



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

For the year ended 31st December 2021
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 2021**

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 2021 to the date this report is approved are:

Ex Officio Members:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vicar | Revd Phil Cansdale (Chair) * |
| Associate Vicar | Revd Fiona Iddon * |
| Non stipendiary Associate Minister | Revd Valerie Pitt |
| Non stipendiary Associate Minister | Revd Charles Ruxton |

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| Readers | Mr Gareth Evans |
| | Mrs Shirley Stevens |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Parish Wardens: | Mrs Erica Staples * (Lay Vice-Chair) |
| | Ms Georgia Barton * (till 16 th May 2021) |

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| District Wardens | Mr Richard Boak * |
|------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Deanery Synod Representatives | Mr Steve Jones |
| | Mr Andrew Prichard |

Mr Rob Surl
Mrs Catherine Cullup-Smith
Sophie Black
Sajan Khullar (till 16th May 2021)
Joseph Penny (until 11th Jan 2021)

Elected members:

Mr Paul Bell
Mr David Latcham
Mr John Mowbray (Treasurer) *
Mr Michael Hartland (until 16/05/2021)
Mrs Sian Squire
Mrs Olwen Abbott
Mrs Sarah Irons (from 16th May 2021)

Officers of the PCC:

Revd William Small (Operations Manager) *
(till 31st August 2021)
Mr Kevin Pilsbury (Operations Manager) * (from 8th
November 2021)
Mrs Helen Hinton (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 PCC met six times over the year, on ZOOM for the first half of the year given the impact of COVID. The Standing and Finance Committee also met six times.

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

Architect: Arrol Architects Ltd, St Mary's Hall, St Mary's Court, Shrewsbury SY1 1EG

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1DG and
The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

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 works with the staff team and other leaders in working out our shared vision of “growing faith, proclaiming hope and living the love of Jesus.” On Sundays we do this as we gather together to worship, whether in person or online. During the week – in our Monday to Saturday lives – we do this wherever we are, on the ‘frontlines’ of our lives as well as in some of the more obvious gathering places of Café Connect, the Trinity Centre, the Meet Place, Radbrook Community Centre, local schools, residential homes and many other places.

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

2021 began in lockdown and uncertainty, and in some ways finished in a not dissimilar place with the arrival of the Omicron variant at Christmas. But during the year we were immensely pleased to have some greater opportunities to gather together, both online and in person. We remain committed to working out our vision of “growing faith, proclaiming hope and living the love of Jesus” in this ongoing season of recovery.

Looking back over the journey of 2021 there are many things that might be said. In particular:

- **A learning journey.** We provided space – on Sundays, midweek, in small groups, one-to-one, prayer labyrinth around the churchyard etc – to reflect on our COVID journey. Based around four key themes of “thankfulness, lamenting, learning and praying” this gave people opportunities to orient themselves and consider their journey of faith during a time of profound upheaval.
- **An online journey.** We continued to learn much about life online, and how ‘being and doing church’ could include a facebook congregation alongside those gathering in the building. Pyjama Church, Sunday gatherings, and the daily six o’clock live provided the core foundations of our hybrid church, as well as opportunities for ZOOM meet-ups or Whatsapp groups. We particularly welcomed the way our work with baptism families and wedding couples was supported by life online, and have continued to meet baptism parents online since the lifting of many of the restrictions.
- **An all-ages journey.** Our work with children and youth remains an essential priority, and we have continued to invest staffing and volunteer resources towards this area of our life together. We said ‘goodbye’ to Judith Clarkson and welcomed Cerys Hughes as the new Children and Families Minister in 2021, and have appreciated in particular the emphasis on work with toddler groups. We also welcome ongoing opportunities to work in local schools, as well as our

partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council in youth provision

- **A prayerful journey.** Over 2021 we often found opportunities to ask how people's faith had grown and deepened during lockdown, and in particular we were encouraged that many talked about a deepening of their prayer life and a strengthening of their spiritual life. Small groups continue to have a crucial part to play in this, as will the establishment of new patterns of praying for each other in our Sunday services at this stage of our COVID recovery.
- **A hospitable journey.** We'll have occasions elsewhere to celebrate the work of the Trinity Centre and of Café Connect, each in their own ways being an integral part of our vision at Trinity. They have both inevitably felt the impact of COVID, and it may take some more time for each of them to return to the healthy financial 'footing' which they were on before 2020. The signs are promising, and we continue to work towards finding new initiatives and vision in these areas of our life together.
- **A supportive journey.** I hope it fair to say that we have been learning about how small acts of service can go a long way, and how Christ-shaped ministry means we are to look out for those who are vulnerable in loving service. The Wellbeing Journey at the beginning of 2021 saw over sixty people think about what practical steps to put into place to keep a sense of wellbeing in an anxious world. We continued to see over a hundred households locally receiving food support, and a network of nearly 500 people from across Trinity Churches being part of a pastoral phone network.
- **A shared journey.** As the year began we were six months into our 'supportive relationship' with the neighbouring parish of Holy Trinity Belle Vue Church. This continued throughout the year, and we remain committed to working together to be missionally active and mutually supportive.

At the APCM – and elsewhere – we will have opportunities to outline some of the priorities we are living with and challenges which we are facing. In particular:

- **Lifelong and whole-life discipleship** remains an important theme for us at Trinity, and "everyone, everywhere, everyday and in everything" being equipped to follow Jesus Christ.
- **COVID recovery for the Trinity Centre and Café Connect** remains a priority, and finding a new wind of 'vision' to carry us through into a new season of life. We are looking again at some of the aspects of Café Refurbishment, as well as some plans for improving areas of the Trinity Centre.
- **The Glebe Field** project is gaining momentum again, and the working group have made some good progress in conversations with local residents, key stakeholders and the Town / County council. We hope to be able to have wider discussions as the summer approaches.
- **Our stewardship and financial health** in the midst of the many challenges faced locally and nationally, the cost of living "squeeze" and the fact that 2021 has seen another deficit accounts and we are forecasting the same for 2022. You'll read how we have healthy reserves at the moment, but in the long-term we do need to be making sure that we are encouraging the sort of radical generosity which we see Jesus speaking of and which we need pray is lived out across Trinity.

As always we would want to pay tribute to colleagues on the PCC and staff team for hard work and perseverance over the last twelve months.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE HON TREASURER

2021 Finances Looking Back

Although we did see another significant deficit in 2021 of £24.5k (2020 £21k) there were some encouraging signs of improvement, members giving was up slightly on 2020, the Trinity Centre started trading again and all staff were able to return to work. The deficit was created by a combination of decreases in the level of discount / support received in relation to the Parish Share, a lower recovery from Gift Aid and the Trinity Centre only being to open back up part was through the year. There were more than sufficient reserves to cover the deficit created by a second year of being impacted by the Covid 19 containment measures.

2022 Finances Looking Forward

The PCC does not expect the Trinity Centre bookings to return to pre-pandemic levels until later in 2022 at the earliest and has had to set another deficit budget for 2022. There has been a welcome reduction in the Parish Share which will help but the deficit was initially estimated to be about £16k when this was agreed in January of this year.

Since the budget was agreed though there have been several unforeseen world events that will have a material impact upon the agreed budget position as the year progresses. As such it is intended that a half year review of our position be conducted at the end of June, at which point it may prove necessary to update the budget to account for these unforeseen cost pressures.

| | 2021 Actual | | 2020 Actual |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | £000's | | £000's |
| Trinity Churches | | | |
| INCOME | | | |
| Member Giving | 208 | | 207 |
| Tax Reclaim | 36 | | 44 |
| Grant Income (Including JRS) | 18 | | 29 |
| Wedding and Funeral Fees (net) | 9 | | 6 |
| Trinity Centre and Hospitality | 31 | | 17 |
| Other Income | 6 | | 11 |
| Total Income | 312 | | 314 |
| | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Administration | 25 | | 28 |
| Children and Young People | 4 | | 3 |
| Evangelism and Special Events | 2 | | 2 |
| Parish Share | 104 | | 99 |
| Ministry Expenses | 5 | | 8 |

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| Premises | 15 | | 12 |
| Total Salaries (excluding Trinity Ctr) | 100 | | 102 |
| Tithe | 25 | | 26 |
| Trinity Centre Expenses | 55 | | 50 |
| Support For Café Connect | 0 | | 4 |
| Total Expenditure | 338 | | 334 |
| | | | |
| Deficit | 26 | | 20 |

Note: the table is a useful summary of the actual income and expenditure for 2021 compared to 2021. These figures are for our everyday activities and do not include restricted income and expenditure, such as disbursements from the Pat Wedge legacy and gains and losses on investments. Full examined statutory financial accounts are attached in the fuller report.

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 £159,338. 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.

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 15th May 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd Phil Cansdale (Vicar)

Erica Staples (PCC Lay Vice-Chair)