

The Parish of St Laurence, Northfield

St Laurence Church is a Registered Charity 1132975

Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings

During the 9.30am Service on Sunday 22nd May 2022 and by zoom (use [Sunday service link](#))

Agenda

The ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to include Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous Annual meetings held on Wednesday 23rd June 2021. These were ratified by the PCC on 21st July 2021
3. Consideration of the new Electoral Roll
4. Appointment of Scrutineers
5. Election of Churchwardens. *Nominations of Roy Pouncett and Sandra Reynolds have been received*
6. Elections of Members to the Kings Norton, Moseley and Shirley Deanery Synod (2 vacancies / 1 year term)
7. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council (4 vacancies /3 year term) *None have been received*
8. Annual Report of the proceedings of the Council – see the Annual Report booklet
9. Annual report of the financial affairs of the Parish
 - a) Examined accounts of the council for year ending 31 December 2021
 - b) Examined statement of the funds and Property of the Council
 - c) Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2022
10. Presentation of the Terrier and report of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the
11. Report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
12. Report on Safeguarding in the Parish
13. Annual reports for Parish Organisations (see below re how to access full reports)
14. Rector's statement to the meeting
15. Any other business

The full set of 2021 Annual Reports are on the church web-site under 'Contact/PC.'

Several sets are have been available in church to some weeks to take away, read and then return please.

The reports can also be ordered from the Parish Office: e-mail enquiries@saintlaurence.info 0121 475 1518
<https://bit.ly/StLaurenceAnnualReport2021>

Below are papers needed for the meeting and separate are the Minutes of the Meeting in 2021

1. Church wardens' report
2. Update on the goals set by the PCC for 2021/22
3. Report on finances for the year 1.1.2021 - 31.12.2021

I. Church Wardens' Report for 2021

We have received great support from the PCC, Elaine our treasurer, Lorraine our parish administrator and of course our great ministers led by Canon Janet. This has been a difficult year for everyone because of Covid-19. We did have some great news at last: our long-awaited porch was to be erected (hooray!), but obviously this was held up because of Covid-19.

We were able to worship in church for a short time only, mainly due to Canon Janet's perseverance to ensure our safety, enabling us to receive the bread whilst observing all the Covid-19 rules. Although our church building is out of action, behind the scenes we have had lots of problems to sort out; grateful thanks to Fr David for all his help and assistance. I (Roy) go into church regularly to check all is well and it is a privilege to do so. It was great to welcome Sandra to be our second warden. I'm looking forward to working with her; two heads are better than one! We would like to

extend special thanks to Rowena and Elaine for continuing to operate the Sunday School for our young families, which entails a lot of hard work and organisation. A huge thank you to all those who do so much behind the scenes here in our church; without them and their loyalty we'd be in a poorer place. On a sad note, this year we lost a longstanding member of our church, Clare Blackshaw, a very accomplished and hard-working lady: choir member, Sunday School leader, prolific knitter for teddies to go to poorer countries and much more.

It would seem that with the rollout of the vaccine for everyone, God willing, we may all look forward to the future, when as a congregation we once again worship together fully and safely in this our ancient church of St Laurence (also hopefully admiring our new porch).

Roy Pouncett and Sandra Reynolds

3. The goals set by the new PCC of July 2021 were the same as for the previous year

- To work towards an Eco-Church Silver Award, including continuing with the porch and improving heating and lighting. *We have made considerable progress with his, especially with the porch and lighting*
- To get St Laurence Safe Spaces underway: an after-school club and safe space for children of secondary school age vulnerable to knife crime. *This started after Easter in 2021, continued through the summer holidays and has gone from strength to strength. Huge thanks to Fr David for starting this initiative and to Revd Theresa and the team of volunteers for taking it forward.*
- To improve our ability to broadcast worship to enable more people in the community to connect with church. *We now have a relatively stable system for a very modest outlay which seems adequate.*

4. 2021 Finances

A Statement of Financial Activities for 2021 is on the next page. The full accounts are on display in the church porch.

Christian stewardship involves the commitment of time and talents as well as finances. We had hoped to a major review of Financial stewardship in 2021 but it was scaled back as the financial climate is so difficult. However, all members of the Electoral Roll were invited to review their giving and, if possible, change to giving through the Parish Giving Scheme which considerably reduces the administration for our Treasurer and speeds up the payment of Gift Aid. This is gaining momentum.

Coivd-19 has continued to reduce our income; with very few services in church in the early months of 2021 so cash donations were down; there were fewer opportunities for fundraising; the lack of weddings reduced fee income; one-off community bookings in the Pastoral Centre were not possible until very late in the year. However, planned giving and other donations from the congregation continued though we are very disappointed to discover that donations by cheque do not qualify for the Gift Aid small donations scheme (GASDS.) Quite a few people who had been donating by cash pre-Covid sent in cheques instead. We would like to give thanks to the following organisations for support through grants: National Lottery Heritage Fund (£26,280) for Northfield Revealed Project which includes the interior porch, Harlow Trust, administered by Keble College, (£10,000) for new lighting project, Grantham YorkeTrust (1,745) for our Safe Space for young people project (Larry's.)

We continued to part-furlough our caretaker/sexton until the scheme closed. Due to the closure of the church building, church running costs are down a little. In respect of Common Fund we paid £58,632 which is slightly down on 2020 (£60,040) when we paid slightly above the agreed figure as 'pandemic support' to the Diocese. Note: Common Fund covers the cost of clergy, training and some Diocesan costs. We are up to date with all Gift Aid claims and are very grateful to Elaine Clements for her work on this.

We had a deficit overall deficit of £41,118, of which £11,875 was on the 'day-to-day' expenditure. We have drawn down funds from our designated and restricted funds as appropriate to fund our fabric and community projects.

The full set of accounts include the end of year valuations of our investments. These show unrealised gains of £41,312 which gives us an overall balances of £598,091 look good but £90,180 is restricted and £185,512 is the value of the Pastoral Centre and The Barn which gives us £322,399 in unrestricted funds at the end of 2021. It sounds a lot and gives us confidence to be looking at replacing the heating but if major repairs are needed it will soon disappear..

Nevertheless, we give thanks that overall, we are blessed with sound finances, buildings which we have been able to improve in 2021 in ways which are reducing our carbon footprint and a congregation which continues to give generously. There is much to give thanks for. *Canon Janet*

Statement of Financial Activities 2021

Note due to rounding some of the totals are £1 out

Income	2021	2021	2021	2020	2019	2018
	Ordinary	Designated & Restricted	Total	Total	Total	Total
Planned Giving	36,112		36,112	36,491	37,969	37,638
Collections	3,720		3,720	2,772	12,849	13,060
Donations	1,140	6,000	7,140	5,371	11,012	23,604
Income Tax recovered (Gift Aid)	6,751		6,751	7,867	12,052	3,509
Grants		39,507	39,507	48,650	1,110	3,900
Legacies			0	60,000	1,000	0
Appeals		160	160	95		
Long term Rent	13,358		13,358	13,358	11,879	13,140
Community Income from PC	20,859		20,859	20,156	30,525	23,151
Weddings & Funerals	9,116	23,479	32,595	24,183	24,496	25,675
Fundraising	2,919		2,919	1,172	6,628	9,508
Interest	90		90	70	137	189
Dividends	4,847		4,847	4,573	4,263	4,139
Tea & Coffee	66		66	195	587	702
Candles, cards, books	226		226	196	603	471
TOTAL INCOME	99,204	69,146	168,349	225,148	155,110	158,686
Expenditure			2021	2020	2019	2018
Grants		16,647	16,647	15,890		2,865
Diocesan Common Fund	56,632	2,000	58,632	60,040	51,720	49,498
Ministers' exps, travel & Training	100	619	720	230	810	516
Church heat & light	450		450	3,185	7,222	8,450
Church insurance	7,509		7,509	7,904	7,091	6,916
Church Maintenance & Repairs	1,065	45,278	46,344	4,395	1,984	7,542
Upkeep of churchyard		8,848	8,848	12,920	2,787	2,129
Services inc Organist fees	1,859	252	2,111	2,072	4,844	6,067
Flowers			0	79	423	637
Legal & Professional fees			0	0	1,898	1,062
Children's ministry	2		2	229	384	590
PC & Barn Heat, light, water	4996		4996	9,089	8,672	6,241
PC Cleaning & refuse	3,326		3,326	1,125	3,255	2,919
PC Insurance	759		759	759	716	686
PC Maintenance & Repairs	4,255	12,980	17,235	8,755	7,688	10,296
Depreciation	209		209	278	371	105
Employment costs	23,541	6,148	29,689	25,930	29,944	29,868
Printing, Post, stationery, Phone	4,319	1,116	5,435	5,223	8,207	8,771
Costs of generating funds		4,500	4,500	2,500	285	2,299
Management & Admin	2,057		2,057	2,131	3,498	3,464
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	111,079	98,388	209,467	158,940	141,799	150,921
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-11,875	+29,242	-41,118	-19,381	+13,311	+7,765