

St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council Lechlade

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2020

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

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Information

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Richard Bell Susan Holmes
Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan Gordon Land
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Corris Vicky Jones David Williams
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	D White

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For many, that interaction with technology was scary, uncertain and full of risk- can I break it? Can I be hacked? Who exactly can see me? We also began to realise that physical interaction (a hug, a handshake, a chat over a coffee) cannot be replicated online. We miss the physical nature of being human. We miss the taking of wine at the Lord's Supper. It made us think much more about the Incarnation and why it is so vital that Jesus took on a real, flesh and blood body like ours and shared our earthly, physical humanity, complete with all its vulnerabilities and frailties.

Maybe COVID-19 even changed our habits for good. The regulator Ofcom told us that in 2020 the average UK adult spent 4 hours, 2 minutes online every day, with huge implications for things like online shopping (and our high streets), and home entertainment (and our cinemas). Maybe this is the new 'normal' and things will not ever go back to the way they were. People have embraced working from home and now companies are disposing of millions of square feet of office space. The local Church will never quite be the same again.

People did find new ways of keeping in contact and keeping up those relationships that we cherish. Going walking with a neighbour or friend was a lifeline for many. Video calls or 'Zooming' (a new, love/hate term during the year) meant that we could at least speak to loved ones, if we could not physically meet. Small groups for Bible study, prayer and fellowship kept going despite limitations and some even joined in by phone. People went above and beyond in their efforts to look after the practical needs of others – offering transport to hospital, collecting prescriptions, delivering groceries etc. There were so many ways that people put their Christian faith into action in our own community.

We also tried new things- like a recorded nativity play, filmed live on a local farm. It has now had more than 1,600 viewings, many times the number who would have seen it in our church building on Christmas Eve. Kate and I were able to record a video of the nativity story for 'Little Learners' nursery. 'Advent Windows' wonderfully appeared all over our town in the run-up to Christmas. Painted stones of the Christmas story were waiting to be found on a nativity trail, much to the delight of many children and families. The choir were able to provide anthems and recordings for various services. Chris Saunders, our team youth worker, was able to use digital media to bring Christian teaching and worship into local schools, as he could not be there in person. We were able to be imaginative and adventurous in ways that would not have happened unless we had an international pandemic. The Church has often used new technology in its mission. Luther very quickly grasped the power of the printing press at the beginning of the 16th Century and maybe we are beginning to explore how the local church can harness the power of the internet and digital communications.

Yet, for all the new ways of working and ministering to others, we cannot ignore the very real pain and suffering of many- both physical and emotional. Many know a loved one who died from COVID. Many suffered greatly from loneliness and isolation. Children and young people's education suffered badly when schools and colleges had to close, and we do not yet know the long-term implications of that. As a Church our message of hope, meaning and eternal life has never been more appropriate or necessary. Many are searching for a meaning and purpose in all this. We have had to hold some things lighter in our hands than we wanted to. Planning and thinking ahead has been immensely difficult. Our 'Inspire' re-ordering project has had to be postponed, as has our 'Believe in Lechlade' parish mission with Roger Simpson. We pray that God would greatly bless these ventures in 2022. Perhaps this is a profound lesson that we needed to learn or re-learn- to trust in God for everything. Proverbs 3: 5-6 is so true: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

We are grateful to God that though the mission of the church has been interrupted and changed in many ways, the message of the Gospel is unchanged and still central. We are grateful that we have been blessed financially and we do not rely as much on giving by physical visitors as some churches do. We are grateful that we have been able to reach out to new people via our online services and that

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will continue. We are grateful for good relationships with the wider church and we look forward to meeting our new curate, Gareth Griffith, and his family in the summer this year. We are grateful that in so many different ways, the Lord God blesses and encourages us.

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar

6 Church Warden's Report

As no doubt mentioned in other reports, 2020 has definitely brought new challenges in allowing services and private prayer to continue at St Lawrence. Prior to re-opening after lockdown, a group of volunteers thoroughly cleaned the church and cleaning and sanitising continues to be a priority. We are grateful to all those who work hard to keep our church looking good.

To help with social distancing, alternate pews were moved, resulting in a reduction of some 50% of available seats. Three hand sanitising stations were placed in strategic positions and all written literature, including bibles and kneelers, were removed from public access to help avoid the spread of any viruses.

A 'track 'n' trace' system was initiated for all services, including funerals, these being limited to a maximum of thirty people.

For a large part of the year lockdown restrictions meant that our Parish Administrator worked remotely from home and the church office was unmanned. The phone system directed all incoming calls to a churchwarden and emails and enquiries were dealt with by our Parish Administrator.

We are both here to be of assistance to anyone in the church needing advice or assistance.

7 Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safe culture in our church. A lot of hard work is needed to achieve this goal. The aim is to promote the welfare of children, young adults and vulnerable adults. My job is to liaise with the diocese of Gloucester Safeguarding team concerning safeguarding matters.

I have an overview of all church activities involving children, and vulnerable adults. Training is an essential part of our safeguarding life here in St Lawrence church. The Glos. diocese Safeguarding team has an excellent website and I would recommend the congregation view it. There is a robust system which has been set up between the safeguarding team in Gloucester and Jan Taylor for DBS checking.

After 12 years of having the privilege of being the safeguarding officer for St Lawrence I have decided to retire. I should be more than happy to assist anyone who wants to replace me. I feel, not only have I got to know many people in the deanery, but have acquired some small insight into the workings of the Anglican Church!

Pat Scott

Parish safeguarding officer

8 Cirencester Deanery Synod

This report, appropriate for use at annual parish council meetings (APCMs), outlines the activities of the Cirencester Deanery Synod throughout the year ended 31 December 2020. It recognises anti-coronavirus measures that relaxed the deadline dates for APCMs and the creation of a new triennial period for Deanery Synod which would otherwise have been held in the Spring or Summer 2020, respectively.

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8.1 Introduction

Cirencester Deanery Synod, created by amalgamation of smaller bodies in March 2012, is formed of more than 45 parishes. These are situated between Lechlade and Shipton Moyne and from Elkstone or Birdlip to the Wiltshire border. The Synod comprises stipendiary incumbents and lay representatives proportionate to the size of their respective parish. Thus, small parishes nominate a single representative whilst those with greater Usual Sunday Attendances may have 2, 3 or 4 members normally appointed for a triennium.

The year saw a change of Synod; the earlier had been elected to serve until May 2020 but, owing to the circumstances, remained in office for several more months. Many parish APCMs were held in the late autumn when either new appointments or a return of existing members to the Synod took place. These allowed our new Synod to hold its inaugural meeting on 17 November.

8.2 Officers of the Cirencester Deanery Synod:

Post	2017-2020	2020-2023
Clergy Chair	Revd. Poppy Hughes (from December 2018)	Revd. Poppy Hughes
Lay Chair	Lay Canon Karen Czapiewski	George Collins
Clergy Deputy Chair	Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond	Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Parish Share Apportionment Officer	Bob Phipps (until 28.2.2020)	Nick Mitchell (from June 2020) (co-opted)
Safeguarding Officer	George Collins	Jackie Colburn (from 2021)
Secretary	Michael Spittle (co-opted)	Michael Spittle

Some parishes have not identified lay representatives although, in several of these, local Church officers have agreed to receive the Deanery's publications and minutes. In brief, the Deanery Synod is a link between parishes and the Gloucester Diocesan Synod which also explores the objectives of Diocesan Vision and informs its members of items of interest, as an example, financial affairs, governorship of CofE schools or safeguarding. It also forms the electorate of the Gloucester Diocesan and General Synods of the Church of England.

Three meetings were held during the year; two, successfully, by zoom. These focused on the strategic planning of human, physical and electronic resources for the delivery of Mission throughout the ten years to 2030. Key parts of the discussions were proposals to deflect the consequences of a future reduction in the availability of clergy numbers, the potential fall in churches' income and the use of technology, especially during the times when church buildings have been closed for any form of worship. Through its two-way link between Diocese and Parishes, general advisory business on:

- (i) The policies and procedures for Safeguarding arrangements,
- (ii) Parish Share apportionment, and
- (iii) on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) were addressed.

Environmental issues and the abuse of our planet remained in the agenda as Eco-Church initiatives were explored by some parishes. Finally, reports on proceedings of the General Synod and of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod were received. The Deanery, by the end of 2020, was the successful electing body of two members of General Synod.

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8.3 Strategic Planning: ten years to 2030

Deaneries across the Gloucester Diocese have been asked to develop plans that would shape Future Ministry during the ensuing ten years. These should take account of (i) clergy retirements that numerically outstrip recruitment entailing the loss of at least one member of clergy in each deanery; (ii) reductions in parish income and (iii) any lessons learned in the coronavirus lockdowns for alternative forms of Ministry. Early progress through a business audit of strengths and weaknesses in the hands of clergy and parish officers, combined with opportunities and threats emerging from external factors, were considered alongside the challenges presented by a decline in congregations. Initiatives, to maintain Services and the presence of Ministry (especially in rural parishes), include a wider use of Lay Ministers. If such strategies are to be pursued, a timeline of training, development and support will add significant inputs to the plans.

Local parishes were consulted during the summer 2020 for their consideration of how Ministry in the local community could be conducted whilst recognising limitations of human and financial resources, alternative times and methods for the delivery of the Word and any lessons identified by the closure of church buildings. Support remained for (i) connection with the local community and (ii) meeting people where they are.

Members conceded the future constraints on resources and acknowledged a change towards greater voluntary initiatives, but they also expressed the doubts of how, in some places and at particular times, alternative options can be introduced. Losses of revenue caused by coronavirus virus measures had resulted in a hastening of the required saving of stipendiary costs with a revised target within an initial five years. Further criteria, but relying on increases in parish or benefice revenues, could permit different approaches to the installation of remunerated clergy. This work remained open for exploration after 31 December 2020.

8.4 Parish Share

The Diocese expressed thanks and acknowledged concerns over difficulties for the prompt payment of Parish Share throughout the troubled year. Deanery Officers similarly compliment, and empathise with, the 47 parishes for this support. Around 94 per cent of Parish Commitments within the Deanery had been paid to the Diocese during 2020; this amounted to £877,000.

Michael Spittle

January 2021

Secretary to Cirencester Deanery Synod
m.spittle46@btinternet.com

9 Church Mission and Ministry

9.1 Bible Study groups

Studying the Bible in groups during 2020 took a whole different format, as we quickly got used to zoom and breakout rooms. Some finished the lent groups in this format, then over 30 people gathered for Zoom fellowship, prayer and Bible discussions each Thursday whilst the Church was physically closed. We completed courses of 'Discipleship Explored' and 'God's Big Picture', which continued into early September, when other small groups started online.

Lent Groups- 63 people signed up to join the six groups to study the book A Passion for Christ by Michael Baughan. Sadly, after three weeks it was necessary to stop the group meetings, physically due to the national lockdown.

Small Groups Bible Study - In the autumn the Monday evening Bible Study group led by Mary and David Bainbridge met fortnightly on Zoom to discuss the BRF study guide 'Sharing Resources'. Over

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20 people signed up and there were some lively discussions. People also enjoyed the friendship and fellowship fostered during this difficult time.

At the same time the Monday evening Fellowship Group led by Geoff Holmes restarted, looking at material called 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' about how God can work through us in our daily lives.

We are delighted that a new Thursday Bible fellowship group has grown out of the lockdown zoom meetings, led by Julie and Simon Morriss.

Men's Bible Study group has continued to meet fortnightly all year via Skype and one socially distanced bible study in the garden when Covid rules, attendance numbers and the weather all came together to make it possible! This year covered Fruits of the Spirit and then studied Daniel, including the prophecies in the second half of the book, which was a new experience for most of us and have recently moved on to looking at Hebrews. Any men in the church would be very welcome to join us.

Women's Bible Fellowship – Like other small groups, we had to find new ways of meeting together during lockdowns, but were hugely encouraged that nearly all members were able to make the challenging switch to meeting on zoom, which we have continued to do weekly throughout, whilst also managing face to face garden socials in 6s when that was allowed in the summer. The encouragement of shared fellowship, Bible study, testimonies and prayer has been a blessing to us all.

9.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry

Sadly, all aspects of work with children were restricted during 2020-21, but as lockdowns became an ongoing part of life, we were gradually finding different ways to do discipleship and outreach.

When physical services were able to return, activity packs were put together for 10 am services, to help children engage with themes and teaching each week. At the end of 2020 the 'Grid' secondary group restarted and transitioned to zoom, hopefully to be followed by a primary group.

In the school and community, members of St Lawrence ran a Christingle workshop in school, the 'Lechlade Finds Jesus' painted nativity stones community treasure hunt, recorded a Christmas Story video to accompany nativity stones for Little Learners Nursery, provided resource packs for Little Lights and Church families to take part in 'Bake Along the Christmas Story', and produced Lechlade's first Christmas Eve nativity film.

Living Advent Calendar -From 1st - 24th December - 24 households from St Lawrence Church made a display in their windows about part of the Christmas story, lit up in turn from about 3.15 pm, until 9 pm, and then lit up each subsequent evening, opened in turn. There were trail sheets to follow, and prizes for those who completed the trail.

Please pray for resources and vision to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in new ways appropriate to this Covid context.

9.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry -Pre-Covid

At the start of the calendar year, my schedule included a busy mix of running 4 weekly primary school clubs for y6 pupils (before moving to secondary school) plus 2 lunchtime clubs at Farmors and a host of mentoring at the latter. In addition, our weekly Quench faith-based discussion group was added to more 'socially-based youth clubs' at Fairford and Kempsford. Along with plans for Romania, a residential and an activity day potentially for all young people involved via SCT youth work (50+), we were well placed to offer a challenging programme for mind, soul and body.

Schools work - Of course, the reality has been very different but the desire to serve young people wholeheartedly and present them with the Gospel message in word and action has remained central. During lockdowns, I have had regular contact with over half of the primary schools and I've been able to deliver a mixed programme of live sessions and pre-recorded messages for the Collective Worship

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times. At one school, I have continued to run a y6 lunchtime club for the majority of the current school year and have been rewarded with good attendance and engagement. Returning to Farmors has been in a more limited capacity (due to space limitations) though prior to Christmas, I was meeting with 5 boys weekly and a greater need still was identified by the school (to explore on return). The other rewarding role in December saw me coordinate local efforts for social action between charity groups and the Diocesan-led Long Table initiative. As well as giving out food hampers and gifts to 9 needy families (school-identified), we were able to initiate good conversations and potential openings for further family support and ‘the church’ was seen to be visible in a very practical and caring way.

Sunday services - During the window of opportunity of the winter (Jan/Feb 20) and autumn months (Sept- Nov 20), I was able to visit and share vision and youth work updates at a number of churches including several preaching engagements. Since that time I have been limited to online support including contributions to the team-wide online services.

Going forward - Our youth team are offering an important lifeline of spiritual and social support via Quench and the Grid group in Lechlade. For school staff and young people alike, it continues to be important to stand alongside them and offer both practical and prayerful assistance in these unprecedented times. I’m currently recording a message to offer each primary school in line with the theme of the term and already several head teachers are keen to access in order to take some of the load off their own teaching staff. While our methods have changed and had a greater reliance on technology, our desire to build thinking individuals who are eager to follow Jesus on their spiritual journeys remains the same.

Potential Future Dates

- 5-7 May Macaroni Woods residential (alternative of late Sept/early Oct)
- 24-27 August Lechlade Holiday Club (tbc)
- Romania trip – pending
- South Cerney Activity Day - tbc

Chris Saunders

18th January 2021

9.4 St. Lawrence School

2020 has been a time of real challenge for the staff and pupils at St, Lawrence School as they faced up to the Pandemic and the impact of lockdowns, home learning, bubbles and Zoom, along with many other issues. The church maintained strong links with the school and learned new ways of working including Zoom governor meetings, pre-recorded Open the Book Assemblies and video linked bubble assemblies.

As part of the Diocese of Gloucester Academy Trust the school benefitted from the leadership and support provided to the seventeen schools in academy across the county. The school worked hard to ensure that children and staff are safe in school and that, when necessary, children at home were supported with their learning.

Due to the pandemic the school were unable to hold any services in church during the year but they were able to hold an outdoor Leaver’s Service for the Year 6 pupils as they prepared for their move to secondary education

The School Local Governing Body includes six foundation governors appointed by the church. John Deacon stepped down after 8 years’ service and we are grateful for all that he contributed to the school during his terms of office. The current foundation governors are Rachel Chamberlin, Stella Williams, Mike Baker, Matt Ryan and Susan Holmes.

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Susan Holmes
Chair of Governors

9.4.1 Open the Book

In January and February team members were able to go into school and lead Open the Book acts of worship until all the schools were closed. When the school reopened no visitors were allowed in so the team met to pray for the school and sent in cards of support to every member of staff. When restrictions allowed us back into church, we recorded three videos with team members acting the parts and sent these into school. Since then, restrictions have tightened again and we have been unable to film more videos. We continue to pray for Mr Soutar as he leads St Lawrence School and for all the staff, governors and children.

9.5 Music

9.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir

The Choir very much enjoyed singing at the Candlemas Choral Evensong at Eastleach and the positive comments, especially from members of St Andrew's Church, were much appreciated.

At the beginning of February, the choristers had their hard work rewarded and enjoyed themselves tubing at Gloucester Ski and Snowboard centre. The 'Tubes' are large inflatable rings which can be spun and linked together to slide down the slopes. Great fun was had by all and followed by hot lunch and cake in the snowboard centre.

It has been very good to welcome Hannah to the choir, and she is already proving to be a real asset. She and Tom (our two Probationers) are singing out extremely well and have made an excellent start to their time in the choir. Both show great potential for the future.

Since entering lockdown, the choir have kept in touch through regular choir newsletters. Weekly chorister training sessions have been provided on Zoom, and a completely new training scheme has been devised to suit the on-line media incorporating theoretical musical knowledge and other activities for example body rhythm songs, tongue twisters, dominoes, time challenges, games of Bingo, and we even learnt a sea shanty that has gone viral on TikTok!

We have had 100% attendance throughout, and they have all worked extremely hard. Having completed their Probationer sheets and proved their singing ability at our Christmas services, Hannah and Tom are ready to be admitted as full choristers where they will receive their surplices. Lily, Barnaby, Hannah and Tom have almost completed their Light Blue Ribbons, so should be ready to take the test for this in the next couple of weeks.

During lockdown Tia has passed her Red Ribbon, Sophie has started working on her Deans award and the senior choristers are having their theoretical knowledge extended still further by more challenging ABRSM Grade 5 theory work. They are rising to the challenge superbly. Once we are back singing together, we will have a great deal to celebrate, including formally presenting Tia and Isis with their Deans Awards and Ben and Annabelle with their Bishops Awards that they achieved just before the first lockdown!

Although we have missed singing together and with most of the adult members of the choir either self-isolating or lacking the skills to operate the gadgets that are required to join the singing from afar, it has been left to the sopranos and trebles to provide the music. We have recorded and edited together music to provide anthems for services: 'This joyful Eastertide' for Easter, 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' for Pentecost and 'There's a wideness in God's mercy' for Remembrance. We also recorded a socially distanced candlelit service of Advent Carols and readings in Church, enjoyed singing a

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Nine Lessons and Carols Service with socially distanced congregation and provided live music for Christmas Day.

A huge thank you to our singers who provided a very high standard of singing (some of it in parts) on very little rehearsal time and Anne, Diana, Geoff and Mike the accompanists for their contributions to these wonderful services. Thank you also for all the encouraging and appreciative feedback we received.

Several members of the choir enjoyed being creative in a different way by participating in St Lawrence's Living Advent Calendar, an excellent new initiative organised by Mary Bainbridge.

The future remains uncertain but is looking more positive, and St Lawrence Choir is keen to return to leading the music in the church as soon as it is safe to do so.

Rachel Bath

Choir Director.

9.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group

Similar to most church and community activities during 2020/21 so far, The Music Group has had a strange year.

In the early days of Lockdown 1, we met occasionally online for Zoom get-togethers. We soon learned that we could not really sing together as a Group with the technology we had. The experience of trying was very funny and I think the phrase 'helpless with laughter' was a suitable response to the cacophonous sound we were responsible for. However, once we learned the skill of 'muting ourselves', which must be a catchphrase of this Covid era, though it could be confused with something medical, we enjoyed spending time together as of course we were all unused to spending so much time within our own four walls.

A few of us were able to be at that outdoor nativity scene on a farm near Coleshill in early December and to participate musically in our Church's first experience of recording our Crib Service. It seems the service was 'for the nation', as the viewing figures of the online recording seem to indicate our congregation reached far beyond Lechlade. What a blessing that was and is!

Once the PCC's decision, in accordance with government guidelines, was to recommence physical services, it was very encouraging that some members of the Group felt able to be available to sing in small groups in church. I am grateful to all those who did this to assist the musical aspect of our worship during the latter part of 2020 and into early 2021. Some needed to be more cautious, which was the wise choice for them, and they supported us by praying for us.

Who knows what next and how soon things might change to allow us to be together as a whole group? Meanwhile we keep gargling (not true) and practising our voice exercises one way or another, in readiness for a return to full working duties at some point in 2021, we hope.

Geoff Holmes

9.6 World Church Committee

We continue to support, pray for and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2020 we sent a total of £8,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links:

National Mission Commission of Nepal.

Scripture Union Pakistan, Scripture Union England and Wales

Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf

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iServe Africa, working in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai. This replaces our previous support for the Crosslinks Bursary scheme for Theological Education [Fidel Nyongesa finished this year]

Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.

Unfortunately the planned visit of Ram Prasad and his wife Keshari in March had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions.

9.7 Mothers' Union

During 2020, we fundraised for our work worldwide. We held a successful Lent Lunch at The Memorial Hall and were most grateful for the support from the St Lawrence Church congregation and others from the community. We were able to send over £500 to MU helping, our relief fund, the 'Away From It All' - holidays and for keeping other diocese projects going during Covid-19.

Members donated toiletries to the Nelson Trust, helping needy families due to domestic abuse, women returning from prison and sex workers. We were given cleaned off laptops, good young women's and children's clothing from young mums locally, then passed on to help struggling families. Members have knit/ sewn items for the Gloucester Hospital including end of life property bags. We support Eastwood Park Prison by collecting card fronts for craft work and sew cross in pockets for the prisoners. Many of our members help at Church in some way. We managed to decorate the Church for Harvest Festival with masks. Prayer underpins all we do and it was good to be on Zoom with Bishop Rachel who is a fellow member, praying during the 16 days of Gender Violence Abuse awareness in November.

Two members, Molly Kent and Jean Wood (Fairford) passed away and we supported them both as much as possible at the end of their lives. Edna Humphreys and Jean Willis have moved to care homes. We enrolled 4 new members in 2020 and have one new member to enrol when we can. Going forward we have 50 members. We are meeting on Zoom monthly and trying to support one another as best we can. Our branch committee work together to plan our activities where possible and members have a monthly newsletter.

We did run 'Little Lights' a pre-school pram service and play group, twice a month but this was not safe during the pandemic. Two of the children started school in September and were presented with a prayer book. At Christmas, we made contact with the Little Lights and encouraged them to watch faithinkids.org and bake gingerbread. We delivered the ingredients to those families. We hope to resume during 2021 at some point.

I was disappointed not to be able to have a crib service and nativity play, so decided to write one and film it at a local farm. I want to thank Phil Stevens for filming and editing, Rachel and Colin Harris of Pennyswick Farm Coleshill for letting us use their land, Tia McBain from the Church Choir for narrating, 15 amazing children who acted with no rehearsals, the Children's Church Choir and Rachel Bath for singing plus Geoff Holmes and the Church Music Group for singing/ playing. Many 100's of people watched online.

Kathy Newton
Branch Leader

9.8 St. Lawrence Bell Ringing

Sadly, we have been unable to ring since March due to the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, two families in Lechlade have been willing and able to ring for services when circumstances allowed. The Tenor bell was tolled to mark the passing of a former bell ringer and the bells rang out on Christmas morning. Hopefully we will all be able to ring together again soon.

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10 Church Support to Ministry

10.1 Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee

In these unusual times, it will come as no surprise to know that the activities of the St Lawrence Restoration and Maintenance Appeal were severely curtailed in 2020. Only one event took place on 21st January when the Grand Curry night was held at the Khushi Restaurant, Lechlade. This has become a regular annual event, until now. Sixty-seven diners enjoyed the evening and the sum of £469 was raised.

All other events had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled when our view of the future is more certain and safer.

Mike Keegan

Chairman of St Lawrence Church Restoration and Maintenance Appeal

10.2 Project Inspire

Our conservation architects, Chedburn Codd, completed a design which includes all facilities within the existing church building. The designs clearly demonstrate that objectives will be met while protecting the historic features of the church and, importantly, creating a welcoming space for worship. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) considered the designs to be ‘well thought through and sensitively handled’ and has supported the proposals. Plans for the DAC to visit our church and discuss their comments had not been possible because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Our archaeologist completed a report on the impact of our proposals on the church and associated mitigation measures in support of our Statement of Significance submitted to the DAC. He also investigated the ledger stones to confirm the feasibility of their relocation within a new floor.

Our mechanical and electrical consultants investigated options to improve the heating system to provide greater comfort and reduce our carbon footprint to meet the Church of England targets. Options to improve the cobbled surface of Shelley’s Walk to ease access are being discussing with Gloucestershire Highways, who are responsible for the footpath, and the DAC.

The continuing COVID-19 restrictions during the year meant that we were not able to present our design proposals to the church community as we had planned. We continued with preparatory work on the many essential elements to the project.

The Working Group met 11 times in the year. We informed the church community through Newsletters and plan further issues through 2021.

Nigel Jones

Chairman Project Inspire

10.2 Fabric

Our internal electric supply continues to occasionally give problems.

The PA system works well, especially when ‘not messed with’.

The clock had its annual service.

Some trimming to trees in the churchyard has been undertaken both by outside contractors and some members of the churchyard team. A big thank you to this team for keeping the area looking so good.

The ECO area of the church has now been roped off and a wooden information board erected.

General maintenance is continually carried out by some church members.

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In October the Quinquennial inspection took place and a report on this is expected in early 2021, although we were told that there were no serious problems.

An un-expected cost arose due to one of the boilers and some of the exhaust pipes in the system were found to be faulty and resulted in a cost of £1354

10.3 Eco Church Group

Sadly, the public meeting with Dr Martin Hodson on “Climate Change” planned for May had to be cancelled. The Climate Emergency remains a very serious issue, but Covid has meant that insufficient attention is given to this urgent matter. We hope to focus on this in 2021, in advance of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), re-scheduled for 1-12 Nov 2021 in Glasgow.

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11 Financial and other Statutory Information

11.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

When planning our activities for the year, the P.C.C. gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

11.2 Risk Management

The P.C.C. actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

11.3 Investment Policy

It is the policy of the P.C.C. to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

11.4 Voluntary Help

The P.C.C. wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the P.C.C.

11.5 Transactions and Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure. The key performance indicators are as follows: - a net surplus of £2,680 on the General Fund, a deficit of £1,177 on the Designated Funds and a deficit of £11,144 on the Restricted Funds.

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The principle funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies.

It is of concern to the P.C.C. that the level of regular giving has fallen during the year, whilst costs continue to increase, resulting in the deficiency on the general fund. The P.C.C. are aware of the ongoing pressure to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £802,861 (2019 £646,078). General purpose funds, which include buildings amounts to £568,271 (2019 £400,428), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration and maintenance and fabric amounts to £228,449 (2019 £239,753) and endowment fund amounts to £6,141 (2019 £5,897).

Approved by the P.C.C. on / / 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date:

**Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
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12 Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade

Report to I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (“the Trust”) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (“the Act”).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a ‘true and fair’ view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:-

Dated:-

D White

The White House

52 Roman Way

Lechlade

Gloucestershire GL7 3BP

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
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Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	116,780	—	3,599	—	120,379	126,452
Activities for generating funds	6,418	—	1,231	—	7,649	17,037
Investment income	33	—	923	—	956	1,384
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2,445	—	—	—	2,445	4,041
Total income	125,676	—	5,753	—	131,429	148,914
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds						
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	79	—	180	—	259	2,956
Charitable activities	111,839	1,177	16,717	—	129,733	123,347
Governance costs	10,898	—	—	—	10,898	14,400
Total expenditure	122,816	1,177	16,897	—	140,890	140,702
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,860	(1,177)	(11,144)	—	(9,461)	8,212
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	160	—	94	—	254	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	(254)	—	(254)	—
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	244	244	808
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	166,000	—	—	—	166,000	—
Net movement in funds	169,020	(1,177)	(11,304)	244	156,783	9,020
Total funds brought forward	399,251	1,177	239,753	5,897	646,078	637,058
Total funds carried forward	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078
REPRESENTED BY:-						
Unrestricted						
General fund	568,271	—	—	—	568,271	399,251
Designated						
Perrinsfield House	—	—	—	—	—	1,177
Restricted						
Audio/visual	—	—	5,737	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	—	—	2,790	—	2,790	3,017
Brownrigg Fund	—	—	18,618	—	18,618	18,618
Choir Fund	—	—	1,974	—	1,974	2,193
Disasters Fund	—	—	—	—	—	13
Fabric Appeal	—	—	125,640	—	125,640	128,457
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	1,543	—	1,543	1,358
Project Inspire	—	—	36,599	—	36,599	39,676
Reordering (West end) Fund	—	—	255	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	—	—	34,843	—	34,843	39,980
Services Fund	—	—	450	—	450	450
Endowment						
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	—	6,141	6,141	5,897
Total funds carried forward	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078

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Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	H Arnold CBF Inv Fund	4,626	4,408
	H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec.	1,515	1,489
	Fixed asset - property	550,000	384,000
	Total Fixed assets	556,141	389,897
Current assets			
	General Lloyds Bank Account	1,363	598
	General Barclays Bank Account	72,531	71,255
	General CBF Deposit Account	42,582	45,313
	Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account	—	801
	Fabric Appeal Barclays Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account	125,640	128,007
	Cottage Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Cottage CBF Deposit Account	—	—
	Bells CBF Deposit Account	2,790	2,968
	H Arnold CBF Deposit Account	1,543	1,358
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Other Assets	271	5,882
	Accounts Receivable	—	—
	Total Current assets	246,720	256,181
Liabilities			
	Creditors due in 1 year	—	—
	Fees due to Gloucester Diocese	—	—
	Total Liabilities	—	—
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	802,861	646,078
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(9,461)	407,783
	Starting balances	646,078	237,487
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	244	808
	Gains and losses own use	166,000	—
	Total Reserves	802,861	646,078
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	568,271	399,251
	Designated	—	1,177
	Restricted	228,449	239,753
	Endowment	6,141	5,897
	Total	802,861	646,078

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Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for P.C.C ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the P.C.C is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

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Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2020. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2020 for tax recovery are shown as debtors.

Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gross wages and Salary	<u>8,533</u>	<u>9,148</u>

The Charity employs a part time administrator.

The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music and certain choristers.

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at cost	<u>550,000</u>	<u>384,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The P.C.C consider that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the P.C.C.

The properties held are as follows: -

- a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £325,000.
- b) Perrinsfield Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

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4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>4,626</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £218		

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,515</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £26		

5 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax recoverable	<u>271</u>	<u>5,882</u>

6 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2020	2019
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,700	1,600
CMS Nepal	2,325	2,000
Scripture Union Pakistan	850	800
Scripture Union U.K.	850	800
iServe Africa	1,275	1,200
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,600</u>

7 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The effects of the Corona Virus regulations enforced the closure of the church building for a large part of 2020 therefore the P.C.C. were unable to collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions. The amounts collected for 2019 were as follows: -

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (2019 £911).
 The Harbour Project (2019 £263).
 The Church of England Children's Society (2019 £1,027).

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8 Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2020 the P.C.C. had the following financial commitments: -

- a) Removal of trees in the Churchyard £2,600
- b) Electrical work in the Church Cottage £700

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Investments						
H Arnold CBF Inv Fund -	—	—	—	4626	4,626	4,408
H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec. -	—	—	—	1515	1,515	1,489
Totals		—	—	6,141	6,141	5,897
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Fixed asset - property -	550,000	—	—	—	550,000	384,000
Totals	550,000	—	—	—	550,000	384,000
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
General Lloyds Bank Account -	1,363	—	—	—	1,363	598
General Barclays Bank Account -	16,637	—	55,894	—	72,531	71,255
General CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	42,582	—	42,582	45,313
Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account -	—	—	—	—	—	801
Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	125,640	—	125,640	128,007
Bells CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	2,790	—	2,790	2,968
H Arnold CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	1,543	—	1,543	1,358
Totals	18,000	—	228,449	—	246,449	250,299
Current assets - Debtors						
Other Assets -	271	—	—	—	271	5,882
Totals	271	—	—	—	271	5,882
Grand total	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078

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Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Audio-vis - Audio/visual						
Restricted	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Sub-total for Audio-vis	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Brownrigg - Brownrigg Fund						
Restricted	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Sub-total for Brownrigg	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Inspire - Project Inspire						
Restricted	39,676	186	3,262	—	—	36,600
Sub-total for Inspire	39,676	186	3,262	—	—	36,600
Perrin - Perrinsfield House						
Designated	1,177	—	1,177	—	—	—
Sub-total for Perrin	1,177	—	1,177	—	—	—
Rest-Main - Restoration and Main						
Restricted	39,980	4,830	9,913	(55)	—	34,842
Sub-total for Rest-Main	39,980	4,830	9,913	(55)	—	34,842
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	399,251	125,676	122,816	160	166,000	568,271
Sub-total for General	399,251	125,676	122,816	160	166,000	568,271
Fabric - Fabric Appeal						
Restricted	128,457	539	3,263	(93)	—	125,640
Sub-total for Fabric	128,457	539	3,263	(93)	—	125,640
H Arnold - H Arnold Memorial Fu						
Restricted	1,358	185	—	—	—	1,543
Endowment	5,897	—	—	—	244	6,141
Sub-total for H Arnold	7,255	185	—	—	244	7,684
Reorder-WE - Reordering (West end						
Restricted	255	—	—	—	—	255
Sub-total for Reorder-WE	255	—	—	—	—	255
Disasters - Disasters Fund						
Restricted	13	—	—	(13)	—	—
Sub-total for Disasters	13	—	—	(13)	—	—
Services - Services Fund						
Restricted	450	—	—	—	—	450
Sub-total for Services	450	—	—	—	—	450
Bells - Bells Appeal Fund						
Restricted	3,017	13	240	—	—	2,790
Sub-total for Bells	3,017	13	240	—	—	2,790
Choir - Choir Fund						
Restricted	2,193	—	219	—	—	1,974
Sub-total for Choir	2,193	—	219	—	—	1,974
Grand total	646,078	131,429	140,890	—	166,244	802,861

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Analysis of income and expenditure

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
	Total					
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income						
Gift Aid by bankers orders	8,535	—	200	—	8735	6,053
Gift Aid by envelopes	337	—	—	—	337	2,544
Gift Aid: Parish Giving Scheme	58,884	—	—	—	58,884	56,320
Gift Aid tax recovery	14,134	—	—	—	14,134	13,634
Other planned gifts	—	—	—	—	—	426
Collections	3,497	—	—	—	3,497	9,803
Goodbox Card Donations	428	—	—	—	428	513
Charities Aid Foundation	8,600	—	—	—	8,600	2,580
Sundry gifts	11,773	—	384	—	12,157	21,407
Southrop and Eastleach	2,880	—	—	—	2,880	3,040
Tax recovery Sundry gifts	5,673	—	—	—	5,673	7,278
Grants	750	—	1,943	—	2,693	750
Non recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	250
Legacies	1,000	—	1,000	—	2,000	1,000
Church upkeep - Barrel	289	—	72	—	361	856
Total	116,780	—	3,599	—	120,379	126,452
Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds						
Fund raising events	200	—	1,231	—	1,431	9,116
Cottage rent	—	—	—	—	—	955
Rent	6,218	—	—	—	6,218	6,377
Magazine sales	—	—	—	—	—	589
Total	6,418	—	1,231	—	7,649	17,037
Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income						
Dividends and interest	33	—	922	—	955	1,384
Total	33	—	922	—	955	1,384
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	2,445	—	—	—	2,445	3,911
Fees to Diocese-OB	—	—	—	—	—	130
Total	2,445	—	—	—	2,445	4,041
INCOME TOTAL	125,676	—	5,752	—	131,428	148,914

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EXPENDITURE

Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Bookstall	—	—	—	—	—	35
Fund raising (general)	47	—	—	—	47	—
Fund raising events	32	—	180	—	212	2,921
Total	79	—	180	—	259	2,956

Charitable activities

Overseas Missionary Societies	7,650	—	—	—	7,650	8,000
Christian relief and development	200	—	—	—	200	10
Home mission	850	—	—	—	850	319
Secular charities	—	—	—	—	—	105
Parish share: Diocese	75,482	—	—	—	75,482	75,282
Parish share: Deanery	7,362	—	—	—	7,362	7,092
Incumbent's expenses	3,891	—	—	—	3,891	6,425
Clergy expenses	400	—	—	—	400	230
Parsonage house	—	—	—	—	—	30
Church heating	1,781	—	—	—	1,781	1,719
Church lighting	799	—	—	—	799	451
Church water charges	73	—	—	—	73	98
Church insurance	3,766	—	—	—	3,766	4,202
Church fabric repairs	732	—	6,470	—	7,202	2,068
Gas/electric/water repairs	164	—	—	—	164	6
Organ maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	260
Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	60	—	240	—	300	77
Upkeep of services	1,765	—	219	—	1,984	2,367
Churchyard maintenance	89	—	—	—	89	484
Cottage heating	380	—	—	—	380	544
Cottage lighting	458	—	—	—	458	293
Cottage water charges	79	—	—	—	79	81
Cottage cleaning	582	—	—	—	582	464
Cottage insurance	425	—	—	—	425	374
Cottage contents upkeep	94	—	—	—	94	17
Other property upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	96
Honoraria, salaries/wages	1,270	—	—	—	1,270	1,853
National Insurance	—	—	—	—	—	60
Sunday School	—	—	—	—	—	5
Holiday Club	—	—	—	—	—	1,081
Education and Training	7	—	—	—	7	170
Architects/other fees for repairs or new	—	—	9,788	—	9,788	8,934
Cottage/house repairs	3,480	1,177	—	—	4,657	149
Total	111,839	1,177	16,717	—	129,733	123,347

Governance costs

Bank charges	273	—	—	—	273	402
Administrator's wages	8,533	—	—	—	8,533	9,148
Parish Office	1,860	—	—	—	1,860	2,332
Other administration costs	232	—	—	—	232	2,518
Total	10,898	—	—	—	10,898	14,400

EXPENDITURE TOTAL	122,816	1,177	16,897	—	140,890	140,702
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MOVEMENT IN YEAR	2,860	(1,177)	(11,144)	—	(9,461)	8,212
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