

APCM 2023: St John's Community Church - Annual Reports for 2022

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Electoral Roll Report

Our Electoral Roll has increased by 18 people from 207 adults at the Annual Meeting last year, to a current figure of 225 people. 6 people have been removed from the Electoral Roll - sadly this includes Sue Southall following her death, while 5 others have moved to other churches. The 24 who have joined have signed up having attended Sunday and/or Monday services.

Fabric Report

Following a slow start to the year with the tail-end of the covid pandemic, our building use has steadily increased as the year has progressed, now averaging over 600 folks using the building each week. The main improvements to the building have been the installation of new external windows and doors, while new storage space has been created in what was the old prayer room. Minor works on plumbing, radiators and guttering has taken place, while the grounds have been very well cared for by a strong team of volunteers. Paving slabs have been re-laid where necessary, and a new blue spruce tree was planted outside the front of the building to act as a permanent Christmas tree, saving the need to buy one in each year at considerable financial and environmental cost.

Lichfield Deanery Synod Report

The Lichfield Deanery Synod held four meetings during the year and other than receiving summary reports from the Diocesan Synod and general business, each meeting discussed a main topic:

February 2022: Presentations and discussions took place regarding the way the Common Fund (previously 'Parish Share') is worked out, and a report was given by Chris Baker on the progress of the Shaping For Mission initiative. It was shared that Shaping For Mission is to identify three types of churches in order to ensure the viability of the deanery going forward: churches where there is growth and mission; churches where there are significant mission opportunities; churches which are not sustainable.

June 2022: A report by Revd Richard Westwood was made on the impact of the charity 'Hands At Work' in South Africa, and Shaping for Mission was again discussed, with a sense of frustration that more meaningful progress had not been made.

September 2022: Kathy Louis from Burntwood Be a Friend shared about the vision and impact of the Community Shop at Sankey's Corner, Burntwood.

November 2022: Shaping for Mission was once again the main topic, where it was shared by Revd Dr Abbie Walsh that three areas will be focused on: schools and young people; the cost of living crisis and caring for our creation, with individual meetings to be held covering each of these topics.

Elaine Betts, Annette Haywood, Marg Nicholls, Nigel Procter

PCC Report

Listed below are details of the PCC meetings which took place during 2022. The full PCC met **5** times during 2022, with excellent average level of attendance of 89%. Committees and smaller meetings of various ministries met between PCC meetings, and their deliberations were received and discussed by the full PCC where necessary.

PCC Meeting – March 2021: Following the cancellation of our January meeting due to illness and covid, our March meeting focussed on the needs of our building, and ways to gather which reflected the optimism/caution as the pandemic appears to be coming to an end. New chairs for the worship area had been purchased and were now in place, while the lengthy faculty application process for new windows and doors continued. Lottie Backhouse resigned as Children's Coordinator to take on a new role with churches in Stafford supported by YouthNet, and left her role with our heartfelt thanks for all of her love, hard work and dedication to her role over many years.

PCC Meeting – May 2022: Our new PCC was welcomed following our Annual Meeting, and officer appointments were made. The faculty permission for new windows and doors was finally received, and Uniseal were booked in for a summer install. The installation of roof solar panels was discussed and approved in principle, with quotes to be sought.

PCC Meeting – July 2022: Our July meeting celebrated our curate Ruth's recent priesting, while progress was made on the advertising/appointment process for a new Team Rector and minister for Burntwood and Hammerwich. A review of our current children's and young people's provision was made, with the need for ongoing recruitment recognised in response to growing numbers of children attending, particularly on Sundays and at Little Friends. Quotes were examined and one from Wicksteed as our recommendation for new play equipment for Chase Terrace Park, to be installed with previously agreed financial donations from our church tithe. The purchase of a new fir tree for outside the church building as a permanent tree to be decorated at Christmas-time, was approved.

PCC Meeting – October 2022: Our October meeting expressed our sadness at the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II, as well as a much-loved member of our congregation, Sue Southall. The cost-of-living crisis and our pastoral/practical response was also discussed, with various winter initiatives/funding streams highlighted as being available for those in need. The PCC were delighted at the long-awaited completion of new windows and doors, which were funded from both church giving and funds from the sale of the Church Rooms on Ironstone Road, alongside a £1,500 grant from The Benefact Trust. News of one applicant for the Burntwood and Hammerwich vacancy was shared, and new equipment had now been ordered for Chase Terrace Park for an imminent install. Agreement was made to procure quotes for replacement fixtures and fittings for our church kitchen, which is now badly showing its age after being in place since the church building opened in 1997.

PCC Meeting – November 2022: Our November meeting welcomed the news of the appointment of Revd Steve Morgan as interim minister of Burntwood/Hammerwich, and of Revd Richard Westwood as Rector of the Burntwood Chase Team benefice. The recent quinquennial report on the building was shared, which contained much positive feedback, along with recommendations for future work in the non-urgent replacement of fascias and soffits around the church roof. The new Christmas tree was welcomed, and updates were shared on the rising utility costs, with the need for vigilance with being sensible with our church building use, along with offering ongoing support to local folks in need. Christmas events and services plans were shared.

Marg Nicholls – PCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

St. John's Community Church, Chase Terrace

2022 Accounts Summary

Prepared by J. Haywood - Treasurer

At time of writing (18th Apr 2023) the church accounts have been passed to the Lichfield Diocese for independent examination but we haven't yet had confirmation of acceptance. That means that the accounts, although finalized haven't been independently ratified.

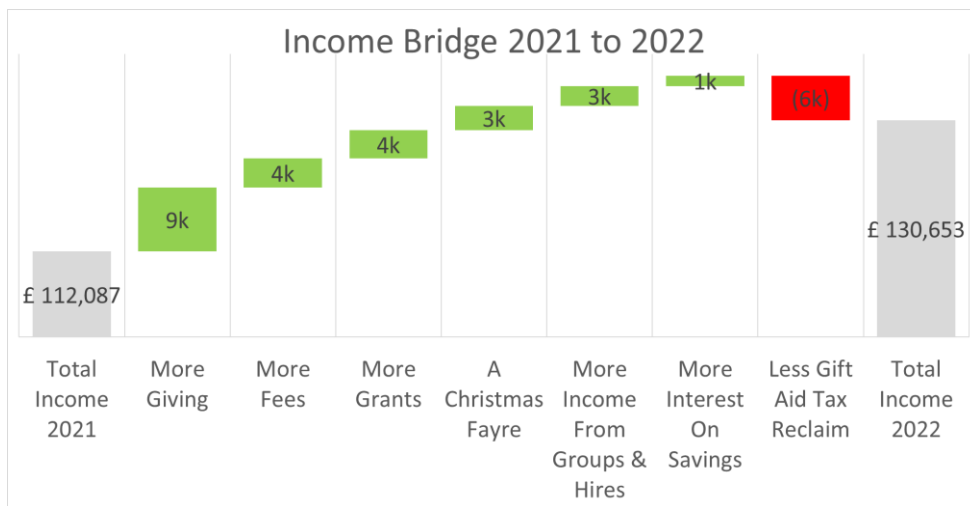
Overall, we have seen a positive increase in income, whilst spending generously but with discernment, whilst maintaining good levels of reserve funds in the accounts (as shown in the account summary table).

Income & Expenditure

Income & Expenditure	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income	£122,255	£109,591	£112,087	£130,653
Expenditure	£125,874	£111,590	£112,080	£159,298
Difference	(£3,619)	(£1,999)	+£7	(£28,645)

Positively, our income has increased +£18k year on year, however our expenditure has increased by (£47k), meaning we have spent (£28,645) more than our income in the year. Although this is a significant difference, there were some significant one-off elements affecting this view which will be explained below.

Income Year On Year Bridge



Giving (planned gift aid, planned non gift aid and freewill/donations) increased +£9k. This is from a combination of a couple of one-off significant donations, a slight increase in people giving by standing order and more people donating by using the contactless device on a Sunday and through the week.

Income from fees increased as the volume of funerals and weddings returned closer to pre-Covid levels.

We received an extra 4k in grants. Total grants for the year were £5k. Lichfield Diocese gave the church 2 grants totalling £2.5k as additional support and cost of utilities. We received a £1k grant from “I Love Lichfield Community Foundation” towards Little Friends. Lichfield District Council gave a “Warmer Welcome” £100 grant towards the Drop Inn and we received a £1.5k grant from the Benefact Trust to support with the cost of our new windows. All these grants have been spent!

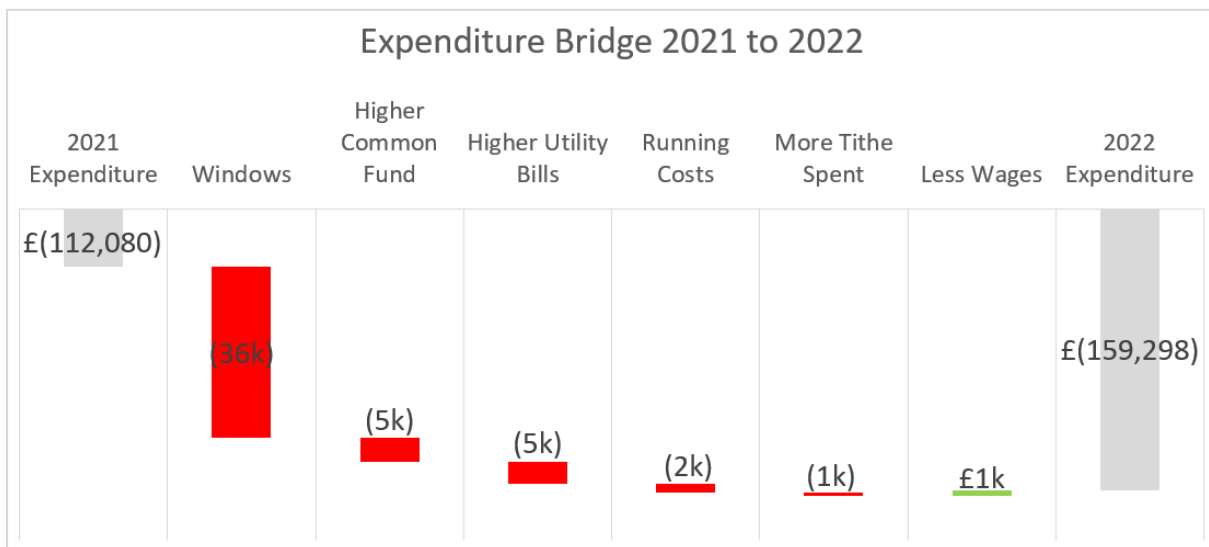
We had a Christmas Fayre this year, which raised £3,481. Our first Christmas Fayre since 2019. Thank you to all those who helped organise and support the day.

We saw some additional income from room hires and groups using the building and a small amount of extra interest on our savings.

The bar in red in the above bridge indicates that the church claimed less tax reclaim from gift aid because we didn’t process the second tranche in time to hit the accounts for the year. The good news is, this has been paid and will show as additional income in our 2023 accounts.

In summary, some good growth in income across everything that we do.

Expenditure Year On Year Bridge



We replaced the external windows and doors! £36,226 cost in total. We received a £1.5k grant to support the costs (explained in the income section). We then paid £22k out of our savings that are held in trust by the diocese (from the sale of the church rooms) and the remaining ~£14k from our normal bank savings. We could have paid it all from our savings held in trust, but the recommendation to the PCC was to separate the cost out as it holds us more accountable for keeping a tight operating budget. We can only spend money held in trust once, so we’re trying to spread the cost widely across our pots of money.

There was a higher Common Fund payment of £5k. Common fund is the new language for what used to be called Parish share. This pot pays for Matt & Ruth’s wages, housing and pensions, as well as the training of future curates. It helps to fund the work of various central departments in the Diocese, such as the admin, finance and safeguarding teams, and supports the work of the General Synod, which is the main decision-making body for the Church of England. Actually, the common fund cost didn’t increase in 2022, it was just that in 2021 the diocese provided all churches with a “reduced rate” due to Covid. There is no increase to the Common Fund in 2023.

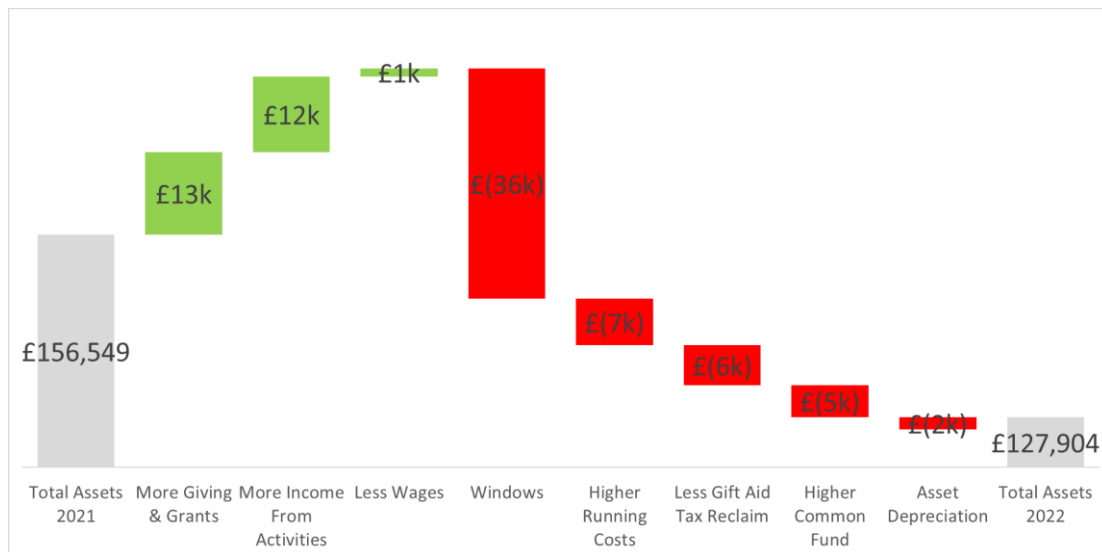
Like all households, our utility bills have increased. Year on year, this increased by £5k. Two things going on 1) the previous year we had less use of the church due to Covid, so some natural increase due to more church use and 2) the start of increasing bills showing through in November and December. Our utility bills were £9k for the year. In the first 3 months of this year, we're using around £1k a month on heating.

We have seen a slight increase in running costs, mainly associated with the groups we run which have been expanding. Particularly Little Friends and our other mid-week and Sunday children's provision such as Little Friends and F&F.

St John's gives away 10% of our previous year's income (excluding grants). This is called our tithe. It is mainly spent through regular charitable giving, ensuring charities can plan their income accordingly. As a PCC, we have always tried to give to charities working locally, nationally and internationally. In 2022, we continued to support Light for Children – a charity supporting young people and families in need in Romania, it's a charity that has deep roots at St. John's and we have supported it since its inception; Pathway Project – who are a domestic and sexual abuse service supporting anyone in need based in Lichfield & Tamworth; the YouthNet which is a Christian-based children and youth charity working in and out of schools and organisations in and around Stafford; Food Bank; Acts 435 which is a charitable donations website that puts people who want to help in touch with people who are in need, through a network of churches and local charities at a national level; and UCB radio. Alongside this regular giving we also donated £5k for the park equipment and supported the Play in the Park events in the Summer. At the start of the year, we had £8,265 in unspent Tithe sat in our creditors, by the end of the year, this had reduced to £4,795 sat in creditors.

Despite increases to our staff wages, our total wage bill for the year decreased, mainly due to our Children's Coordinator Lottie leaving her role in the first half of 2022.

Combined Income & Expenditure Total Assets Bridge



When combining the income and expenditure, you can visually see the impact of the cost of the windows on the total assets and savings of the church. In fact, if we removed this one-off cost and the fact that the gift aid reclaim isn't showing in the accounts, the total assets for 2022 would be £169,457, putting us in a positive year on year position of ~£13k.

Account Summary

Account Summary	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fixed Assets (buildings & contents)	£5.6k	£8k	£10k	£7,984
Net Assets (money in the bank after outstanding payments are paid)	£153k	£148k	£147k	£119,920
Total Assets	£159k	£157k	£157k	£127,904
Difference Year on Year	-£3.6k	-£2k	+£0k	(£28,645)

The account summary shows our savings and assets in 2 pots, Fixed Assets and Net Assets.

In simple terms, fixed assets are “things” buildings and contents.

We don't own the St. John's building, it's owned by the diocese, so our only fixed assets are the contents within the building. Chairs, sound equipment and other items that we could sell if we needed to raise some cash.

If you have any further questions about the church finances, do feel free to speak to me or Matt. We are contactable through the church office.

Thank you.

Statement of Financial Activities

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Sound System	Designated Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Cash held in trust	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Incoming Resources								<i>*see note 9 for full comparatives</i>
Donations and Legacies	2a	105,904					105,904	99,198
Charitable Activities	2b	9,152					9,152	1,559
Other Trading Activities	2c	14,050					14,050	11,262
Investments	2d	282				1,265	1,547	68
Other	2e						-	-
Total		129,388	-	-	-	1,265	130,653	112,087
Resources Expended								
Raising Funds	3a	736	-	-	-	-	736	-
Charitable Activities	3b	158,562	-	-	-	-	158,562	112,080
Loss on disposal of freehold property	3c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		159,298	-	-	-	-	159,298	112,080
Net gain/(losses) on investment		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)		29,910	-	-	-	1,265	28,645	7
Transfer between Funds		22,000	-			22,000	-	-
Net Movements in Funds		7,910	-	-	-	20,735	28,645	7
Total Funds brought forward (1st Jan)		46,560	-	-	-	109,989	156,549	156,542
Total Funds carried forward (31st Dec)		38,650	-	-	-	89,254	127,904	156,549

Balance Sheet			
		Total 2022	Total 2021
Fixed Assets			
Investment Assets	5(a)	-	-
Tangible Assets	5(b)	7,984	9,940
Current Assets			
Debtors		1,637	6,007
Bank current account		12,425	20,991
CBF deposit fund		21,759	21,476
RESTRICTED Cash at Bank		89,254	109,989
Cash		116	505
		125,191	158,968
Liabilities due in one year		6	
Creditors		5,271	12,359
Diocesan Parish Share		-	-
Diocesan Loan		-	-
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		119,920	146,609
Liabilities due after one year			
Creditors		-	-
Deferred Parish Share		-	-
Total Net Assets		127,904	156,549
Parish Funds		2022	2021
Unrestricted Funds			
General		38,650	46,560
Designated		-	-
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Fund - monies held in trust		89,254	109,989
Endowment Funds			
Total		127,904	156,549

Income and Endowments from:								
	2	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Sound System	Designated Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Cash held in trust	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Donations and Legacies	2a							
<i>Voluntary Income/Receipts</i>								
Tax efficient planned giving		59,424					59,424	56,679
Other planned giving		14,694					14,694	13,060
Collections at services		5,393					5,393	790
All other giving and voluntary receipts including special appeals		13,383					13,383	13,319
Gift Aid Recovered		7,960					7,960	14,250
Legacies received		-					-	-
Grants		5,050					5,050	1,100
		105,904	-	-	-	-	105,904	99,198
Charitable Activities	2b							
<i>Church Activities</i>								
Statutory Fees (retained by PCC)		5,671	-	-	-	-	5,671	1,559
Spring Fayre		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christmas Fayre		3,481	-	-	-	-	3,481	-
Fundraising Events		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		9,152	-	-	-	-	9,152	1,559
Income and Endowments continued								
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds - Covid relief	Funds - Sound System	Designated Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Cash held in trust	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Other Trading Activities	2c							
<i>Activities for Generating Fund</i>								
Church and Church Hall Hire		5,938	-	-	-	-	5,938	9,482
Out-of-School club fees		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group membership income		8,112	-	-	-	-	8,112	1,780
		14,050					14,050	11,262
Investments	2d							
Dividends		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest		282	-	-	-	1,265	1,547	68
		282	-	-	-	1,265	1,547	68
Other	2e							
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-					-	-
Total		129,388	-	-	-	1,265	130,653	112,087

EXPENDITURE ON:	3	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Sound System	Designated Funds - Covid relief	Restricted Funds - Cash held in trust	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Raising Funds	3a							
<i>Costs of Generating Income</i>								
Summer Fete		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christmas Fayre		736	-	-	-	-	736	-
		736	-	-	-	-	736	-
Charitable Activities	3b							
<i>Church Activities</i>								
Mission giving and donations		9,811	-	-	-	-	9,811	9,037
Diocesan Parish Share		59,896	-	-	-	-	59,896	59,896
Parish share support			-	-	-	-	-	(4,991)
Salaries/Wages		19,635	-	-	-	-	19,635	20,923
Clergy and Staff Expenses		602	-	-	-	-	602	301
<i>Church Expenses</i>								
Church running expenses		7,406	-	-	-	-	7,406	2,262
Church Expenses (Mission and Evangelism)		15,693	-	-	-	-	15,693	20,056
Church utility bills		9,143	-	-	-	-	9,143	4,446
Cost of trading		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Major Capital Expenditure</i>								
Major Repairs to the Church		36,226	-	-	-	-	36,226	-
Major Repairs to Church Hall		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building Work		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Governance Costs</i>		150	-	-	-	-	150	150
		158,562	-	-	-	-	158,562	112,080
Other	3c	-					-	-
		-					-	-
Total		159,298	-	-	-	-	159,298	112,080