



THE PARISH OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW
WESTHOUGHTON

St. Bartholomew

St. George

St. Thomas

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2021

PRESENTED TO THE APCM

MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2022



**Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton
And Wingates Team Ministry**

**Parish of Westhoughton
St Bartholomew, St George LEP, St Thomas**

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:

HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY 24th MAY 2021

AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Present Rev C Pharaoh, Rev A Wynne, Mr E McHale, Mrs M Dolphin,
Mr G Andrews, Mrs E Simkins, Mrs H, Mrs S Sloan, Mr J Thompson,
Mrs H Thompson, Mrs J Warner, Mrs C Andrews, Mr A Younge,
Mrs J O'Reilly, Mrs J Tonge, Mrs S Barry, Ms P James, Mrs K Norman

1. Rev C Pharaoh opened the meeting with welcome and prayers A bible reading was read by Mr Ed McHale

Apologies for Absence

2. Mrs C Smith, Mr G Twist, Mr J Moore, Mr A Morris, Mrs K Morris

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the deferred AGM held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 were approved as a true record and no matters arising

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Election of two churchwardens for the year 2021 to 2022

Nominations

Mr Edward McHale

Mrs J O'Reilly

Both have been duly nominated and seconded.

There are no other nominations.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Elections and Appointments

I. Two deputy wardens each for St Bartholomew's, St Thomas' and St George's
(who will be ex officio members of the Parochial Church Council)

St Bartholomew's Mrs Christine Andrews, vacancy

St Thomas' vacancy/vacancy

St George's Mrs Pat James, Mr J Moore

All have been duly nominated and seconded.

There were no other nominations. Rev C Pharaoh confirmed the appointments.

ii Representatives for Deane Deanery Synod for the period 2020-2023 (who will be ex-officio members of Parochial Council)

Mrs C Andrews, Mrs Kath Norman, are already serving with two vacancies

iii Two further representatives from each church to serve as members of the PCC

St Bartholomew's Ms A Young, Mr George Twist

St Thomas' Mr G Andrews, Mrs C Smith

St George's Mrs J Crook, Mrs S Barry

iv Church Council Members - up to eight at each church

St Bartholomew's Mrs E Simkins, Mrs J Tonge,

St Thomas' no nominations

St George's Mrs A Greenhall, Mrs S Sloan, Mrs H, Mrs P James,
Mr J Moore

All duly proposed, seconded and approved

V Appointment of Independent Examiner

The meeting approved the proposal to re-appoint Mr Nigel Ginniff as Independent Examiner.

2.

All reports can be read in the pack provided

Team Rector's report for 2020

Rev C Pharaoh thanked everyone for their support as 2020 has not been an easy year.

Also thanks from Rev A Wynne to Rev C Pharaoh for keeping us all on the right path

Churchwardens' Report for 2020

Secretary's report to the AGM for 2020

Electoral Roll Officer's report

188 are on the roll 2 up from last year

Annual Treasurer's report to St Bartholomew's Parish AGM covering the year 2020.

Examination of accounts

Mr G Andrews talked us through the accounts, we followed on zoom. There were no issues and Mr G Andrews was thanked for the challenges of the year

**Annual Report of the Child Protection Officer April 2017
for St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's and St. George's LEP**

Covid guidelines say we can now recommence young people's groups but very difficult given our buildings

3. Any Other Business

None

4 Dates of future Meetings:

Archdeacon's Visitation:- Only wardens and clergy to attend venue and date to be arranged

PCC follows this meeting

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Monday 25th April 2022

5 Closing prayers:

The meeting closed with prayers at 8:17pm

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2021

'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.' 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13.

In my world, 2021 will be forever known as the year of the broken collar bone. For those who don't know, in June, I tumbled head first into a ditch whilst out walking on holiday in Wales. I landed on my left shoulder, breaking my collar bone and badly spraining my back. A trip to A & E at Bangor hospital, followed by a visit to the Fracture Clinic at Bolton Hospital a week later confirmed, not only was the bone well and truly broken, I managed to break it in a very inconvenient spot. This resulted in having to have surgery to fix a metal plate to hold the bone in place whilst it healed. With the help of an arm sling, rest and recuperation and physiotherapy, my broken collar bone is fixed. (Though I need a further operation to have the metal work removed, as my arm and shoulder won't have complete function until it is.)

Breaking my collar bone was very inconvenient. I couldn't drive for a while. My arm in a sling severely limited some activities. I had plans which had to be cancelled or put on hold. Even when I began to heal, I also found there were some basic functions I couldn't carry out. I couldn't unscrew bottle tops for instance. I couldn't carry anything with even a bit of weight, not even with my right hand / arm. And try getting out of a bath with only one fully functioning arm. It is not to be recommended.

It seems to me that there are parallels with covid and the effect it has had on the church, with the effect of my broken collar bone has had on the rest of my body. First, it's important to say that the pain and inconvenience my broken collar bone caused me, pales into insignificance in comparison to the pain and heartache the pandemic has caused to countless individuals and families. To all those in our parish community who have lost loved ones, to all who have lost livelihoods, to children and young people whose education and development has been severely hampered, to all who have felt lonely and isolated for such a long time, my love and prayers are with you all. It has been very tough and the difficulties and loneliness continue. We pray God will bring healing and peace. However, like my broken collar bone, the pandemic has brought pain and disruption to the church, as a world-wide body, and to our church families. We haven't been able to function like we would like to. It has been impossible to carry on with some activities. It has severely restricted our life and mission. It's been very inconvenient. Slowly, we are healing but it's taking a long time and we've needed the metal work of worship and prayer to hold us all together whilst we do so. We've needed the functioning parts of the body to take the strain and the load and the constant friendship of the Holy Spirit has brought comfort and relief.

So, let's identify the healing that has taken place and celebrate it. We've been able to meet in person to worship together and we have continued to provide resources

as a Team to worship online. (We know we've had an international audience too from Zurich to New Zealand.) During 2021 we were allowed to sing again in our churches and, to those of us who are spiritually fed through music and song, this has been marvellous. (Even through a face mask.) We've been able to extend our worship and go back to familiar patterns and service books. We've been able to meet in person as a PCC and the 3 DCCs. The inaugural meeting of our Team Youth Church happened at St John's Church Wingates. We've been able to offer support to families seeking baptism for their children. We've hosted weddings, supporting 4 lovely couples on this important stage in their lives. We've had the profound privilege of offering love, support and care to families for whom we have held funeral services. We had 2 tremendous Team Confirmation Services, one in July and one in November, at which 18 young people from our parish were confirmed. It was so exciting to be part of this and see these remarkable youngsters take this next step in their Christian journey. We were able to reinstate a monthly Wednesday Holy Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club which offers an opportunity for people to share friendship and good food. We showed practical love by supporting Urban Outreach, the Bolton Lions and Christian Aid. We were able to hold some civic services again along with the Community Carol Service. There have also been opportunities to grow in faith through a Team wide zoom lent course, other zoom courses and a smattering of face-to-face study groups. What's more, we have been extremely fortunate and delighted to welcome 2 new ministers to minister in our Team in the shape of Rev'd Dr Malcolm Wearing as Self-Supporting Associate Minister, based mainly at St James' Daisy Hill, and the Rev'd Andy Jones as our Team Curate. Both these men bring many gifts and we are truly proud to have them as part of our clergy team. I praise God every day for the excellent support I have from all my colleagues, both lay and ordained, stipendiary and self-supporting. They have been a tremendous support following my accident and are the most, loveliest and inspirational people to work with. I count myself very, very fortunate.

Like my left shoulder and arm, we are still lacking some function of course. Financially we are struggling and we need to seriously take time to address this in 2022 through prayer and challenging ourselves to do better. We haven't been able to hold many social events and fund-raising activities. We are still limited in practical ways in our worship and it's been difficult to offer quite the level of support and fun we would want to for our children and young people, to enable them to grow in their faith and understanding of God and the Church. The healing and restoration process continues.

As you can imagine, the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 has resonated very deeply with me in 2021. We are all parts of the one body. We have different functions and different abilities but we are all necessary. In fact, as St Paul goes on to say, it is often the over-looked parts of the body that should have the highest honour. Those unseen heroes and heroines for example, who clean and carry out many routine jobs on our church building and school worship spaces. Those people who offer a welcoming smile and greeting to all those who enter our doors. Those who ring the church bells to call people to worship. Those who carry out countless tedious yet essential administration tasks and those who offer a listening ear to anyone who is needing friendship and care. You are all priceless.

In my annual report, I would normally list people who I particularly would like to thank for all they do. Whilst you all have my heartfelt thanks, I'm not going to do this this year. I'm simply going to say THANK YOU to all those who offer their gifts and time in any way and THANK YOU to you all for your support. Please be assured you are valued and appreciated.

As to the future, there is still uncertainty and there is still much to be resolved. We must find ways to pull together even more as the body of Christ. We must discover more of what part we play in our Team Ministry and in the Missional Community we are now a part. Changes continue at Deanery and Diocese level and we will learn more as 2022 unfolds. We remain undergirded by the metal work of worship and prayer as, unlike the metal plate on my collar bone, it remains in place eternally. We still have the reassurance of the friendship of the Holy Spirit. We will get there and we will discover new ways to be the church God wants us to be along the way.

'I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.' Philippians 1:3-6.

Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

Parish Churchwardens' Report for 2021 – to be presented at the 2022 AGM

At the 2021 APCM Joan O'Reilly and Ed McHale were elected to the post of Parish Wardens. After completing a six-year term in post, Margaret Dolphin stood down and we were able to make a presentation to her in recognition of all that she had contributed to the role and beyond. It was noted that the post of churchwarden was like an iceberg – what you see on the surface on a Sunday morning is barely one tenth of the role.

Many people have described 2020 as a year like no other. Sadly, 2021 began with many of the same restrictions in place, but as the year progressed and the guidance eased, we were able to bring back some of the services and events. As restrictions ease further, we will be considering as a parish what we can bring back gradually and things that shouldn't return so we can introduce new ways of doing things.

- Office Hour returned but now on a Monday morning [drop-in] or Saturday mornings by appointment.
- The Civic Service for Mayoral Service was held in a limited form with a smaller attendance.
- Remembrance Sunday services returned, although social distancing meant that we had to limit the numbers at the 10:00am Civic Service. This worked well and should continue.
- Switching on of the Town Lights Carol Service returned but in a new format. Only a limited number of schools will take part in person on a rota basis, the other schools contributing recorded items. Admittance was by ticket only to prevent unsafe overcrowding and this will continue in future years.
- A Confirmation Service was held in November with a large number of candidates following postponements in 2021. Again attendance was limited but this was a splendid occasion. This year we had two streams of confirmation classes – the usual weekly one and two longer Saturday mornings to accommodate everyone and see if there were any preferences.
- Although we have not been able to run Sunday Schools, following the confirmation, we have been able to initiate a Team Youth Church meeting monthly at St John's Wingates.
- In Spring we were able to run a full programme of Lent, Holy Week and Easter services although the Easter Experience was not able to run. We joined with the National Day of Reflection for those affected by Covid on 23rd March by opening St Bart's church for private prayer
- Baptism services were able to return towards the end of the year and we have a large number already booked in for 2022. Baptism preparation evenings have also returned face-to-face once per month. Many thanks to those who clean between the services and baptisms and give up their Sunday afternoons to staff these.
- We have been able to read banns and hold a number of wedding services
- There have been fewer restrictions on funeral services and we have been able to increase the numbers allowed to attend.
- We have not held any social or fund raising events and the usual groups hiring the building have not been able to meet, although some groups have started in 2022. Sue & Ged Robinson Todd have planned a number of folk nights in aid of church funds at Westhoughton Conservative club.
- All café church services have been cancelled due to the additional restrictions on schools.
- We were able to run a Bible study course in autumn both by Zoom and face-to-face looking at some characters from the Old Testament.
- November's All Souls Memorial Service could be held again this year.

We ran a full programme of Christingle and Christmas Services; although attendances were better than 2020, they were still only 1/3 of those pre-pandemic. We'll note that we

- collected custard & brandy sauce for the Christmas Dinner on Jesus in 2021 and not say any more.
- A monthly Wednesday Communion Service followed by Luncheon Club was reintroduced at its new time of 11:00am.
- Following St Bartholomew's Patronal Festival at the end of August, we were able to follow this with wine and cake as a trial for bringing back refreshments after the St Bartholomew's service.

Lockdown easing:

St. Bartholomew's church remained open weekly for private prayer even when services were limited. This could not have been achieved without those who drew up the risk assessments and action plans and have implemented them. We continue to review these regularly to ensure that we comply with all the current rules and regulations and that it is as safe as possible for people to attend. This couldn't happen without Christine Andrews and the team of church cleaners who come in each Saturday to disinfect the building and many thanks must go to all who attend each Sunday and through the week to make sure that the building remained open.

Thanks to the work of the team at St George's we have been able to run the usual services there through the year with a gap at the start of the year during the peak pandemic period and a week off while the school hall roof was repaired.

With the lack of any face-to-face worship we had to look at different ways to reach people. The Pewsheets expanded and is now e-mailed out to 85 - 90 people each week [& a hard copy to a small postal group] along with the Monthly Newsletter. As restrictions eased, the format changed and the daily reading, prayers and weekly homily no longer appear but it remains the best way of getting the weekly readings and notices out to everyone. Suzanne Walker produces "Our Daily Bread" a monthly prayer diary that we also circulate. These are also available from the church website with many thanks to Neil Belch for maintaining this. Many thanks also to Joan Warner for her work with the weekly pewsheets.

Again, as we offered more services in our churches, the Team Zoom services have reduced in number although we still offer a short weekly reflection. Many thanks go to the team who produce and circulate these. We also ran a virtual "Coffee and a Chat" zoom get-together on Sunday lunchtimes for a period.

School Form Signing:

This has been problematic during the year with changing requirements and conflicting advice. We were informed during the year that intention to attend would no longer apply and we removed the e-mail option to comply with this and reintroduced in-person signing / card stamping. There is no satisfactory way of recording and reporting attendance figures for school form signing and this needs review between churches & schools at a Diocesan or national level.

Staffing:

We were pleased to welcome Revd Malcolm Wearing to the Team on 7th January 2021 with particular responsibility for St. James' church and that Rev Andy Jones with Katie and Harry in July 2021 as a curate but with particular responsibility for St. George's church.

Funerals:

Funerals during the pandemic have been difficult with the strict limits on attendance. We remember particularly Mary Dolphin and James Tonge for their contribution to the parish remembering Graham & Margaret Dolphin and Jean Tonge respectively and their families and friends.

We also lost three priests who had long standing connections to the parish, Revd Malcolm Edwards, Revd Gerald Higham and Canon Robert Warner. We thank God for their long and talented

ministries in this and other parishes and the friendships and fellowships they formed with us, remembering their families in our prayers.

Parish Share:

We met with the Diocesan representatives in February 2020 and agreed a further three-year deal. This, obviously wasn't the best timing, as the closure of churches, the lack of fund raising events and the loss of income from occasional offices have all impacted negatively upon parish finances and we have been unable to pay in full. The PCC, aware of this, agreed to launch a stewardship campaign in February 2022.

St. Bartholomew's Building:

All the usual testing of electrical and emergency equipment has been completed and measures arising from Health and Safety inspections have been put in place.

In 2021 we had a number of additional building works:

- Following a flood in the tower cellar, we had several weeks in winter with no heating. Following this we had remedial work done to the boilers [moving or replacing them is prohibitively expensive]. Work was also done to repair drains and remove tree roots from drains to prevent future flooding.
- There are issues still with the heating timer panels and further work is due
- There was remedial work to the electrics following the overdue 5-yearly electrical inspection. The external lighting has been switched off following this so we could get the electrical safety certificate for the insurance. Repairs to the external lighting will be expensive but we are looking at options for lighting the church path.
- The front door lock had to be replaced and new keys issued
- Following a theft there was further damage to the roof causing leaks into church that have been repaired
- There are issues with the church tower clock which are being dealt with
- The overdue Quinquennial Inspection took place in late 2021. We are still awaiting a report but know that there is rot around the window in the choir vestry that will need urgent attention and also that work to the tower will figure heavily again.

St. George's:

Separate report from St George's committee

St. Thomas':

St. Thomas' church closed with the initial lockdown and in the absence of a functioning committee to plan risk assessments, action plans or sufficient volunteers to take on the additional cleaning and safety measures, it was not able to reopen until May 2021.

Graham Andrews took on the role of deputy warden at St Thomas' during the year.

Congregations have begun to grow steadily over the last 9 months.

We apologise if we've missed anything, thank all those who work across all our churches, in many other unsung roles, who keep the many activities across the parish running so well. Nothing happens without an enormous amount of planning, co-operation and paperwork and little of this year could have been anticipated and, with hindsight, there is much that we might have done better

Joan O'Reilly – Parish Warden

Edward McHale – Parish Warden

2021/2022

PCC Treasurer's report to Annual Parish Meeting regarding 2021 accounts

Introduction

2021 was a year for our church to grow back from the partial closures of 2020. St Bartholomew's and St George's churches were open from the start of the year. St Thomas church reopened in May 2021. Attendance at services was however still well down on pre-pandemic levels. Our church income improved over 2020 but remained lower than in 2019.

Income

Overall income was £20906 higher than 2020 at £102456, but still below the 2019 income of £136435. £11929 of the increase over 2020 came from memorial donations rather than regular giving. Also there was an insurance reimbursement of £3343 which is not regular income. The HMRC refund was down by £749 compared with 2020 which is disappointing in a year of recovery. It was also nearly £4200 down on 2019 which shows how much work we need to do to get back this "free money".

Wedding and funeral income sadly came from funerals and not weddings. This income was higher than 2020 but remember that over 40% of this is paid to the diocese in fees (see expenditure below).

Income from appeals continues to be severely depressed at only £245. In 2019 general appeals raised £4800 with another nearly £6000 for the tower fund. Clearly much work to do here.

Stock and bond markets recovered somewhat during 2021 as lockdown measures eased. The value of our investments increased by £2013 compared with £874 in 2020 and £2190 in 2019. We withdrew £2000 from our trust funds for a grant to St Thomas school governors. We withdrew a further £2000 for a grant to St Bartholomew's school governors but this was not received from the diocese in time to pay the grant this year and is therefore shown as monies held at the diocese.

The 200 club continues to make a useful contribution to funds with a surplus of income over expenditure of £860, slightly down on 2020 which was itself down on 2019. We hope for new members following our stewardship campaign although none have come forward as yet.

The £2000 received from trust funds is an internal movement within the parish and is balanced out by an identical consolidation adjustment so that it does not affect the parish's external accounts. The same applies to the £39382 income for the PCC which is the money paid to the PCC account by the three churches towards Parish share and PCC expenses.

Clergy cost sharing within the Team reflects the total clergy costs for the four parishes in the Team split in the ratio of the four Parish Share allocations. The cost sharing procedure brought us an income of £621 from the other parishes. Some quarters in the year could see us spending less than our share of the total which would have resulted in a payment out, but this did not occur in 2021.

Expenditure

Our Parish Share for 2021, previously known as quota, was £59500. This year we did not have a parish share carry forward from the previous year. During the year we paid £49179 including our

£10479 gift aid income tax refund. This meant we were £3898 or 17% short of paying our parish share. This is worse than 2020 despite taking £4000 towards parish share from PCC legacy money.

Ministers' expenses during the year were down at £527. The clergy cost sharing procedure has already been mentioned, as have the wedding and funeral fees paid to the diocese. The payments to organists and choir were down as a consequence of the reduced number of weddings but verger expenses rose by £640 to £1570 with the higher number of funerals. There were no payments to bell ringers recorded in 2020 but £600 was paid in 2021.

Our outreach activities continued at a low level in 2021, something we hope to bring back in 2022. Church maintenance costs were very high in 2021. This is in part repairing damage caused by theft of lead, part by the cost of the 5 yearly electrical inspection and subsequent upgrades for St Bartholomew's, and part by the cost of boiler repairs following flooding. Utility costs fell back compared to 2020. This is a function of when bills are paid at the year end. Unfortunately we can be sure that utility costs will be significantly higher in 2022.

Total administration costs were very similar to 2020. Grants to schools was higher due to the £2000 granted to St Thomas school governors towards their share of the costs of the replacement of the roof over the KS1 (infants) part of the school.

Overall expenditure for 2021 was £110783 which was £3899 higher than in 2020. The parish as a whole ran at a deficit of £8408 for the year.

Statement of main assets

The total in our investment funds plus the Banco Santander shares at the end of the year was £36609, up by £13 despite withdrawing £2000.

The bulk of our assets lie in the various accounts at St Bartholomew's parish church totalling £80933 down £3983 on 2020 which was in turn down £20784 on 2019. St George's total assets were £5544, down by £1630 and St Thomas £5370, up by £568. £4071 of St Thomas assets are restricted being in the memorial account.

Total assets of the parish at year end were £145847. As already noted this is £8408 down on 2020 year end.

Conclusion

This report again contains an unwelcome set of negative numbers showing how far we have to go to get back to the pre-pandemic level of financial stability. The parish is currently running a stewardship campaign aimed at improving our finances and volunteering. A key challenge will be to get congregations back.

G P Andrews

PCC Treasurer, 12/03/2022

[Numbers in this report have been rounded to the nearest pound]

PCC Secretary Report

The PCC as met 6 times since the last AGM which was held via zoom on May 24th 2021

This has provided opportunity for members of the district councils to meet together and discuss shared interests

2 meetings held via zoom due to covid and 4 have been held in person following covid guide lines

All meetings have been well attended.

All meetings have had their minutes approved

Due to ongoing covid restrictions activities this years have been limited, the gradual re opening of our churches and trying to re-establish a good congregation who feel safe to return to church worship has been the focus of our discussions. Along with the formation of Mission Communities. We also continue to support the local community at special times, remembrance. Christmas and Pretoria pit anniversary.

Kath Norman

Parish Secretary

St. George's Church Committee report 2021 for 2022 APCM:

We decided to close in early-January 2021 with the third lockdown. We re-opened again on Mothering Sunday in 2021. Attendances have been notably lower but have grown steadily during the year. We had a brief closure also in summer while repairs were carried out to the school hall roof.

We were very pleased to welcome Reverend Andy Jones with Katie and Harry during 2021. As curate-in-charge with special responsibility for St George's we have all enjoyed working together to look at the development of St. George's church and its links with the school and community during the pandemic.

We were also able to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening and consecration of St George's school and church on 23rd April [St George's Day]. Although covid limited the celebrations possible, we did have special articles in the pewsheets and cakes.

The committee met infrequently during the year planning risk assessments around reopening and discussing running services with covid measures in place.

Many thanks to the congregation who have coped with setting out and clearing away chairs, continuing to give generously [even without a collection plate being passed around], mask wearing, more services on screen to avoid service sheets and hymn books and many other ongoing changes. We have more Services of the Word and target these as especially child and family-friendly. We are now also well practised at setting up immediately prior to the Sunday service rather than on a Saturday.

Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall [for running powerpoint services], John & Hilary Moore, Pat James and Sarah Barry who have taken on the additional covid-19 measures required. Thanks also to Elaine Simkin

In 2022 there is much to be hopeful about as congregations continue to grow slowly. We look forward to Andy being ordained as priest in summer. We are looking at our finances as part of the stewardship campaign, old and new ideas for fundraising, restarting Sunday school and redeveloping links with the school.

Ed McHale

St George's Committee Chair

Deane/Bolton Deanery Synod report 2021

The last meeting of the Deane Synod was held via zoom in February.

Deane Deanery Synod closed with a Celebration Service at Deane Parish church. Giving thanks for 54 years of shared ministry. 1967-2021.

The new Bolton Deanery Synod held its inaugural meeting via zoom on the 7th July. The new synod was opened by The Arch Deacon Jean Burgess presenting a 10 year vision of ministry. Since then the synod has met three times, twice in person and once via zoom. The main focus of all meetings has been covid restrictions and updates and the formation on mission communities. Initially it was suggested Bolton Deanery be divided into 6 mission communities but after discussion it was decided that it would only be divided into four. St Bartholomew's and the Blackrod, Daisy Hill and Wingates Team Benefice being in Mission community one, being basically the old Deane Deanery. We have found this year's meetings difficult not only because of covid but as the number of people attending is large and it is difficult to offer individual opinions or questions in such a large group. Each meetings starts and ends in the large group sub dividing into mission communities for discussion but once groups have been formed and re located there is very little time for any productive discussion. One of the main focus at present is how these communities will work and relate to each other and who will become each community's leader and focal leader.

Kath Norman

Christine Andrews

Safeguarding Report for year 2021

St. Bartholomew's St. George's St. Thomas

As we all know the last two years have been very different with no children's activities happening in the church.

No DBS safeguarding checks have been taken since March 2020.

Training and Development

It has not been possible to deliver face to face safeguarding training during the current pandemic. In view of this Basic and Foundation training is available online. Safeguarding web page. All of those with safeguarding responsibilities including PCC members, working with children and vulnerable adults are required to undertake Basic and Foundation training every three years.

Joan O'Reilly

Data Protection Report for 2022 AGM

Our church forms including remain compliant with the Data Protection laws.

As a Parish we continue to e-mail out the weekly pewsheets, the monthly newsletter & prayer diary and occasional special advertising [e.g. for Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest or Christmas]. Regular attendees from our congregation have signed up or e-mailed to request which / all publications they wish to receive.

Baptism / wedding families who have indicated consent when booking will receive the special advertising. This has been especially useful during the pandemic when churches have been closed and / or attendances limited. Anyone can remove their names from this contact list simply by sending an email reply.

We are not aware of any non-compliance with Data Protection in 2021 and no complaints have been raised. There were no revisions to the policy made in 2021.

There was one data breach when the church computer was hacked and a spurious e-mail sent out and this was rectified quickly with passwords being changed. Please note that no personal requests for money will be made by individuals associated with the church.

The churchwardens continue to oversee Data Protection but would be pleased to hand this on to a Data Protection Officer appointed by the PCC now that the policies are in place and the workload known.

Ed McHale

St Bartholomew's Church Choir Report for 2022 AGM

2021 has been another frustrating year, although with some improvements as the year progressed.

After we were allowed to resume the choir practices in December 2020 to prepare for the highly successful "Sequence of Music & Readings for Christmas" which replaced the usual Carol Service we hoped to continue meeting in 2021. Further lockdowns and limitations on singing nationally prevented this.

We were able to continue with a limited service at St. Bartholomew's at the start of the year but with organ music alone.

In spring, the choir were able to return to practice when small groups were allowed to sing in churches. We were able to contribute a small number of hymns and anthems at these services and adapted the seating in the choir gallery to maintain the distancing required.

During the year we were able to reintroduce hymn books and congregational singing including the sung parts of the communion service. The choir have been able to contribute anthems in our services culminating in a splendid Carol Service in the run-up to Christmas.

My thanks must go to those who come and practice weekly whatever the conditions. We are always open to new members of any age – please just come and have a word with me.

Ed McHale

Director of Music

Team Youth Church

This last year, Team Youth Church (venue: St John's) was on hold but as the year continued, we saw that with the easing of lockdown there was a real opportunity to start planning for when we started TYC.

In preparation for launching TYC, we confirmed that our volunteers were still willing to be involved. Also, each month one of the clergy attends to support the team and build relationships with the children.

Jo Haslam from Children's Changing Places team joined us on Zoom calls provide support and ideas for how we could take forward TYC for Years 6 and above. She agreed to lead the first 3 months sessions to help us and provide ideas based on the plans they were adopting in Turton Team. Eventually we want the children to come up with their ideas and themes.

Key to our plans in the Autumn was when we launched to tie in with publicising at the Confirmation classes and after the Confirmation Service. Also, really important as to how we helped our Year 6s and above transition to the next stage of church life after their Confirmation on Sunday 7th November. Invites issued to all of those who were confirmed on Sunday 7th and the launch was set for Saturday 20th November.

We were really encouraged to see 13 children on the 20th with 11 coming from the Confirmation classes and our theme for the evening was "Light". The format for TYC is opening worship including song, prayer and reading; activities throughout the evening around the theme; and a bible breakdown as part of the session or when we break for food. Food is chosen by the children and on the first evening we ordered in pizza. We had a great evening and received excellent feedback from the children. The December session was postponed due to rising Covid numbers, but we returned again in January.

Many thanks go to the PCC at St Johns and from all the Team PCCs for their support. We are grateful to be able to use St John's for TYC given its accessibility and format. Please pray for next steps when we can continue with this work and our Team takes over running TYC around March.

Evelyn Eden & Andy Glynn

Tower Report 2021

Bellringing ceased completely in line with government instruction in March 2020, and apart from the tolling of the tenor bell for the funeral of Joyce Cunliffe, and on the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the bells have been silent. The half muffled tenor was tolling within 10 minutes of the announcement and the Union flag placed at half mast.

On 24th July 2021, all 8 bells rang out in celebration of a wedding, and on Sunday 25th July for the Sunday Service. Since then, we have rang when possible and when numbers allow. We have marked the important occasions of Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day, and I will continue to ensure these important days are appropriately marked. Even with the bells silent, I have always tried to make sure the flag is placed even if we cannot ring.

We currently have 10 bellringers; 6 are able ringers, whilst 4 are learners. I plan to have another recruitment drive later in the year through our successful Facebook page.

Looking ahead, we plan to ring as normal throughout the year, with the highlight being the Jubilee weekend. On The Queen's birthday this year (21st April), I plan to ring from 19:52 to 20:22 continuously to mark the Jubilee. This will be covered by the local news who continue to be interested in our bells, and published details and photo of our Quarter Peal for Accession Day.

The clock continues not to work and I am liaising with Christine Andrews who is co-ordinating the repairs. The roof is badly blocked with pigeon mess, and although myself and Peter Ormshaw clean it out, it is unmanageable. When this blocks, it caused a bad leak in the tower; this is currently the case with water and damp in the ringing/clock room.

Additionally, there are £8,400 of repairs which are required to the bells. £2,000 could be funded from the tower account, and I would donate £500 myself meaning required funds would be £5,900. This could further be reduced if we could arrange accommodation and meals for the two engineers. I am keen that the works are completed within the next 2 years to prevent the bells becoming in a worst state and costing far more to repair; at worst case we will have to stop ringing individual/all bells.

Myself and the ringers are looking forward to the year ahead.

Ryan Battersby
Tower Captain

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2021 Accounts

INCOME	St Thomas	St Bart's	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	TOTAL (£)
2020						2021
(£) DIRECT GIVING						(£)
28796.00 Gift aided planned giving-envelopes and SO	4936.12	10066.00	9720.35	0.00		24722.47
12377.13 Other planned giving-envelopes and SO	521.38	15782.85	196.70	600.00		17100.93
258.00 Other gift aided donations	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
3306.97 Loose plate collections (inc Sunday Schools)	1085.09	3598.04	374.54	0.00		5057.67
11228.28 Tax refund on gift aid giving	1364.83	6536.05	2577.79	0.00		10478.67
2205.15 Memorial donations	0.00	14134.00		0.00		14134.00
58171.53	7907.42	50116.94	12869.38	600.00	0.00	71493.74
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME						
869.61 Gift day and general donations	0.00	1563.00	138.00	15.00		1716.00
0.00 Donations for youth work	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
16359.00 Weddings & Funerals	0.00	20181.00		0.00		20181.00
40.00 Book of Remembrance	0.00	10.00		0.00		10.00
396.93 Events, Concerts and Refreshments	8.80	169.00	0.00	0.00		177.80
302.50 Votive candle stand	0.00	319.81		0.00		319.81
60.00 Donations for flowers	140.00	0.00		0.00		140.00
0.00 Income from bell ringing	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
18028.04	148.80	22242.81	138.00	15.00	0.00	22544.61
APPEALS						
65.00 Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	140.00	0.00		140.00
0.00 Donations for Royal British Legion	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Bishop's fund	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Children's Society	0.00	104.67		0.00		104.67
0.00 Pretoria Pit	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
305.00 Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
205.00 Mayor's charity	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Urban outreach	0.00	0.00				0.00
0.00 Christmas charities	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Bolton Hospice	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
525.00 Tower fund		0.00				0.00
0.00 Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00 Miscellaneous appeals	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
1100.00	0.00	104.67	140.00	0.00	0.00	244.67

INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS							
874.73	Revaluation of investments	0.00	0.00			2012.61	2012.61
749.27	Bank interest	0.41	440.11	0.05	0.00		440.57
24.03	Dividends	0.00	0.00		30.86		30.86
0.00	Received from trust funds	0.00	0.00		2000.00	-2000.00	0.00
1648.03		0.41	440.11	0.05	2030.86	12.61	2484.04
INCOME FROM TRADING							
1880.00	200 club	0.00	0.00		1725.00	0.00	1725.00
0.00	Sale of magazines and advertising space	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	Room Hire	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
1880.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	1725.00	0.00	1725.00
OTHER SUNDRY INCOME							
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		39382.21	-39382.21	0.00
719.71	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				620.65		620.65
0.00	Sundries	0.00	0.00				0.00
719.71		0.00	0.00	0.00	40002.86	-39382.21	620.65
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS							
0.00	Insurance reimbursement	0.00	3342.57		0.00	0.00	3342.57
0.00	Bank Error corrections	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	New Horizons, distribution of surplus funds on closure	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.81	Balancing adjustment	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
1.81		0.00	3342.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	3342.57
81549.12	INCOME TOTALS	8056.63	76247.10	13147.43	44373.72	-39369.60	102455.28

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew
including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'**

2021 Accounts

EXPENDITURE

2020 (£)	ITEM	St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2021 (£)
	WORK OF THE CHURCH						
	Leadership						
1022.72	Ministerial expenses		440.00		87.45		527.45
0.00	PCC expenses (including quota)	5000.00	25000.00	9382.21		-39382.21	0.00
51773.28	Cof E Quota	1364.83	6536.05	2577.79	38700.00		49178.67
509.72	Clergy cost sharing within the Team				0.00		0.00
60.00	Deanery & other subscriptions				0.00		0.00
53365.72		6364.83	31976.05	11960.00	38787.45	-39382.21	49706.12
	Services						
9663.00	Manchester DBF (weddings & Funerals)		8766.00		0.00		8766.00
815.20	Church Services expenses	110.69	615.10	83.84	208.47		1018.10
5455.50	Organists and choir	80.00	4926.00	54.00			5060.00
929.00	Vergers	0.00	1570.00		0.00		1570.00
0.00	Payments to bell ringers		600.00		0.00		600.00
16862.70		190.69	16477.10	137.84	208.47	0.00	17014.10
	Outreach						
167.88	Training and education (inc Sunday School)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Mother and Toddler	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
0.00	Urban outreach	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
217.28	Luncheon Club	0.00	111.50		0.00		111.50
0.00	Concerts and events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
89.34	Youth work	0.00	0.00		100.00		100.00
474.50		0.00	111.50	0.00	100.00	0.00	211.50
	Buildings and Equipment						
2676.72	Rectory Council tax / water rates	0.00	0.00		2751.87		2751.87
2570.49	Church maintenance (incl. cleaning)	0.00	16206.49	71.00			16277.49
3911.80	Churchyard maintenance	0.00	3839.00				3839.00
0.00	Rectory / Vicarage maintenance	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00
12023.57	Utilities	0.00	5774.84	50.00			5824.84
68.58	Flowers and materials	24.50	0.00	9.50	0.00		34.00
160.00	Purchase of church equipment	0.00	702.74	0.00	0.00		702.74
21411.16		24.50	26523.07	130.50	2751.87	0.00	29429.94

Adminstration						
771.50	Printing, postage and stationery	0.00	51.10	16.92	574.23	642.25
0.00	Examiner's fees	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Sundry	0.00	65.00			65.00
1354.26	Equipment maintenance / rental	0.00	0.00		1059.00	1059.00
1439.58	Telephones and internet	0.00	984.90		643.79	1628.69
325.00	Website fees	0.00	0.00		373.00	373.00
302.00	Copyright licence	145.00	0.00	168.00		313.00
0.00	Bank charges	0.00	90.00			90.00
442.49	Planned giving envelopes	0.00	0.00		448.69	448.69
3742.37	Insurance	763.29	2351.72	637.53		3752.54
0.00	Stewardship campaign materials	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Transfers between accounts	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
8377.20		908.29	3542.72	822.45	3098.71	8372.17
GRANTS						
0.00	Children's society	0.00	104.67		0.00	104.67
2552.25	Church Schools	0.00	987.42	1561.16	2000.00	4548.58
25.00	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal	0.00	35.00	25.00	0.00	60.00
500.00	Church council grants to School Governors	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
81.25	Christian Aid	0.00	0.00	141.25	0.00	141.25
0.00	Mayors Charity	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
0.00	Bishops fund	0.00	189.45		0.00	189.45
200.00	Winter charities	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
1461.35	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00			0.00
0.00	Namibia	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
407.50	Gift for minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
300.00	Bolton Hospice	0.00	283.20		0.00	283.20
5527.35		0.00	1599.74	1727.41	2000.00	5327.15
EXPENSES OF TRADING						
890.00	200 Club winners plus licence fee				865.00	865.00
0.00	Crux magazine	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
890.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	865.00	865.00
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS						
-25.00	Write-back of uncashed cheques from previous year	0.00		0.00	-62.50	-62.50
0.00	Transfer to PCC		0.00			0.00
-25.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	-62.50	-62.50
106883.63	EXPENDITURE TOTALS	7488.31	80230.18	14778.20	47749.00	110863.48
-25,334.51	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	568.32	-3983.08	-1630.77	-3375.28	12.61
						-8408.20

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew including the churches of St Bartholomew's, St George's and St Thomas'

2021 Accounts

STATEMENT OF MAIN ASSETS

2020 (£)		St Thomas	St Barts	St George's	PCC	Consol adj	2021 (£) TOTAL
Investments and bequests							
10,065.70	White Horse School - sale of nursery	0.00	0.00		6070.56		6070.56
13,862.86	G&A Grundy Memorial Fund-income to St Barts	0.00	0.00		15856.18		15856.18
8,231.72	Hart Common Sunday School and mission Church	0.00	0.00		8236.01		8236.01
4,188.94	Thomas Smith bequest	0.00	0.00	0.00	4188.94		4188.94
247.62	Banco Santander Shares	0.00	0.00	0.00	257.76		257.76
-	Monies held in diocesan account				2000.00		2000.00
36596.84		0.00	0.00	0.00	36609.45	0.00	36609.45
Bank accounts and cash balances							
St Bartholomew's							
6,023.70	Current Acc 40013757		13336.26				13336.26
3,870.93	Gift aid account 80773344		2639.35				2639.35
71,537.41	CBF Deposit Fund 624108001D		61537.41				61537.41
250.46	Choir		100.46				100.46
3,169.41	Belfry Fund		3162.85				3162.85
64.00	Luncheon Club		156.50				156.50
84915.91		0.00	80932.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	80932.83
St George's							
6,850.14	Current Account			5180.82			5180.82
324.57	Clubs and Societies reserve			324.62			324.62
-	Cash in hand			38.50			38.50
7174.71		0.00	0.00	5543.94	0.00	0.00	5543.94
St Thomas's							
446.21	Current Account	898.62					898.62
4,070.98	Memorial Fund	4071.39					4071.39
284.43	Flower Fund	399.93					399.93
4801.62		5369.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5369.94
PCC							
20,766.40	Current Account				17391.12		17391.12
154,255.48	Asset Totals	5,369.94	80,932.83	5,543.94	54,000.57	-	145,847.28

The use of the following funds is restricted:G&A Grundy Memorial Fund, Sale of White Horse nursery, Thomas Smith bequest, St Thomas Memorial fund. £6,504.15 in the St Bartholomew's deposit account is restricted (Tower fund).



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
St Bartholomew, Westhoughton

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 st December 2021	Charity no (if any)	1136063
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Set out on page

1 (this page)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2019.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

7th April 2022

Name:

Nigel Ginniff

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Barrister at Law

Address:

13 Bankside
Westhoughton
BL5 2QP