

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual report and summary of accounts 2021

A celebration of the year 2021

at St Leonard's



St Leonard's Vision and Values Statement.

Our Missional Vocation: Living for Jesus

Our Vision: Our vision is: To be a joyful and vibrant church empowered by the Holy Spirit, committed to sharing God's love with the wider community, welcoming partnership with others, so that all may be drawn into the abundant life of Christ.

Our priorities in mission:

- Building the next generation of church
- Building relationships with people who find themselves in marginal and vulnerable situations
- Building authentic community

Foreword

Once again 2021 was a year significantly affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Although as the year progressed, we began to see the lifting of restrictions, every area of our lives continued to experience considerable disruption, including of course the mission and ministry of St Leonard's.

As a result, we took the decision not to ask for a full range of reports from the different ministry groups. This should not be taken as an indication that everything ceased. As in 2020, we continued to discover ways of gathering together and staying in touch as best we could, even if this was often making use of the, by now, familiar online tools, including Zoom, YouTube, WhatsApp, and Twitter.

We sought to maintain our outward facing links, supporting a range of organisations locally and globally. Donations to the Foodbank in Broxtowe were made whenever possible, and the Contact Home and Away Team helped us to engage with charities, mission, and aid organisations, locally and globally.

We began to re-establish worship gatherings in the church and community centre in the latter part of the year, even managing to serve refreshments when it was felt the risks of doing so were acceptable. It was a relief to be able to come together in a more relaxed way, even if we continued with the wearing of face-coverings when moving around inside our buildings.

Our families and children's work also transitioned through 2021 from being predominately online to in person. The Sunday-based children's work, *Messy Church*, and *Parents and Toddlers* continued to maintain and develop relationships with families. Classes from the local primary schools were also able to visit as circumstances improved and links with Bluecoat Wollaton also continued. It was clear from the contact we had with families and children that many had experienced, and continued to experience, a wide range of challenges. And throughout the year were having to adjust working and recreational patterns. Our 'slightly older' members were delighted when the Thursday morning Communion service and *Come for Coffee* were able to restart.

There is no doubt that the impacts of Covid-19 on many, and not just those getting on in years, have been serious. The legacy of the pandemic will almost certainly involve some major shifts in the way many areas of society function, with implications for how we as churches respond and engage with emerging needs.

As 2021 drew to a close we were able to celebrate Christmas in a way which felt a little closer to the way we would have wanted to. A large crowd from the wider community came together for Carols round the Pump, Christingle, Nativity, and Carol services took place, and families, by and large, were able to be together.

Yet the passing of 2021 has by no means seen the end to the impact of the virus. The changes that will flow from the events of the last couple of years, and the challenges that will come with them, will require us to show a faith which is characterised by resilience and perseverance, and which also demonstrates gentleness and kindness to those around us.

During the year most, if not all, of us will have experienced struggles and hardship which will take time to recover from. We will need the support and encouragement of others. Most of all we will need to keep our focus on the God who loves the world, and everything and everyone in it, holding on to the promise that he makes never to leave us or forsake us.

As the writer to the Hebrews puts it, "¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of

faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3).

Revd Canon Tim Pullen

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 15th May 2022

In St Leonard’s Community Centre (and online via Zoom) at 12 pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer and Dwelling in the Word
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2021 *(to be confirmed)*
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Notification of any matters to be raised under any other business (to be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary by the previous evening to ensure an informed response)
6. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2022/2023
7. Presentation of Electoral Roll, Erica Bailey
8. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council, Andy Holbrook
9. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 and budget for 2022, Ian Hall
10. Appointment of Auditor
11. Churchwardens’ report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, Val Sutton, and Mike Smith
12. Summary of Reports from Team Leaders
13. Report from Deanery Synod, Revd. Tim Pullen & John Cartwright
14. Report from Diocesan Synod, Roger Howes
15. Elections
16. Date of next Annual Parochial Church Meeting: with the agreement of the annual meeting to be decided by the new PCC

17. Any other business

18. Rector's review and closing prayers, Tim Pullen

WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year ending 31st December 2020.

Unconfirmed Minutes (agenda item 3): Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 30th May 2021 in St Leonard's Church, Wollaton at 12.00 pm and by Zoom.

Presenting: Tim Pullen (in the chair), Val Sutton, Mike Smith.

Minute taking: Gillian Moore.

Documents provided included hard copies of the Annual Report and Accounts 2020 (also available in large print).

A1/21. Opening prayer.

Tim Pullen (TP) greeted everyone, on Zoom and in church. There was an opening prayer and then TP read a passage from John's Gospel.

A2/21. Apologies for absence.

Graham Birkett, Ralph Buckingham, Josie Gorman, Ali Hatton, Trevor Hatton, Ian Hall, Andy Holbrook, Lindy Jones, Anne Scothern, Malcolm Stacey, Mary Stacey, Wendy Sutton-Pryce, Peter Welsh, Jo Ratan.

A3/21. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2020.

The minutes were read and approved subject to a minor amendment to A7/20. The Rector will sign the minutes once amended.

A4/21. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

A5/21. Any other business.

No notifications of AOB.

A6/21. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2021/2022.

Election of Church Wardens to serve to the end of May 2022. Two nominations have been received.

Val Sutton, proposed Andy Holbrook, seconded by Brian Harris. All in favour.

Mike Smith, proposed by Andy Holbrook, seconded by Val Sutton. All in favour.

A7/21 Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

Erica Bailey (EB) presented the Electoral Roll and reported that as of 14 May 2021 the electoral roll stands at 295 of which 215 are residents of the parish and eighty non-residents. Since September 2020 there have been ten deaths, two removals and two additions. TP paused to remember those who had died, and the zoom and church-based attendees joined in prayer to remember them, their families, and friends. Those we have lost include George Andrews, David Hull, Hugh Jacklin, John Linthwaite, Brian Norris, Joan Thomas, Ernest Seaward, David Shakespeare, Michael Stacey, and Vera Hargreaves.

The electoral roll was accepted by the meeting. TP thanked EB for all her work in keeping the roll up to date.

A8/21. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council.

Report of the Hon. Secretary is on page 2 of the Financial Report, there were no comments. TP thanked Andy Holbrook (AVH) for all his work in his capacity as Hon. Sec. to the PCC and in his role as St. Leonard's Health & Safety Officer. This is a considerable workload for one person.

A9/21. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 and budget for 2021.

The accounts to the end of 2020 are in the Financial Report. Drawn up by our accountants, Haines Watt. They have been checked and approved by the PCC and sent to the Diocese. Ian Hall (IH) reported that the Covid-19 pandemic had presented major financial challenges. The key issues are as follows. Firstly, our income for the year was reduced significantly both for the main church and for the community centre, with the latter being unable to open for a considerable part of the year. Whilst expenditure also fell slightly this was inevitably outweighed by the effects of the pandemic on income. We maximised our ability to use the government furlough scheme to try and minimise the impact on the overall financial position. The stock market has recovered more rapidly than would have been initially predicted, so the endowment fund position is slightly better than might be expected and continues as of April 2021 to improve. The pandemic has highlighted the challenge of the sustainability of the current Diocesan share model.

Barbara Lynes asked the following question: *During the year there has been much discussion as regards the level of the parish Share payable by St Leonard's PCC between the PCC and the Deanery (See Trustees Report). The total assessed as payable by the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham for 2020 was £115,992 which was fully paid. Yet at the beginning of the report, it states that the diocese made a discount of £20,000 to the parish share. So, did we pay it in full?*

Ian Hall had provided a response, as follows:

The diocese offered St Leonard's a £20k discount as a one off on the 2021 (not 2020) parish share, which we have taken...but in the accounts you only see the 2020 parish share which we paid in full. PCC has discussed what we should do to help the Deanery in 2021, and so it is possible we may pay more than the discounted share, but at present our monthly payments are based on the reduced share for 2021.

Elaine Thompson (ETH) alerted members to a typographical error on page 23 of the accounts relating to the Giving figures. This will be referred to IH, checked, amended and documentation updated.

TP proposed that the operating budget be accepted.

A10/21. Appointment of Auditor.

TP proposed that we continue with Haines Watt, Mike Chamberlain seconded, all in favour (29 by Zoom) (8 in attendance).

TP thanked IH and Liz Norris (LN) for their roles in managing church finances.

A11/21. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods, and ornaments of the church.

The Church Wardens' report on the fabric is in the Annual Report. Tim Pullen thanked all who worked on the fabric. Matt Green was also thanked for his on-going work maintaining the cleanliness of church buildings during the pandemic.

A12/21. Summary of reports from team leaders and The Community Centre Management Team.

Team leaders' reports: in the Annual Report. TP thanked the team leaders, Community Centre Management Team and all those involved at whatever level for their work in maintaining activities where possible and for a good flow of information during the pandemic.

A13/21. Report from the Deanery Synod.

The Deanery Synod report can be found in the Annual Report. No comments received.

A14/21. Report of the Diocesan Synod.

The Diocesan Synod report can be found in the Annual Report. No comments received.

A15/21. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod.

Elections: Tim Pullen thanked all PCC members. TP advised members that there are five vacancies on the PCC. 1 nomination has been received.

Kevin Twissell. Proposed by Sally Smith, seconded by Carol Barber. Duly appointed.

A16/21. Date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The meeting agreed this would be decided by the new PCC.

A17/21. Any other business.

None.

A18/21. Rector's review and closing prayers.

TP noted that it has been a challenging year for everyone. It will remain a challenging and anxious time for many. Some may be frustrated that things cannot return to 'normal' at the pace they would prefer. TP noted, however, that we need to be patient, support one another, love one another, and pray together as we navigate our way out of the pandemic. Try to look forward with expectation and with the support of prayer.

Tim Pullen thanked everyone who has been involved in maintaining the work of the church during the pandemic. Everyone has played a crucial part. Finally, TP thanked his wife Jo for her unstinting support. Val Sutton (VS) thanked TP for his work in guiding the community at this challenging time.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Item 7

Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

The year 2021 opened with 304 names on the Electoral Roll (307 in 2020). The Electoral Roll is revised annually for the APCM and was 295 at the May 2021 APCM (215 resident and eighty non-resident). At 31/12/21 the ER was 296. The figure I present at the APCM May 2022 will be the newly revised ER.

Erica Bailey, Electoral Roll Officer

Item 8

Hon. Secretary's Review of 2021

The PCC has met six times in 2021 as did the Standing Committee and Resources Team. Key decisions made during the year included the following.

- The House of Bishop's Promoting a Safer Church: safeguarding policy statement was adopted.
- The PCC adopted an amended Parish Declaration for Serious Safeguarding Incident Reporting.
- Timely progress has been made with safeguarding training for PCC members with most having completed relevant training modules. Satisfactory progress has also been made with DBS checks.
- The Parish financial position continued to be reviewed carefully considering the ongoing impact of Covid.
- The spiritual growth from children and families' activities was noted and encouraged.
- Changes were agreed relating to the strategic role of music and the post of Director of Music.
- Work began on developing a safeguarding Code of Practice which will facilitate low level conversations whilst ensuring that the key stakeholders are kept appropriately informed.
- Agreed to commit a financial resource to exploration of mission engagement with the western edge of the Parish and community (Dales/Firbeck).
- Agreed to fund a Children and Families Worker Role. A bid was made to the Strategic Development Funding Scheme supporting the *Growing Younger & More Diverse* initiative. This aims to strengthen and develop ministry with younger generations and reach out beyond existing contacts to grow the church. This role will also be financially supported using our 'soft ring-fenced' legacy fund.
- Christmas services were determined in the context of the new Covid variant.
- The Parish Share (to the Diocese) for 2021 was agreed as was the Budget for 2022.
- A total sum of £7,500 was agreed for annual giving across eleven groups.
- A new monthly pattern of worship services was agreed and implemented.
- The Health & Safety Risk Register was reviewed and updated.

On behalf of the council, I would like to thank Gill Moore for her on going and unstinting work as our Minutes Secretary. Due to family commitments, I have decided to standdown as Honorary Secretary and PCC member from the 2021 APCM.

Andrew Holbrook, Honorary Secretary

Item 9

Report of the Hon. Treasurer

Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic

The ongoing effects of the pandemic continue to have an influence on the financial position of all churches. The direct effects of these challenges to our income and expenditure position are detailed below, but a high-level summary of the major issues is as follows. Firstly, our income for the year continues to be significantly reduced both for the main church work and for the community centre compared with pre-pandemic levels. Whilst expenditure also remains slightly lower this is inevitably outweighed by the effects of the pandemic on income. During 2021 we continued to maximise our ability to use the government furlough scheme until this closed to try and minimise the impact on the overall financial position. The Diocese also provided a one- off £20,000 discount on our parish share for 2021, to offset the reduced income seen by the community Centre in 2020, and this means that the overall financial position is stronger than would otherwise have been the case: however, there is no reduction in parish share for 2022 which brings a significant challenge. By the end of 2021, the stock market had recovered further, so the endowment fund position is better than that reported last year. The pandemic has also highlighted the challenge of the sustainability of the current Diocesan/Deanery share model, which continues to be kept under review.

The budget we have set for 2022 shows a continuing significant shortfall, which will have to be supported from reserves, but the alternative of cutting activities would probably only further worsen the income position in the longer term.

Budget against 2021 forecast

In 2021 we paid the parish share at the recalibrated level based on the revised Diocesan and Deanery calculations: for 2021 this included a £20,000 one- off reduction as mentioned above. The total paid in the year was therefore £95,940. In 2021 regular giving fell by around £15,000 compared with 2020.

Total income (excluding investments) for the year was slightly higher overall than in 2020 at £193,925 (£188,630 in 2020), due to £6,000 in legacy income and a recovery in the Community Centre income position. The total value of our investments rose in 2021 by nearly £20,000 which has also helped the overall financial position, although these funds can only be used for specific purposes.

Total expenditure during 2021 was reduced compared with 2020 at £210,973 (£246,772 in 2020), the major reasons being the one-off reduction in the parish share and less expenditure on general maintenance.

Overall financial position for 2021

The 2021 accounts continue to be influenced by the particularly large legacy of £237,959 which came in during 2016 and 2017. The PCC has previously designated £100,000 from this over the next few years for mission, which is in addition to the support already provided to the audio-visual upgrade undertaken in 2018 and 2019. The significant amount of this funding currently remaining in our reserves distorts the overall picture, but plans are well advanced about how best to use this funding to support the missional work of the church.

End of year position

The net effect of all these factors was that there was little change in overall funds which stood at £929,448 at the end of 2021 compared with £926,937 at the end of 2020.

The Community Centre financial position continued to be affected by the pandemic but showed a recovery from 2020. Income for the year was £38,876 (compared to £30,630 in 2020) and expenditure £36,379 compared to £39,506 in 2020. These figures include funds reclaimed from the national furlough scheme.

The PCC has maintained registration with the Charity Commission.

Budget 2022

The budget set for 2021 was formulated on similar principles to the 2021 budget, factoring in the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have continued to take a cautious view in estimating income, and we will need to monitor expenditure carefully during the year.

Any potential expenditure from the designated funding for mission described above is not shown in the operating budget.

Risks for 2022

At the time of writing this the UK has removed most restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic however continues to produce significant risks and uncertainty which will inevitably affect income during 2022. The war in Ukraine is likely to continue to bring volatility to stock markets, although to date stock markets have been fairly resilient. Church services and other activities are gradually increasing, and we expect activity in the Community Centre to also increase during the rest of the year.

Otherwise, the main risks for 2022 as in previous years are increased expenditure on unplanned maintenance and reduction in planned giving income. Ongoing lead thefts always remain a risk although we continue to mitigate this through a managed security system.

Final Comments

As ever, I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the church finances over the last year. This has obviously been another very challenging year for everyone, and I have continued to receive fantastic support from all the people involved in the financial running of the church and Community Centre. Roger Alton has been working closely with the Community Centre team to manage the Centre's finances over the last year. David Martin is in the process of handing over his role as planned giving secretary, which will be taken up by Liz Norris as part of her work as finance administrator. I would like

to express huge thanks to David for all his support over the years. Despite the challenges imposed by working during the pandemic, the parish office and Community Centre staff continue to be very supportive. I would also like to thank Tim Pullen and the Deanery for all their support over the year. Finally, I would like to thank Liz Norris for all her hard work in ensuring things run efficiently.

Professor Ian Hall, Honorary Treasurer

Item 11

Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The leak in the church roof above the Lady Chapel was fixed (according to Roger Howes, our custodian of the roof, this was not a major problem). Thank you, Roger, for overseeing this work and for everything else you do liaising with the diocese. There is occasionally a leak over the door in the hospitality area but, as it only occurs when the wind is in a certain direction, which will be dealt with next year. Also, we obtained the faculty for installing the streaming facility in church, which was duly installed along with an additional camera in early 2021.

And just an update concerning the new Notice Board which was reported in last year's report. It was not fit for purpose so, after long and tedious conversations with the company who supplied it, we managed to have a replacement fitted in accordance with our original order in the Autumn of 2021.

This year the church's entire risk register was reviewed, overhauled, and updated (yes, Covid is not the only risk out there!). Many thanks to all who took time to review various aspects and keep our activities / church life safe.

Grateful thanks to all who have helped as we have returned to a regular pattern of services in church and the community centre. It has taken courage for volunteers to get back into the habit of signing up for welcoming, cleaning, refreshments, Bible reading, singing, and playing in the choir and music group to name just a few areas but gradually over the second part of the year we have all found ways of returning to our respective ways of making sure that St. Leonard's is a welcoming, friendly, and thriving church. You are a wonderful team, and we could not function without you.

Thank you too to Trevor, David, Alison, Robert (hope I have not forgotten anyone) who have stepped in to cover services when Tim has been unavoidably elsewhere. And to Elaine and Hilary whose workload has increased greatly. Both have stepped into many more roles and far more often than before Covid. And previous churchwardens are always on hand to help us and answer any questions we have so thank you so much to all of them.

Lastly a big thank you to Tim and Jo, who, between them, have led us through this last difficult year. We thank God that we have two such faithful, energetic, and vibrant people at the helm.

Val Sutton and Mike Smith.

Item 12

Summary of team reports 2021

These reports come from each group reflecting on where God has been at work in the past year. Each group has also committed to one action for the next year to enable them to work towards one of the

St Leonard's Priorities. All activities in the church are overseen by the PCC under the headings of Mission, Worship and Discipleship and reports are presented under these headings.

Mission

Contact Home and Away

God has been at work in the prayers for our mission partners and partner organisations during 2021. We have given thanks to God for the new direction he is providing to our overseas mission partners who have been faced with a particularly challenging situation in the country they have been working. The group also gives thanks for the substantial contribution made by the congregation towards mission and initiatives both locally and overseas, through prayers, food donations and financial contributions. During 2021, we have welcomed several new members to our group, and we thank God for their help, advice, and innovative ideas they have brought us.

Dads n Kids

Obviously due to Covid restrictions during most of the year we did not meet, however we reopened in February 2022 and have been delighted at the number of new Dads who have come (13 at the last count). Several Dads came because of the banner we put up the week before and others through friends. The Lockdown has enabled us to rationalise our database as we had details of families from 2007. Our new database already stands at nearly forty. God is Good!

The most important thing to note is the leader Dads'n'Kids, Trevor Hatton, said in July 2021 that he would be standing down as of July 2022. This would be the end of his seventh year as leader and eleven years of involvement. Trevor intends to keep to this deadline. There is clearly a need for the group to exist for it gives us wonderful contact with many families in the community. There is now a real need for one or two of the younger men in the church to take on the role of leading. It is not onerous, but it does require a commitment to the 3rd Saturday of each month. How the group is developed and how outreach is undertaken would be up to the new leaders.

As outgoing leader, Trevor would like to put on record his thanks to Joan, Jenny, Diana, Carol, Sue, David, John, and Tim for their constant support.

The Foodbank Support

By Grace support from the fellowship at St. Leonard's for the Food Bank work at St. Martha's Church in the Broxtowe Estate continued during 2021 at an encouraging level. The holy habit of generosity must indeed be well embedded.

The now annual Christmas Hamper donations are very well supported. Not only do these enable the provision of a seasonal meal but the balance provides a reserve to cover weeks when fewer food donations are received. Additionally, others provide financial support through regular giving or through the fund raising which they organise.

Our donations of food are usually taken across weekly. The volunteer who most frequently does this commented "I enjoy going." There are a small number of other volunteers who will respond when invited to assist. It must, however, be reported that the number of volunteers from St. Leonard's who visit Broxtowe has decreased. It is essential, therefore, to consider succession planning if we are to maintain the link with our fellow disciples at St. Martha's. This mission work is not only a matter of

“giving food to the hungry, to satisfy those in need” [Isaiah 58 v. 10] but also one of encouraging our fellow saints. “To go where we don’t know and never be the same” can be amazing. Try it!

Wollaton Churches Link Magazine

We are thankful to God that the Link magazine has continued to serve as a way of connecting people in the Wollaton churches and the wider community during what has been another year of considerable challenges due to the pandemic; it has perhaps been particularly helpful for people who have difficulty accessing online church services, and/or were reticent about returning to meeting in-person as things started to open up again. As well as the usual clergy articles, it has been encouraging to see a respectable number of submissions from other members of the churches and community groups during the year.

Weddings and marriage preparation

Six marriages took place.

Wollaton Churches Committee

2021 was another difficult year for everyone because of the pandemic restrictions. However, the Committee was able to meet several times by Zoom and although it was decided that it was not feasible to deliver Easter and Christmas cards to all houses in the parish, posters were displayed outside the churches and united services were held (some on Zoom). Importantly, Carols Round the Pump, which was cancelled in 2020, was held ensuring that the community was aware of the churches. Kingswood held Zoom short evening prayer sessions in Lent and St Thomas More's Friday evening Stations of the Cross online were much appreciated. St Leonard's had a striking display outside the church and a trail which could be followed on smart phones. Although it was felt that the Good Friday Walk of Witness could not take place, these efforts ensured that God's presence was visible in Wollaton.

Discipleship

Although some aspects of being a disciple were not physically possible in 2021, there were many signs that God has been at work. Those aspects that have required close physical contact have not been able to be maintained, so Home Communion and Pastoral Visiting in their usual forms have not been possible. However, we can see God’s hand in the ways of service and discipleship that we have been able to carry out.

Baptisms

2021 was a year of cancellations and re-arrangements. Baptisms re-commenced in August and with the Grace of God, we prepared families for the occasion either visiting or by Zoom and managed to baptise 9 children and 1 adult into the family of the church.

Pastoral Visiting, Lead Links, Mother’s Union, Bereavement Team

Much of the normal activities of the Pastoral Team were curtailed during the last year and have only recently returned to normal activities. Groups like the Mother’s Union led by Patsy Fletcher was wonderful at maintaining contact with their members and ensured that people were not forgotten.

Hospital visiting was limited to messages to the hospital chaplaincy.

Pastoral visiting and Home Communion were not possible for most of the year, but numerous telephone calls ensured that contact was maintained with those who were no longer able to attend church and were not internet users. The bereavement team continued to contact people, but the annual bereavement service did not take place last year.

The main work during the last year has been through the Lead Links network. The planning that had gone into the firm foundations of that group flowered throughout covid. Mary Stacey maintained the flow of information through the email system. Thank you to her and all the Lead Links who maintained the personal contact with people. This was much appreciated.

Viv Chamberlain & Barbara Lynes

Connect Groups

In summary: we have seen God at work sustaining the members of the groups facing vastly different circumstances and been encouraged by hearing from each other about how we have experienced God with us through the challenges. Sharing in our Connect Groups has reminded us of how God works through the everyday circumstances of our lives, and we have been encouraged by the way God has spoken to us through the bible passages we have looked at together.

Monday Connect Group

We have continued to meet all the way through the year via Zoom. We have used a variety of resources including The Prayer Course. We have seen God at work in our increased fellowship and growing relationships with each other especially in our group's WhatsApp where we share and pray for each other regularly. God has also been around in the growing confidence in the group to express and share faith opening discussion and sharing openly with each other.

Robert and Liz Norris' Connect Group

Robert and Liz's group has continued to meet fortnightly online on Thursdays throughout most of 2021. During the first part of the year, they found their study of selected Psalms encouraging, and in the autumn benefitted from the insights gained into prayer through following Pete Greig's excellent Prayer Course. Although the group is now small, having lost five members who have moved to other churches (including Karen and David Hanford), they have felt blessed by being able to support one another through prayer and fellowship during what has been another challenging year for everyone.

Tim and Jo Pullen's Connect Group

Our Connect group has continued to meet on a fortnightly basis and managed to restart some in person meetings outside in the summer, moving inside when people were comfortable to do so. The Prayer Course has been particularly helpful and has deepened our experience of prayer. Each time we meet, we recognise the value of fellowship and the importance of meeting together as we grow as Christians. Relationships have deepened and prayers have been answered. It has been a privilege to see God at work in our lives.

St Leonard's Community Centre Wollaton

1. SUMMARY

The Centre fully opened again in October 2021.

Bookings have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and all the large regular groups have returned (Probus, Historical Society, Daytime Voices etc.).

Some less successful pre-pandemic groups have left, replaced by several start-ups.

2. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The SLCCW Management Committee commenced our quarterly meetings in November 2021.

The committee is made up as follows: -

Sarah Henly – Caretaker & cleaner

Kerry Pashley – Office Manager

David Thompson - Chair of SLCCW Management Committee

Roger Alton – Treasurer

John Tordoff – Community

Manjit Kaur-Jones – Community

Tim Pullen – PCC

We would like another PCC representative, to replace Brenda Barber, who sadly passed away in 2021.

3. ACCOUNTING

The full impact of Covid on Centre finances was £20,000 to £25,000. This impact includes all Centre related costs during the pandemic, the opportunity costs of being closed, and all furlough payments received from the Government.

SLCCW is £50,000 a year business, with costs approximating to revenues. Our budget for 2022 shows £51,000 of forecast revenues and £48,000 of cost (approx.), giving a surplus of about £3,000.

4. STAFFING

Matthew Green announced that he was leaving the Caretaker role in December and finished in early January 2022. We thank Matthew for all his work.

We have replaced Matthew with Sarah Henly.

5. Health & Safety

We continue to work to make the Centre as safe as possible for all our customers. We have on-going risk management protocols, based around Government advice.

Item 13

Nottingham North Deanery Synod Report

During 2021, because of COVID restrictions, we had a mix of in person, online and hybrid Synods.

Our first Synod, the first of this triennium, was online on 21st January. We admitted churchwardens and prayed and worshipped together. It was also Peter Huxtable's last Synod as Area Dean and Anne Walters' last Synod as Lay Chair.

At this Synod we also appointed our Deanery Leadership Team for the triennium:

- Ex-officio: Tim Pullen (Area Dean) and Kirsty Cowley (Deanery Administrator)
- Lay Chairs: Sue Dunster (The Church on Rise Park) and John Cartwright (Woven St Margaret)
- Deanery Treasurer: Greg Cowley (Bestwood St Mark)
- DLT Members: Peter Shaw (Woven St John) and Anne Walters (Wollaton, St Leonard)

We held a hybrid Synod on 21st July with some members meeting at Aspley, St Margaret's, and others via YouTube. Our theme was missional opportunities for our parishes, and we were joined by the following speakers:

- Chris Easton (Pioneer Minister at Bestwood Park Church – Bestop Kitchen)
- Lyn Kent (Operations Manager Woven Group – Debt advice)
- Simon Gledhill (Licensed Lay Minister Broxtowe, St Martha – Foodbank)
- Sarah Fegredow (Renew Easter Regional Co-ordinator – Wellbeing)

Our final Synod of the year was held on 29th September at Stapleford, St Helen and we met in person. During the evening we spent time sharing the challenges and opportunities in our parishes and praying for each other. We were also able to give Anne Walters a present to thank her for her many years as Lay Chair.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have also continued on the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

We also had other changes in leadership in the Deanery. Whilst Peter Huxtable stood down as Area Dean, we were pleased he remained in the Deanery as Mission Associate at St Martha's, Broxtowe and Anne Walters also remained on the DLT after stepping down as Lay Chair. We said a fond farewell to David Gray following his retirement and to Sue Dunster who stepped down as Lay Chair at the end of December.

We would like to thank you all for your generous and faithful giving during 2021. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but 95.8% in these difficult circumstances was fantastic! A special thank you to those parishes that paid over their allocation.

In 2022, we are looking forward to meeting and praying together in person!

Revd. Canon Tim Pullen	Area Dean
John Cartwright	Lay Chair

Item 14

Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocesan Synod is the main policy-making body of the Diocese and met twice during 2021. As usual, reports were received on finance, education, and mission, including the continuing implications of the Covid pandemic.

An important announcement in the autumn was that the Diocese had been successful in securing national Church of England funding to support the Diocese's vision of Growing Disciples, reaching wider, connecting younger and nurturing deeper roots of faith. The national Strategic Development

Funding (SDF) will be supporting the project with funding of £3.5m given over 5 years. It seeks to see a step change in children and families as well as youth ministry across the Diocese. The aim is to see many more children and young people come to know Jesus and grow as disciples of Christ. Although the funding for this project is available over 5 years, it is anticipated that this is just one part of a longer-term investment that seeks to support ministry development in these areas and result in the raising up of a new generation of future leaders for the church.

Roger Howes

St Leonard's operating budget 2021 and 2022 (excl. special appeals & SLCCW)

Income	2021	2022
Collections and planned giving		
Collections	2000	1000
Appeals (specific purpose)	1000	1000
Planned giving	150000	145000
Fundraising		
Fundraising	1000	1000
Other income		
Fees for services etc.	6000	6000
Parent and toddlers	2000	2000
Publications	50	50
Investments		
Investment	4000	4000
Monuments (investment)	50	50
Total income	166100	160100

Expenditure	2021	2022
Parish share¹	117000	117000
Giving ²		
Overseas	3200	3000
Home	4300	4000
Appeals (specific purpose)	1000	1000
Church costs		
Gas	3000	3500
Electricity	2200	2400
Insurance	3900	3900
Maintenance	2000	2000
Fabric	5000	5000
Security	1000	1000
Staff salaries and expenses		
Salaries	22900	21500 ³
Clergy expenses	3000	3000
Worship and ministry		
Worship	2000	2000
Pastoral	200	200
Contact	500	500
Wider links	200	200
Youth work	2000	2000
Mission and outreach	1500	1500
Office costs		
Administration	3000	3000
Audit fees	3000	3000
Other costs		
Community centre use	4500	4500
Parent & Toddlers	2000	2000
Total	187400	186200
Surplus/(deficit)	(21300)⁴	(26,100)⁴

¹ The Deanery share allocation for 2021 was £117,000 (including discount for payment by direct debit), but we were given a £20,000 reduction to offset loss of trading income by the Community Centre due to the pandemic. The figure for 2022 is not yet available but is likely to be ~£117000.

² giving has been agreed by PCC as a fixed % of regular giving income.

³figure adjusted to reflect actual salary costs and annual increases based on predicted annual increment and changes to minimum wage.

⁴note in addition that the community centre is forecasting a deficit of ~£3500 for 2021. Until October 2021 we received salary support from HMRC through the furlough scheme.

Notes to budget

- 1 Any major expenditure on church fabric would need to be the subject of a separate bid against reserves.
- 2 The operating budget income does not include estimates of income from legacies, nor funds raised from special appeals.
- 3 The SLCC has a separate budget although accounts are incorporated into the main PCC accounts for audit purposes (see note 4 above).
- 4 The PCC has agreed to ring fence £100,000 of legacy income to support missional priorities arising from its recent priority setting work. Neither the legacy income, nor this spend, is shown in the operating budget. The deficit shown for 2021 assumes we pay the parish share in full. There is no current plan for a further discount for 2022, so the budget is based on full payment.

IPH/ budget for 2022