

**St. Matthew's Church, Salford Priors
2020/2021 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
with financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2020**



Administrative Information

St. Matthew's church is situated in the village of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. It is in the Church of England Diocese of Coventry and is part of the Heart of England Group of Parishes in the Alcester Deanery. The Group includes the parishes of Bidford on Avon, Binton, Exhall with Wixford and Temple Grafton.

The correspondence address is:

Mr Roger Huggins, Parish Administrator,
Birch House, Grange Lane, Harvington, WR11 8NL

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Revd Peter Walker	
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Mr Roger Huggins	
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Peter Penney	
	Mrs Fran Foster	
<i>Deanery Synod Rep</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr Andrew Clarke	<i>Treasurer</i>
	Mrs Eira Willatts	<i>Secretary (from October 2020)</i>
	Mrs Sheila Penney (up to October 2020)	
	Mr Greg Hallett (up to March 2020)	
	Mr Kevin Harrison	
	Mrs S Brunsdon	
	Mr Mike Davies	
	Mr Paul Mellows (from October 2020)	

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the parochial church council (PCC) to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The functions of parochial church councils shall include—

- co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical ;
- the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the

declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question;

- making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter;
- giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council ;
- raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

In the exercise of its functions the parochial church council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Matthew's Church and Churchyard.



Rector's Report - Revd Peter Walker

The start of 2020 was unremarkable and even the initial Covid Hygiene measures introduced in March of that year did little to disrupt Church life. However, the closure of Church Buildings just before Mothering Sunday and the associated "stay at home order" led to profound changes in almost every aspect of Church life. Yet in many ways the Church has adapted and found new ways to continue with its mission and sometimes to flourish.

The buildings were closed for months, first in the Springtime and then again in November, yet even from the first week of the Lockdown we found ways to continue worshipping. Audio (and sometimes video) recordings were produced every week and made available online. We signposted people towards a BBC TV Sunday Service and the Church of England too began the regular offering of online Sunday Service each week. In due course other resources like the free Daily Hope telephone line, and the little books of Prayers During the Pandemic were publicised and distributed. From a number of conversations, it seems that there was a surge in interest in prayer and spiritual things at that time.

Church business meetings were also affected at every level, many of us learned to use Zoom as well as various Social Media platforms. Baptisms were cancelled in 2020 and only a few weddings took place during the Summer, but sadly a steady stream of funerals continued even through the strictest Lockdowns, often with very restricted numbers or held entirely out of doors (graveside funerals). When restrictions were eased at various points then a limited pattern of services resumed in the Church Buildings but with many obvious changes: Social distancing enforced by moving chairs or taping off alternate pews; Sanitizer at the door and masks to be worn and records kept for NHS Track & Trace; usually there was no live music and no singing (except for a brief period when choirs were permitted to sing in the Autumn); no catering no Café Church nor cups of Tea and Coffee after worship; and for most people Holy Communion has had to be bread alone (no wine).

Despite all these changes, where congregations have continued to meet, the attendance has held up remarkably well although a small proportion were advised to shield and so they were absent for those 9 months. Where churches have been able to hold outdoor services, these have proved very popular, especially with families. In conversation, the sense is that by and large people's sense of commitment to Christ and to the church has remained strong. What has suffered more significantly have

been the PCC finances. There were long periods with no collections and no miscellaneous donations by visitors, and where Churches once benefitted from significant fund-raising income this has completely ceased. Festivals, sales and lettings all had to end to avoid the risks from the crowds. The inevitable financial result has been that reserves had to be depleted to meet essential costs in 2020 and looking ahead 2021 will also be a challenge.

In conclusion, 2020 was a difficult year that no-one wants to repeat, financially costly too, but the Church has found new ways to continue offering worship and learned new skills that may be part of our ways of doing ministry for many years to come.

I would like to thank all those who have continued to pray for their local church, who have continued to financially support their local church and who have adapted the ways in which they served their local church in unusual and difficult circumstances, we could not have managed in 2020 without you. Thank you.

Staff

Revd Peter Walker (Rector); Revd Michael Godfrey and Revd Fritha Middlemiss (Assistant Ministers); Mrs Judith Meehan (Reader); Mrs Sarah Folkes (Family Link Worker); Mrs Jayne Bourne (church cleaner); Roger Huggins (volunteer Administrator).

Church Attendance

At the Annual Meeting in October 2020 it was reported that there are 53 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 33 of whom are not resident within the parish. Church attendance this year has not been recorded due to the lack of services during the pandemic lockdown.

PCC - Roger Huggins (Acting Secretary)

The PCC has met 6 times over the past year (4 times on Zoom) with 91% attendance of elected members. Many topics concerning the running of the church have been discussed including the continuing search for a House for Duty Priest as well as the way forward to increase income.

The drop in income continues to be a cause for concern and steps are being taken to try to boost the giving by advertising the situation more widely.

Plans to develop the area behind the organ from the installation of toilets have been progressing.

Ministry Team - Roger Huggins

We were devastated to lose our dear brother Greg to cancer in March but were grateful to be able to celebrate his life and faith in a wonderful funeral service in church before lockdown prevented similar services. He had been a co-leader of our group and church for several years before his illness prevented him from continuing to serve his God in the way which he longed to do. We miss him tremendously.

We have continued to function as a team over the past 12 months, meeting regularly via Zoom to plan and organise services and support for the people of St Matthew's. Our skill in producing on-line services has been honed during this time

and video recorded family services have been very well received by regular and not so regular worshippers alike. When allowed, outdoor services were also held in the churchyard. Our music group has been very inventive and they have been able to record songs and music for us remotely from each other to an exceptional standard and we are very grateful for the time and effort they put in to keep our worship alive.

Most of our regular events were cancelled due to the pandemic but a new Foodbank was successfully set up by Sarah Folkes supporting several families in the village identified as being in particular need. This has continued weekly and food parcels are delivered to homes and door step conversations have proved be very useful in building relationships. We are very grateful for the support of the congregation in providing on-going food donations and financial support which has enabled this initiative to continue.

Sarah also designed, produced and distributed “At Home” bags for families during “non-school” times (holidays and lockdowns) These included Lent, Easter, Summer and Harvest as well as Advent and Christmas. These were extremely well received by the children and families who received them, helping to ease the boredom of lockdown and long periods when no contact could be made with their friends. (see Sarah’s report on Youth & Families Work)

Fabric Report - Churchwardens (Peter Penney & Fran Foster)

Early in 2020 the PCC decided that although the predicted cost of constructing a mezzanine level incorporating toilets above the Church Room was acceptable, financing the newly appointed Family Link Worker should take priority in the use of available funds.

Looking at other usable spaces for accommodating toilets resulted in a feasibility study which concluded that the area behind the organ could serve the purpose. Following consultation with the church architect, plans were produced and the scheme costed at up to £20K which was well within the PCC’s financial resources. Access to the facilities would be very easy and their presence would not impinge on the worship area by utilising sound -proofed partitions and ceilings. An application for a Faculty was submitted to the Dioceses which considered the scheme to be acceptable subject to consultee’s comments. It is hoped that a positive recommendation will be received in the near future. The PCC decided that the current toilets in the churchyard should receive a low cost make over which is, with much thanks, to be undertaken by PCC member Kevin Harrison.

Following the disposal of the Rainbow Room, an offer has been received for the demolition and removal of the concrete blocks at no cost by an interested party in the parish. Unfortunately, the work has been delayed due to Covid regulations but it is anticipated it will be commenced and completed by mid-June with the help of volunteers from St Matthew’s.

Worship Music Group - Amy James

The music group provided some wonderful accompaniment to the recorded services, recording individually and then mixing them together. We are very grateful to Amy, Jordan, Jack and James for their diligence in producing music to enhance our on-line worship.

Cup Cake Café - Debi Harrison

No activity and no report

Community Group - Fran Foster

In pre-covid times, this group used to meet every Thursday at the Salford Priors Memorial Hall. During the past 12 months, the group has not been able to meet in person, but were keen to continue to meet remotely. As many in the group are octogenarians without internet access, online meetings were not an option and so instead we have held a weekly conference call, where each person is called via their telephone and then merged into the group with the others. Although a very simplistic method of communication, it has enabled the group to remain in touch with each other and to continue their journey of faith together in search of truth and meaning in life. We have also been able to check that they are each getting the help and support they needed during the lockdowns and we have provided additional support where required. As the economy starts to reopen again in 2021, the group are looking forward and excited about the prospect of meeting again in person very soon. The first meeting of the group was in June 2009 and meetings have taken place every week, with a few breaks for holidays, ever since.

Youth & Families Work: - Sarah Folkes

JAM

Our last JAM was March 2020 in which we had a party and feast! We had 16 children and had been thinking after this about how to best serve the large age range that we have coming along. During lockdown 3 I held some online Zoom sessions with our Church families where we had a catch up, activity and song. This worked well for the children to keep in touch and to speak (as we found they were less likely to participate in the grown up's 'Coffee and chat' Zooms).

Messy Church

Our last Messy Church was February 2020 where the theme was 'love'. This was well attended by families and we received positive feedback about the activities and atmosphere. Messy Easter had been planned for March 2020 but sadly had to be cancelled..... However, I was able to quickly put some 'Messy Church at home' bags for people to collect from Church before lockdown began. From the success of this, we then planned, made and distributed bags in June (nature theme), July (summer theme), October (light theme), December (advent theme) and April (Easter theme). This amounts to 400 bags in total! These bags went to our Church families as well as local children at Salford Academy, Dunnington and Bidford primary schools.

During the first lockdown, we were able to go digital and plan, film and edit weekly family friendly videos for people to watch on YouTube. We began with Mothering Sunday 21st March and continued these, which included music from our worship group, a short talk, game/quiz, craft/join in activity and action song. It was lovely to see photos of people joining in at home and hearing about how everyone had been watching. These slowed down to fortnightly when we began to meet in person during the summer months of 2020.

Muddy Church

Muddy Church began in October 2020 in the Churchyard, with the theme of wandering and wondering God's creation. Families enjoyed being outside and we were able to gather socially distanced as a group. It was then decided that we would introduce a monthly Muddy Church service on the second Sunday of each month. Due to restrictions, November's session had to be a garden edition, led by a Muddy Church video about peace. December's Muddy Christingle took the shape of a trail around the Churchyard to put the oranges together. It was very soggy and cold but we persevered. It felt like the right thing at the time to begin Muddy Church and it's wonderful to see families engaging with Church in a different way.

Social Media

I continue to manage the Facebook page named 'St Matthew's Church Salford Priors'. Currently, 192 people 'like' (and continues to increase) and follow the page and 61 people are in the private 'Messy Church' group. During the pandemic, I put up adverts about what happening online with St Matthew's (video services, Zoom coffee and chat and Friday night quizzes). I also post photos of what's been happening. This is a useful tool to show members of the public who look up St Matthew's that we are a lively Church with lots going on.

Saplings

Saplings went to Salford House Care home on 2nd March 2020 and enjoyed joining in with Gilli and her puppets. It was a delight seeing the residents and children playing, crafting and singing together. Our last indoor Saplings was 9th March 2020 and then things were put on hold for a while.

Parent and new baby group

It was nationally acknowledged that new parent and baby groups were needed to support the wellbeing of parents to 'lockdown babies'. Therefore I was able to run a group in November inside St Matthew's to support local parents for 6 sessions. With so many 'normal' parent and baby groups not allowed to meet, this was a space for local parents to share their experiences of parenting in a pandemic.

Link with schools

I have been filming weekly Collective Worship videos which are then shared to Salford Academy, Dunnington, Temple Grafton and Bidford primary schools. These have a theme each week, have links to the Bible, include an 'I wonder' question, action song and prayer.

Summer holidays 2020

I was able to plan, resource and lead some outside summer holiday sessions:

- Natural leaf/plant printing onto fabric

- Pottery (coil shapes)

- God's eye wool weaving and stick people

- Making pine cone bird feeders

These gave me the opportunity to reconnect in person with families and to be able to welcome them to St Matthew's.

Family trails and things in the village

I have organised trails that families/bubbles could come and do in their own time. I also have made and hidden things for people to find and keep in the village. These were:

December advent trail (24 advent pictures and numbers to find, with a map and then prize at the end)

December Joy angels (120 angels hidden and given out with the words 'Joy 2020' on them)

With so many new people moving into the village, these gave residents new and old something to do in their own community whilst so many things were not open.

“Fresh Expression” - Stephen Foster

No activity and no report

Small Groups

The three Homegroups have generally ceased to meet together due to the pandemic restrictions. However contacts have been maintained with members via phone calls or Zoom sessions.

Prayer & Retreats

Thursday morning and Friday evening Prayer Groups have continued in a different form over the past year. Thursday Morning prayers has taken place privately in our own homes using the same readings and liturgy but remotely. Friday prayers have continued via Zoom.

Communication

“Heartbeat” magazine is in abeyance. The church website has been used to provide a platform for audio and video recorded services to be posted each week, together with the Facebook pages. Both these resources were used to keep people informed of the various activities and services which were available.

Treasurer's Report—Andy Clarke

Income

Total income for the year was £43,354

Planned giving was up by £1565.00 in the year but there was a drop in collections and other giving of £ 2717.29 due to the restriction in services as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Gift aid was recovered in the year to the value of £9787.00. Part of this was due to a Gift aid claim to HMRC in February for 2019 and part due to monthly claims through the PGS scheme.

Link Worker - There was a reduction in income of £9475 as the original promised pledges have now expired. It was agreed by the PCC that we would continue to fund the costs for St Matthew's Link worker.

A food bank was started during 2020 to help the local community during the pandemic. Donations in the year amounted to £3282 with £2274.66 used during the period.

Fees for Weddings and Funerals was £5534.00 which was up £1531.00 against

2019

Designated Funds have been re-assigned as General unrestricted funds following agreement from the PCC.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year was £72,973.

Church running expenses were down by £4533.73 due to the church closure.

Overall expenditure for the year was up by £7k due to additional funding for St Matthew's Link Worker

Shortfall

The total deficit for the year was **£30k**

At the beginning of 2020 St Matthew's signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme. The advantage of this scheme is that we still get your full donation but PGS also claim the gift aid on our behalf every month. I would encourage anyone who still donates by standing order to switch to this system, its just a phone call to set up. All you need is the Parish code and you bank details. The telephone number and code are at the bottom of this report.

This money is used, not only to pay for ongoing support in our community and upkeep of services, but also for our contribution to the Diocese. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone that feels they are able to make a regular contribution to do this through the PGS scheme.

This contribution can be as small or as large as you like, every penny helps and is very gratefully received.

Events, Home Mission and Appeals

A total of £2766.66 was spent on Mission and charitable giving which includes the Food Bank.

Grants

No grants were received in 2020.

Parish Share

Parish share was paid to the Diocese of £26,049.96 – A reduction against the previous year of £1799

In conclusion

It has been a very difficult year for everyone at St Matthew's during the COVID-19 pandemic, but your continued financial support during this period has been amazing, and it allows us to continue to fund important causes during this period such as the St Matthew's Food bank.

The deficit of £30k is not sustainable long term, we still need your help to support the continued growth at St Matthew's. General running expenses of the Church for heating, lighting, Audio visual equipment, Insurance, cleaning etc are around 15k per year before we consider repairs, home mission, youth groups, charitable support etc. If you feel you can help by giving financial support you can do this by donating through the Parish Giving Scheme, details are below.

Parish Giving Scheme

Telephone: 0333 002 1271

Parish code: 110611148

Sign up takes around 15 minutes.

For any other one-off donations, our Bank details are as follows:

Account no: 01424298

Sort Code: 309826

Thanks to all for your continued financial support, we are doing great work in the Parish.

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020	2019
Receipts						
Planned giving	19,507				19,507	17,942
Collections and other giving	1,141	1,995			3,136	15,398
Other voluntary receipts	224		3,282		3,506	1,884
Gift Aid recovered	9,787				9,787	0
Other receipts	1,578		(80)		1,498	554
Activities for generating funds	177				177	162
Investment Income	146			140	286	330
Receipts from church activities	5,534		(77)		5,457	4,063
Total receipts	38,094	1,995	3,125	140	43,354	40,333
Payments						
Cost of generating funds					0	252
Missionary and Charitable Giving	492		2,275		2,767	1,330
Parish Share	26,050				26,050	27,849
Clergy and Staffing costs	6,904	18,005	(3)		24,906	12,799
Church Running Expenses	12,446	2,069			14,515	20,609
Hall Running Costs	285				285	645
Church Repairs & Maintenance	988	945			1,933	1,229
New Building work	2,517				2,517	354
Governance Costs					0	900
Total payments	49,682	21,019	2,272	0	72,973	65,967
Net Incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(11,588)	(19,024)	853	140	(29,619)	(25,634)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	241,729		1,192		242,921	30,355
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,192)	(241,589)		(140)	(242,921)	(30,355)
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	228,949	(260,613)	2,045	0	(29,619)	(25,634)
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets				428	428	982
Net movement in funds	228,949	(260,613)	2,045	428	(29,191)	(24,652)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	(13,212)	259,308	8,612	9,330	264,038	288,690
Total funds carried forward	215,737	(1,305)	10,657	9,758	234,847	264,038

St Matthews Salford Priors
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020	2019
Fixed assets						
Glebe Field			8,393		8,393	8,393
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,393</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,393</u>	<u>8,393</u>
Current assets						
Lloyds current account	7,967	(1,305)	1,584		8,256	7,588
Lloyds deposit account	207,770				207,770	237,842
Lloyds Vicarage decoration account	0		1,195		1,195	0
Deposit - James (CCLA)				6,658	6,658	6,230
Deposit - Mace (CCLA)				3,100	3,100	3,100
	<u>215,737</u>	<u>(1,305)</u>	<u>2,789</u>	<u>9,758</u>	<u>226,979</u>	<u>254,760</u>
Liabilities						
Agency collections			525		525	(885)
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>(885)</u>
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	215,737				215,737	(13,212)
Designated - DesF					0	244,603
Designated - Link		(1,305)			(1,305)	14,705
Restricted - ResF			9,588		9,588	9,588
Restricted - None			0		0	(976)
Restricted - Foodbank			1,069		1,069	0
Endowment - EndF				9,758	9,758	9,330
	<u>215,737</u>	<u>(1,305)</u>	<u>10,657</u>	<u>9,758</u>	<u>234,847</u>	<u>264,038</u>

Approved by the PCC on ...th May 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Andrew Clarke (PCC Treasurer)

