



GROWING **FAITH** PROCLAIMING **HOPE** LIVING THE **LOVE** OF JESUS

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council of Meole Brace

**For the year ended 31st December 2019
Charity registration number: 1135066**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY,
MEOLE BRACE, SHREWSBURY



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Trustees' Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year ended 31 December 2019

ABOUT US.

We are a thriving community of Christians in Shrewsbury made up of Holy Trinity Meole Brace, Christ the King Radbrook and The Church in the Meet Place. We are a Church of England parish with a big heart for people and an even bigger heart for God.”

The correspondence address is The Church Office, The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury SY3 9HF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity No. 1135066

AIM and PURPOSE

Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Revd Phil Cansdale, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex of Holy Trinity, Meole Brace.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a Body Corporate established by the Church of England (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC is governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended that came into effect on 2nd January 1957, and the Church Representation Rules.

The Parish contains separate Districts for Holy Trinity and Christ the King, each with their own District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC comprises the combined membership of the two DCCs. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to participate in the election of members of the PCC/DCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The PCC meet six times a year. PCC members who have served from 1 January 2019 to the date this report is approved are:

Vicar:	Revd Phil Cansdale (Chairman) *
Curate	Revd Charlotte Gompertz
Non stipendiary Associate Minister	Revd Valerie Pitt
Non stipendiary Associate Minister	Revd Charles Ruxton
Readers	Mr Gareth Evans Mr Martin Hall (till 28/4/2019) Mrs Shirley Stevens
Parish Wardens:	Mr Mike Haddaway (till 28/4/2019) * Mrs Judith Drury (till 28/4/2019) * Mrs Erica Staples (from 28/4/2019) * Ms Georgia Barton (from 28/4/2019) *
District Wardens	Mrs Erica Staples (till 28/4/2019) * Mr Richard Boak (from 28/4/2019) *

Deanery Synod Representatives

Mrs Olwen Abbott
Mr Simon Cullup-Smith
Mrs Polly Haigh
Mr Steve Jones
Mr Andrew Prichard
Mr Rob Surl
Mrs Rachel Woods

DCC Elected members:

Ms Georgia Barton (till 28/4/2019)
Mr Paul Bell
Mrs Jane Horne (till 28/4/2019)
Mr David Latcham
Mrs Jill Withington
Mr John Mowbray (from 28/4/2019)
Mr Michael Hartland (from 28/4/2019)

Co-opted members:

Mr John Mowbray (Hon Treasurer) (till 28/4/2019) *

Officers of the PCC:

Mr William Small (Operations Manager) *
Ms Carole Markham (Parish Administrator and clerk to the meeting)

* Denotes membership of Standing and Finance Committee

The PCC appoints annually a Standing and Finance Committee which also takes responsibility for the oversight of the PCC finances. The PCC also appoints the Trinity Centre Management Committee, the Congregational Leadership Teams, the Stewardship team and the Mission, Relief and Development Committee. All Committees and teams are accountable to the PCC and report to it on a regular basis. The two DCCs and the PCC each met six times during the year.

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance Group Registered office Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ.

Architect: Brownhill Hayward Brown Ltd, Georgian House, 24 Bird Street, Lichfield WS13 6PT

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1DG and
Cambridge & Counties Bank, Charnwood Court, 5B New Walk, Leicester
LE1 6TE

Investment Managers EFG Harris Allday, 33 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JN

Independent Jonathan Hill Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance,

Examiner St Marys House, The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of Meole Brace (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also spiritually responsible for the maintenance of the church building, the Trinity Centre, the Glebe field, and 47 Wilderley Crescent which we own.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Meole Brace, Radbrook Green, the town of Shrewsbury and beyond. 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, scripture, music and sacrament. Also, through non sacramental activities of hospitality and fellowship we aim to reach non churched members of the community.

The trustees of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Meole Brace it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers; and
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE and REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2019 saw us celebrate 150 years since the opening of the current building of Holy Trinity Meole Brace. The month of June saw celebrations which included "back in time for church", different 1860s style celebrations, community events and a confirmation service with the Bishop of Lichfield. It is good to mark these birthdays and to find ways of telling our story together.

Spring 2019 saw a leadership away day led by Revd John Coyne. This was followed by a series of consultations and process of discernment, with ideas and feedback to the "Dream Team" who met six times over spring and early summer. This culminated with the more formal launch of our three new priorities, that in all things across Trinity Churches we are "growing **faith**, proclaiming **hope**, and living the **love** of Jesus." We have found ways – in practice as well as more visually – to keep communicating this, developing this, and strengthening our life together.

Achievements in church life are not easily measurable and, indeed, we are cautious of putting undue store on statistical outcomes. There are interior and hidden dimensions to the work of building God's kingdom that belie easy analysis. We are, though, committed to the numerical and the spiritual growth of the church.

- As of April 2019 the number on our electoral roll was 381 (339 at HTMB, 42 at CTK). This was a completely revised electoral roll. Whilst this marked a decline of 29 members from the 2018 roll, it had increased by 37 compared to the last time a complete roll revision was carried out in 2013.
- Across the parish our Sunday attendance remains relatively static, with the encouragement of growing numbers in particular at the evening 6.30pm congregation at Holy Trinity.
- We continue to invest significant amounts of staff time and energy in work with children and young adults, with particularly strong connections with local primary and secondary schools. It remains an encouragement to see the work of Judith Clarkson (Childrens Minister), Craig Silcock (Youth and Young Adult Minister), Carol Booles (pre-school worker)

and their teams in developing these crucial area of our life together.

- We continue to see the blessings of the “mixed economy of church”, with different expressions of the fullness of the life of the church existing within the parish, and the family of Trinity Churches. In keeping with a number of parishes across the diocese and the Church of England, we continue to explore fresh expressions of church, particularly those led by Keith and Amal Moore on the Meole Estate.
- Attendance at most of our Easter and Christmas services continues to be healthy, and a reminder of the importance of “doing festivals” really well. We remain grateful for the dedication, hard work and gifts of the clergy team, lay ministers, and many others who continue to lead services.
- Café Connect and the Trinity Centre have both had a very good year. Trade for both remains brisk, and in the Trinity Centre in particular we have seen increasing business from increasing clients. Over the course of the year we put in place a new administrative system for bookings, and this continues to develop and bear fruit in 2020. We’re disappointed however that conversations seem to have stalled about the possible re-development of Café Connect, owing to continued delays in signing a new lease.
- Spring 2019 saw us taking ownership of the Glebe Field adjacent to Holy Trinity Church and the Trinity Centre. This has come about after a land swap between the PCC and Diocese of Lichfield. We held two public meetings, and plans were drawn up as to its potential future and use which are available on the website. Conversations continued with Town and County Council representatives, as well as others in the local community, though inevitably as spring 2020 got underway these have somewhat stalled.
- During 2019 a small and active group helped us as a church to achieve “bronze” eco-church status. We continue to find ways of living out our commitment that the gospel is good news to God’s creation, and to strive towards gaining a silver or gold award in the future.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

At the APCM in 2019 we heard from a number of different people involved in leadership across the parish, reflecting the variety of areas of ministry and mission carried out across Trinity Churches. This included toddler groups, fresh expressions of church on the Meole Estate, the Trinity Centre, our eco-church journey, and the work of Café Connect. These remain key priorities in the life of the church.

After a very busy Christmas Spring 2020 got off to a good start. A Jonathan Veira concert, which happened to coincide with the evening of Brexit. A worship training day for musicians led by Resuondworship. The first meeting of the “Joshua Group”, a termly opportunity for leaders from all levels of the church to come together to talk, dream and pray. On the first meeting we looked at small groups in particular, and how they might become more fully integrated into the life and vision of the parish.

And then we entered lockdown, and into this new way of being and doing church which we still find ourselves in. “Scattered across Shrewsbury and beyond. Gathering together online, and very slowly in person. But united in Christ.” Facebook Live gatherings on Sundays and daily. Phone networks of 500+ people. Reaching out to neighbours, and equipping one another to be caring and loving. Midweek learning groups via ZOOM. This is a story very much still unfolding, and not one to be told in full now. But we’re grateful to many who have served and led wisely, and to the ways in which our life together of “faith, hope and love” allow us to reimagine what church looks like in a very different context.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE HON TREASURER

2019 Finances Looking Back

Many thanks need to go to the team in and around the church office, particularly those who count the collections, Jenny who keeps the books and William who keeps it all together. The treasurer role would be really burdensome without the dedication of these people.

At the start of 2019 the PCC forecast that fully funding the church's work could result in a deficit of £13,000 in our unrestricted funds. This was only acceptable, short term, because the PCC could still fall back on reserves from previous years. As it turned out, although regular giving income was down 2% on 2018, two generous legacies and slightly lower than forecast expenditure meant we did not need to use them. We finished 2019 with a small surplus of £6,000 (Before gains on investments).

Use of the Trinity centre continued to increase, 2019 saw its income increase by 16%, although so did expenditure with some major equipment repairs required.

The net proceeds from the land swap, that resulted in us owning the Glebe field, generated £48,000 which the PCC have designated for future projects.

2020 Finances Looking Forward

For 2020 the PCC originally agreed to set a budget with a small deficit of £14,000, set out below. 2020 to date has been a year like no other, the lockdown has stopped many activities and most administrative staff have been placed on the Job Retention Scheme (JRS). Generous support for the church has continued, many donations have been helpfully shifted from envelopes to standing orders and at the time of writing the years finances are not too bad, the challenges lie ahead with the ending of the JRS in October and not knowing length of time this situation will continue. The PCC has the reserves and faith to weather this storm.

	2019 Actual		Original 2020 Budget
	£000's		£000's
Trinity Churches			
INCOME			
Giving (inc tax reclaim)	270		257
Grant Income	3		3
Wedding and Funeral Fees (net)	18		17
Trinity Centre and Hospitality	62		67
Other Income	13		11
	366		355
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	31		20
Children and Young People	3		8
Evangelism and Special Events	3		6
Parish Share	111		113
Ministry Expenses	8		15

Premises	11		18
Total Salaries (excluding Trinity Ctr)	99		106
Tithe	35		25
Trinity Centre Expenses	59		58
	360		369
2019 Surplus	6		
2020 Budget Deficit			-14

Note: the table is a useful summary of the actual income and expenditure for 2019 and the original budget for 2020. These figures are for our everyday activities and do not include restricted income and expenditure, such as disbursements from the Pat Wedge legacy. Full examined statutory financial accounts are attached on pages **9-19**.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to keep a minimum of 3 months running costs as working capital, approximately £100,000. At the year-end, unrestricted reserves stood at £209,216. This means that there are funds available which we are able to invest in capital and mission projects that are being discussed at the moment.

Funds are also set aside in designated reserves for new Mission and Ministry initiatives to help the work of the Church to continue and grow. Our reserves are sufficient to sustain all current Church activities in the short term.

Fundraising

A continued priority for 2020 has been the work of a renewed “Stewardship Group” who look at the longer-term strategic challenges and opportunities which lie ahead. This group met a number of times over 2019, looking at a number of themes like how best to communicate about stewardship, how to encourage new forms of giving, and legacy giving.

The PCC takes its fundraising responsibilities seriously and is very grateful to all donors – whether regular or occasional – for their support of the church and church events. PCC supporters are never taken for granted. The PCC take full responsibility for fundraising and do not use commercial organisations or professional fundraisers. All money raised is either by donations, fundraising events, special appeals or legacies for which the PCC are most grateful.

We recently held a PCC vote exploring our PCC view on applying to the National Lottery for Funding, and affirmed our continuing view that we would not apply for such grants.

Related Parties

Donations from related parties (PCC members) during the year were £15,645.

Risk Management

The Church Wardens carry out regular Health and Safety Reviews and regularly inspect premises for potential hazards. We have safeguarding policies in place for child protection and for work with vulnerable adults, including rigorous DBS checking of staff and volunteers. Our insurances are reviewed annually to ensure adequate cover. An informal review of any new risks which may impact the work of the Church in the Parish is ongoing.

Safeguarding

The PCC believe they have fulfilled their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Safeguarding is a standing item on every PCC agenda.

This Annual Report was approved by the PCC on 18th October 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Phil Cansdale (Vicar)

Erica Staples (PCC Lay Vice-Chair)