

BENWELL
+
SCOTSWOOD

TEAM PARISH



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

ST JAMES | ST JOHN | ST MARGARET'S | VENERABLE BEDE

Contact address:
Team Rector The Revd David Kirkwood
56 Dunholme Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 6XE

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Council Members and Officers	3
Agenda for Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Meeting 23/05/2021	4
Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners and APCM 11 th October 2020	5
Team Rector's Report	9
Team Vicar's Report	12
Churchwardens Reports including Fabric Goods and Ornaments for all churches	
St James	14
Venerable Bede	16
St John's	17
St Margaret's	18
PCC secretary including Safeguarding	20
Deanery Synod	21
Team finances overview	22
(The Financial Statements and Independent Examiners Report are printed separately to accompany this booklet.)	
Worship review results	24

INTRODUCTION

The PCC consists of Clergy, Readers, Church Wardens and elected members from the congregation i.e. St James Church Benwell Lane, The Church of the Venerable Bede, West Road, St John's Church, Ferguson Lane, St Margaret's Church, Armstrong Road. The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the clergy in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical in the parish of Benwell & Scotswood. In normal times The District Church Councils [DCC's], meet regularly to look after the specific work and needs of the individual churches [including buildings and finance] while the PCC takes an overview of activities in the parish as a whole, organising team-wide events and co-operating with local churches of other denominations. During the pandemic not all this has been possible.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS IN 2020

Team Rector	The Revd. David Kirkwood
Team Clergy	The Revd. Dominic Coad
Team Curate	The Revd. Chris Minchin
Active Readers	Kathy Germain
Churchwardens	Pat Young, Christina Wilson Edith Hutchinson, Joe Forster Claire Lewis, Brenda McCutcheon Kath Germain
PCC Elected Reps.	Timothy Okanaka, Chris Foskett Chris Libby, Joyce Cuthbertson James Lewis, Rachel Turner
Deanery Synod Reps	Carol Davison, Claire Lewis, Mike Keller
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Edith Hutchinson
Safeguarding Reps.	Olive Taylor, Kathy Germain, Brenda McCutcheon, Pauline Nelson
Independent Examiner	Justine Beer 48 Queensway, North Shields NE30 4NB
Banker	Barclays, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

AGENDA

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS 23/05/2021

- The election of 2 Churchwardens for each of the four team churches

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 23/05/2021

- Apologies
- Minutes of the meetings of 11/10/2020
- Election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows – To the Parochial Church Council 8 representatives.
- For the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.
- For the consideration of:
 - a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
 - an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
 - the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;
 - the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;
 - a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and
 - other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

MINUTES - APCM, 11TH OCTOBER 2020

Minutes of Meeting of Parishioners & APCM for the Benwell Scotswood Team

October 11th 2020

The meetings took place at St James' Church, Benwell Lane NE15 6RS; some parishioners watched via the Facebook live-stream.

David Kirkwood (DK) read out his **Team Rector's report** for 2019, which was also reproduced in a pamphlet that was made available to parishioners. (Please refer to separate copy of text.)

Particular reference was made to:

- the report by Ven Bede team vicar, Dominic Coad (DC) - again, see separate copy of text.
- regular giving - details can be found online. There's also a cardless-giving machine but it's probably best to wait until Chris Minchin (CM) is back because he knows how it works!
- our Sunday morning move to the Ven Bede (because of the colder winter weather) which will happen on 25th Oct, i.e. not next Sunday but the one after that.

2. DK referred us to the **minutes** of last year's APM and everyone was happy that they were an accurate record of the meeting. The same goes for the minutes from last year's annual DCMs for the four churches.

3. DK urged us all to read **two other reports** (available online): the PCC, which includes safeguarding; and the financial statements and Independent Examiners Report. These were also available as paper copies in the church today in case people wanted to look at them.

The Annual Parish meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

- St James': Christina Wilson and Pat Young were proposed by Carol Davison and seconded by Timothy Ohankaha.
- St John's: Joe Forster and Edith Hutchinson were proposed by Olive Taylor and seconded by Gillian Libby.

- St Margaret's: Claire Lewis was proposed by Grace Thomson and seconded by Betty George; Brenda McCutcheon was proposed by Betty George and seconded by Grace Thomson.
- Ven Bede: Kathy Germain was nominated by Frances Coad and seconded by Brenda McCutcheon. (One warden position remains vacant.)

4. Elections All seven were duly elected.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Appointment of Independent Examiner Justine Beer was approved.

Electoral Roll Report- Total 95

St James – 33 (4 additions and 4 removals)

Ven Bede - 22 (1 addition)

St Margaret's 22 (no change)

St Johns – 17 (1 addition and 2 removals)

Election for PCC reps

- St James': Timothy Ohankaha is willing to continue; Bill Shaw is unable to, but Chris Foskett would like to take his place. Tim and Chris were proposed by Carol Davison and seconded by Pat Young.
- St John's (deputy wardens): Chris Libby and Joyce Cuthbertson were proposed by Ellen Robson and seconded by Shirley Irving.
- St Margaret's: James Lewis and Rachel Turner were proposed by Grace Thomson and seconded by Brenda McCutcheon.
- Ven Bede submitted no nominations.

All six were duly elected.

(c) for **secretary** and **treasurer** to the PCC: these roles are chosen by the PCC itself, so will be decided at that body's next meeting.

(d) for **Deanery Synod** (three places)

James Lewis is standing down. Claire Lewis and Carol Davison were proposed as well as (provisionally) Mike Keller. Mike wasn't here today

- he has said he's interested but needs to find out more before committing. Chris Libby is happy to be a (provisional) stand-by if Mike doesn't want to go for it; however, Chris is similarly not-sure and wants to find out more first.

These were proposed by Christina Wilson and seconded by Pat Young, and duly elected.

(e) for the four churches' **DCCs**

- St James': Stuart wants to step down but Linda is happy to stay - proposed by Carol Davison and seconded by Pat Young.
- St John's: current members were re-proposed by Ellen Robson and seconded by Shirley Irving.
- St Margaret's: James was proposed by Rachel Turner and seconded by Brenda McCutcheon; Rachel was proposed by Grace Thomson and seconded by Brenda McCutcheon; and Grace was proposed by Brenda McCutcheon and seconded by Betty George.
- Ven Bede: current members were re- proposed by Frances Coad and seconded by Brenda McCutcheon.

All members were duly (re-)elected.

5. AOB

- **Cornerstone.** Carol Davison told us that there was a space for a Church of England rep on the trustees board. (There has to be one CE and one Methodist on the board). Anyone who's interested please get in touch with Carol, Edith or David. (Edit: Claire Lewis is happy to take on this role if no one else is, and Carol will get in touch with her directly.)
- **St John's Church Hall.** Joe Forster was not able to attend (because of shielding) but sent a letter - which Shirley read out - pleading for the church hall to be reopened as it was vital for local wellbeing. St John's is also well-known in the local area for its social events. In particular, the line-dancing counts as exercise, which is allowed, and other events (eg yoga) are easily social-distanced. DK said that CM is currently doing risk assessments for a range of team events/services, and has been

working with the St John's wardens. Unfortunately, with a new government announcement coming tomorrow, we just don't know what we'll be allowed to do.

- **St James' Bicentenary.** Chris L said he'd like it to be minuted that it's the 200th birthday of St James' Church. DK said that we were hoping to do a service in each church at Christmas - Covid protocols allowing - so that'll be a great opportunity to highlight this birthday.
- **Vote of thanks.** Edith asked for a minuted note-of-thanks to Joe Forster and George Irvine. DK said that, because everything is combined for all four churches in this odd Covid context, we're going to miss out some people by name, and no offence is intended. Please read all the reports (from DC and wardens etc) in the booklet as more people are mentioned. We are grateful to all who volunteer and help.
- **Thank you for the services.** Zoreh stood up and said thank you for all the services we've had during lockdown and since - online and in church. DK bounced the thanks back to her, for her amazing work on translating all the sermons into Farsi (and, today, the Rector's Report too, both in audio and in print). On this subject, DK said that it's our intention to (re)start Bible studies, by Zoom. This would be for Farsi group but also, hopefully, for first-language English speakers.
- **Clergy families.** DK asked it to be minuted that he is thankful for Elspeth's support, and also Frances / all clergy families who are so vital to what priests do.

6. We finished with the Grace.

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT 2020

2020, I don't need to tell you was the year of Covid, and I'm sure we are all heartily fed up of it.

It would be great if we could just forget about it all and get back to doing what we like, but of course things are not so simple. The pandemic has been forcing change on us and although this can make us anxious and uncomfortable it cannot be avoided. Normally I would be thanking you for all the contributions made; to our worship, our social life, and in our community service. I still want to say thank you, but we all know it just has not been possible to do all the things we normally would do. There has been 'a hit' to our life together. However not all change has been for the worse and although aware of how we, along with the rest of the world have been constrained and hurt by covid, I have been deeply impressed by the many ways in which our church and community groups have risen to the challenge. So what might be Pandemic Positives? Last APCM we outlined priorities in three broad categories,

(1) Building the Team (2) Reaching Out, and (3) Growing in Faith.
We can see positives in all these areas.

- 1) Building the Team; many people have commented on how worshipping together whether in person or online has generated a real sense of togetherness, we are one church with various gifts offered by many people. It has needed hard work and flexibility for us to be together and be covid secure and thank you to all who have helped make it possible among them Tim for our music, Zohreh for translations into Farsi, Carol for work as sacristan, Chris Foskett for many jobs including covid security Francesca for welcoming. . Our Iranian members have continued to be a big part of our life worshipping on Sundays with sermons available in translation and also offering voluntary help, as with St James floors, doors and storage area as well as in the churchyard. Thank you to them all.
- 2) Reaching Out; our digital presence has been transformed and new people have noticed and joined us, we have found new ways to be church. This imaginative and creative response has been inspiring and we owe a big thank you to all involved

including Clare and James for Church at Home, Chris for the website, all involved with live streaming.

At the same time our partner organisations including Cornerstone, the Food bank, The North Benwell Youth Project, Pendower Good Neighbour Project and the St James Heritage and Environment Group have all responded to the changing community needs and not only kept going but found new ways to reach out. All of them are to be commended.

- 3) Growing in Faith. The shock of the pandemic and the lockdown has been profound and is likely to be felt for long time. Part of the response can be a reappraisal of what is valuable. A deeper appreciation of what we have been given, sorrow for opportunities missed, less taking things for granted, a greater awareness of our dependence on one another and on God, all these are the soil in which faith grows. The hidden life of prayer should not be underestimated and many contribute their share unseen. Thank you to all.

Going forward how can we build on those positives? Firstly we need to accept things will continue to change not just for our parish but across the church. It is a fact that there will be fewer clergy to go round and we should not expect to be cushioned from that reality. Secondly we should be positive and recognise that changes bring opportunities, the inevitable uncertainty of the months ahead give us a unique window for experimentation, we can try different things without committing to make them permanent. Thirdly we should try and discern the work of the Spirit, sharing the gifts we are all given and looking to where the kingdom of God might be growing. We can return to the question of where that might be in our discussion in a moment.

Thank you to all our Church wardens and especially to Pat as she steps down. To all who look after our buildings including our volunteers. The following wardens reports will show how wrong it would be to think this past year has been simply a time of inactivity.

We also have our finance report and accounts to look at and the ‘hit’ to our life together has included a financial hit, fortunately our

treasurers have done their bit to keep us afloat and we have received some generous grant support from Newcastle City Council too. As always Justine our Independent Examiner has worked hard to process our accounts and this year we are trying a simpler format. Thank you to them all, and of course to you, we rely on the generosity of all our friends and members as you give of your time talents and money.

Thank you.

Finally thank you to my fellow clergy, Dominic, Chris, Anne and Derek and their families –(sometimes the same thing) and to Elspeth, being part of a supportive team makes such a difference in ministry.

STATISTICS & OCCASIONAL OFFICES (as recorded on C of E Statistics for Mission form)

2020 Usual Sunday Attendance: Not recorded. Easter; No Services allowed , Christmas; 49 Communicants 58 attending. Baptisms; 24 , Weddings; 1 , Funerals; 15

David Kirkwood.

TEAM VICAR'S REPORT

It goes without saying that it has been a strange and trying year. Without wishing to gloss over the very real losses and struggles of the past 12 months, I would like to take this opportunity to record something of what has been good. Principally, I believe this year has shown the resilience of our church family, both at the Bede and in the wider team. Each Sunday I have made phone calls to members of the Bede congregation and I have always appreciated the sense in which I am connecting into a wider ongoing conversation, as church members have remained in touch with one another, keeping up with their news, showing concern and maintaining friendship, all at a distance. I know that we all long to be together in person again but it is heartening that, when we do so, it will with a sense not of trying to recommence something we lost more than a year ago but of continuing the fellowship that has been maintained throughout. I would also like to record my thanks to those who, in this trying year, have contributed to the life of the Bede. Thanks to James Garratt for his work as treasurer and to Nkosie Kumwenda for taking over from James during his illness. Thanks to Kathy Germain for taking on the role of churchwarden.

As far as worship goes, the provisions we have put in place are discussed elsewhere in this report but I will note what a joy it was to be worshiping in the Bede for a season over the winter, albeit without many members of the usual Bede congregation able to attend. As for the rest of the work connected to the Bede, I am really proud of how much was able to continue due to the hard work of the wonderful staff at both the North Benwell Youth Project and the West End Foodbank. The Foodbank, of course, had to react very quickly and never closed during the pandemic. Much work was put in to making the work Covid secure and I am very grateful to John and all the staff and volunteers for all their hard work. During this time we have seen a significant rise in need and have provided parcels for a great many people in need. The youth project did have to close during the first lockdown but work continued through the weekly activity packs Margaret prepared for our young people. These were a vital support for a very vulnerable group and I'm really pleased that, from the summer onwards, we were able to provide carefully limited, Covid secure activities for young people with few resources in their lives.

I'm also pleased to be able to say that very significant building work was achieved at the Bede during this year, with the construction of a new ramp into church and hall, and the building of new toilets in the hall. Thinking about the future of our hall is an ongoing process but we have a vision to see the place made more fit for purpose and used as often and as widely as possible. The question of what our congregations and patterns of worship will look like going forward is a question to which we must all now turn our attention. At the Bede, we have always been proud of the service we have been able to offer the community we hope that work will be at the centre of whatever comes next, and that new life in the hall might go hand in hand with new life in the church.

Dominic Coad

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

Including fabric goods and ornaments of the church



ST JAMES REPORT

Christina Wilson & Pat Young - Churchwardens, (Including from Team Rector)

Although we were badly affected by the lockdown and both our worship and our community activities had to be cut back we did continue to be open for much of the year for team worship in the warmer months and for private prayer and the foodbank throughout. This has meant a lot of work preparing risk assessments and cleaning and sanitising and we are grateful to both Chris Minchin and Chris Foskett and all others involved.

Our large and aging building continues to provide many challenges but also opportunities - the extra space has been very helpful for social distancing! The biggest challenge continues to be heating and this year despite attempts to repair it the church heating has ceased to work and needs complete replacement. Inside the church we had a major makeover and, with the help of Chris and our Iranian members, the wooden floors were sanded and sealed, the concrete floors repainted and the front door stripped and revarnished. Further repairs to the door frame have now stabilised it. A big thank you to all involved. In 2021 our volunteers have continued to work and have re-modelled the storage area in the north aisle which now looks very elegant (from the outside anyway). New staging has been given us on permanent loan from St John's Whorlton, that means we no longer need the bulky stage blocks which we hope to

repurpose for storage space. Outside, high level repairs took place to the clock which had been dislodged by gales and at the same time the trees which had self-seeded on the tower were removed. Some leaks have been caused by a combination of storm damage and vandalism and repairs are being organised, part of the cost of which will be covered by insurance.

Sadly our Inspecting architect of many years Cyril Winskell died in April 2020. Always a great friend of St James he did much to lobby for the building and churchyard and will be remembered with gratitude and much missed. With help from the Diocese we are now in the process of finding a new inspecting architect. We will also be looking for an architect to help in the continued development of St James as a community and cultural space as well as a centre for Christian worship. Our curate Chris continues to chair the group working on this but adjusting to cope with covid has had to take priority. The Heritage and Environment Group have also been restricted but have still organised events when possible, kept in touch by email, and are again doing sterling service in maintaining and beautifying the graveyard. Thank you to Judith and all involved.

Our community work this year was supported by a generous grant from Awards for All and although the programme of activities had to change they were very helpful in our rescheduling and adjusting the work. We are grateful to Nkosie as treasurer for all his work not least with this. We have had a significant loss of income due to the pandemic (loss of lettings, fêtes and fairs, collections) but the Diocese helped us apply for grants from Newcastle City Council which are a big help. We still rely on the generosity of our members and especially when people cannot be in church all those who give directly to the church account. Thank you to all.

(This year Pat Young has decided it is time to step down as Warden. She has been extremely hard working and conscientious with a huge commitment to St James church - the building, the people the community. We owe her great deal and give her our heartfelt thanks. We are fortunate that Christina is happy to continue as warden and Chris Foskett is also willing to stand.



VENERABLE BEDE

Kathy Germain - Churchwarden

Because of covid 19 this last year has been a challenge to all churches in the diocese. As you maybe well aware most churches have been closed for a majority of the time. We have been lucky to be open some of the time. Nothing in the church fabric has changed very much from the last wardens report except by generous donations we have been able to start the first phase of making the church more accessible to the community. Generous donations have come principally from Suez Communities Trust as well as Garfield Weston Foundation, Sir James Knott Trust, Bernard Sunley Foundation, All Churches Trust, The Beatrice Laing Trust and Catherine Cookson Trust. We have had much needed warm toilets installed in the church hall. A ramp has been installed to make the church and the hall more accessible which makes it better accessible not only to the disabled but also the ageing congregation. Hopefully with the help of more generous grant funders we can start the next phase of making the hall usable to the communities around us. We were lucky the work was done whilst the parish met at St James church to worship as this is the biggest church able to facilitate the restrictions imposed by the government. Food bank was able to continue by being able to use the church when the restoration was taking place.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OLD BENWELL REPORT

Joe Forster, Edith Hutchinson - Churchwardens

St John the Baptist has been on lockdown for most of 2020 but we took the opportunity to have some major repairs done.

- January, we had installed new windows in bramble room followed by ladies and gents toilets in march.
- The church main hall was repaired as to loose parquet flooring and some replaced, varnished and buffed.
- The main hall had a new fencing build and painted also at front of church
- Outside walls in front of church were stripped of old plaster and replastered.
- Main front of church facing refurbished and painted, gutters cleaned and new drainage covers replacing old ones.
- Notice board at front of church redesigned and painted.
- Heating system repaired as heating bills were astronomical even when church was in lockdown.

Church had its christmas carol service with dominic leading which was a pleasure to listen to and view on zoom.



ST MARGARET'S SCOTSWOOD REPORT

Brenda McCutcheon, Clare Lewis Churchwardens

At the end of a strange year, where nothing seems to be normal; our building has continued to be open for service users and although we have not had regular worship, Baptisms have taken place. With Covid restrictions this means extra sanitising, but well worth the effort to welcome very small baptism parties into the building. Baptisms have gone back to what they are about “Welcoming the child/person into the Christian family” The parents have remarked how personal this feels and makes it a special occasion for the child.

The Fire safety equipment and the security lighting have been checked regularly by Cortech Fire and Security Systems, with some of the emergency lighting needing replaced, which was sorted out the same day. We still have a lift maintenance contract with Northern Elevators who regularly service the lift. We have had a few problems with the heating, but it seems to be running fine at the moment.

It is over four years since Scotswood Village Nursery moved into the hall area, they also hire the old vestry, the Children’s garden and have shared use of the kitchen. Malcolm Holmes (Karen’s husband) continues to maintain the memorial garden. We still need to find

funding to buy a new seat, the one presently in place belongs to the nursery. A BIG THANK YOU to Mal.

In December SEARCH (services for older people) ceased to hire the Elliott room, as a main office base. Changing Lives continue to occupy the upper room from Monday to Friday weekly, they also hire the quiet room, which they use for one2one sessions and as a result of the pandemic they now use this space for meetings. Another branch of Changing Lives are in the process of hiring the Elliott Room as a base for their service which supports victims of Domestic abuse. Once again, the building is busy and vibrant.

Due to the pandemic all activities had to cease and hopefully will resume, maybe in a different form as the new normal emerges. Who Knows what God's plan is? We will also have to look at future fundraising events and how we reach out to involve the community in these.

As we move forward we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us into the NEW NORMAL for our Church in Scotswood.

Thank you all for your help and support over the past year especially during the current Pandemic when you have all shown how loyal and committed you are to keeping St. Margaret's going.

PCC SECRETARY REPORT

The Revd Chris Minchin (Acting interim PCC secretary)

As things seem to slowly return to ‘normal’, as a PCC we are emerging with greater flexibility and new tools to make decisions quicker, being able to vote via email and getting used to meeting on Zoom. It’s been hardly any time since our last APCM (delayed until October 2020) but we’ve been busy in the background, putting money behind mission and equipment to reach people online. We have been approving faculties to make our buildings a resource and not a burden - new windows at St John’s, a new accessible entrance at the Venerable Bede, and the letting of offices at St Margaret’s to Changing Lives, enabling them to expand their work with vulnerable women.

Are you interested in helping the parish in a new way? We are looking to appoint a new PCC secretary, so please think about whether this is something you can offer. It is not a huge role, just someone who can take minutes, type them up in a word processor, and send email reminders of meetings. Most importantly it will give you a voice in the way we work as a parish to reach all in Benwell and Scotswood with the love of God.

Safeguarding:

We are always assessing how to make our churches the safest places they can be, therefore safeguarding is always on our PCC agenda. We review our safeguarding policies annually; we have instigated new recruitment processes for volunteers in the last year; we ensure leaders carry out proper training; we have developed new risk assessments for all our activities; and we ensure any external organisations using our buildings have policies in place. If you have any concerns, whether recent or historic, don’t hesitate to contact our safeguarding officers or the officers from the Diocese.

DEANERY SYNOD

The West Deanery Synod met in December 2020 and March 2021 and have been discussing some of the big questions for the church. We have shared ideas on becoming Eco-churches, to take seriously the commitment to help our world and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. **The Deanery are looking to appoint an eco-church champion, could you be the person to stand up for the world in our area?**

The church has also developed the ‘Living in Love and Faith’ guide to discussions on LGBTQI+ inclusion, recognising that parts of the Church of England have at times caused deep hurt and excluded people who should always have been welcome. These discussions will continue over the coming year to help us find ways to include everyone, whatever their sexuality or gender.

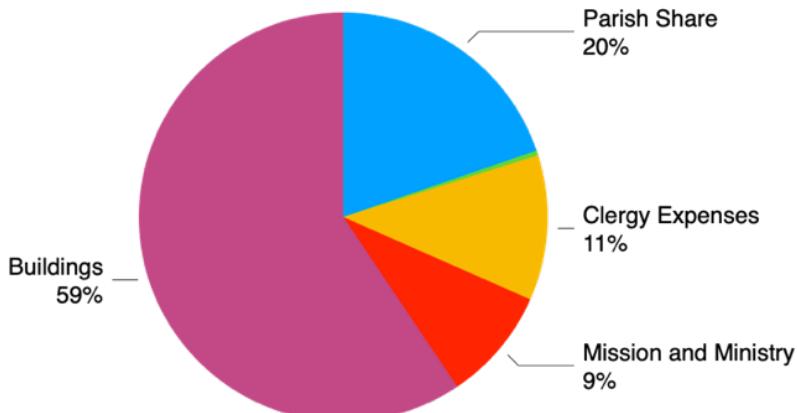
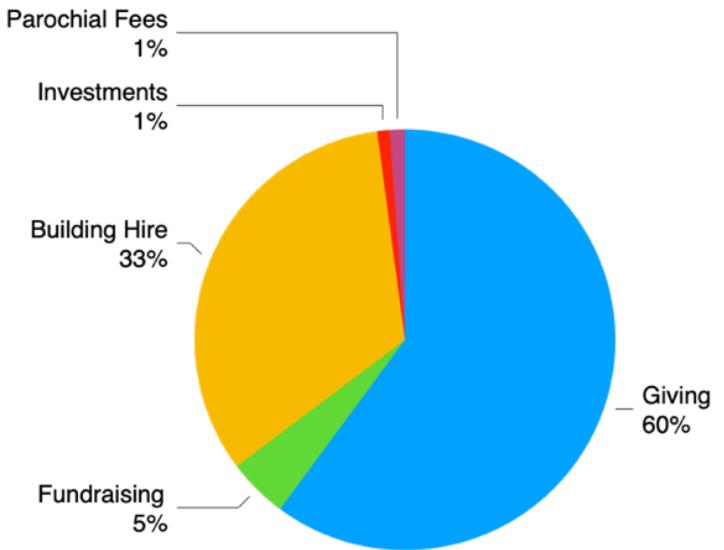
Money and parish share is of course an important topic, and many have spoken up strongly for churches with less money in areas of economic deprivation. The Diocese are trying to reduce expenditure at the moment, and members of Deanery synod are challenging the church to ensure this isn’t at the cost of ministry in poorer parishes. Treasurers from across the Deanery have also been supporting one another more with training sessions and guidance made available.

All of this is being informed by discussions about ‘Growing Church, Bringing Hope: the next steps’ - the vision for the diocese, focusing on how we can share resources across parishes and work more closely together. Again, members of synod are representing poorer parishes, arguing for more support and mission resources to be put behind growing our churches.

TEAM FINANCES 2020

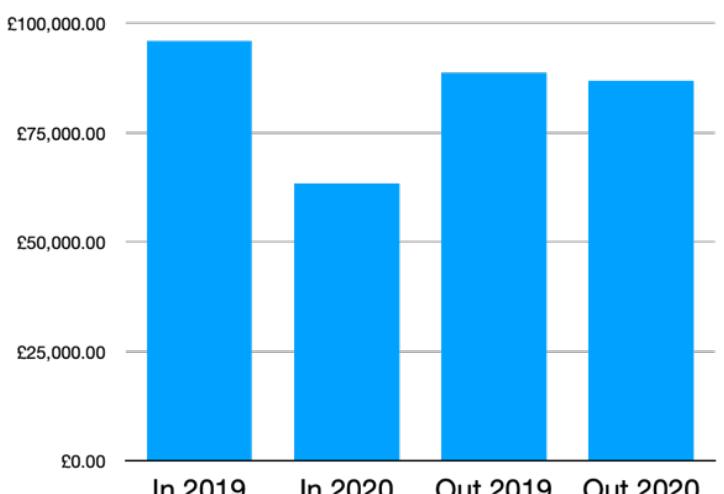
These charts will show you the state of our finances in 2020. To make things clearer we have removed unusual income and expenditure (e.g. building projects) leaving the day to day of parish business. For this reason they won't match up exactly with numbers you see in the accounts but we hope they will help you to understand our position.

Team Regular Income 2020	
Giving	£38,065
Fundraising	£2927
Parochial Fees	£747
Investments	£593
Other income (inc. grants for ministry)	£4,642
Building Hire	£20,981
Total	£63,358



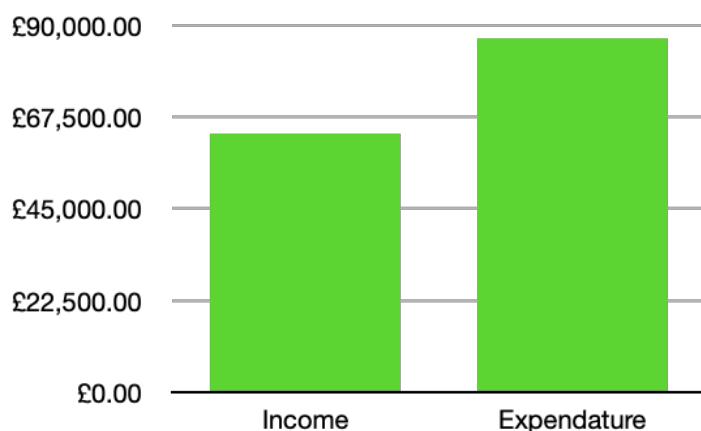
Team Regular Expenditure 2020	
Parish Share	£17,136
Clergy expenses (inc. housing)	£9,977
Mission and Ministry	£7,797
Charitable Giving	£330
Building costs	£51,598
Total	£86,838

In 2019	In 2020
£95,964	£63,358
Out 2019	Out 2020
£88,642	£86,838



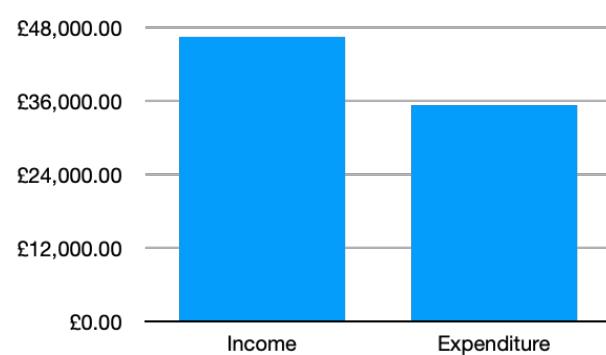
Total Income v. Expenditure

Income	Expenditure
£63,358.00	£86,838.00



Income for things we do v. expenditure on things we do.

Income	Expenditure
£46,426.00	£35,240.00



... although it's important to know that most of our costs of ministry (the cost of having clergy) is payed by the generous extra giving of other parishes...

This chart shows that our regular expenditure in 2020 was quite a bit more than our regular income.

We see here, however, that the income from what we do (giving, fundraising, parochial fees etc.) is greater than what we spend on what we do...

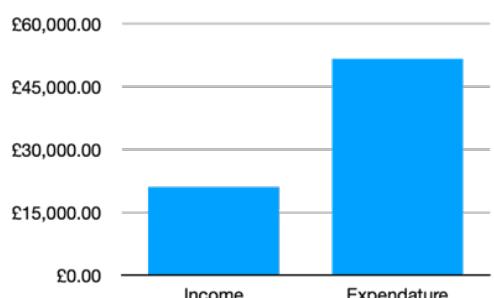
Costs of ministry

Parish Share	Wider Church
£17,136.00	£85,202.00



Building Income v. Building Expenditure

Income	Expenditure
£20,981.00	£51,598.00



... we know that 59% of our outgoings are on buildings. This chart shows how much more we spend than we make from our buildings. It's just one way of looking at it but it helps us to see where our money is coming from and going, and move forward together.

WORSHIP REVIEW

GIVING OUR BEST TO GOD



WE ARE A FAMILY!

We asked you what brought you to church and what kept you here.

THE EMERGING PICTURE:

CHURCH FOR US IS TO PARTAKE IN BOTH COMMUNITY & COMMUNION

"I was impressed with the mission activity of the church and the sense of the people being authentic."

"The welcome was second to none and I felt comfortable from day one."

"when I started attending it became another family."

"We initially came because our children were allowed to receive Communion, and we enjoy the community and fellowship and worshipping with our local church."

"got involved... and it 'blossomed' from there!"

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND OUR CHURCH?

"Yes, very welcoming congregation. We are one big family."

"Yes, church for community, welcoming to people from different communities/backgrounds."

"I find the church very welcoming. It is also nice to see the Iranian Christians joining our church, also the work with the food bank and the youth project."

"Um. Actually probably not. It is not, I regret to say, a very welcoming place."

"Probably not. Before covid it was not especially dynamic in church and if you were not familiar with 'Church of England' styles it was quite hard to understand what was going on."

"I am not always convinced everyone will get a warm welcome. The music can be dated, neither traditional nor modern..."

"although the people are lovely, the worship style is a little dated."

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL?

Inclusivity of difference!



WHAT DO WE WANT TO GET BETTER AT?

Our welcome isn't always consistent



Our worship style & music need an update

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF WORSHIP?



The most popular answer:

"I want a service that is peaceful and spiritually uplifting."

The next most popular answers were:

I want a service where I learn and am challenged to understand God's word better.

I want a service that engages new people in different ways

I want a service where I encounter the mystery of God in Holy Communion.

WHAT'S NOT SO IMPORTANT?

The least popular answers:

I want a service that is fun, informal and sociable.

I want a service to make the most of our beautiful traditions.

THE EMERGING PICTURE:

It seems we're not so interested in whether something is formal or informal, high or low.

We want to encounter God, and we want others to encounter God too! We don't want styles and tastes to get in the way of that.

WHAT ELSE DO WE LIKE?

We asked you if you had worshipped anywhere else recently and what you liked about it.

"clear information, friendly but not pushy welcomers, a feeling of sacred space, simple but good music (no choir or worship band but the music included everyone and made the best of what they have)."

"we have sometimes worshipped with Sunday Worship on BBC One. We appreciate that they are very well resourced and that their production is very professional, but we think that several of their approaches could be applied to the Benwell Team livestream to help it be more accessible.

"Enjoyed cathedral experience but not for every week."

"I have attended online Hillsong. Whilst the teaching I struggled with, the energy of the service is to be admired."



THE EMERGING PICTURE:

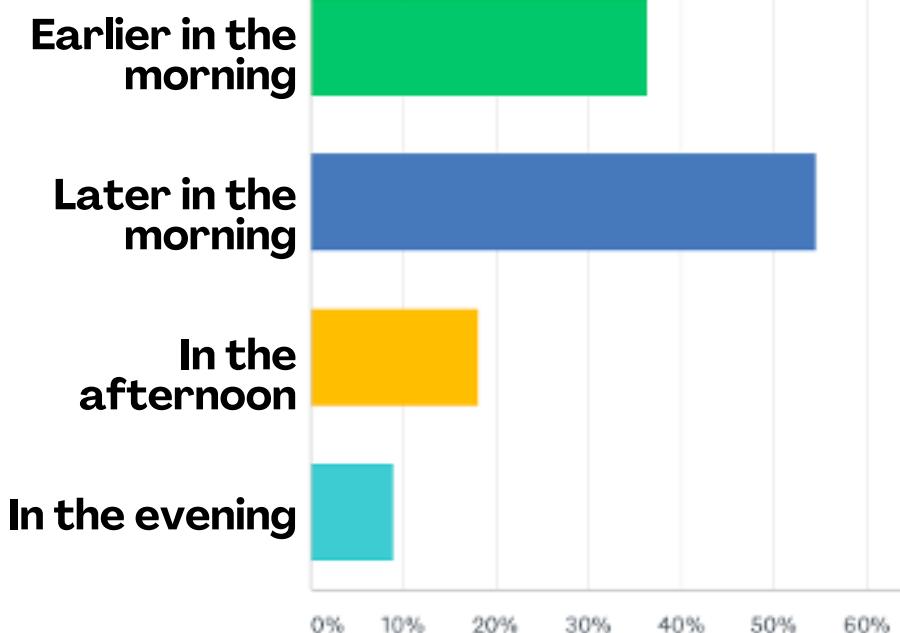
Many of us have enjoyed lots of different types of churches, but what made them successful for us was the quality - not the 'type'.



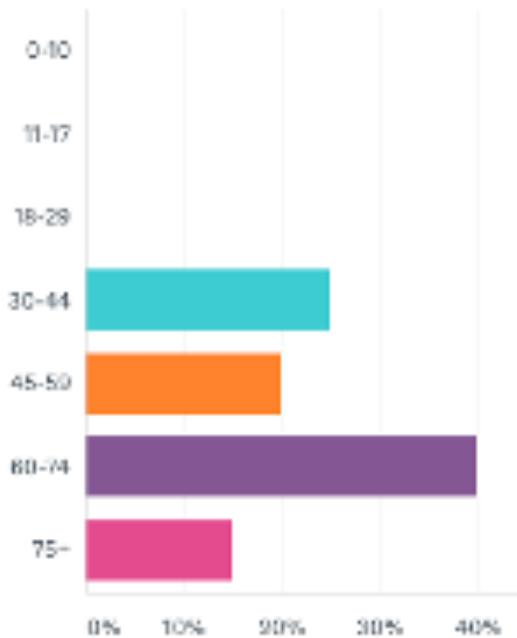
SERVICE TIMES

MOST OF US WOULD PREFER A LIE-IN!
BUT NOT ALL OF US...

We asked you whether you would open to having services:



WE NEED TO KEEP LISTENING.



We can see that it was mostly our older members that responded to the survey.

We especially think it's important to make sure we are listening to those who are not yet part of our church

"Researchers state that it is not so much the particular style of worship which is important, but rather the fact that it was chosen rather than inherited. Decline may come about because of "a degree of stagnation in the approach, variety, vitality and inclusiveness of our worship." In contrast, they conclude that "Vitality comes with reflection and choice...."

From Anecdote to Evidence: Findings from the Church Growth Research Programme 2011-2013 , p.30