

ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH

BARTON SEAGRAVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

(Registered Charity Number 1130426)



PRESENTED TO THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

16th May 2022

St Botolph's Church

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**St. Botolph's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 16th May 2022**

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Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 16th May 2022

Vestry Meeting at 7:45pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8:00pm in church

Opening Prayers and Welcome

Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Monday 24th May 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 24th May 2021
2. Matters Arising
3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors
4. Electoral Roll
5. Election Sidespersons
6. Finance Report
7. Appointment of Independent Examiners
8. Chairman's Report
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11. Any Other Business
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Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting

held in Church on Monday 24th May 2021

40 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

The meeting was opened by Revd M Lucas with a reading from Ephesians 1 1-10, explaining that we are blessed and protected by God; we are part of his purposes, to glorify Jesus Christ and God. Revd. Lucas followed the reading with a prayer.

1. Apologies:

L Adamson, P & L Burch, J & R Clarke, C Duckworth, D Ellis, L Farrow, C Keach, W Patemen, R & R Pedley, A & L Pegg, N & B Read, C Roughton, G Smith, and J Ward.

2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held 8th April 2019.

A Keach proposed and M Adamson seconded that the minutes of the last APCM be approved as a true record, and they were unanimously approved.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Churchwardens.

Revd Lucas explained that he was hugely blessed with P Jackson and A Keach who have served as Churchwardens for the past 2 years. Revd. Lucas thanked them for their work.

Nominations for the positions of Churchwarden had been received for:

Peter Jackson, proposed by James Roughton and seconded by Graham Tilney

Adrian Keach, proposed by James Roughton and seconded by Paul Gosling.

There being no other nominations, P Jackson and A Keach were declared as elected to serve as Churchwardens for the coming year.

5. Electoral Roll.

It was reported that at the end of the past year the number of parishioners on the electoral roll was 224. The Church was required to draw up a new electoral roll by April 2021 and the number of parishioners on the electoral roll was currently 229.

A Keach then asked to speak. He stated that Revd. Lucas, Revd A Clark and H Tilney had gone more than the extra mile with matters such as online prayer times, thought for the day and other work, and the Church had been showered with grace. All three have had to use new technical skills to bring God's work to the congregation. The Churchwardens had been aware of the stress. Revd. Clark was still engaging with the youth face to face or online, and H Tilney both remotely and through direct contact with children and families. Revd Lucas and Revd Clark are employed by the Diocese. The Churchwardens had requested the Bishop to grant them both a fortnight's extra holiday in recognition of their work throughout the pandemic, to which the Bishop had agreed. H Tilney is employed as a Families Worker by the PCC and it was felt that as her workload had been equally onerous, she should also have the extra time off. So all three will be off for a month, H Tilney in August, and Revd Lucas and Revd Clark at different times in July and August. There will only be one 9.45am service at St Botolph's and one 11am service at Warkton. Revd. Lucas has made arrangements for the services to be covered. The aim is to enable them to be fully refreshed when they resume in September.

The Vestry meeting ended at 20.10 pm.

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Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Church on Monday 24th May 2021

40 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

Apologies were as for the Vestry Meeting.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 8h April 2019.

P Jackson proposed and B Edwards seconded that the minutes of the last APCM meeting be approved as a correct record. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Matters Arising.

None

3. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

All six existing members of the Deanery Synod had come to an end of their term of service and elections took place for the six places.

The following nominations had been received:

Rob Cowan, proposed by Adrian Keach seconded by Carole Keach

Kate Curnock, proposed by Helen Tilney and seconded by Jim Roughton

Peter Jackson proposed by James Roughton and seconded by Graham Tilney

Adrian Keach proposed by James Roughton and seconded by Paul Gosling

Julie Lucas, proposed by Sarajane Saville and seconded by Victoria Hutchinson

Helen Tilney proposed by Jim Roughton and seconded by Christ Roughton

There being six nominations for six places, all six were duly declared elected to serve on the Deanery Synod for the next three years.

4. Election of Parochial Church Councillors.

V Loo mentioned that there was an error in the list of PCC members in the Annual Report (page 11 of APCM report folder) as the names of two PCC members had been omitted. Sheila McElhone and Richard Sewell had both been elected in 2109 and their term of office will not come to an end until 2022.

Nine members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office. In addition, Jane Wade had resigned from the PCC due to ill health and Joe Griffiths who had served on the Deanery Synod had moved away from the parish for ordination training.

The following nominations had been received:-

Martin Adamson, nominated by Julie Lucas and seconded by Nick Johnson

Kate Curnock, proposed by Helen Tilney and seconded by James Roughton

Helen Tilney, proposed by Jim Roughton and seconded by Paul Gosling

David Wright proposed by Peter Jackson and seconded but Veronica Loo

There being four nominations and ten vacancies, all four were duly declared elected to serve on the PCC for the next three years. Revd. Lucas commented that anyone who wanted to be on the PCC but had missed the deadline for the application may approach the Churchwardens as it may be possible to co-opt them on to the PCC.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

D Wright proposed, and V Loo seconded that Alan Deans be appointed again as Independent Examiner. All were in favour and he was duly appointed.

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6. Annual Reports

6.1 Finance:

David Wright as Treasurer presented various charts to identify the sources of income and areas of expenditure, the daily cost of running the Church, different funds over the years, the budget for 2021 and pressures on finances. There was an overall deficit of £409. The budget for 2020 was set with a deficit of £81,564 but then revised to £61,866 following several one-off donations, a lower spend on Pot 6 of the Mission Fund, less than forecast being spent on repairs and maintenance, lower than budgeted running costs such as heat and light, and the General Fund making up the deficit from reserves, the last year that this would be possible due to the depletion of the reserves.

Income fell in 2020 to £253,461, £11,796 down on 2019. Income from lettings of Church House fell, especially as Caterpillars play group stopped their weekly booking. Mission giving reduced, there were fewer weddings and funerals. There is therefore a huge reliance on planned giving. Hopefully matters would improve once things open up again.

The Parish Share is the greatest cost in expenditure, but property repairs also went up. Salaries increased as this was the first full year of the Family Support worker. Church House expenses fell but will pick up in 2021. IT costs increased as a necessary expense during the pandemic.

The running costs of the Church have gone up from £673 to just under £700 per day, which includes the cost of repair and maintenance of the buildings but excludes major capital expenditure.

Regarding the Fabric work incurred this year, the funds amount to about £150,000 so there is very little scope. There is only £70-75,000 in unrestricted funds and about £40,000 of that will be needed this year for repair and maintenance.

It is hoped that with the budget for 2021 it will be possible to get a balance, so the unrestricted funds will hopefully make up any deficit. The Budget 2021 chart demonstrates a strong reliance on planned giving, and people have stepped up to help out financially. There are assumptions in the budget that income will fall. Works are going on in the church. It will be necessary to look at the contribution from Warkton towards expenses of clergy, etc. The Church continues to give 100% commitment to the Parish Share costs. A deficit has run this year, but it will have to be the last one. It will be necessary to tighten expenditure. The Parish share amounts to over 50% of costs so the Church has no control over that. There is a plan to use reserves for planned works, with a reduced budget for 2021 but it will be necessary to report back to the PCC regarding this.

To end on a lighter note, with all the repair and maintenance work going on, an application has been made for a listed building grant to get the VAT back, which may enable up to £15,000 to go back into a restricted building fund.

Revd Lucas requested a copy of D Wright's presentation to be available on the Church website.

6.2 Youth Work

Revd Andy Clark gave thanks to God as they have just ploughed on and young people have kept coming to meetings. Challenges arose as they came out of the second lockdown, and it was thought it may not be possible to continue with all the youth work as they had lost leaders to church work. Jonathan Burrows went off to Cockfosters, and Joe Griffiths to Oxford for ordination training. Claire Harris, Georgia Candlin and Lindsay Burch have joined the leadership team at 1eighty, and Rosie Dooley at Link. 1eighty grew over Zoom, but after lockdown met in marquee in Church House garden. It was very cold but more young people came to the marquee than met on Zoom. They are adapting things, making sure it is safe. There has been a slight growth in numbers, people are still inviting friends. They are trying to teach the bible and teach people to grow in faith. At this time of year, young people are moving up groups and there may be 30 in Link. The Away weekend is still potentially going on as it takes place after the date for the lifting of restrictions. Revd. Lucas commented, that taking away London, the youth ministry in this Church is one of the biggest in the country. It has a big group of teenagers, and it is not a Youth Club, it is

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a bible teaching group. The Church of England is worried about young people not coming back to church, as many churches have done nothing for their youth during the lockdown. Church of England attendance has declined by 50% in the last 40 years. The Bishop had said he thought that Revd Clark is the best youth minister in England.

6.3 Children and Family work

Helen Tilney gave thanks for the support she had received over the last 20 months. In the first six months she had been finding her feet then lockdown happened Her report is contained in the Annual Report folder. They continue to be encouraged as a dozen children attend weekly Zoom meetings. Nicola Farrier and Pippa Evans are also involved. They are blessed in that children are coming to meetings but it is not the job of the Church but of families to instil the love of Jesus in their children. The wish is to see them grow and the challenge is how groups will be started back up again, and there will probably not be four groups again until next year. Prayer is needed for this work. There were many babies born over the past year to Church families and those connected with them. Thanks were given to Graham Tilney for all the technical work.

Revd Lucas said that it will be necessary to assess and reassess groups to see where efforts are best used. It will not be possible to please everyone about decisions but prayer is needed. The Churchwardens have been at every staff meeting.

Revd Lucas wished particularly to thank Revd Robert Bashford for his Daily Thoughts. He continues to record two Daily Thoughts every week.

6.4 Safeguarding

There was nothing additional to report.

7. GDPR

There was nothing new to report.

8. Chairman's Report.

Revd Lucas referred to the reports in the Annual Report booklet which is available online. Paper copies are available from the Church Office but as they were expensive to produce he requested anyone seeking one to give a donation of £2 towards the cost.

9. Any Other Business

P Jackson mentioned that the online survey had not been abandoned but was being used in planning for the future.

C Bilski asked if consideration could be given to the work with the older people. It has been effective, not necessarily doing more, but doing what was done well.

10. Date of Next Meeting.

No date was fixed for the next APCM.

The meeting closed with the grace and ended at 20.55pm

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1. Rector's Report 2021

The last two years have been unlike any previously in living memory. COVID-19 has caused separation of families, serious suffering for some, and even loss and bereavement for others. Modern science has shown the wonder of its ways but has failed to do anything but dent viral transmission rates. It feels like we are at the mercy of nature in all its malevolent power. Yet as nature toys with its helpless victims, we know we serve an infinitely more powerful God. The one in whom 'all things hold together' (Col 1v17). It is only in this reality that true hope can be found. Praise God for his inestimable grace and mercy.

Some highlights of 2021:

- We were able to begin meeting in person once again. There was a real sense of joy as we met with one another. Careful measures were taken to minimise transmission of the virus, but it was still like coming home.
- In our Sunday morning sermon series we considered the Kingdom of God in Matthew's gospel: Sermon on the Mount (5-7), The Nature of the Kingdom (13), Living in the Kingdom (18), The Coming Kingdom (24-25), The Power of God's kingdom (28v16-20).
- The biggest change on our return to 'in person' services was a revision to service timings. This was always going to be difficult, as, indeed, it was! Having made adjustments, we now feel we have more appropriate service timings for our community. This has been, and continues to be, difficult for some.
- A highlight of the year was a 'catch-up' baptism service in church house garden. Six children were baptised. There was a wonderful celebration atmosphere as we remembered God's grace to us.
- We continue to miss some who have not yet returned to church, but we have also seen a number of new individuals and families joining us.
- Our financial challenges continue with the related challenge of personnel to fulfil all the ministries we would like.
- During the year Joe Griffiths continued his training for full time ministry. It is very exciting to see God at work as he calls people to serve Him in all kinds of ways. We pray for Joe and his family during this time.
- We continue to pray for Jonathan and Sarah Burrows and their family working in youth ministry in North London.
- We continue to pray for the future 'Hanwood Park' development in the parish, which continues to grow apace.

This year has been difficult for us as God has called home a number of his saints. These include:

- Jean Wardle, wife of Jack, a previous minister of St Botolph's. She was a true inspiration to holiness and godly living.
- Rosemary Hollingsworth, a longstanding member of the fellowship and a true champion of country crafts.
- Roisin Cornwell, a longstanding member of the congregation with the voice of an angel. Roisin had been a music teacher of many in the congregation over the years.
- David Bracey, who had such a heart for ministry to seniors.

Other member of the congregation lost loved ones to COVID-19.

Every year I mention the team, but my repetition is not to be understood as in any way vain. It really does continue to be an enormous privilege for me to work throughout the year with our outstanding team of preachers: Andy Clark, Robert Bashford, and Martin Adamson. We are truly blessed that God has given us such a gifted and able team, ready and willing to serve, using their God-given gifts, bringing God's word with seriousness and humility.

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It is also a real joy to have a team of service leaders who bring us into God's presence with sensitivity and joy. A great strength of the Church of England is its liturgy, much of it crafted over centuries, and even millennia. Used creatively it draws us into God's presence, assures us of His undeserved grace and mercy, reminds us of a timeless truth, and prepares us for the ministry of God's word. It is the skill of the service leader that ties all these threads together.

A big thank you must also go to those who have served on the PCC and its sub-groups, you are a great group of people without whom we could not operate. I am especially thankful to Adrian and Peter (Wardens), David (Treasurer), Kate (Pastoral Assistant) and Veronica (Secretary) for your tireless service.

Finally, I could not write a report without recording my thanks to Heather who keeps us all under control. And may God continue to bless us as we look forward to another year serving Him. May His name be glorified in all we do and are.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Mark Lucas - Rector

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2. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2021

Our mission is to encourage and support the churches of our Deanery to build the Kingdom of God. We do this by: Building relationships, sharing resources and praying for each other.

There were three virtual meetings of the Deanery Synod this year, using the Zoom platform, covering items as listed below for each meeting.

Between the May and October meetings an extra, short meeting was convened via Zoom to elect/confirm officers:

Lay Chair: Peter Jackson

Treasurer: Revd David Walsh

Secretary: Steve Atkins

February 2021

1. Prayer and Worship
2. Financial Report - by our Deanery Treasurer, Revd David Walsh. This included a brief outline of Parish Shares paid by each Parish/Benefice in 2020 and confirmed the freezing of the size of Parish Share for 2021.
3. Deanery Update (by our Rural Dean, Revd Hannah Jeffrey). Here we noted: the appointment of Revd Tom Houston as Vicar of St Andrew's, Kettering; that the Benefice encompassing Cranford, Grafton Underwood, Twywell and Slipton remains in vacancy.
4. Outline plans for the virtual Thy Kingdom Come meeting in May.

May 2021

1. Prayer and Worship, with a focus on Paul's Prayer in Ephesians 1.15-19 – for others to know Jesus, his hope and power.
2. Attendees were placed into breakout rooms to share what God has been doing and saying in their churches and other prayer requests. This led into small group prayer.

October 2021

With the Rural Dean on sabbatical the session was chaired by Revd Eleanor Jeans, Acting Rural Dean.

Local Chaplains from Kettering General Hospital, St Mary's Hospital and Bishop Stopford School joined and/or sent outlines of their work, especially concerning the pandemic and mental health.

1. Prayer and Worship.
2. Deanery Treasurer, Revd David Walsh presented a financial update.
3. The Acting Rural Dean gave a Deanery update, including feedback from the General Synod elections
4. Attendees placed into breakout rooms for sharing and prayer.

The Pastoral and Standing Committee also met three times in the year, again via Zoom.

Finally, but importantly, the Deanery Synod paid tribute to Gwyneth Mellors, former Deanery Secretary, who decided to stand down from the post mid-2021. We are grateful for her diligence and prowess in the role over the past few years.

Steve Atkins

Deanery Synod Secretary

KettDeanSec@virginmedia.com

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3. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2021

1 Aim and Purposes

St Botolph's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Revd Mark Lucas, in promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, promoting the mission of the Church, as well as pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters in the Parish.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric and land of the Church, Church House, Rectory Cottage, and the land upon which stood the old Church Rooms.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. The PCC is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under number 1130426.

The Church Representation Rules 2020 (Part 9 Rule M5(1)(b)) require "an annual report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally" to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

2 Objectives, Aims and Achievements

Comments on the Church's objectives, aims and achievements for the year, and plans for the future are set out in the Report of the Churchwardens.

3 Membership

Members are elected by the APCM for a period of three years and can also be co-opted by the PCC. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served on the PCC:

Chairman: Revd Mark Lucas

Ex-Officio members:

Deanery Synod members: (elected until 2024)	Rob Cowan Kate Curnock Peter Jackson Adrian Keach Julie Lucas Helen Tilney
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Churchwardens:	Adrian Keach Peter Jackson
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Associate Minister:	Revd Andy Clark
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Reader:	Derek Wade
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Other PCC members:	(date for re-election in brackets)
Secretary:	Veronica Loo (2022)
Treasurer:	David Wright (2024)

Other members:	Martin Adamson (2024)
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Robert Edwards (2022)
Sheila McElhone (2022)
Richard Sewell (2022)
Helen Tilney (2024) - also on Deanery Synod
Kate Curnock (2024) - also on Deanery Synod

Co-opted member: Rene Brooking (2022)

4 Church Attendance

The number of people on the Electoral Roll was 229. For some parts of the year the church building was not open for services due to lockdowns as a result of the COVID pandemic. When the church was re-opened, care was taken to ensure compliance with social distancing and mask wearing during services as appropriate, to protect those attending services. The average weekly attendance taken over a four week period in October 2021 was 103 people aged 16 and over, and 19 children aged 15 and under. A new midweek service also took place, which during the four week period in October 2021 had an average weekly attendance of 29 people, but it was not known if any of these people attended any other of the Sunday services during the same weeks. These figures were affected by the pandemic, as many people did not feel comfortable returning to public spaces even after lockdown was lifted, and the figures do not take into account those people watching the services via online streaming whose numbers could not be ascertained.

5 Organisation

In this second year of the COVID 19 pandemic, the PCC met on four occasions during 2021, twice online via Microsoft Teams and twice in person. The average attendance at the meetings was twelve PCC members. Although much of the work of the PCC is normally done through various groups, namely:

- Standing Committee
- Business and Finance Task Group
- Fabric Task Group
- Evangelism Task Group (including More Than Gold and Women's Ministry)
- Missions Task Group
- Health and Safety

due to the pandemic some of the work of the task groups was restricted, but many continued to do their work through online group meetings via Microsoft Teams and Zoom, as well as meetings in person when the lockdown was lifted.

6 Risk Management

Health and Safety is the responsibility of the PCC which must review the Safeguarding Policy annually. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Martin Adamson and the Parish Safety Officer is Robert Edwards.

7 Main Objectives of the Year and Major Topics of Discussion

Every PCC meeting normally includes reports from all of the Committees and Task Groups as well as reports on the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings, but some of these had been suspended due to the pandemic. However, topics included the following:

- Adoption of the Safeguarding Policy and Diocesan Safeguarding Audit, training in safeguarding
- Health and Safety

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- Church finance and methods of giving
- Repair of Church House
- Energy use in Church and Church House
- Live streaming services and Church attendance
- Sound and video systems
- Works required by the Quinquennial Report
- The churchyard, grounds and boundary walls
- Tower reorganisation
- Evangelism events
- House of Bishops Resolution regarding Episcopal Oversight
- LLF Evangelical Council
- Church reordering
- Work with Families and Youth

Meetings were chaired by Revd Mark Lucas and commenced with prayer. All items on the agenda were discussed. Every member had the opportunity to express his or her opinion.

8 Financial Report

The accounts for the year to 31st December 2021 are included in the papers assembled together for this Annual Report and reference should be made to the Treasurer's "Financial Review" for an appreciation of the Church's financial position.

9 The Future

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Fresh ideas regarding the exercise of these duties are always welcome, and decisions are made after prayerful consideration. Anyone aged 16 or over and on the Electoral Roll is eligible to stand for nomination as a PCC member and is encouraged to do so.

Signed on behalf of the PCC by Revd. Mark Lucas

4. St. Botolph's Accounts 2021

Registered Charity Number 1130426

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Barton Seagrave

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st December 2021

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Financial Review Year ended 31st December 2021

The attached Accounts give information required of the Parochial Church Council by law as good stewards of monies received and paid.

The Financial statements are set out in pages F4-F8 of this report.

We have had a challenging year in many ways, as we started the year with a budgeted shortfall of £93,020, which was to be funded from contributions from restricted funds, the general fund and match funded income.

The actual outturn for 2021 shows a deficit of £25,298, broken down by a surplus on restricted funds of £8,137 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £33,434. There was a deficit on the general fund of £6,852 which was funded in year by the staffing fund.

Funding for the Family Support Worker was through one off income and regular donations in the year amounting to £27,553 and expenditure on salaries and expenses of £24,434. The balance on the FSW fund at the end of 2021 was £20,330.

There were several variances against the revised budgeted expenditure over the year, but the large saving was due to spend on maintenance and property repairs being only £58,514 against an original budget of £102,800. Whilst this has helped the financial situation for 2021, several programmes have been deferred in the next financial year and will be funded from various restricted and unrestricted funds.

Expenditure has been generally well controlled throughout the year, and if the cost of repairs and the FSW are excluded, are broadly in line with the revised budget. One area that has exceeded forecasts is that of Audio and IT costs, which due to the additional technology required, to broadcast the services, and the phased replacement of the sound system which is being funded from donations received of in year of £13,750. Heating and lighting costs were lower than expected but the new contract entered into at the end of the year will see a significant increase in costs for 2022.

As part of the budget, it was expected that income was going to fall significantly due to reduced weddings and lettings. However, through one off donations and an increase in income from fees for weddings and funerals, we saw income increase on 2020 levels by £21,391 to £274,852. The rental for the Church flats was maintained due to full occupancy and other receipts were boosted by smaller one-off donations.

Whilst we are showing a deficit for 2021 of £25,298 this was against a forecast deficit for 2021 of £93,020. This was an in-year variance of £67,723 which was generated by the deficit on the general fund being £7,301 less than expected as the deficit itself was funded through the staffing fund, and was used to contribute towards the cost of the Associate Minister that had been paid through the Parish Share. Designated and unrestricted funds outturn was an underspend against the forecast of £34,969 and the Restricted funds were under by £25,453. Overall, this was mainly due to planned building works not taking place and additional funds received for the sound system.

Overall, for 2021 the level of unrestricted and general funds stands at £119,225 down from £152,659 in 2020 and restricted funds stand at £107,880 up from £99,743 in 2020.

In reviewing the accounts, other points come to note:

- Planned giving rose to £151,894 (2020 £144,828) an increase on last year's actuals of £7,066, FSW planned giving was £23,326 up by £730 on last years planned FSW giving levels.

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- The income from Weddings and Funerals and lettings exceeded expectations and was up by £7,676 on last year but this was also in part due to a change in the year with income from St Edmunds Warkton now going through St Botolph's, hence expenditure was also up on budgeted costs.
- Major repairs and maintenance to the Church and Church properties cost £58,514 (2020 £21,395) but levels of repairs remain outstanding and are programmed into 2022. Spend on general maintenance was £3,732.
- Giving to Missions from unrestricted funds was £ 20,263. There was also shareplan giving of £1,982 and a full allocation from Pot 6.

At the end of 2021:

- General Fund has broken even in 2021 and the
- Staffing Fund is in surplus by £ 2,556 (2020: £3,079)

The year ahead sees continuing financial challenges, and the budgeted General fund deficit in 2022, has been funded from a transfer from the staffing fund, but this **cannot continue** to be funded from reserves given the planned level of expenditure on repairs and maintenance. Therefore, it is vital that the budget for 2022 is set with a balance against the general fund and costs allocated to the correct fund. We will have to continue to apply tighter financial management in the hope that we will be able to bring the Church Finances into balance for 2022 and rely less on transferring funds to correct any deficit trend on the general fund. This will require strong financial stewardship, but at the same time ensuring that resources gifted are used a way that will bring glory to God.

It is a constant challenge to be wise stewards of the resources we have and to be bold in the cause of the Gospel. Through the continued development of new homes in our Parish we have opportunities as never before to reach out to our surrounding community.

We pray that God will provide the resources, human and financial in the years ahead.

To this John relied, "A person can receive only what is given them from Heaven." John 3:27

May we bring Glory to God in all we do, day by day, week by week.

David Wright (Treasurer)
February 2022

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees (PCC) of St. Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave

This report on the Financial Statements of St Botolph's Church for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages F1 to F7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 43 of the Charities act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishop's council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

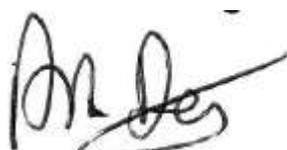
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and

- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met: or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan Deans
Kettering
Northants



Alan Deans
Kettering
Northants
March 2022

St Botolph's Church

Statement of Financial Affairs (Income)

Year Ended 31st December 2021

	Actuals 2020	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021	Provisional Budget for 2022		
					Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Incoming Resources							
Receipts from donors							
Planned Giving (Bankers Orders)	144,828	27,760	118,345	146,105	39,222	112,215	151,437
Planned Giving (FWO)	4,984	0	2,751	2,751	1,000	4,000	5,000
Other Planned Giving (Tax Efficient)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned Giving (Non Gift-Aid)	3,300	0	3,039	3,039	300	2,100	2,400
Collections at Services	1,751	0	1,356	1,356	0	4,500	4,500
Non-Recurring/ Non Gift-Aided Income	2,650	54	6,042	6,096	10	1,990	2,000
Non-Recurring/ Gift Aided	9,905	5,508	6,850	12,358	300	200	500
Gift Day	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	38,629	7,590	35,398	42,988	9,480	30,520	40,000
	206,048	40,912	173,781	214,692	50,312	160,525	210,837
Other voluntary receipts							
Legacies	730	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0
Warkton Contribution	-1,536	0	623	623	0	0	0
One off Grants	0	0	0	0	0	900	900
Income - Rectory Walk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-806	5,000	623	5,623	0	900	900
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects							
Fees for weddings & funerals	3,319	0	10,995	10,995	0	11,000	11,000
Coffee Monies	76	0	62	62	0	400	400
Bookstall sales	69	0	15	15	0	100	100
Ch hall lettings PCC objects	399	0	260	260	0	2,500	2,500
	3,863	-	11,332	11,332	0	14,000	14,000
Income from investments							
Bank & building soc interest	578	0	99	99	0	500	500
Rent Church House Flats	10,495	0	10,161	10,161	0	11,100	11,100
Rectory Cottage	10,500	10,500	0	10,500	11,100	0	11,100
	21,573	10,500	10,260	20,760	11,100	11,600	22,700
Other receipts							
Other Funds Generated	9,104	2,000	8,884	10,884	0	5,000	5,000
Parish weekend	0	0	0	0	0	1,200	1,200
Holiday Club - income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Events and Activities Income	1,125	0	2,927	2,927	0	1,500	1,500
Family Support Worker	3,300	0	0	0	0	0	0
900+	1,595	0	-20	-20	0	0	0
Misc Income	7,660	337	8,317	8,654	0	6,500	6,500
	22,784	2,337	20,108	22,445	0	14,200	14,200
Total Income	253,461	58,748	216,104	274,852	61,412	201,225	262,637

St Botolph's Church

Statement of Financial Affairs (Expenditure) Year Ended 31st December 2021

	Actuals 2020	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2021	Provisional Budget for 2022		
					Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
Fund raisers - expenses	0			0	-	-	-
Missions	17,343	1,982	20,263	22,245	2,000	21,000	23,000
Activities relating to the work of the Church							
Honoraria and Bursary	860	-	860	860	-	900	900
Staff Expenses	3,957	-	4,560	4,560	-	5,500	5,500
Youth and Children's work	25,554	24,434	2,507	26,941	26,000	1,200	27,200
Outreach Expenses	1,953	-	20	20	-	1,800	1,800
Womens Evangelism	22	-	-	0	-	50	50
Upkeep of services	1,539	-	402	402	-	500	500
Audio, Powerpoint & Music	798	2,425	3,192	5,617	11,326	500	11,826
Church House Running Costs	8,294	-	8,863	8,863	-	12,621	12,621
Fees for Weddings & Funerals	1,767	-	5,339	5,339	-	7,500	7,500
Bookstall purchases	434	-	150	150	-	300	300
Parish weekend expenditure	240	-	-	0	-	1,000	1,000
	45,418	26,858	25,893	52,751	37,326	31,871	69,197
Church management and administration							
Office Salaries	15,638	1,444	12,704	14,148	-	15,700	15,700
Church Running Costs	8,244	-	8,518	8,518	-	8,237	8,237
Office and Admin Costs	8,478	321	6,300	6,621	-	5,655	5,655
Council Tax Flat 1	0			0	-	-	-
Property Repairs	21,395	13,154	45,359	58,514	30,559	23,500	54,059
	53,756	14,920	72,881	87,801	30,559	53,092	83,651
Parish share	137,352	6,852	130,500	137,352	17,484	120,352	137,836
Total Payments	253,869	50,612	249,538	300,149	87,369	226,315	313,684
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	-409	8,137	- 33,434	-25,298	25,957	25,090	51,047
Total Funds Brought Forward	252,811	99,743	152,659	252,402	107,880	152,659	260,539
Total Funds Carried Forward	£ 252,402	£ 107,880	£ 119,225	£ 227,104	£ 81,923	£ 127,569	£ 209,492

St Botolph's Church

Funds Movement Summary

Year Ended 31st December 2021

		Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried Forward
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Apprentice	Apprentice Fund	4,000			4,000
Pensions	Pension Fund	1,312		1,444	-132
Bell	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101			-101
Choir fees	Choir Fees Fund	110			110
Makeplay	Make and Play Fund	1,210	337	321	1,225
Organ	Organ Fund	126			126
Family Support Worker	FSW Fund	17,211	27,553	24,434	20,330
Childrens Resources	Childrens Fund	5,000			5,000
Property Chapel	Chapel Fund	10,000			10,000
Potters	Potters Place Fund	785			785
Share	Shareplan Fund	2,502	2,279	1,982	2,798
CSS	Sound System		13,750	2,425	11,326
Rectory	Rectory Cottage Fund	5,250	5,250		10,500
Propres	Property (restricted) fund	48,299	3,250	13,154	38,394
Staff	Staffing Fund	3,079	6,331	6,852	2,558
Welfare	Fellowship Fund	960			960
		£ 99,743	£ 58,748	£ 50,612	£ 107,879

Designated and Unrestricted Funds

General	General fund	-	205,180	205,180	0
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	Pilgrims Fund	872			872
Prophold	Property Holding Fund	73,134			73,134
Coffeeshop	Coffee Shop Fund	274	79	13	339
RectWDes	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	18,786		1,927	16,859
Sarajevo	Sarajevo Fund	1,103	1,059		2,162
Wolf	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	47,000		42,417	4,583
Youth	Youth and Children's Projects	11,490	9,785		21,275
		£ 152,660	£ 216,104	£ 249,538	£ 119,224

Total Funds

£ 252,402	£ 274,852	£ 300,149	£ 227,104
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St Botolph's Church

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st December 2021

		Year	Year
		31/12/2020	31/12/2021
<u>Fixed assets</u>			
Fixed assets	Church House / Rectory Cottage	135,000	135,000
Fixed assets	Buildings depreciation	- 62,760	- 62,760
		£ 72,240	£ 72,240
<u>Current assets</u>			
	Bank Current Acc.	37,022	49,325
	Bank Deposit Acc.	54,327	17,243
	Internal Orgs Bank Acs	1,043	1,077
	Central Board of Finance	100,000	100,000
	Cash in hand	144	105
	Accounts Receivable	2,396	3,828
		£ 194,933	£ 171,579
<u>Liabilities</u>			
	Agency Collections	10,822	11,266
	Accounts Payable	3,949	5,448
		£ 14,771	£ 16,715
<u>Net Assets</u>			
		£ 252,402	£ 227,104
<u>Held in Funds as Follows:</u>			
<u>Restricted Funds</u>			
	Apprentice Fund	4,000	4,000
	Pension Fund	1,312	- 132
	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	- 101
	Choir Fees Fund	110	110
	Make and Play Fund	1,210	1,225
	FSW Fund	17,211	20,330
	Childrens Fund	5,000	5,000
	Chapel Fund	10,000	10,000
	Organ Fund	126	126
	Potters Place Fund	785	785
	Shareplan Fund	2,502	2,798
	Sound System	-	11,326
	Property (restricted) fund	48,299	38,394
	Rectory Cottage Fund	5,250	10,500
	Staffing Fund	3,079	2,558
	Fellowship Fund	960	960
		£ 99,743	£ 107,879
<u>Designated and Unrestricted Funds</u>			
	General fund	0	0
	Soup and Sandwich Lunch	872	872
	Property Holding Fund	73,134	73,134
	Coffee Shop Fund	273	339
	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	18,786	16,859
	Sarajevo Fund	1,103	2,162
	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	47,000	4,583
	Youth and Children's Projects	11,490	21,275
		£ 152,659	£ 119,224
	Total Funds	£ 252,402	£ 227,104

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by Revd. Mark Lucas (PCC Chairman)

Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended 31st December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

- a) The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102). The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, using the accruals basis.
- b) Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.
- c) Restricted Funds represent funds of the PCC which can only be used for specific purposes.
- d) Income Tax recoverable under Gift Aid is not recognised until received.
- e) The Freehold Property in use by the Church is based on a historical valuation less depreciation.

2. Fixed Assets

comprise 2 Freehold properties:

- Church House
- Rectory Cottage.

The Book value of these properties does not reflect current market value.

The Property Holding Fund finances both properties.

3. Employees

- a) The average number of employees in the year was 3 (2020: 3)
- b) The total remuneration of employees amounted to **£39,430** (2020: £39,376).

The figure for 2021 includes the full year for the FSW and a refund through the job support grant for the Cleaner of £1,087.

4. Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr. Alan Deans, received no fees for his services, but a donation was given to a The Railway Children fund of £60.

5. Parish Share

2021 2020

Full amount paid: **£137,352** **£137,352**

6. Honoraria

The Treasurer, Mr David Wright received **£500**. (2020 £500)

The Musical Director, Mt Graham Tilney received **£300** (2020: £300)

Donation for Audit services **£60** (2020 £60)

5. Churchwardens' & Fabric Report 2021

1 Wardens Report

The year 2021/22 commencing January 2021 has been a year when we have gradually started to emerge from the Covid pandemic which started exactly two years ago to the day as I write. The year started with another lockdown but, thanks to the highly successful vaccination programme, whilst the incidences of infections have not necessarily reduced, the number of deaths has lessened considerably. With government restrictions being progressively lifted we were able to recommence services in church, albeit initially observing the wearing of face coverings and social distancing. Morning services recommenced on the 23rd May, followed shortly afterwards by an evening service. As the year went on we were able to dispense with face coverings and social distancing but, for the more vulnerable and those exercising caution, we have kept the chancel area for those wishing to continue to be wary. This practice will remain for the foreseeable future.

After two Staff away days and other discussions, we had an experimental period beginning in the autumn varying the time of our services. The major change was in not continuing the pre-pandemic 11.00am service which, whilst loved by those who regularly attended, was a service where numbers were declining to the extent that it became difficult to justify its continuance. There were those who were not best pleased by this change. However, after a certain amount of tweaking service times both here and at Warkton, we feel that we now offer a choice of services across the benefice where all tastes are catered for, both in scheduling and in spiritual style and content. Here at Barton that includes a traditional Morning Prayer service on a Thursday which started on the 7th October and has been welcomed by the more mature members of our fellowship and several from Warkton.. We have also recently resumed taking communion using the common cup although practical considerations have meant that this is still not available for our 10.00am Sunday service.

From the early days of the pandemic we have offered an on-line service and, when in-church services recommenced we continued with a live streamed service for those wishing to remain cautious. Our Rector also offered a daily on-line Morning Prayer service at 8.00am which proved popular enough to warrant continuing it after in person services recommenced.

Another major change when in person services recommenced was in the orientation of our seating layout which was changed from the traditional east/west to north/south. This has significant benefits for the service leadership. However it is currently seen as experimental until we can agree the best layout for the area from where the service is led and for the music leadership. Space at the south end has been increased by moving the sound desk to the northwest corner of the church.

With the relaxation in restrictions we were able to reinstate some of our regular special services – afternoon tea service, Service of Thanksgiving for those Bereaved, Carols on the Green, Carol services, Christingle which were all well attended.

As in 2020, most of the leading and preaching was done by our Rector, Mark, and Associate Minister Andy and we are most grateful to them for their willingness to undertake such a heavy workload. The changes in service pattern have resulted in them having to cover a greater number of services across the benefice and this they have done very successfully. Furthermore our Families Worker, Helen, often leads services and frequently leads a “spot” for the younger members in our morning service. She is developing her relationship with the families coming to our church, and we are seeing an increasing number of new faces for which we give thanks, as well as many newly born members.

Andy and Helen have continued to lead our young people at mid-week activities when every session includes a time of spiritual teaching. Their ministry to the young people is particularly important at a time when increasingly youngsters have little or no exposure to Christian doctrine. Numbers attending Link and 1Eighty have risen through the pandemic for which we must give heartfelt thanks.

Our monthly Church Meets – theoretically the time when members of all our congregations both here and at Warkton are invited to join on-line for an hour of prayer – has been led by Sheila Matthews and, although numbers are generally small, we have faithfully met every first Tuesday and will continue to do so. Victoria Hutchinson has also arranged prayer time on a Saturday morning and extra prayer time is now being arranged to

St Botolph's Church

specifically pray for the people of Ukraine during the illegal war that has been taking place since the 24th February this year.

It hasn't been an easy time and we wish to thank all of our fellowship for the patience you have shown. We haven't always succeeded in getting the technical equipment to perform as we would like it and there have been many glitches over the year. However, we are getting better and we just hope that when things go wrong it doesn't detract too much from allowing you to worship and give glory to the one true God whom we serve.

2 Fabric Group Report

After a Covid enforced quiet year, the gradual relaxation of restrictions has enabled us to progress some of the work initially planned for completion in 2020. In particular:

- The provision and installation of a servery and toilet under the tower area previously occupied by the church organ and vestry. This scheme had been long in planning and to see it completed was a real joy and has been welcomed by almost all the members of our fellowship. It provides a comfortable environment in which to serve tea, coffee, biscuits etc. after our services. A cupboard was subsequently constructed by two of our members just inside the vestry door made out of the remnants of the Jacobean screen which was done so professionally that our church architect commented that it looked as if it had been there for many decades. We also purchased and installed a baby changing facility and a mirror in the toilet.
- One particular frustration has been the time taken by the diocese in approving our plans to install glass screens at the entrance to the side chapel. We believe we have provided all the information needed for them to make a decision which we have repeatedly asked for but which is still outstanding.
- The replacement doors to the Fellowship and Garden Rooms were completed although we still have to replace the shutters.
- Much of the quinquennial work identified in the 2017 inspection has been completed This comprised mainly roofing repairs, leaving stonework repairs due to be undertaken this April.
- The 2022 quinquennial inspection has been arranged for the 25th May.
- After much discussion with the Council, approval was finally given to replace the windows in Rectory Cottage and that has now been completed.
- Carpeting to the foyer area and stairs to the first floor landing in Church House was also completed.
- A scheme to floodlight the church building is gradually getting nearer to being undertaken. We now have approval from the Council but we still need a Faculty and then Listed Building consent. However, the major hurdles have been overcome so we can see a light at the end of the tunnel.
- We held monthly working parties through summer and autumn, mainly in the Church House garden, which, just by cutting back ivy and excessive shrub and tree growth, have certainly made a difference to the appearance.
- The two dormer windows at the top of Church House both need a serious bit of refurbishment. Again we had a long drawn out negotiation with the Council as we wish to change the 18 pane layout to a 6 pane one. As the building is listed we met serious opposition before common sense prevailed. A quote is now awaited for the work.
- Countless minor works have been undertaken, mainly by Tim Acland and Rob Cowan whom we cannot thank enough for their dedication, expertise, ability and knowhow. Moving the sheds in Church House garden; dealing with issues in the two rented flats; fixing the water heater in Church House kitchen; replacing part of the kitchen ceiling removed to find and fix a leak from above; dealing with electrical, heating and other contractors over maintenance matters – the list is endless and we are most fortunate in

St Botolph's Church

having, as part of our fellowship members who are prepared to give up their own time to attend to the day to day matters that we would otherwise have to pay to get done.

The Fabric Group meet faithfully every month and have a tremendous workload. We would benefit from having more practical people in the group with the time to “own” aspects of the responsibility we have. Just dealing with the many authorities is a painstaking and frustratingly time consuming but necessary business. Attendance at working parties was not always as great as we may have hoped. We are grateful for the gardening work done weekly by a faithful band of lady helpers in keeping the front and rear gardens of Church House under control – without them the vegetation would soon gain the upper hand!

Our current concern is the escalating cost of energy provision. The powers that be, nationwide, identify Churches as businesses so we do not benefit from the energy cap that domestic properties have. At times such as the present with gas prices in particular rocketing we are most concerned that our energy payments are going to greatly exceed our budget and we would therefore urge everyone using Church House to be mindful of this and to turn radiators off when not in use.

Furthermore, in the light of the Church of England's commitment to a net zero carbon church environment by 2030 and the government insisting on a phasing out of gas boilers, we have engaged a consultant engineer to undertake an energy audit of the church and Church House and to make recommendations for our future energy provision. We have asked Kevin McElhone to consider the consultant's report and to undertake his own investigations into the possibilities for future energy provision. This is an ongoing exercise but already we recognise that the outcome, financially, is quite frightening but one that we will have to face, ideally sooner rather than later. You will read more of this in future reports.

Please pray for the work of our small Fabric Task Group. None of us are as young as we once were and the practical side of our service as we try to maintain the church, Church House, Rectory Cottage and the surrounding environment becomes ever more onerous. We are all pleased to serve in this way but it would be good to spread the workload a bit wider.

Churchwardens
Peter Jackson and Adrian Keach

6. Children's & Youth Ministry 2021

**St Bots Children's & Youth Ministry aims to be Good News for Children and Young people
(in Barton Seagrave & beyond)**

He [Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

The New International Version. (Col 1:28–29).

In Partnership with Parents & Carers - We want...

- to help children and young people:
- come to know and love Jesus as Saviour & Lord
- grow to maturity in their faith
- become active, serving members of the church
- to equip children and young people to:
- be lifelong followers of Jesus
- effectively share their faith with their friends and family
- live 'in the world' but not be 'of the world'
- in all these things to work in partnership with parents and carers
- the children's and youth ministry groups to be the highlight of the young people's week

As the pandemic has continued over the last year God has again been faithful in youth ministry and we have lots to give thanks for. Up until the end of the summer when restrictions were eased, we were able to keep meeting with Link & 1eighty in the marquee in church house garden. This resource was such a blessing to the youth ministry (as well as other groups which were able to use it). It meant we could keep meeting in person and without face coverings when others were not able to.

Despite at times the cold and the wet the young people continued to come along and even invited friends. We had to be creative in what and how we did things, but it was great to continue to meet with the young people enjoy time together growing to know Jesus better. If anything, we have had a slight drop in numbers since restrictions have been lifted and other things which compete for time and attention have started back up.

Over the last year it has been a real answer to prayer that we have had a number of much needed new leaders at 1eighty. Claire Harris, Georgia Candlin, Lindsey Burch and Dan Eade have joined the team and been brilliant!

It's a real joy and privilege partnering with all of the youth team who give up so much time to serve our young people and help them hear about the Lord Jesus.



(School years 7-9)

The name '1eighty' comes from Mark 1:15 which is the first thing Jesus says in Mark's Gospel. He calls us to repentance which can be described as 'doing a 180'. 1eighty is a lovely group of young people who meet on Sunday mornings during the 10am service and on Thursday evenings.

St Botolph's Church



(School years 10-13)

Link meets each Wednesday evening during term time.

One of the results of the pandemic is that now 1eighty and Link look at the same teaching series (although it is obviously adapted for each age group). Over this last year we have looked at 'God's Love Song' from 1 John & Hosea, 'Trusting God' from the book of Job & 'Wisdom & Fools' from 1 Corinthians 1-3.

At the end of June Link were very excited that we were able to go on our annual Weekend Away. It was on the first weekend after restrictions were lifted and we were the first group the center had hosted in 2 years. It was so wonderful to be able to go away together and feel a bit more normal as we enjoyed time together and hearing great teaching from the Bible.

This year we were able to do our Christmas Evangelistic events which the young people invited a good number of friends along to. It was great to welcome Joe Griffiths back to do the talks. We have also been able to do some of our favorite socials like going to Lazer Maze!

The last two years and the current crisis in Ukraine have had lasting effects on many of our young people. Anxiety and uncertainty are prevalent. As lives get gradually busier (post pandemic) and as further events heighten tensions please pray that our young people would have confidence in the gospel and hope in Jesus and that they would be bold in sharing this with their friends.

Please pray for more leaders and for faithfulness in applying God's word to the lives of our young people. Please also pray for the Youth Ministry teams particularly in September and October as Andy will be away on his sabbatical.

Schools

Due the pandemic contact with schools has continued to be difficult and sporadic Helen has provided some recorded assemblies for some of the primary schools. We pray that opportunities will open up again over the next year.

There have been more opportunities in Bishop Stopford school. Andy has continued mentoring the chaplain at and has kept in touch and tried to support the school where he is able. Andy produced online assemblies but wonderfully was recently able to go and do his first 'in person' assemblies in 2 years! He also had the privilege of speaking at the Carol Service.

Andy Clark

7. Families and Children's Worker Report 2021

There have been many changes for all of us during the last year, some good and some challenging. My role has developed more along the lines that I envisaged at the inception of the post in September 2019. My focus has been on developing existing activities, planning for and delivering new initiatives and building relationships with children families and individuals.



St Bot's Tots remains a joy! We are blessed with a marvelous team of volunteers who make the sessions run like clockwork. Each week we regularly see between 15 and 30 children with their grown-ups. The vast majority of adults who attend are young mums (and one or two dads) and it has been wonderful to spend time getting to know these parents week by week. It is also really encouraging that we have a good number of Christian parents from our church family who attend St Bot's Tots and it is wonderful to see them building friendships with the non-churched parents who come along. I would love to run

St Botolph's Church

a Hope Explored course specifically for members of this group in the future. I am encouraged that a couple of the previously non-church mums have started coming to the Refresh Bible study.



We have just re-started Who Let The Dads Out? This is a session designed for dads, grandads and any men who care for pre-school children to bring their little ones along for a time of play, singing and a Bible story. It takes place on the second Saturday of each month. The first session took place in March and was attended by nine men with their children. A good time was had by all! My thanks to Jim Roughton, Dan Eade and David Scullion for helping with the organization and welcoming the men to the group and to Phil Burch for providing the wonderful bacon rolls!

It has been wonderful to see some new families in church recently. Some of these families have come along after making enquiries about baptism for their children. I am encouraging families who don't already attend church to come along to meet us and discuss baptism before Kate Curnock and I arrange to meet them for baptism preparation in their own homes. I am also encouraging young mums (or dads) to come to St Bot's Tots as another avenue into meeting members of the church family.



The Refresh Bible study and prayer group continues which I help to lead along with Kirsty Clark and Rachel Samways. This is always a time of encouragement for young mums and one or two more mature ladies too!

I am part of a Bible reading triplet which includes one young mum who can no longer make it to Refresh since going back to work. This time together is a real joy as we see this young woman grow and flourish in her faith. I would love to do more of this when time permits.

I continue to be very grateful to Pippa Evans, Claire Johnson, Kylie Tattershall, Nicola Farrier and Ali Tennant for leading the Promise Land groups as well as several helpers. We regularly see around 18 children in these sessions in addition to several under 3's in the Beginners' group (creche). I personally lead the children in Promise Land once a month. I am keen to keep the adult congregation informed about what the children are learning in their groups and I hope this will encourage greater intergenerational communication and understanding.

Please pray for more leaders in Promise Land; as the numbers of children increase I would like to reinstate the split between the 'Explorers' and 'Discoverers' groups as they are currently meeting together.

I have been into Isham Primary school once every half-term to conduct assemblies; these are always a really positive time and I'm told the children enjoy them too!

I have provided recorded content for Hayfield Cross school and have just been invited in to help run an Easter event for the children. I continue to be a part of the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) steering group for Hayfield Cross.

Isebrook school will be bringing two of their classes of children with special educational needs for a tour of the church building during March 2022. I will also tell them a bit about what Christians believe and why the church is special.

I am keeping in touch with other Families' workers around our area and host a lunchtime meeting at Church House once every two months. Charlotte Nobbs from the Diocese is due to attend our March 2022 meeting.

I attended the Growing Young Disciples Conference in January which was extremely encouraging, informative and inspiring. I also attended other training sessions both in person and online. Faith in Kids hosted a Zoom training session for Toddler Group teams in March 2022 which was excellent and several of our team were able to attend.

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My first parenting course – Parentalk – The Teenage Years, will start after Easter. This is a tried and tested course produced by Care For The Family. I'm looking forward to being able to present this course with a view to introducing further parenting courses in the future.

This gives you a brief overview of some of the work I have been doing during the past few months. Please do ask me if you would like to know more about anything I've mentioned.

I continue to appreciate your prayers very much.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen”

Ephesians 3:20-21

Helen Tilney
Families and Children's Worker

8. Safeguarding Report 2021

As we slowly emerge from the pandemic and return to a semblance of normality, we continue to prioritise safeguarding across all aspects of our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Over the last few months, I have been catching up with DBS checks as these need to be renewed every five years and most people are now up-to-date. Instructions on applying for a new DBS are available on the church website for anyone working with children, young people or vulnerable adults who believes that their current check is out-of-date. Most DBS checks are now coming back in under a week and the most common cause of delay is people forgetting to get their identity checks done.

As we move towards the summer, I will be focusing on the training that is required. Training needs to be renewed every three years which means that most of those involved in our children's work will need to revisit this. Training courses can be accessed via the Diocese of Peterborough website - [Diocese of Peterborough | Safeguarding Training Modules \(peterborough-diocese.org.uk\)](https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk). All church officers (anyone appointed to a specific role within the church, including all of those involved in work with children and young people) are also now required to complete training on Domestic Abuse Awareness which can be accessed by the same link. Please let me know the details of any training that you complete.

We have now signed up to using the Parish Dashboard as a way of checking that we are up-to-date with requirements. The PCC will review this periodically and make require actions to be taken where necessary. Our annual policy renewal will happen in April.

At diocese level, Bev Huff, the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead has announced that she is leaving her post and a new lead will take her place in the near future.

Please continue to pray for the safety of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Please also pray for those local services, beyond the church, who are trying to support children and young people who are at risk – many agencies are overwhelmed by the amount of referrals they are receiving and we need these agencies to be effective if we are to fully protect those in our care.

Martin Adamson.

9. Lay Pastoral Minister's Report 2021

Looking back on 2021, we lived for much of the year under restrictions to manage the spread of COVID 19 which continued to make a huge impact on people's daily life, social interaction and wellbeing. We are thankful to God for the ways he has enabled us to stay in fellowship with one another and for the many acts of kindness

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and support the church family have shown one another. It has been good to see many returning to Sunday worship in church once more, while live-streaming continues so that those shielding or isolating at home are still able to access services. The Thursday morning service is becoming well established with a regular core of people valuing midweek ministry with fellowship afterwards. Some home groups are now meeting face to face while others continue with Zoom, and a good number have joined the monthly prayer meeting, Church Meets, also held on Zoom.

Pastoral Care Team

In the autumn, Mark initiated a review of our provision of pastoral care. As a result of much thought and prayer, a new Pastoral Care Team has been formed to assist the clergy in this ministry. Alongside Mark, members of this team are: Barbara Bashford, Phil Burch, Kate Curnock, Graham Farrier Claire Johnson, Carol Keach, Julie Lucas and Helen Tilney. The group has begun to meet regularly for prayer and to identify needs for pastoral support. Information on 'Care@StBots' can be found on the Blog page of the church website. The Pastoral Team can be contacted by email, care@stbots.church or via the church office on 01536 414052. Members of the former Visiting Team continue their support of various people and we are grateful for the work they and many others have done in faithfully keeping in contact with folk, especially those who are unable to get out much or living alone.

Baptism Preparation

In September, it was a joy to be able to hold an open air baptism service in the garden of Church House for the families of our 'lockdown babies' as well as some older children. Helen Tilney and I visited families in their gardens over the summer to prepare for baptism and the Lord blessed us with warm weather on September 12th. We have since been able to hold several baptisms in church. Please pray for young families as they bring their little ones to church and for the ministry of St Bots Tots and all the helpers.

Marriage Preparation

We are now seeing weddings going ahead, many of which had to be postponed during the Pandemic. The Marriage Preparation course is now able to run again, with this year's taking place in Church House on March 26th led by Martin and Philippa Simper and Roger and Rosemary Pedley. Please pray for the work of the Holy spirit in the lives of those preparing for marriage.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry team organised 'A Rustic Christmas' on November 25th, held online but also a limited number were able to take part in Church House. The evening consisted of pre-recorded craft demonstrations, worship songs and a delightful conversation between Lindsay, Kirsty and Natalia about different ways of celebrating Christmas. Natalia shared her experience of Christmas in Belarus. Then at the end of February, there was the opportunity to attend a Women's Conference in Moulton.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study Group

A group for women of all ages, we currently have around 12 attending regularly. Our meetings have continued on Zoom throughout the past year with 'Share and Prayer' followed by Bible study. New members are always welcome.

Kate Curnock

10. Home Bible Study Groups 2021

Home Groups have continued to function over the past year. While some groups have now returned to meeting physically, others are continuing to make use of Zoom in order to allow members to attend who would understandably feel uncomfortable meeting in a home while there are still health-safety concerns. In various ways, then, Home Groups have been providing pastoral support and encouragement through Bible study, prayer and contact.

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Most of the time in 2021 Home Groups have worked their way through the second half of John's Gospel, covering the events of Maundy Thursday onwards. We have continued, from November onwards, with John's First Letter.

As always, I want to thank fellow Home Group leaders for preparing and leading studies.

Robert Bashford

11. MidWeek Ministry Report 2021

For almost two years there was very little activity to support those of us in the church family who are of more mature years. It has been a lonely time. Sadly some who organised, helped at or attended a midweek activities have gone to be with the Lord or have experienced failing health. In October 2021 when we were able to restart on a Thursday it was obviously impossible to continue with Cornerstone (formerly Potters Place). On a third Thursday we had Holy Communion followed by a delicious hot lunch and an afternoon activity and we provided Transport for all who needed it. This required a vast amount of planning and help.

However, all was not lost and Coffee Shop restarted on first Thursday and Soup and Sandwich lunches on the Second Thursday. Plus there have been opportunities to have Afternoon Tea Services on a Sunday. And Joy of Joy for many older church members who do not have the technology to join in online services, these would be linked to an 11am service held every Thursday in the church. Coffee, tea and biscuits are served in the church after the remaining services in the month. Recently on the third Thursday we have been able to celebrate Holy Communion together. The numbers who have been attending continues to grow and include some who have re-established links with St Botolph's.

Grateful thanks go to all who help in any way in the past and now. We have established teams that manage the major tasks but there are always many small things that need doing so help is always welcome. Thank you Mark and the Leadership Team for encouraging us all to support this ministry in Jesus' name. It is important to remind everyone that like all services in the Church of England they are open to everyone not just those who are retired!

Cayti Bilski