



# 2021 Trustees Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Hengoed with Gobowen

# Aim and Purposes

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of collaborating with the incumbent, the Reverend Stephen Nicholson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintenance of All Saints' Church Hall situated adjacent to the church.

# **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our church community at All Saints'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

The PCC have drafted our aims to be:

- Exalt our Saviour
- Equip disciples of every age for all of life
- Engage our community for Christ

We aim to do this through expressing three core values:

- We are outward-focussed. The gospel is good news, the best news. God has welcomed us to join in his precious family. We aim to welcome everyone as God has welcomed us.
- We are gathered by Jesus and his word. Jesus is central to all we do. We have heard and responded to his message and we grow in the same way. We're convinced that when God's word is

taught, God's Spirit works in our lives, to nourish us, challenge us and change us to live for him in every area of life.

• We grow together. God in love calls us to grow towards maturity in Him. We believe Christians grow through commitment to the loving community and relationships of life in a local church together.

When planning our activities for the year, we have taken into consideration the Commission's guidance on public benefit and advancement of religion. We strive to help people to practice their faith as part of our parish community through the following:

- Provision of public worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; developing an understanding of God's Word and trusting in Jesus.
- The provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is essential that we maintain the fabric of All Saints' Church and the Church Hall.

## Achievements and Performance

In 2021, our services began the year by being disrupted by covid. We chose to move our services and church activities online to lower the spread of the virus (from 10<sup>th</sup> Jan to 7<sup>th</sup> March inclusive). These included postal service resources as well as full services uploaded to our church YouTube channel. We met online on Zoom over coffee afterwards to meet one another informally.

Our services this year have focussed on:

- the book of Ruth in January and February about our longing for fullness and redemption.
- through Lent, we traced the theme of kingdom through the Bible to help us long for the coming of our King and Saviour
- In April-July we engaged with the message of Ephesians as we considered what it means to be God's church together. This series formed the starting point for reviewing our aims and values on PCC.
- In Autumn, we had a short series looking at some of the themes raised in the national 'Living in Love and Faith' series on sexuality, gender, marriage and relationships.
- In November and December, we looked at the letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3 to hear Jesus' care and challenge for each local church to stand firm in faithful devotion to him

This year we were also pleased to resume taking both bread and wine at communion in our services. Following national guidelines, the leader is dipping the bread in the wine before placing on the hands of each congregation member. We are also able now to come up to the front. Following guidance from Bishop Sarah Bullock, we are all using gluten-free bread so that we can share one cup together.

### Seasonal Services

Mothering Sunday was our first Sunday back in the building after pausing for the start of the year. It was also marking one year from the first lockdown measures in 2020 and so was a day for reflection and prayer as well as thanksgiving for God's grace and guidance.

Our Easter celebrations this year included a joint Maundy Thursday Service at All Saints' Gobowen. On Good Friday, we enjoyed a socially-distanced Story Trail around the churchyard. A huge thank you to those who prepared and helped act in the dramas to tell us the different perspectives of those at the foot of the

cross. On Easter Day, we were pleased to be back in the building for celebration Communion services having been at home in 2020, and enjoyed an online Easter Praise in the Pub too.

At Harvest we were pleased to celebrate a Baptism in the service alongside our harvest celebration. From Joel 2 and Matthew 6:25-34, we were reminded that Jesus looks after us even in hard times. At both church and school, there was an encouraging collection in aid of the Oswestry and Borders Food Bank.

At Christmas, we delivered Christmas cards around the village with details of our services, which despite the national mood were very well attended:

- An invite to our regular café at church
- A Christmas Praise in the Pub which was half indoors, half outdoors.
- A Candlelit Carol Service with traditional readings and carols
- A Christmas Eve Family Christingle Service
- A Christmas Day Celebration Service
- Our Boxing Day services (a Sunday this year) were suspended by dispensation of the Bishop

#### Children's and Youth

We continue to partner across the deanery for youth and children's provision. We are very thankful to Mark Addison and his co-leaders for their ministry week by week. On Wednesday evenings there are groups available at Holy Trinity Oswestry:

- Splat (6.15-7.15pm for school years 3-6)
- SOS (7.15-8.30pm for school years 7-11)
- Youth Small Group (5-6pm for years 12-13)

Our Lighthouse Sunday School, aimed at 5s-9s has restarted this autumn at in the church hall twice a month. We believe children are equal and united with us in the church. That is why most of our services are designed to include all ages that we can learn and praise together. Occasionally we learn separately with age-specific teaching but always start and end the service together. This year we have been short of leaders to make this possible and are very thankful for all those who have helped the Sunday School restart.

Holiday Club was sadly not able to run in 2021 but a one-off online event was hosted for families.

### **Prayer Suppers**

We gather for prayer each month for our Prayer Supper on the 3rd Sundays of the month, 6pm in the All Saints' Church Hall. Join us for a simple supper of bread, soup and cake as we eat and pray together. We have been very thankful to resume these in 2021 and they are a highlight of our church month.

Thank you to Dorothy Pedley for collating and producing an ecumenical prayer diary for the village to aid us in our prayers.

### Baptisms, weddings funerals

In 2021, we have shared in marking 6 baptisms and these families join us for a three-session preparation course to understand baptism and engage with the Christian faith. We have held 2 weddings with most wedding couples able to attend a "preparing for marriage" day to investigate the Christian vision of marriage. We have supported families through ministry at 16 funerals and an additional 6 interments of Ashes. Those grieving, along with others, were invited to join a service of thanksgiving to remember those who had died on 31<sup>st</sup> October at 4pm.

### Mikey

In 2021 we also said farewell to Mikey Reade who had been our Ministry Trainee from September 2019 to July 2021. He completed the Midlands Ministry Training Course (one day a week) and helped in many areas of church life: Sunday School leading, preaching, running a small group, pastoral care, midweek youth and children's work, planning events, administration etc. as well as viewing what ordained ministry looks like 'on the ground'. He has now moved on to pursue further training at Oak Hill Theological College and we enjoy welcoming him back in his holidays.

### Pastoral Care

Our care for one another is how we respond to the God who has brought us together in Him. God, in love, calls us to grow towards maturity in Him. We believe Christians grow through commitment to the loving community and relationships of life in a local church together.

This year, we have been encouraging a growth in Christian friendship so that everyone has at least one Christian friend to pray with about what matters.

### Care circles and small groups

The Pastoral Care of the regular congregation is helped by people being in Pastoral Care Circles. We are very thankful for the work of the Care Circle Coordinators who help keep in touch and look out for people. This has been particularly important and challenging this year as personal circumstances have meant some being more cautious about joining us on a Sunday.

There are also three small groups meeting for Bible study and prayer together. One meets on Tuesday mornings and two are on Thursday evenings to help cater for people's different routines. Feedback suggests these have been greatly valued as a place for support, growth and fellowship.

### Home Communion and Care Home Communions

For those physically unable to join us in person, we offer a pastoral visit including communion to a small number on a monthly basis. These visits have resumed, when possible, this year.

A small team also visit our local care homes to lead a short service of communion and offer support and Christian conversation with staff and residents. We have restarted visiting Hengoed Park, The Old Vicarage Care Home, Meadowbrook Court Nursing Home and Meadowbrook Court Bungalows.

Thank you to all those who have helped make these visits possible.

### **Community Activities**

This year we have been pleased to start a weekly Community Café as a way to welcome any from the community and build friendships. We hope to grow our local connections and offer a friendly welcome whether for refreshment on the school run, friendship or support. Our very many thanks to all those who have baked, served, hosted and welcomed week by week.

The Church Hall is available for hire by the community for private events and by various local groups such as Gobowen Ladies Guild, Mothers Union, Mothers and Toddlers Group, Gobowen Indoor Bowls, and the Extend exercise group. There are often private groups and events also hiring the space. The hire fee is very reasonable and the resulting income is used towards the maintenance costs of the hall.

At our local school, Steve Nicholson is regularly as a governor involved in meetings, visiting the school and in planning. He usually leads assemblies every fortnight with the whole school. They are invited to church events and celebrations through assemblies, word of mouth and the school newsletter.

### Website renewal

In Autumn there was a slow review of different parts of the website to refresh it and check all the information is up to date. If you've not looked on for a while, do have a look as a good place for information about church life.

### Communication

The details of our upcoming services and an introduction to what is happening in church life is available in our term card. Most of our week-by-week church news is sent on an email list to all those signed up (available on our websites). About 15 people receive this by post if they are not able to access email. Key events are also made available on the church website. Some events are highlighted by notices in church services. Our thanks to Dorothy Pedley for kindly producing a printed newsletter to be available.

For those unable to make it to church, recordings of most of our sermons are available on the All Saints' Gobowen website, under the 'news' section: www.allsaintsgobowen.uk/blog/category/Sermon+Recording

#### Deanery Synod

It has been good to note the growing fellowship between us and the desire to work more closely together over the last few sessions of the Deanery Synod. We are mainly a rural deanery with the ensuring problems that scattered congregations bring, but we also have two large churches in Oswestry.

Our Deanery Synod meeting in April had to be done on Zoom and started by looking at Paul & Silas. The meeting then elected members to be on the Standing Committee that would begin the process of looking at Shaping for Mission. A discussion then followed about parishes owning what they were doing and how they could be resourced to enable the work to continue.

September saw the Synod looking at Shaping for Mission so that the Deanery would be able to improve in DVE (Discipleship, Vocation & Evangelism). This would therefore encompass 'Renewal, Release & Reanimate' so that the church could be equipped for growth. It was noted that sharing resources would be advantageous in this respect.

In our November meeting we continued to explore the 'Shaping for Mission Implementation Vision' and noted the strengths that already existed in some parishes. Each parish/benefice had to identify their 3 top mission priorities and their 3 strengths by way of a verbal explanation of the work currently under way. These would then be examined to ascertain common actions and results to enable the implementation team to take SfM through to the next stage.

February saw the Deanery members meeting the implementation team, and then looking at the subject of 'Discipleship' and sharing what the benefices were doing to enable discipleship throughout the area. This was aided by the use of a 30 minute conversation in small groups using questions to explore the subject. Feedback was then taken to enable greater co-ordination and positive steps forward in this area.

### The Church and Church Hall Fabric

During 2021 all the necessary maintenance checks on gas and electricity were completed and no problems were found except for the church lighting. All the electrical appliances in the church and church hall were PAT tested. New LED lighting and emergency lighting was fitted in the bell tower. The organ was serviced twice as usual but the decision was taken to reduce this to an annual service.

Pinnacle Roofing repaired and replaced the fallen cement from the end of the roof above the west door. They also removed weeds from the roof and bell tower and made good the defective mortar. The replacement of a loose slate on the south side roof needs to be carried out during 2022. The contractor advised that a check be kept on the pointing particularly around the south and west doors. A section of render was repaired inside the church by the west door.

The Quinquennial inspection took place in June. Apart from the lighting, the choir vestry windows needed re-puttying and painting and the gutters and down pipe needed repainting. The PCC wishes to express its thanks to Richard Dyke and Richard Dixon-Gough who carried out the work and also repainted the railings around the church. New gates were hung and stained.

Unfortunately, the church suffered a number of break-ins in the cellar. The police were informed. The first break-in resulted in little damage but the heating system was cut off which necessitated and emergency visit from the boiler service contractor. A fire extinguisher was stolen. A new lock was fitted to the cellar door. During the second break-in there was further damage to the door and the replacement extinguisher was taken. Repairs were made to the door and extra locks were fitted. On the third break-in the door suffered extensive damage. A metal plate was fitted to strengthen the door and new locks fitted. In addition a padlock was fitted to the gate on the cellar steps.

The church clock needed attention as it had an intermittent fault in which it went slow or stopped. Despite a service in October the problem persisted and led to specialists being called to resolve the problem.

In June Mr Brough Kingley, the diocesan lighting advisor, visited to advise on new lighting for the church. Following his visit four estimates were sought and received for updating the lighting system.

The grass continued to be cut by the contractors. The conifer hedge between the church hall and the vicarage garden needs to be cut but cannot be done by the hedge cutter on the tractor.

A proposal for a memorial seat by a local family was not been taken any further by the family during the year. The planned purchase of a new notice board to be located by the gate was not completed and some work on the oak trees by the roadside still needs to be carried out.

Thanks must go to Ann Casely for all her work in the garden, church and hall, to Sandra Bird for her work as bookings secretary, bell ringer and clock winder, to Richard Dyke for cleaning the church and hall and to Richard Dixon-Gough for 'fixing things'.

Generally the church and hall are in good repair. The water damage to the chancel roof has dried out and broken render repaired. The church lighting is the main area of concern together with the painting of the church walls and ceiling.

In September a full Health and Safety inspection was carried out on the church and church hall.

# Financial Review for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

The pandemic has undoubtedly had an effect on the church's financial situation but despite that there are encouraging signs. The balance at the end of 2021 of £28114.51 showed a deficit of £4276.70 on the previous year but the return to near normal services and church activities by the summer saw a gradual Improvement of finances.

On taking over as treasurer in April I made a number of changes, the principal one being the introduction of a computerized accounting system supplied by Data Developments which makes the task of keeping the books easier. I have to thank Alastair Nurden of Holy Trinity church, Oswestry for his tuition and help in getting the system up and running. I have also been helped by Janet as assistant treasurer who looks after the funerals, weddings and gift aid side of the finances as well as maintaining valuable links with the

Diocese staff at Lichfield. Richard and Sharon Dyke have helped with the weekly collections and Steve, the vicar has given me invaluable support and assistance.

There has been a gradual increase in giving in the later part of 2021 both with the plate collection and the planned giving. In particular the giving direct scheme has resulted in substantial increases. Sandra Bird has managed the hall hire extremely well and we have seen income from this source double in 2021. There are a number of groups using the hall regularly, the baby and toddlers, indoor bowls and the WI as well as private individuals organizing parties.

On the expenditure side we have had to pay for essential repairs to the church and surrounds as well as regular energy costs which in the current economic climate keep rising. We have managed to reduce photocopying costs from £90.00 per quarter to £30.00 after negotiating a good deal with the supplier. After the parish share maintenance and insurance costs make up the second largest commitment.

Finally, what I would stress is the need to build on the financial improvements in the later part of 2021. We are a place of worship and not a business but we do need to 'pay our way' and we all need to be aware of All Saints' financial situation when we are prayerfully considering our individual contribution.

Please also see the attached Independent Examiners Report.

### **Reserves Policy**

We are nationally recommended to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months general running costs for which we allocate £14,000. It is also our policy to allocate up to £10k as part of our ongoing commitments to the diocese, given we are under special assessment for parish share, while praying and planning for growth to not need this. We also allocate some of the £33600 reserves towards the planned lighting refurbishment in the church.

## Volunteers

The PCC would like to thank all those volunteers who work so hard to make our church run smoothly and make it a welcoming and vibrant community.

The PCC would like to express its thanks to our verger, Ann Casely, who has, as always, worked tirelessly to make our church welcoming for worship and also for maintaining the flower beds with our churchwarden, Margaret Linkins.

Our church family always enjoys singing during our worship and the PCC would like to thank our organist, Dawn Jaffrey, for leading us at our services. Dawn has carried out this service for many years and her efforts are much appreciated by all.

Special thanks must be given to the leaders of our Pastoral Care Circles: John and Beth Chapman and Geoff and Maggie Nankivell who have helped those attending their Bible study and prayer groups to grow in love and friendship whilst studying God's Word.

Many thanks must also be given to Linda Lindup and Beth Chapman who co-ordinated and led the team of volunteers in setting up and running our weekly Community Café. Their enthusiasm and organizational skills were an inspiration to everyone involved.

The PCC would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers, support and help over the past year.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Church Representation Rules sets out the method of appointment of PCC members. At All Saints' the PCC consists of our vicar, our churchwarden, representatives of the Diocesan and Deanery Synods and members elected by members of our congregation who are registered on the electoral roll of the church. Everyone who attends our services is encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

On 14 March 2022 the number on the revised Electoral Roll is 69.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met five times during the year, two of which were virtual meetings because of covid restrictions.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Our safeguarding policies were reviewed at our meeting on 12th August, and we gave a presentation to the whole church at our service on 5<sup>th</sup> September. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please speak to our safeguarding officer, Mel Johnson, or the Vicar.

# Administration Information

All Saints' Church is situated on Old Chirk Road, Gobowen, Oswestry. It is part of the diocese of Lichfield within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen, Oswestry, SY11 3LL. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2021 until the date of this report are:

### **Ex Officio members:**

Incumbent: The Reverend Stephen James Nicholson Warden: Miss Margaret Linkins Representatives on Deanery Synod: Mrs Jacqui Clarke, Mr Peter Johnson, Mr Geoffrey Nankivell

### **Elected members:**

Mrs Ann Casely Mr Den Davies Mrs Susan Gibbons Mrs Barbara Leonard Mrs Linda Lindup Mr Robert Macey Mrs Helen Morris Ms Charlotte Parry Mr Keith Scott

Approved by the PCC on 14 March 2022

# Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of Hengoed with St Mary's Gobowen, Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on the following pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner**

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

- 1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
  - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records

have not been met; or

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

Alistair Nurden Tregarland The Quinta Weston Rhyn Oswestry SY10 7LS

#### All Saints church Gobowen

### Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

						Total
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Income and endowments	5					
Donations and legacies						
Donations and legacies						
l001 - planned giving	14,126	_	_	_	14,126	22857—
1002 - collection of services	8,223	—	—	—	8,223	1825—
1003 - other giving	8,107	_	_	_	8,107	3979—
1004 - gift aid received	3,105	—	—	—	3,105	6345—
I010 - legacies						5000—
Donations and legacies Sub- totals	33,564	_	_	_	33,564	40007—
Donations and legacies Totals	33,564	_	_	_	33,564	_
Income from church activiti	ies					
1005 - fund raising	39	_	_	_	39	321—
1006 - fees	7,663	_	_	_	7,663	2128—
Income from church activities Sub-totals	7,702	_	_	_	7,702	2449—
Income from church activities Totals	7,702	_	_	_	7,702	2449—
Other trading activities						
Other trading activities 1007 - Hall hire	2,295	_	_	_	2,295	1115—
Other trading activities Sub- totals	2,295	_	_	_	2,295	1115—
<i>Other trading activities Totals</i>	2,295	_	_	_	2,295	1115—
Investments						
Investments 1009 - investment income	0.53—	_	_	_	_	.39—
Investments Sub-totals		_	_	_	_	

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Гotal Last year
		200.3				
Investments Totals	_	_	_	_	_	_
Other income						
Other income						
1011 - Cafe income	21	—	—	_	21	—
1008 - miscellaneous	220	_	—	—	220	180—
Other income Sub-totals	242	_	_	_	242	180—
Other income Totals	242	_	_	_	242	180—
Income and endowments Grand totals	43,803	_	_	_	43,803	43790—
Expenditure						
Expenditure on church activitie	S					
Expenditure on church activities						
E001 - Parish share	30,809	_	_	_	30,809	29409—
E002 - clergy expenses	1,237	_	—	—	1,237	1985—
E003 - Insurance	2,524	—	—	—	2,524	2591
E004 - Heating and lighting	1,582	—	—	—	1,582	1424—
E005 - service/ministry	158	—	—	—	158	8—
E006 - churchyard costs	710	—	—	_	710	600—
E007 - administration	3,330	—			3,330	1244—
E008 - fees to diocese	1,658	—	—	—	1,658	768—
E009 - Hall running costs	319	—	—	—	319	1093—
E010 - church repairs and	3,812	—	—	—	3,812	3031—
maintenance E011 - Payments to charities	935	_	_	_	935	1680—
Expenditure on church activities Sub-totals	47,079	_	_	_	47,079	43833—
Expenditure on church activities Totals	47,079	_	_	_	47,079	43833—
Other expenditure						
Other expenditure						
013 - Reimbursements	471	—	—		471	_
E012 - Occasional offices	630	—	—	—	630	—
Other expenditure Sub-totals	1,101	_	—	_	1,101	
Other expenditure Totals	1,101	_	_	_	1,101	
Expenditure Grand totals	48,180	_	_	_	48,180	43833—

### **Balance Sheet detailed**

		As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Fixed assets			
	F001: assets retained for church use	52,000.00	52,000.00
	Total Fixed assets	52,000.00	52,000.00
Current assets			
	B001: TSB Bank	28,114.51	32,491.41
	B002: MNS and I Bond	5,524.91	5,524.36
	Total Current assets	33,639.42	38,015.77
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	85,639.42	90,015.77
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(4,376.35)	_
	Z01: Starting balances	90,015.77	90,015.77
	Total Reserves	85,639.42	90,015.77

—	—
—	—
—	—
,639.42	90,015.77
	,639.42 — —