

St. Matthew's Church, Salford Priors
2022/2023 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
with financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2022



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 2022 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Revd Sheila Bridge
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Mr Peter Penney (<i>until April 2022</i>)
	Mrs Fran Foster (<i>until April 2022</i>)
	Mr Kevin Harrison (<i>from April 2022</i>)
	Mrs Vicky Hawyes (<i>from April 2022</i>)
<i>Deanery Synod Rep</i>	Mr Roger Green
	Mr Andrew Clarke <i>Treasurer</i>
	Mrs Sarah Brunsdon
	Mr David Bridge
	Mr Roger Huggins <i>Secretary</i>
	Mr Peter Penney (<i>from April 2022</i>)
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mrs Eira Willatts (<i>until October 2022</i>)

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.



Minister's Report - Revd Sheila Bridge

2022- 2023 felt like the year we properly began to function again after the pandemic. In June we took a large number of our congregation away for a great weekend of fun, fellowship and learning at Lenchwood. Rev Jonathan Mortimer came to lead the adult sessions and a team from YWAM lead the children.

In the summer holiday we not only offered children's activities but we also put on a weekly lunch in the Memorial Hall aimed at families. We had great support from village volunteers and from local firms/hotels. All through the year this group continued to explore the idea of a food pantry in the village and this finally opened just before the Easter holidays in 2023. It is mostly villagers who help out but the church does collect donations, even though most of the donations are food that would otherwise be wasted.

Building wise the big stories were the completion of the internal toilets and the theft of lead from the roof. Others will say more of these elsewhere in this report but I'd like to add my huge thanks to all involved in hard work created by these two events.

In the Autumn term Sheila offered the 'Loving Difficult People' course in St Matthew's which was open Diocese wide but was also attended by a number from our churches. In November, our Ministry Team had an away day together and some decisions were made which have since been implemented. We made a small change to the service provision to better provide for the children and youth on our 2nd and 3rd Sundays. A youth group (SPYING – Salford Priors Youth investigating God) began in the summer of 2022 and is lead by Pete English, Fran Foster and myself.

Also from the ministry team away day we planned some social events to help create a sense of belonging which we recognise is necessary before people believe. In January we hosted a performance by the Rock Choir and on April 1st Andy Kind joined us for a night of comedy. Both events were very well received. These fed into the Explore Course, written by me and delivered by myself and Mick Cocker – over the two short 4 week course we had around 6 participants and everyone found it very stimulating.

Last summer saw an overwhelming number of baptisms from which many good contacts were made but this year (thankfully) we have been able to restrict baptisms to the first Sunday of the month and we have far fewer.

Other highlights have included a new team of bellringers- many thanks to Chris Tennant who teaches and Fran our Tower captain. This team made it on to Good Morning Breakfast – thank you Lorna Shaddick. The team also 'Rang for the King' on

Coronation Day.

The monthly Breathing Space service is no longer a summer experiment for 2022. It has continued and grown a new congregation of 12 -15 people. The Diocese recognised it as a New Worshipping Community and came to make a 5 minute film about it. I will be running a training session for other church leaders who want to do a similar thing.

I'd like to thank everyone who serves our church community in any way and also to my colleagues who support our services and also to extend my thanks to all those who give so faithfully and regularly.

We face some exciting opportunities ahead but we give thanks to God for all that's been. Finally I'd like to give particular thanks and appreciation to Peter and Ruth Walker for all their work here over many year, for welcoming me here and easing my first 18 months. We send them into their retirement with love and prayers.

Staff

Revd Peter Walker (Rector); Revd Sheila Bridge (Associate Minister); Revd Michael Godfrey (Assistant Minister) and Mrs Judith Meehan (Reader); Mrs Sarah Folkes (Family Link Worker); Mrs Jayne Bourne (church cleaner); Roger Huggins (Administrator).

Church Attendance

At the Annual Meeting in April 2022 it was reported that there are 54 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 33 (61%) of whom are not resident within the parish. Church attendance this year has returned to and sometimes exceeded the levels before the pandemic.

PCC - Roger Huggins (Secretary)

The PCC has met 7 times over the past year with 75% attendance of elected members.

Business was conducted to repair the roof damaged when lead was stolen and to complete the installation of the inside toilets.

Balancing our budget continues to be a cause for concern and is being kept under constant review.

Plans to instal a mezzanine floor in the bell tower to raise the ringing chamber thus enabling the ground floor area to be used for much needed storage have been commenced.

Plans to upgrade the lighting in the nave and chancel are progressing and a grant from the diocese Church Improvement Fund Net Zero is being applied for.

The St Matthew's Family Fun Day which was planned for September was cancelled due to the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Fabric Report - Churchwardens (Kevin Harrison & Vicky Hawyes)

The year started with the appointment of two new wardens in Kevin Harrison and Vicky Hawyes, Kevin is not new to the role as he has previously been warden on

several occasions in the past.

Many thanks to Peter Penney who stepped down after many years service. His last hurrah was overseeing the construction of the new internal toilets, which were completed in the autumn of 2022. They are a great addition to the church. The old outside toilets have been locked and plans are afoot to repurpose them in some way.

In February 2022 five new bell ringers began to have lessons with the aim of ringing for the Queen's Jubilee in May, after many hours learning we rang with the help of various members of the Arden cluster, managing a few rounds that sounded reasonably good. One of the new ringers took to the Ellacombe chimes and is now writing music to play on Sunday mornings, she is also willing to teach anyone who is interested.

A big thank you to the Tennant family especially Chris who has been teaching us bell ringing.

On ringing days we have to empty the bell rope chamber of all the toys that Sarah Folkes needs for her children's activities, then replace them afterwards. This has resulted in plans to alter the bell ringing area with a raised platform and creating a purpose built store room for the toys. Drawings have been approved by the PCC, next step is to apply for a faculty.

Unfortunately we were the victims of theft in July having a large section of lead stolen from the south aisle roof. This was temporarily repaired by contractors with plastic sheeting. Detailed plans have been drawn up by our architect to completely remove all the old lead and have a replacement covering of stainless steel and we have a contractor ready to start. The faculty is logged with the DAC for approval.

With the death of the Queen our annual family fun day was cancelled, but we are planning a family day out soon.

Christmas services were back to normal after the trials of covid. The follow the star service was a great success with about 200 people in church.

All churchwardens from the area were invited to a breakfast meeting in Alcester in January 2023 as a way to get to know each other and share information. A WhatsApp group has been set up for sharing knowledge.

As a fundraiser for the roof repairs we had a visit from The Rock Choir, with a nearly full church a great night was enjoyed by all who came.

On Saturday the 18th of March a very energetic team of helpers/gardeners did a fantastic job of tidying the churchyard before Mothering Sunday. This exercise will need to be repeated on a regular basis.

A special thank you to the two service support officers Roger Green and Ruth Simmons, who make Sundays much easier on the churchwardens.

There are various items from the last Quinquennial inspection to be completed, as the inspection took place just before covid lockdown only the blocked guttering has been done, but priority has been the roof repairs.

Cup Cake Café

This has now been re-branded as Coffee Connect and relocated to the Church, still being held on 1st Saturday of each month. This has been a successful change with most of the "regulars" returning after the enforced stoppage due to the pandemic.

Safeguarding - Fran Foster (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

There have been no safeguarding incidents to report during the twelve months to May 2023.

St Matthew's are using the Coventry Diocesan online Safeguarding Dashboard to track the status of all safeguarding actions. We have a status of green against the most important actions, with a couple of actions regarding review of current policies being amber because they have not yet been reviewed and reaccepted by the PCC yet this year. We have in place all the required safeguarding policies and risk assessments for the work that is undertaken at St Matthew's. We have adopted the recommended policies from the Coventry Diocese and the Church of England tailored for the specific activities undertaken at St Matthew's. All paid employees and volunteers are recruited using the Safer Recruitment methods before appointment to ensure that both our young people and vulnerable adults are protected at all times. All people involved in leading children's work have the necessary clear DBS certificates issued within the last three years. We have one amber status against safeguarding training, as most people completed safeguarding training more than three years ago and so this needs to be refreshed this year.

Youth & Families Work: - Pete English/Sarah Folkes

SPYING (Salford Priors Youth Investigating God) has 5 members age 11- 16. We meet twice a month. The aim of the group is to enable the young people to develop and own their faith and to create an environment where any faith issues can be discussed - no question is out of bounds. One of the group came to a weekend away organised by Thrive. It was attended by over 100 young people from all over the area. We hope that we will be able to take more in future.

Messy Church

Two Messy Churches have been held: February 2023 (Jonah and the Whale theme) and Easter (on Good Friday). Both of these were well attended by congregation, schools and local families.

Muddy Church

Muddy Church continues to meet once a month in the Churchyard throughout the year. We have been featured on the 'Caring for God's Acre' website about how we successfully ran a 'Churches Count on Nature' week which focussed on logging habitats, animals, plants and insects in the Churchyard. We were also visited by a Learning Mentor from Coventry Diocese so that she could see what we do and how we run a Muddy Church session.

Saplings

Saplings continues every Monday morning at Church during term time. There are currently 18 parents/carers and 23 children on our register ranging from 3 weeks to 4 years old. We are blessed to have 3 weekly volunteers (DBS checked) who help prepare, set up and pack up. We also are fortunate to have a refreshments rota comprising of helpful congregation members.

Link with schools

Sarah visits Salford Priors C of E Academy on Tuesdays and Dunnington First School on Wednesdays to lead a lunch club called Leading Learners Christian Club. The aim of these clubs is to teach, empower and provide opportunities for children to learn more and subsequently help to lead in Collective Worships. Rev

Sheila, Open the Book, Judith Meehan and Sarah provide a Collective Worship once a week to both schools based on Bible stories and events in the Liturgical Calendar.

Summer holidays 2022

A number of family summer holiday activities were booked and organised:

- Bellboating at Fladbury (for 44 people)
- Drama with Harlequin drama (20 children)
- Play Taiko drumming (40 children)
- Litter picking and crafts in the park (20 children)

These provided opportunities to connect in person with families and to be able to welcome them to St Matthew's.

Family trails around the Churchyard

Throughout the year, Sarah has organised trails around the Churchyard that families could come and follow in their own time.

- Bee trail (Summer 2022)
- Follow the Star (Christmas 2022)
- Easter story prayer stations (inside the Church over Holy Week and for Messy Easter)
- Coronation trail (May 2023)

Small Groups

Three Homegroup have continued to meet during the year.

Prayer & Retreats

A new "Your Prayer Space" has been set up in the choir stalls, identified by a lovely banner and a prayer request box with cards for people to add their requests for prayer. This area is also manned after Sunday services for anyone to attend for prayer.

Sheila Bridge records a weekly prayer in church which is published on the Salford Priors Community Facebook page making it available for any local residents to watch and respond to.

Sarah Folkes and Chloe Cronin attended an "Activate" ladies weekend conference in Daventry, and now plan to return next year with more participants from St Matthew's.

Communication

Weekly notice sheets are produced and available at all services and are also available on the church websites. The website and Facebook pages have been used to provide a platform for audio and video recordings of sermons from time to time. Both these resources were useful in keeping people informed of the various activities and services which were available.

Social Media

Sarah continues to manage the Facebook page named 'St Matthew's Church Salford Priors'. Currently, 289 people 'like' and follow the page and this continues to increase. Photos reporting what's been happening are regularly posted together with items to promote future events and services. 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.

Treasurer's Report—Andy Clarke

Income

Total income for the year was £63,806. This included a one receipt of £16,652 for the insurance claim for the church roof.

Planned giving was up by £4950 up against the previous year, but there was a reduction of £1035 in other voluntary receipts. Other voluntary receipts were down by £4008 against the previous year but this was due to donations for the Food bank fund that was set up in 2020 to support families through the pandemic, the food bank fund is a restricted fund so these funds can't be used for general church expenses.

Gift aid recovered in the year was £6893, down by £1264 against the previous year.

Fees for Weddings and Funerals was £5528, up by £1668 on the previous year.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year was £120,442. (This includes 1 off costs of £54,605 for the new toilets in the south aisle)

Church running expenses increased by £3826 against the previous year. £2395 of this additional cost was for electric. As the previous 2 years were affected by lockdown the best comparison is against 2019 costs, this shows an increase in electricity cost of 44%

Shortfall

The total deficit for the year was **£56,636**

Events, Home Mission and Appeals

A total of £1019 was spent on home mission, this was down against the previous year because the food bank closed.

Grants

No grants were received in 2022.

Parish Share

Parish share was paid to the Diocese of £26,055

In conclusion

If we strip out the one-off costs for the new building work on the church toilets and the insurance claim for the church roof, the deficit for the year is (£18,683), this is against a deficit the previous year of (£25,294)

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.

In addition to the Parish Giving scheme, an electronic collection box for the church was introduced in 2022. This allows you to donate to the specific fund you would like to contribute to. The DONA collection box went live at the start of July, and we received £1735 in donations by the end of the year. The total transaction fee cost for this was £35.50.

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 PCC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022	2021
Receipts						
Planned giving	29,178	367			29,545	24,550
Collections and other giving	1,851	80			1,931	4,266
Other voluntary receipts	568	1,636	40		2,244	4,952
Gift Aid recovered	6,893				6,893	8,158
Other receipts	17,208				17,208	624
Activities for generating funds	159				159	186
Investment income	94			200	293	216
Receipts from church activities	5,532				5,532	3,860
Total receipts	61,483	2,083	40	200	63,806	46,812
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	114	465			580	1,081
Missionary and charitable giving	347	679			1,026	6,131
Parish share	26,055				26,055	26,050
Clergy and staffing cost	16,118	125			16,244	17,597
Church running expenses	20,241	314			20,556	16,416
Hall running costs					0	45
Church repairs & maintenance	682				682	2,636
Hall repairs & maintenance	204				204	0
New building work	54,605				54,605	1,215
Governance costs	492				492	935
Total expenditure	118,858	1,584	0	0	120,442	72,106
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	(57,375)	499	40	200	(56,636)	(25,294)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	200	213			413	193
Gross transfers between funds - out	(214)			(200)	(413)	-193
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	(57,389)	712	40	0	(56,636)	(25,294)
Other recognised gains/losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets					0	953
Gains/losses on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	(896)				(896)	0
Net movement in funds	(58,284)	712	40	0	(57,532)	(24,341)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	189,912	295	9,588	10,711	210,506	234,847
Total funds carried forward	131,628	1,007	9,628	10,711	152,974	210,506

**ST MATTHEWS SALFORD PRIORS PCC
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022	2021
Fixed assets						
Glebe Field			8,393		8,393	8,393
Total receipts	<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	1,844	1,292	127		3,263	4,470
Lloyds deposit account	130,777				130,777	187,793
Lloyds vicarage decoration account			812		812	812
Deposit - James (CCLA)				6,715	6,715	7,611
Deposit - Mace (CCLA)				3,100	3,100	3,100
	<u>132,621</u>	<u>1,292</u>	<u>939</u>	<u>9,815</u>	<u>144,667</u>	<u>203,786</u>
Liabilities						
Agency collections			87		87	1,673
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>1,673</u>
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	132,621				132,621	189,912
Designated - Desf		1,292			1,292	0
Designated - Link					0	295
Restricted - resF			9,205		9,205	9,205
Restricted - None					0	0
Restricted - Foodbank			40		40	383
Endowment - EndF				9,815	9,815	10,711
	<u>132,621</u>	<u>1,292</u>	<u>9,245</u>	<u>9,815</u>	<u>152,973</u>	<u>210,506</u>

Approved by the PCC onand signed on their behalf

Andrew Clarke (PCC Treasurer)

