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership established in 1998.

Ecumenical Church Council All regular Anglican Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and they, together with Methodist members, are able to stand for election to the ECC. Clergy are ex-officio members of the ECC. The ECC is responsible for setting the overall mission and vision of the Church, for ensuring that money is spent wisely and appropriately, for employing staff and for looking after all Church property, including Shirley House, together with their repair, maintenance and insurance. This includes the moveable objects of the Church.

The ECC met four times during the year.

Volunteers

The church is very grateful for the services of numerous volunteers who cover a wide variety of jobs including Church Stewards and Wardens, Readers and Methodist Lay Preachers, ECC and other Committee members, Welcomers, readers and intercessors, Working Party Members, and many other roles. The church could not function without the generous gifts of their time and talent given by all these volunteers.

Overview

This has been a challenging year for all churches and faith communities. At SAPLC, we have sought to face these challenges in a positive spirit. Looking back over the last year, it's remarkable to see how many aspects of church life have continued in some form, and many people have played a part in this. Here are some of the main elements.

- We have offered pre-recorded worship via YouTube every Sunday and on other significant occasions, thanks in large part to the wonderful production work and musical gifts of our Music Director. The services, which have clearly been greatly valued, have been led by all our worship leaders. Many others have taken part through leading prayers, reading and singing.
- Worship via Zoom has taken place at other times as well: for example, there has been a weekly Wednesday morning service, and Taizé prayer during Advent and Lent.
- When possible, we have held in-person afternoon services in church, led by several of our leaders of worship, which have been much appreciated.
- A detailed and informative newsletter has been produced every week, with welcome contributions from a number of church members. We have continued to have full and

stimulating editions of Nexus, our church magazine. At a time when communication is so vital, our website and social media presence have been regularly maintained and updated.

- The Leadership Team and Ecumenical Church Council, chaired by David Body, have met regularly with full agendas and wisely guided the life of the church.
- Our property has been overseen with thoroughness by our Property Steward, not least in the hard work involved in the creation of detailed Risk Assessments for the use of the church and Shirley House during the pandemic.
- The finances of the church have been expertly overseen by the Treasurer with regular updates, and the giving of our members and friends has been coordinated by the Giving Secretary. We value the wide knowledge and experience brought to this and other areas by our Church Administrator. We have been extremely grateful for the generosity of our church members and friends in these challenging times.
- Pastoral care of, and contact with, church members and friends has been very important during this time. The primary network of support has been the Church Links team, and there have been many hidden and quiet ways in which people have supported one another, offered encouragement and helped to maintain the sense of church community.
- Our Caretaker has worked hard throughout this time to keep both Shirley House and the church ready for use and Covid-secure. The church grounds have been kept in very good order thanks to the dedication of the gardening group, and the working parties have continued to be busy.
- Our various commitments and emphases as a church have continued during the year. The Eco Group has met regularly and, among other things, has contributed to our online worship, while the Shirley House Interfaith Centre has held several Zoom events. Our House Groups have been able to meet by Zoom, and several members of Knit and Natter have met, socially distanced, in person when regulations permitted.
- As we do each year, we have continued to give financial support to other charitable organisations and causes. Our regular support for the Fir Vale foodbank and Baby Basics has also been maintained.

Church membership

Total church membership is 122, made up of 55 Joint members, 21 Anglican-only members and 46 Methodist-only members. 26 people are registered as Friends.

Worship

Our activities and community involvement as a church have at their heart, as always, our Sunday worship and other opportunities for reflecting together on our faith. While we value the particular character of our worship, established after the creation of SAPLC as a Local Ecumenical Partnership, we are always willing to explore new developments such as the Green Communion service, and to update our liturgies to make them ever more suitable.

Our main Sunday Service is at 10.30 am - Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays; Morning Worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. Other services are:

- A cafe style service at 9.15 am on the 2nd Sunday, called Sunday2, which starts with breakfast, has proved popular, attracting many of the regular congregation and many new families.
- Holy Communion at 9.15 am (using Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer) on the 4th Sunday
- Holy Communion at Southcroft, at 6.30 pm on the 2nd Sunday
- Wednesday at 10.00 am - Holy Communion or Meditation, when we reflect together on a piece of spiritual writing. This may be from one of the Christian traditions, or sometimes from another tradition of faith.
- Taizé prayer, quiet reflective prayer with repetitive singing, at 7.00 pm on Wednesdays during Advent and Lent, and occasionally at other seasons

The lockdown which started in March 2020 meant none of these services could take place in church. There was a pre-recorded service on YouTube at 10.30 am every Sunday and on other significant occasions, and Worship via Zoom has taken place at other times as well: for example, there has been a weekly Wednesday morning service, and Taizé prayer during Advent and Lent. When possible, we have held in-person afternoon services in church.

Property developments

Property and Finance Committee met 4 times during 2019.

Quinquennial Inspection: The survey of the Church and Shirley House was been carried out, and the report highlighted various maintenance issues. A programme of work has been set up to deal with these.

Work on new leases for office tenants continued.

Shirley House:

Covid 19 risk assessments were carried out for the continuation of activities in Shirley House during the lockdown. The use of Rooms 1 and 3 for community use, the Interfaith centre and Quaker meetings was suspended. The kitchens and some toilets were taken out of service and the cleaning of public areas increased.

A service contract for the automatic front door is in place and we are expecting the door mechanism to be operating in a fully automatic manner.

Church:

The final details of the design of the light box to better illuminate the Morris School stained glass in the Narthex are nearing completion.

A final design of a stairway to provide safe access to the roof space has been requested from the contractor and we need to have this checked by a structural engineer and the insurance company TMCP have given conditional approval.

Sources of funding for replacement downpipes and repairs to the Spire are being investigated.

A quote has been obtained for the installation of a plug in and play single microphone hearing loop in the chancel.

Fire alarm, fire equipment and emergency lighting servicing and weekly tests have been performed.

Options for automating the entrance doors to Church are being costed.

Covid 19 risk assessments were carried out for the continuation of activities in church when the lockdown relaxed.

The heating was reduced and reprogrammed to reduce the use of gas.

Grounds:

Garden working parties were organised on the first Saturday of each month. We planted runner beans, French beans and kale in the plot to the at the rear of Church. We have continued to clear the undergrowth from the shrubbery area. Garden waste and prunings are being processed into compost and wood chips. Trees that were interfering with the telephone wires were pruned and the grass was mowed by several volunteers. We had a good crop of apples in September. The grass in the orchard area and adjacent to Cherry Tree Road was allowed to was cut in September

Financial Review

On 23 March 2020, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the church building was closed and many of our room lettings in both church and Shirley House were cancelled. As a consequence, in the last five months of our accounting year, ended 31 August 2020, income dropped, and we were unable to undertake certain planned essential repairs to our buildings. In the year our total income fell by £7,204 to £142,362 and, due to unplanned repairs to Shirley House and the additional cost of on-line services, our outgoings increased by £10,518 to £146,289, resulting in a deficit of £3,927 (2019 surplus £13,795). Our unrestricted reserves stand at £64,574, which is the amount that we consider to be adequate to undertake essential repairs and maintain our commitments. Going forward, we

will continue to monitor our income and carefully plan our outgoings to reflect ever changing circumstances.

Pastoral Care

Under the leadership of Judith Roberts, SAPLC has a team involved in and committed to developing pastoral care, with staff and many others reaching out and offering care to both church members and the local community.

A monthly service suited to people living with dementia is offered at a neighbouring EMI care home and volunteers take Holy Communion to four other residential care homes in the parish. Both clergy and members of the congregation provide regular voluntary support at MHA Southcroft Retirement Living with Care which is situated next to the church. A weekly dementia café, the Tuesday Café, has been offered in church since March 2018; this has been a great success and clearly meets a need in the community.

We provide a monthly Fellowship Lunch, with food and fellowship for about 20 people who would otherwise be alone. There is a weekly Parent and Baby Group which aims to provide a friendly and relaxed atmosphere for new Mums and Dads with their babies to meet other new parents.

Sadly many of our activities have had to close since March 2020. Knit and Natter met in gardens over the summer.

Church Links leaders have been in touch with their group members. There was a Links meeting on Zoom in November in order to allocate to Links groups the new members we have been pleased to welcome recently to SAPL.

Music

Negatives:

- The Coronavirus pandemic, hopefully only temporarily, brought a sudden end to all usual music activities at SAPL.
- Online services continue to be expensive whilst being pre-recorded.

Positives:

- Online services have developed through the challenges brought by Coronavirus. It is fair to say these have served a hugely important role in keeping the church community in regular communication and are providing a weekly point of focus.
- Huge creative and personal achievements and developments have been made through doing the online services.
- A unique archive is being dynamically created of online services and recordings of hymns and voluntaries.
- Future possibilities with positive implications for church outreach and additional income for the church are actively being considered and worked towards, e.g. live-streaming of services and concerts in the church. This might not have happened had the pandemic had not occurred.

Interfaith

We generally hold our own events every months, plus we host Sheffield Interfaith 'Food & Friendship' bring and share dinners most months. The committee met in February and August 2020. Our programme included:

Due to Covid-19 events planned for March 2020 onwards were postponed until further notice, with the exception of a well-attended bring-your-own, socially distanced picnic in place of the barbecue on 19th July.

We eventually realised we could meet virtually and arranged events for autumn 2020 and spring 2021, as listed below:

- 30th November Kenneth Owele Okafor's talk via Zoom about his 'Faith Journey as a Nigerian Jew' came to a hasty end after a nasty interruption from a visitor using racist and anti-Semitic language. We have learned our lesson and improved our security systems.

- 14th December We had a successful and enjoyable **winter quiz and party** as usual, also by Zoom. Questions ranged through winter sports, Hannukah, world mythology, Hindu gods and secular Christmas celebrations. The winner was Dr Vithal Patel, (president of the Hindu Samaj)

Family and Children's Ministry

Since the first Covid lockdown we have provided a weekly activity for any children who are listening in to our services. This generally consists of a telling of the main story for the week – generally the theme of the main service, though sometimes varying if it doesn't provide much for children to relate to. Then there will be a suggested craft activity, or other thing that the children might do, often with a word search puzzle as well. Children are encouraged to share what they do so that pictures can go on the website, and we now have quite a gallery.

We do not, at this stage, have a way of telling how many children are now part of our congregation, but the first service in the garden on Easter 2 saw four families with children join us, and one other family booked, but prevented by a need to go to the hospital.

Sunday2 in its breakfast style of service was, of course, wiped out by the lockdown. However we have continued to use the broad format of the service on the second Sundays. We retained some of the liturgy that we had used before, to give our younger viewers in particular a sense of continuity: the opening and closing prayers, and the 'pink sentence' response. We have made good use of visual material and have learned to do stop-shot animations. Our listening congregations have had activities suggested to them that they might do. As we come out of lockdown, we are trialling worship in the church garden – 'muddy church' - as a way of bringing a congregation together again. Work with Clifford All Saints School was also curtailed.

Peace and Justice

Activities have been necessarily limited during the past year as a result of the virus. In spite of this church members have continued to support both the Food Bank at St Cuthbert's and other food initiatives. Members have also supported Baby Basics and provided winter clothes to City of Sanctuary. As usual we collected for HARC through the church Christmas Card.

The Church has continued to provide worship based on climate justice, as well as in relation to Church Action on Poverty. Issues of Racism and Black Lives Matter have also been included.

In the Methodist Church, votes on God in Our Love Unites Use (relating not only to same sex marriage but also to cohabitation and the basis of loving relationships) have now (as 24.04) taken place in all District Synods and, with the exception of Shetland, have been passed by majorities, sometimes very large majorities. The final decisions will be taken at the forthcoming Methodist Conference (June) after which it is now highly likely that churches choosing to do so will be able to conduct marriages between two people of the same sex. (This does not apply to St Andrews as an LRP).

Charitable Giving

The ECC aims to support a number of charities each year. A budget is set by the ECC for support from general funds and recommendations for the distribution are made by an appointed group of ECC members. In order to ensure that the annual allocation of such funds is predictable, transparent and generous the ECC has agreed to allocate an agreed fixed percentage of the income of the Church. Members of the church support Fir Vale Food Bank and Baby Basics with regular donations of foodstuffs and baby equipment; members take part in Christian Aid Week door-to-door collections in the locality. The Christingle service raises money for the Children's Society, and collections on Christmas Day and the following Sunday are sent to Action For Children. There are frequent collections during the year in response to emergency appeals.

Eco-Church

the Eco Group continued to meet via Zoom to discuss how we can be better stewards of the earth that God created.

We created our Eco Manifesto, which was signed by nearly 30 members of the congregation, and sent it to Paul Blomfield MP to encourage him to make a stand for environmental issues.

We joined the 'Make COP26 Count' programme, which aims to support churches with spiritual, practical and political actions leading up to the COP26 climate conference being held in the UK in November 2021. As part of this, we hope to be meeting with Paul Blomfield MP to ask him to speak up for environmental issues in Parliament. We have also heard personal stories from people in areas that have been devastated by the effect of climate change.

We held a special 'Climate Sunday' service on 4th October 2020 (which was also our Harvest Festival).

We continued to keep the Eco Church Questionnaire updated and constantly try to improve our score, with the aim of gaining a Gold Award and becoming Net Zero by 2030.

We grew vegetables in the compound behind church and planted fruit trees in the orchard area of the garden and have started to publish an 'Eco Tip' in the Weekly Newsletter to encourage all members of the congregation to live a greener lifestyle.

Deanery Synod and Methodist Circuit Meeting

Representatives of the church are members of the Deanery Synod and the Methodist Circuit Meeting, reporting to the Annual Church Meeting.

Trustees of the charity

The trustees who have served during the year were as follows:

Revd Gareth Jones	Dr Anne Hollows
Mr David Body (Chair)	Mrs Mary Kenward
Mr Kweku Ackom-Mensah	Ms Clare Loughridge
Mr Bill Atherton	Mrs Janet Loughridge
Mr John Booler	Mrs Chris Lowry
Anna Calvert	Mr Peter Mitchell
Miss Imogen Clout	Mrs. Rachel Morris
Dr Caroline Cripps	Mrs Judith Roberts
Dr John Cripps	Mrs Muriel Roberts
Mr Joseph Dey	Mrs Katrin Hackett
Mrs Alison Gregg	
Professor John Harding	

David Body
Chair

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
RECEIPTS				
Offerings & Tax Recovered	95,078	-	95,078	83,750
Bank Interest	183	-	183	150
Lettings	43,052	-	43,052	58,106
Other Receipts	3,519	-	3,519	4,833
Internal Funds	-	83	83	1,891
Internal Organisations	-	447	447	836
TOTAL RECEIPTS	141,832	530	142,362	149,566
PAYMENTS				
Generous Giving	50,060	-	50,060	48,600
Common Fund & Mission Partnership Worker	16,270	-	16,270	15,170
Donations	7,250	-	7,250	6,650
Repairs & Maintenance	24,328	-	24,328	17,498
Utilities	23,764	-	23,764	24,463
Other Payments	24,617	-	24,617	20,921
Internal Funds	-	-	-	2,237
Internal Organisations	-	-	-	232
TOTAL PAYMENTS	146,289	-	146,289	135,771
NET (PAYMENTS)/RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	(4,457)	530	(3,927)	13,795
Brought Forward From Last Year	69,031	12,853	81,884	68,089
Internal Funds Transfers	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	64,574	13,383	77,957	81,884

MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	2020 £	2019 £
Offerings & Tax Recovered	1,563	5,749
Passed on to external organisation	(1,563)	(5,749)

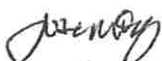
St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Restricted Funds

	Opening Balances	Receipts	Transfers	Payments	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Internal Funds					
W Davey Bequest	11,769	78	-	-	11,847
J Simpson Bequest	761	5	-	-	766
Total	12,530	83	-	-	12,613
Internal Organisations					
Parent & Baby Group	50	347	-	-	397
Story Lunch	73	-	-	-	73
Tuesday Cafe	200	100	-	-	300
Total	323	447	-	-	770
Total Restricted Funds	12,853	530	-	-	13,383

Declarations

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and they include all funds under the control of the Ecumenical Church Council.



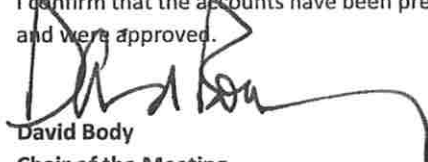
Joseph Dey FCA

Treasurer

Date 16 Oct. 2020

Presentation to the Ecumenical Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the accounts have been presented to the Ecumenical Church Council on 23 September 2020 and were approved.



David Body

Chair of the Meeting

Date 16.10.2020

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash & Bank Balances		
Cash in Hand	55	55
Bank Current Account	43,113	47,283
Central Finance Board Deposit Account	22,173	22,014
TMCP Account	12,616	12,532
TOTAL	77,957	81,884

Divided as follows:

Church Funds	64,574	69,031
Internal Funds	12,613	12,530
Internal Organisations	770	323
TOTAL	77,957	81,884

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other Assets (Unrestricted Funds)		
Debtors	16,715	14,572
Church Building (Insurance Value)	9,675,824	9,497,425
St Andrew's Church Centre (Insurance Value)	1,064,292	1,037,319
Shirley House (Insurance Value)	3,009,873	2,933,592
	13,766,704	13,482,908

Other Liabilities (Unrestricted Funds)

Creditors	1,000	1,008
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St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 as set on pages 1 to 3.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Church's trustees 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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission 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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church 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.

I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other Trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which are in excess of £10,000 at the balance sheet date.



S L Bladen FCA

Date 10/10/20

Hawsons Limited

Chartered Accountants

Pegasus House

463a Glossop Road

Sheffield

S10 2QD

St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

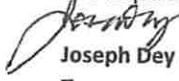
Reserves Policy


We have given careful consideration to the level of reserves we require to meet our financial responsibilities and cover unforeseen expenditure. We believe this to be an amount of £45,000, which equates to approximately four months costs.

At present our unrestricted reserves are standing at £65,000, however, we need to undertake major repairs to the church building, which are estimated to cost in the region of £19,000.

After making this expenditure, we believe we will be left with sufficient reserves.

It is our policy to review the level of required reserves each year in line with our current needs and requirements.


Joseph Dey FCA
Treasurer
Date 16 Oct 2020


David Body
Chair
Date 16.10.2020