

St. Augustine's Church Halifax

Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Sunday 8th May 2022

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St. Augustine's Church Halifax Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 8th May 2022

A G E N D A

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Matters Arising
3. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Matters Arising
3. Reports
 - a. Electoral Roll
 - b. PCC Review of the year
 - c. Churchwardens' Fabric Report
 - d. Deanery Synod Proceedings
 - e. Churches Together
 - f. Accounts and Financial Statements
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
5. Elections
 - a. Deanery Synod Representatives
 - b. Lay members of PCC
6. Textprayer Report
7. School Report
8. Vicar's Remarks
9. Any other business

St. Augustine's Church Halifax

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners

held on Sunday 16th May 2021

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sadegh Dabiri and Karen Hellewell.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2020 were included on page 4 of the report booklet.

Proposed: Jenny Lynn

Seconded: Shelagh Hirst

That: "The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 13th December 2020 be accepted as a true record."

Decision: Carried

3. Election of Churchwardens

Shelagh Hirst and Ann Mansfield have been Churchwardens for the foreshortened 2020 – 2021 cycle.

Prior to the meeting, nomination forms for the 2021 – 2022 cycle were received from Shelagh Hirst and Ann Mansfield. There being no further nominations, a ballot was unnecessary and Revd. John Hellewell declared Shelagh Hirst and Ann Mansfield duly elected to serve as Churchwardens in the parish of St. Augustine, Halifax for the year 2021 – 2022.

The Archdeacon's Visitation and Admission of Churchwardens for the Halifax and Calder Valley Deanery for 2021 will be held via Zoom on 9th June at 7pm.

St. Augustine's Church Halifax

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Sunday 16th May 2021

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sadeqh Dabiri and Karen Hellewell.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2020 were included on pages 5 to 8 of the report booklet.

Proposed: Jenny Lynn

Seconded: Bob Berridge

That: "The minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 13th December 2020 be accepted as a true record."

Decision: Carried

No matters arising from the minutes were identified.

3. Reports

All the reports are contained in the booklet circulated immediately prior to the meeting. As those present had not had time to read the report beforehand, the Vicar suggested that they take the booklet, read it and ask any questions at a later date.

a) Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll report was included on page 10 of the report booklet.

b) PCC Review of the Year

A summary of the business conducted by the PCC in 2020 was included on pages 11 of the booklet.

c) Churchwardens' Fabric Report

The Churchwardens' Fabric Report was included on pages 11 to 13 of the booklet.

d) Deanery Synod Proceedings

A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod in 2020 was included on page 13 of the report booklet.

e) Churches Together

The Central Churches Together grouping did not meet during 2020 (as noted on page 13 of the report booklet).

f) Accounts and Financial Statements

The accounts and financial statements, including the reports from the External Examiner and the Treasurer, were included on pages 14 to 20 of the report booklet.

The Treasurer advised that although the financial situation is still bleak, he is confident things can be turned around. It is particularly important to do this in light of the imminent interregnum to demonstrate both via what we are doing and via our financial position that St. Augustine's is a living, sustainable entity. In summary, we will be making a more active response to our financial situation than the passive response of recent years.

The Vicar once again thanked Bob Berridge for his many years of work as Treasurer before stepping down at the 2020 APCM. The Vicar also thanked Mark Pemberton for taking on the role and providing such a positive lead.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Proposed: Jenny Lynn

Seconded: Ann Mansfield

That: "Debbie Pinder be re-appointed as the independent examiner for the 2021 accounts."

Decision: Carried

5. Elections

a) Deanery Synod Representatives

Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three-year term and St. Augustine's is only entitled to one representative. With Shelagh Hirst having been elected in 2020, no election is due this year.

b) Lay Members of PCC

The Church Representation Rules specify the election of six lay members for our size of electoral roll. This year there are three vacancies, two as a result of completion of term of office and one that was not filled at the 2020 APCM. A further vacancy will arise when the Hellewells move on to their new parish and Karen ceases to be a member.

Prior to the meeting, a nomination form was received from Jon Hirst. The following nominations were received from the floor:

- Jenny Lynn

Proposed: Shelagh Hirst

Seconded: Ann Mansfield

The Vicar advised anyone else who might like to consider joining the PCC, or who just wanted to find out more of what it entails, to attend a future meeting.

There being no further nominations, Rev John Hellewell declared Jon Hirst and Jenny Lynn duly elected for a term of 3 years.

6. Textprayer Report

A report was included on page 21 of the booklet.

7. School Report

A report was included on page 22 of the booklet.

The new Head, Ruth Lee, took up her post at Easter, attending the first service thereafter at which prayers were said for her.

8. Vicar's Remarks

The Vicar's remarks were included on pages 22 and 23 of the booklet.

The Vicar spoke briefly and said he will say more at his farewell service on 6th June. He reminded those present that God's calling is not just to the Vicar, but to the whole church.

The Vicar mentioned the link between the Church and the Centre and Jenny Lynn agreed that maintaining that link when the Vicar has

gone is important and urged those present to think and pray about whether they were being called to serve as a Trustee of the Centre.

9. Any Other Business

With no further business being raised, the Chair closed the meeting.

St. Augustine's Church, Hanson Lane, Halifax

Annual Report & Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2021

INCUMBENT Revd. John Hellewell (*until 06/06*)

BANK Santander

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION Debbie Pinder

15 Moor End

Halifax HX2 0TX

1. Introduction

St. Augustine's Church has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St. Augustine's Church is part of a united benefice with Christ Church Mount Pellon, with separate PCCs being maintained for the two churches.

2. PCC Membership

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected by the annual parochial church meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

INCUMBENT Revd. John Hellewell (*until 06/06*)

CHURCHWARDENS Shelagh Hirst
Ann Mansfield

DEANERY SYNOD REP Shelagh Hirst

ELECTED MEMBERS Bob Berridge (*until APCM*)
Jenny Lynn (*from APCM*)
Sadegh Dabiri (*until APCM*)
Karen Hellewell (*until APCM*)
Jon Hirst
Denise Keenan

CO-OPTED MEMBERS Mark Pemberton

During 2020 the following members served as officers of the PCC:

VICE-CHAIR Ann Mansfield
TREASURER Mark Pemberton
SECRETARY Jon Hirst

At present the PCC operates one committee, the Standing Committee, which is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee consists of the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Churchwardens, the Vice-chair and the Clergy.

3. Electoral Roll Report

As required by the Church Representation Rules, the Electoral Roll is wholly renewed every six years, the most recent occasion being in 2019.

There are 13 (2020 16) people on the Electoral Roll.

The usual Sunday attendance was 12 (2020 17). The number of Sunday services held during 2021 was again impacted by the pandemic, with services not resuming until 11/04/2021 after a service on the first Sunday of the year.

4. PCC Review of the year

The PCC met on the following dates, with an average attendance of 76% (2020 73%):

	<i>Joint with Christ Church</i>	<i>via Zoom</i>
• 21/03/2021	✓	✓
• 22/03/2021		✓
• 04/05/2021		✓
• 16/05/2021		
• 07/06/2021	✓	
• 23/06/2021		
• 50/09/2021		
• 11/11/2021		

Of the eight meetings held, two were joint meetings with Christ Church PCC and three were held via Zoom, one of which was a joint meeting. In addition, there were four “meetings” held via e-mail.

During 2021, the PCC regularly reviewed the measures implemented as a result of Covid, adjusting them as appropriate. Following Rev John’s departure, much of the PCC’s time and effort in the second half of the year was concerned with the management of the interregnum and the associated process.

A number of changes were made in the area of finance, some of which were administrative in nature and others which were more focused on improving the longer-term financial sustainability of the Church. From an administrative perspective, signatories on bank accounts were brought up to date and some minor restructuring of the accounts took place to improve the usability of the reports produced, plus a regular schedule of quarterly reporting was implemented to provide PCC members with relevant information in a timely manner.

From a longer-term perspective, some of our capital was moved from a standard deposit account into carefully selected investment funds with a higher rate of return. The funds were selected on the basis of level of return, alignment with our ethos and level of risk. As a result of the PCC’s engagement with the Diocesan Stewardship Team, it was agreed to sign up for the Parish Giving Scheme which greatly simplifies the administration of regular giving, especially

where gift aid is involved. If you would like to know more about the Parish Giving Scheme, please speak to Jon Hirst.

Another new and on-going focus has been on fundraising; to this end Mark Pemberton undertook a sponsored walk of the Calderdale Way which got the fundraising account off to an excellent start by realising over £2,000. The fundraising is a restricted fund, which means that it cannot be spent on day-to-day running costs, but instead is reserved for special projects, such as providing Bible study resources, funding retreats and providing Bibles in first languages.

Sincere thanks are due to Mark for all his hard work as Treasurer and for the outstanding leadership he is providing in that area.

Our ownership of St. Augustine's House proved costly during 2021; in part this was due to the on-going rent reduction made to support the Centre during the pandemic, but also due to expensive repairs required to the roof. Although the building is rented out to St. Augustine's Centre, the PCC retains responsibility for maintaining the fabric of the building.

As it was a good number of years since the rent for St. Augustine's House was reviewed, it was agreed to commission an independent valuation of the property. As a result, an increased rent was proposed by the PCC and accepted by the Centre Trustees. To date, there has been no formal written agreement between the PCC and the Centre regarding the rental of the building; work has begun to address this and put things on a formal footing which will be advantageous to both parties.

There was on-going liaison with Centre management regarding potential uses of the Chapel; the PCC ensures that all use is consistent with the status of the Chapel as a place of prayer and worship and that it is treated with the appropriate respect. As the Centre has an on-going issue with storage and floor-space, the PCC agreed to the installation of second container in the carpark to provide additional storage and workshop space.

As a Licensed Lay Minister, Shelagh Hirst is subject to periodic re-licensing; the PCC was delighted to pass a resolution formally supporting Shelagh's re-licensing during 2021.

5. Churchwardens' Fabric Report

a) *Services*

The Sunday services in the early part of 2021 during the third national Covid lockdown reverted to the joint online provision as in 2020 after which the services consisted of Communion services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and a Service of the Word on other Sundays until the incumbent John Hellewell left in June. Over the summer our services took place in the marquee outside St. Augustine's Centre and then back in the school hall for the remainder of the year.

Once services resumed then relevant guidance was followed regarding the layout of our gatherings to comply with the current Covid pandemic regulations. Initially this included the use of a single use service sheet for our outdoor services and use of the screen once back indoors. At all times we were to maintain the more spontaneous contributions / discussions from within the congregation to be involved in the service as previously experienced in 2019. The Church Wardens are very thankful to all those who volunteer on the day to set up / put away the furniture and doing the necessary cleaning afterwards.

b) *Grounds*

The Churchwardens are very grateful to all those who help to keep the gardens outside the Centre looking so attractive. We have been especially grateful to the volunteer head gardener, Steve Blacksmith who along with his team of volunteers from St. Augustine's Centre do this important work. Steven retired from this work at the end of 2021 and we presented him with a small gift from the Church to show our appreciation of his work. We also would like to thank all those volunteers who endeavour to keep the grounds tidy and litter free.

c) *St. Augustine's House*

The St. Augustine's Centre charity continues to use and manage the building on a day-to-day basis. The Churchwardens value and appreciate the work of the Centre's caretaker for continuing to oversee the general maintenance of the building and fittings.

Although the building is rented out to St. Augustine's Centre, the PCC retains responsibility for maintaining the fabric of the

building which this year included funding extensive repairs to the roof.

d) *Chapel*

The Chapel is intended to be a place of calm and stillness within the busy Centre to just 'be' in the presence of God; for Monday morning prayers, the Tuesday lunchtime sung worship and the International Bible study group, private prayer or for a quiet conversation during this time.

As in 2020, these activities were suspended except for hosting PCC meetings and St Augustine's / Mothers' Union outreach sessions for ladies in the Autumn when the main Centre building re-opened.

e) *Inventory of Goods*

As in 2020 the ongoing work to bring the Terrier (list of Church-owned property) up to date was suspended and will resume during 2022.

Also, the ongoing work to replace the altar and lectern with something more suitable for use in our Sunday services was suspended.

6. Deanery Synod Proceedings

There were three Deanery Synod meetings in 2021.

February 2021 saw the inaugural joint meeting, by Zoom, of the new Synod for both Halifax & Calder Valley and Brighthouse & Elland Deaneries. The main purpose of this meeting was for the Area Dean to outline the Deanery Synod role and activities and its link to the Diocesan Synod. This was followed by the opportunity for questions and conversations. Alongside this was the election of Election of Officers (Lay Chair; Secretary; Treasurer and Standing Committee) for each of the Deaneries.

In June both Deaneries met jointly, again by Zoom, and focused on the theme of "Emerging Positively" which was about helping ourselves and each other to emerge, positively from the challenges of the last eighteen months. A theme which emerged following a message from Bishop Nick who posed the questions: "What have we put in place that we can now lose?" "What have we

gained/learned that we want to retain and grow?” “What have we lost that should stay lost?” and “What have we lost that we need to regain?”. After watching a pre-recorded message from Revd Canon Robin Gamble, Bishop’s Advisor for Church Growth and listening to three members of the Deaneries talk of some of the pluses and minuses during the lockdown there was an opportunity for discussion in small groups around this subject

October saw our last joint Deanery Synod of the year. At this meeting there was an introduction to the Living in Love and Faith teaching and learning material and taster of the LLF course, led by Marilyn Banister. This church-wide learning together, listening to one another, and listening to God is part of discerning a way forward for the Church of England in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The purpose of the resources is to enable the Church of England churches across the country to participate in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. As many churches as possible were encouraged to engage with this initiative.

Shelagh Hirst

7. Churches Together

The Central Churches Together grouping has been inactive for some considerable time now. As has become our practice in recent years, St. Augustine’s members took part in a number of West Halifax Churches Together events including recording contributions for an on-line service during the week of Christian unity and attending an on-line Lent course.

8. Accounts and Financial Statements

External Examiner's Report

Checked bank statements and investment documents, payments and invoices; all receipts and payments agree and reconcile.

I can confirm the accounts dated 31st December 2021 all agree and reconcile.



28/03/2022

Debbie Pinder
External Examiner
15 Moor End
Halifax
HX2 0TX

Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
Unrestricted General Fund		
for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts		
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>		
<i>Regular Giving</i>		
Planned giving	2,832.00	2,760.00
Collections at services	85.00	241.76
Gift Aid recovered	1,866.79	1,184.29
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>		
Donations	250.00	500.00
Sales of coffee after Church	0.00	0.00
<i>Receipts from Church activities</i>		
Baptisms & Confirmations	0.00	0.00
St. Augustine's House	3 0.00	3,605.40
<i>(Leased to St. Augustine's Centre)</i>		
<i>Receipts from investments</i>		
Deposit account interest – see Contingencies Fund		
HSBC Interest	23.77	0.00
Baillie Gifford Interest	302.55	0.00
Total Receipts	5,360.11	8,291.45
Payments		
<i>Church activities</i>		
Giving	25.00	0.00
Parish Share	4 8,645.00	8,645.00
Church running expenses	926.72	173.00
Cost of services	1,749.96	1,749.96
Clergy expenses	0.00	0.00
Cost of Magazines & Publications	0.00	0.00
Printing, post & stationery	0.00	0.00
Coffee after Church	0.00	0.00
St. Augustine's House	0.00	2,164.10
Total Payments	11,346.68	12,732.06
Excess receipts over payments	-5,986.57	-4,440.61
Bank current & deposit accounts at 01/01	0.00	0.00
Balance 31/12/2021	-5,986.57	-4,440.61
Internal transfer from 63 Hanson Lane Sale Fund	5,986.57	4,440.61
Bank current & deposit accounts at 31/12	0.00	0.00

	2021	2020
Unrestricted Contingencies Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts Deposit Account interest	27.69	192.60
Payments	0.00	0.00
Excess receipts over payments	27.69	192.60
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01	2,996.43	2,803.83
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12	3,024.12	2,996.43

Restricted New Mara / Kiabakari Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts	300.00	300.00
Payments	0.00	0.00
Excess receipts over Payments	300.00	300.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01	907.98	607.98
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12	1,207.98	907.98

Unrestricted St. Augustine's House Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021			
Receipts	3	3,605.36	0.00
Payments			
Repair of St. A's House Roof		3,650.00	0.00
St. A's House Insurance		1,541.24	0.00
Excess receipts over payments		-1,585.88	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01		0.00	0.00
Year-end Balance		-1,585.88	0.00
Internal Tfer from 63 Hanson Lane Sale Fund		1,585.88	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12		0.00	0.00

	2021	2020
Unrestricted 63 Hanson Lane Sale Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts	0.00	0.00
Payments		
Internal Tfr to Investment Account	-10,000.00	0.00
Excess receipts over payments	-10,000.00	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01	27,644.57	32,085.18
Year-end balance	17,644.57	32,085.18
Int'l Tfr from Loan to Christ Church Fund	5,000.00	0.00
Int'l Tfr to General Fund	-6,071.57	4,440.61
Int'l Tfr to St. A's House Fund	-1,585.88	0.00
Loan to Christ Church, Mount Pellon	0.00	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12	15,072.12	27,644.57

Unrestricted Loans to Christ Church Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts		
Re-payment of loan from Christ Church Mount Pellon	5,000.00	0.00
Payments		
Loan from Christ Church Mount Pellon	0.00	0.00
Excess receipts over Payments	5,000.00	0.00
Int'l Tfr to Hanson Lane Sale Fund	-5,000.00	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01	0.00	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12	0.00	0.00

Unrestricted Investment Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts		
Fund	10,000.00	0.00
Increase in value of closing stock - HSBC	96.80	0.00
Increase in value of closing stock – Baillie Gifford	81.42	0.00
Payments	0.00	0.00
Excess receipts over Payments	10,178.22	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01	0.00	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12	10,178.22	0.00

	2021	2020
Restricted Fundraising Fund for the Year Ending 31 December 2021		
Receipts	5	
Donations for Calderdale Way Walk	2,208.97	0.00
Payments	0.00	0.00
Excess receipts over payments	2,208.97	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 01/01	0.00	0.00
Bank current & deposit accounts 31/12	2,208.97	0.00

	Receipts		Payments		Excess Receipts over Payments		Amount in Bank 31/12/2020		Amount in Bank 31/12/2021		Transferred from 63 Hanson Lane		Transferred from Christ Church Loan		Amount in Bank 01/01/2022	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Unrestricted General Fund	5,360.11	11,346.68	0.00	-5,986.57	27.69	2,996.43	3,024.12	-5,986.57	5,986.57	3,024.12	0.00	0.00	3,024.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted Contingencies Fund	27.69	0.00	0.00	27.69	27.69	2,996.43	3,024.12	0.00	0.00	3,024.12	0.00	0.00	3,024.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted New Mara / Kiabakari Fund	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	907.98	1,207.98	0.00	0.00	1,207.98	0.00	0.00	1,207.98	0.00	0.00	1,207.98
Unrestricted St. Augustine's House Fund	3,605.36	5,191.24	0.00	-1,585.88	-1,585.88	0.00	-1,585.88	0.00	1,585.88	1,585.88	0.00	0.00	1,585.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted 63 Hanson Lane Sale Fund	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	-10,000.00	-10,000.00	27,644.57	17,644.57	0.00	-7,572.45	17,644.57	5,000.00	5,000.00	15,072.12	0.00	0.00	15,072.12
Unrestricted Loans to Christ Church Fund	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	-5,000.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted Investment Fund	10,178.22	0.00	0.00	10,178.22	10,178.22	0.00	10,178.22	0.00	0.00	10,178.22	0.00	0.00	10,178.22	0.00	0.00	10,178.22
Restricted Fundraising Fund	2,208.97	0.00	0.00	2,208.97	2,208.97	0.00	2,208.97	0.00	0.00	2,208.97	0.00	0.00	2,208.97	0.00	0.00	2,208.97
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	26,680.35	26,537.92	142.43	31,548.98	31,548.98	31,548.98	31,691.41	0.00	0.00	31,691.41	0.00	0.00	31,691.41	0.00	0.00	31,691.41
Bank Accounts:																
Santander Current Account				3,708.33	3,708.33	3,708.33	3,165.33			3,165.33			3,165.33			3,165.33
Church of England Deposit Account				27,840.65	27,840.65	27,840.65	18,347.86			18,347.86			18,347.86			18,347.86
HL Investments				0.00	0.00	0.00	10,178.22			10,178.22			10,178.22			10,178.22
				31,548.98	31,548.98	31,548.98	31,691.41			31,691.41			31,691.41			31,691.41

Statement of Assets and Liabilities 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£.pp	£.pp
Cash Funds		
Santander Current Account	3,165.33	3,708.33
Church of England Deposit Account	18,347.86	27,840.65
	21,513.19	31,548.98
Investment Assets		
HL Investments	10,178.22	0.00
Assets retained for Church's use (unrestricted funds)	28,274.46	30,641.00
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Creditor		
Christ Church Mount Pellon	1,000.00	6,000.00

Notes:

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R&P basis.
2. Moveable church furnishing and equipment held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a facility for disposal, are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.
3. For transparency, the St. Augustine's Repairs Fund has been replaced with the St. Augustine's House Fund – which makes comparing 2020 to 2021, more challenging. In 2020 St. Augustine's House ran at a profit of £1441.30 whereas in 2021 it lost £1585.88.
4. Parish Share remained exactly the same between 2020 and 2021 and was made in one payment.
5. A new fundraising fund has been created which means more capital is restricted.

Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 31 December 2021

The General Fund of St. Augustine's Church covers the general running of the church. The fund incurred a deficit of expenditure over receipts of £5,986.57 during the year.

The deficit is an increase on the deficit from the previous financial year of 33.69%, this is due in some part to creating a new fund for St. Augustine's House.

St. Augustine's House ran at a deficit of 69.45% due mostly to the repair of the roof, an increase in rent of the property should increase the capital in this fund in future years.

However, the church has seen an increase in revenue, partly due to increased fundraising, changing some of St. Augustine's investments and the repayment of a loan, which overall has meant that the church has been able to run at a net gain of £142.43.

In the future St. Augustine's will need to increase revenue, to make sure the church continues to be financially sustainable.



17/01/2022

Mark Pemberton
PCC Treasurer

The independently examined accounts for the year ending 31/12/2021 were unanimously accepted by the PCC on 06/04/2022 via email.

Textprayer Report

Iain Lawson continued to run the TEXTPRAYER service throughout 2021, circulating a wide range of prayer requests. The requests covered not only all sorts of circumstances, emergencies, and bereavements, but also thankfulness for comfort, healing and support.

Whilst Iain took the lead with TEXTPRAYER, it would not, and could not, work without the dedication of all those people from across the benefice and wider who are signed up to receive the texts and pray the prayers – thank you!

Towards the end of the year, Iain announced that, after twelve years, he would be stepping down from running TEXTPRAYER at the end of January 2022 – more about what happened next in next year's report.

School Report

School, like everyone else, continued to have a tough time due to the pandemic in 2021. In the first term they continued to be led by the interim headteacher, Louise Brennan. The substantive head, Ruth Lee, took up that position at Easter 2021. Ruth was welcomed at our first service back in the school hall, after the third lockdown ended, where we prayed for God's blessing on her and our school as she started to lead the school in a new chapter of its development.

John Hellewell continued in his role, as a Vicar and School Governor, supporting the school with regular visits and leading collecting worship until he left in June. In October I joined the Governing Body as the Archdeacon's Appointed Foundation Governor in place of the incumbent unable to take up their ex-officio post.

In September the school had been visited by OFSTED with the result that plans are now underway to join a Multi Academy Trust in order to support the school to make the necessary improvements. However, in the Autumn term Ruth, with the support of the Local Authority, has already progressed the planned improvements very well. It is clear that, under

Ruth's leadership within the proposed MAT, the school will continue to go from strength to strength in 2022 and beyond.

Whilst I was appointed to the Governing Board, Ann Mansfield took on the pastoral care of the school to maintain our pastoral link with the school, paying regular visits to offer support when needed and keep in touch, in her role as Churchwarden.

Please do continue to pray for the school as it continues its development to support the children in our Parish.

Shelagh Hirst

Vicar's Remarks

This year's report contains *Vicar's Remarks* with a difference in that they are not written by the Vicar! As mentioned in last year's *Remarks*, Revd John had accepted a new post in the Diocese of Chester and we said goodbye to John and Karen on 6th June at an outdoor service attended by more than seventy-five people. Whilst it was a sad to see them go, it was also an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge all that John and Karen brought to St. Augustine's. Since John moved on, the benefice has been in an interregnum whilst discussions continue with the Diocese to determine what happens next – you will be able to read more about the start of a new chapter in the life of St. Augustine's in next year's report. We are grateful to the Churchwardens, Shelagh Hirst and Ann Mansfield, for shouldering the additional responsibility (and work!) that an interregnum brings.

During 2021, Sunday services were once again disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic; after a service on the first Sunday of the year, in-person services were suspended, resuming on the Sunday after Easter Day (11th April) with appropriate precautions in place. Thankfully, in-person services were able to continue thereafter for the rest of the year without interruption. Mid-week provision did not resume during 2021, but it is hoped that the COVID situation will be sufficiently stabilised early in 2022 for that to happen.

We were delighted to resume singing on Sunday mornings when we moved services outside for two months over the summer, making use of the Marquee that St. Augustine's Centre had erected on the lawn. We

have continued to sing when we moved back in doors. We are extremely grateful to Revd Canon Michael Storey who has regularly led Communion services. Much of the rest of the service leading has been down to our Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), Shelagh Hirst, with only occasional weeks off – thank you Shelagh, we are extremely grateful for your faithful service and commitment to the task in hand.

On-line provision continued during 2021, with pre-recorded Sunday morning services for the first quarter of the year whilst in-person services were suspended. Compline continued throughout the year supported by a small, but dedicated, band of attendees from across the benefice. Fortnightly Prayer and Testimony sessions were held throughout year. Towards the end of the year, Iain Lawson announced that he would be stepping down from facilitating the Prayer and Testimony sessions at the end of January 2022; read next year's report to see what happens next. An on-line house group has been meeting and using the Diocesan *Rhythms of Life* material. Whilst technology is not accessible to all, it has proved very advantageous to those who have been able to make use of it and it is hoped that a hybrid in-person / on-line approach will be able to continue as we move forward.

Many thanks to all who have supported St. Augustine's during 2021 as we look forward in prayerful anticipation to another year of change in 2022. Every blessing.