

ST JOHN'S CHURCH YEALAND CONYERS

Annual Report 2021



“COME AND JOIN US”

The Parochial Church Council of St John, Yealand Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021

Vicar: The Revd Robin Figg, The Vicarage, Main Street, Warton, LA5 9PG

Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM): Annette MacKenzie and Janet Thompson

Address for correspondence

Linda Gardner, Beechfield, Yealand Conyers, LA5 9SG

Independent Examiner: Chris Gartside

Bank: NatWest, 262 Marine Road Central, Morecambe, LA4 4BJ

This report was approved by the PCC on May 9, 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Robin Figg (PCC chairperson)

Back to singing hymns in May- but outside only



Cover: Sunny Remembrance Sunday

Aim and Purposes

Yealand Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

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

When planning our activities for the year, we are mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Outreach work.

We seek to develop our life together as we affirm individual strengths; value diversity; nurture growth, vocations and leadership; work towards accessibility and respect and sustain our environment.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St John's Church.

Achievements and performance

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year. Our worship is centred on the Eucharist; our usual pattern of services includes a celebration each Sunday and Wednesday.

Public worship was suspended during the third national lockdown from January 5 until March 14. We were able to hold weekly public services subsequently every Wednesday for the rest of the year, always in accordance with the Covid-

19 rules in force at the time and our own risk assessment. For the first half of the year a service was broadcast on YouTube every Sunday morning, alternating between St John's and St Mary's. From July this became an act of public worship, the service being livestreamed on YouTube using equipment purchased for the benefice with the aid of a grant. Despite many people now attending services in person, we intend to continue with this because the streamed services are still being viewed by significant numbers. Towards the end of the year we re-started serving coffee after church on Wednesdays.

St John's was open to the public for only half of the week until July when we were again able to leave it permanently open for visitors.

The annual churchyard tidying day took place in September. Later in the month a very successful harvest lunch was held in village hall following the harvest festival service.

The Remembrance service in November was held in the village hall and at the war memorial and attracted a good number of people from the villages.

The monthly Knit and Natter group started meeting again in October. Members of the group and the wider community continue to send knitted items to support AIDS orphans in South Africa.

We coordinated the production and distribution of the Yealands' Ecumenical Christmas card. The Yealands' carol service took place at St Mary's RC Church, Yealand Conyers although attendance was well down on previous years. Unfortunately the Covid-19 situation meant that the planned crib service on Christmas Eve was cancelled. Members of all three benefice churches celebrated our patronal festival on St John's Day.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The Yealand PCC consists of the Incumbent (the Vicar), the Parochial Churchwardens, the Deanery Synod representatives, the Licensed Lay Ministers and nine members elected by those who are on electoral roll. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

St. John's Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held on Wednesday 19th of May in St. John's Church and appointed Sally-Ann Rothwell and Clare Hunter as churchwardens for the period 2021/2022.

Following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) was held and the PCC for 2021/2021 was elected. At the present time, the PCC has three elected members and six vacancies.

St. John's PCC met six times during the appointed period. Two meetings were held in person at St. John's, all other meetings were held by Zoom.

The Benefice Advisory Group (BAG) met between PCC meetings and their considerations were presented at PCC meetings. The BAG consists of the vicar and two representatives from each church in the benefice. The BAG considers diary planning and matters affecting the whole benefice. During 2021 the BAG met monthly to consider the Covid-19 guidance provided by the government and Church of England.

The Standing Committee and Mission and Ministry Group did not meet during 2021.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021, held in May, it was reported that the number on the church electoral roll at the beginning of the year was 49. One person has moved away from the area and one has died so at the end of 2021 the roll had 47 names, 8 in Yealand Conyers, 20 in Yealand Redmayne and 19 from outside the Yealands.

Administrative information

St John's Church (the Parish Church) is situated in Church Lane, Yealand Conyers. The church is part of the United Benefice of Warton and Borwick with Yealand, in the Deanery of Tunstall, in the Diocese of Blackburn, within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and is an exempted charity.

PCC members are either ex-officio, elected by the APCM holding office for three years, or co-opted by the PCC. Members of the Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC, holding office for three years; they are also elected by the APCM. All appointments and elections are done in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

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

Incumbent	The Revd Robin Figg	chairperson
Churchwarden	Sally-Ann Rothwell	vice-chairperson
Churchwarden	Clare Hunter	treasurer
Deanery Synod	Granville Tunnicliffe Wilson (gift aid treasurer)	
Deanery Synod	Jean Tunnicliffe Wilson (electoral roll officer)	
Licensed Lay Minister	Annette MacKenzie	
Licensed Lay Minister	Janet Thompson	
Elected Members	Kate Bethell	
	Linda Gardner	secretary
	Gillian Turner	



Planting the WI tree

Vicar's Report

The Revd Robin Figg

“Heavenly Father, we embrace your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see your vision, ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

The Diocesan Vision 2026 Prayer

In last year's Vicar's report, I noted that, 'We are beginning the staged roadmap out of lockdown, hoping that all restrictions can be lifted by the summer'. If only that had come to pass! As it was, from beginning to end, life continued to be shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. As I write this report, the pandemic is certainly not over, but we are learning what it means to live with Covid. So, it is not just 2020 that will be remembered as the year of the Covid-19 pandemic; 2021 is now added to this category. Two years on from the start of the first national lockdown on 23rd March 2020, it can be hard to remember all that we have been through together.

On 6th January 2021 the Prime Minister announced the third national lockdown, just two days after children had returned to school in anticipation of some resumption of normality in their education. In February the Roadmap was published, with its four steps to take us out of lockdown; Step 4, which removed legal limits on social contacts, came into effect in July. Having learnt much about the way viruses work, with their ability to mutate into different variants, we found the end of 2021 being impacted by the emergence of the omicron variant. This necessitated the implementation of Plan B with certain restrictions reimposed for our safety. All this meant that as we travelled through the year we continued to try different ways to maintain our life of worship and activities.

Having resumed some public worship in March, we offered a hybrid pattern of services for Holy Week and Easter, with one online service and one public service for each of the principal days of the week. In July, having received a grant to purchase the necessary equipment, we took a significant step forward when we began livestreaming the Sunday 9.15am Parish Eucharist from St John's; it was very good to livestream a regular service with a congregation in the building. Whilst the number of people watching these services is small, we see this as an important part of our mission & ministry to enable those who cannot attend public worship for whatever reason to share with us in worship. The next major step forward was in September when we resumed a full pattern of services across the Benefice, with the Sunday services including congregational singing inside for the first time since March 2020.

Through the year the Benefice Advisory Group (BAG) continued to meet regularly to review the guidance received from the Church of England and the Diocese of Blackburn. As the Government lifted restrictions it meant greater responsibility fell on local decision-making bodies which was not always straight forward. The BAG was

aware of diverse views across our church communities about how best to keep each other safe.

The Lent course was held online and used the 'Looking Out In Lent' course prepared by the Diocese, with input from the Bishops and Archdeacons. One session looked at our engagement with environmental issues and this led to the Warton Crag exhibition held in St Oswald's Church in July. There was then a follow up 'Caring for Creation' course in September. The hope is that there will be ongoing engagement with environmental issues in the Benefice.

The two years of the Covid-19 pandemic have had a significant impact on the life of the Church in this parish and in the Benefice. There has been a reduction in the average weekly attendance at services and a reduction in the level of activities. Whilst Knit & Natter restarted in the autumn, it was realised that it was not possible to restart the monthly Tea @ St John's or the Mini Church gatherings in the village hall. We hope that occasional social events and Mini Church services may be possible in the future.

Towards the end of 2021 a new 'Looking Forward Working Group' emerged with the aim of reviewing the strategy for mission and outreach across the Benefice as we continue to unlock from the Covid-19 pandemic. The working group includes representatives of different activities in the Benefice and will aim to help the Benefice move 'from decline to growth'. The initial focus of the group will be reaching out to families and young people, looking for opportunities for new events and activities. We look forward to seeing some of the fruit of this work during 2022.

The Diocese of Blackburn

The United Benefice of
St Oswald, Warton and St Mary, Borwick
with St John, Yealand

VISION 2026

Believing...
Living...
Sharing...
the love
of God

www.ubwby.org

Believing | Living | Sharing

Benefice

This initial focus of the Looking Forward Working Group picks up the fourth strand of the Diocesan



Vision 2026 reflected in the Vision Prayer quoted at the top of this report: **'To inspire children and young people'**. The aim of Vision 2026 is to see **'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities'**. In the Benefice we are expressing this through our call to **believe, live and share the Love of God.**

In the wider Church in the Anglican Communion this mission of the Church is often expressed in **The Five Marks of Mission:**

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To seek to transform the unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every

kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

As we come to the 2022 annual meetings which provide an opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to what may lie ahead (mindful of the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the new impact of the war in Ukraine, with the consequential cost of living crisis), we know that we must hold fast to the good news of the Love of God revealed in Jesus the Christ for all people everywhere. In 2022 we are looking forward as a nation to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As a nation, and as the Church, we must also continue to face the challenge of the climate crisis; the Church of England has challenged itself to be carbon net zero by 2030.

In our Diocese there will be significant change this year when Bishop Julian retires in July after nearly nine years as Bishop of Blackburn. The process to find a new diocesan bishop has already begun, although the next Bishop of Blackburn will not be in place before summer 2023.

Globally, nationally and locally we all face ongoing change and challenge as we journey on. As Christians we do so knowing that we are 'an Easter people and Alleluia is our song'. We are part of God's Church and our focus must always be the Love and Light that flow from the living God.

As we come to our annual meetings we acknowledge and give thanks for all that is offered by many people to support and enable the life of God's Church in this Parish and the wider Benefice to continue through our worship, nurture and outreach. So, I would like to express my thanks to those who have shared the leadership of God's Church in the Parish of Yealand during 2021: Sally-Ann Rothwell, Churchwarden; Clare Hunter, Churchwarden and PCC treasurer; Linda Gardner, PCC secretary; Granville and Jean Tunnicliffe Wilson, Deanery Synod representatives; other PCC members; Annette MacKenzie, Licensed Lay Minister; Janet Thompson, Licensed Lay Minister.

Thank you to Peter Mann, for leading services at St John's and across the Benefice and also to our organists. Thank you to all those who lead and support the range of church-based groups and activities which are part of the life of St John's and the Benefice. Thank you to Katrina Gale, Headteacher, and the staff at Yealand CE Primary School with whom we have close links.

As we look back over 2021 we also remember those of our community who have died. At St John's we especially remember and give thanks for the life of Ron Ogden who died in August. Ron was a wonderful, faithful servant of God's Church at St John's for many years, including a period serving as churchwarden. We are grateful for having known Ron and we miss him.

Now may the God of Love and Light bless us in all we do and in all we are.

Churchwardens' Report

Clare Hunter and Sally-Ann Rothwell

In our 2020 report we spoke of “the year of the COVID pandemic” and were looking forward to getting back to normal. None of us anticipated that we would be saying much the same twelve months on. It was a stop-start year and our return to normality has been much slower than we hoped. However, there are encouraging signs. We are back to weekly services on Sundays and Wednesdays and are starting to socialise again. It might seem a small thing, but enjoying coffee and chatting together after services adds much to our communal life. This is already underway on Wednesday mornings and we intend to restart coffee on Sundays as soon as we can. Our other activities are slowly resuming, with many people understandably taking time to feel comfortable coming back. We are particularly encouraged to see some new faces in church, including several children. We were all deeply saddened by the death in August of Ron Ogden, our former churchwarden; we were able to livestream his funeral which was very much appreciated by his family and something we could not have done before the pandemic forced us to explore new ways of worshipping.

Finally we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of St John's over the year and especially Robin, whose hard work and determination keeps the benefice together and moving forward.

Safeguarding

Kate Bethell

This year there have been no incidents of safeguarding reported at St John's. The safeguarding team met in March and discussed latest guidance with regards to young people and vulnerable adults.

Deanery Synod Report

Granville Tunncliffe Wilson, Jean Tunncliffe Wilson

There were no meetings in 2021.

Fabric

Clare Hunter and Sally-Ann Rothwell

A generous donation enabled us to put right all the headstones that had been laid down or were in need of attention. The Yealands WI planted a tree in the churchyard as part of the BBC Plant Britain Project. We undertook various routine maintenance tasks.

The PCC decided that there are sufficient funds to address some of the less urgent items in the 2019 Quinquennial Inspection Report and accepted an estimate from a local builder accordingly. Work started in 2021, with some repairs to the roof and we hope it will be completed in 2022.

No progress has been made in improving the lighting in church but this remains a PCC agenda item and will be addressed in due course.

Health and Safety continued to have high profile with the Covid-19 risk assessment being reviewed regularly in line with Government and Church of England guidelines.

Sunday School / Teens and Tweens / Mini Church

Linda Gardner

The Teens and Tweens were unable to meet during 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

A programme of events is planned for 2022 and the first meeting took place in March at Jump Rush when we welcomed old and new members back. Please keep checking the Teens and Tweens Facebook page for updates of future events.

St. John's welcomes families with young into church. Activity sheets linked to the gospel reading are provided for children attending St. John's and the Sunday School room is open for use.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, YEALAND CONYERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Regular collections	12,791.00		12,441.00	
Donations	7,406.00		4,464.28	
Collections	774.23		689.93	
Gift aid and GASDS reclaim	5,838.31		4,587.11	
50/50 Club	966.00		1,664.00	
Fees PCC	236.00		1,044.00	
Online giving	301.50		461.50	
Easy fund raising	145.74		16.00	
SumUp	348.43		0.00	
British Gas/feed in tariff	1,979.14		1,813.41	
Ofgem RHI	1,391.61		988.66	
Fees DBF	165.00		0.00	
Collected for charity	180.00		0.00	
TOTAL INCOME		32,522.96		28,169.89
EXPENDITURE	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Parish Share	16,905.00		18,620.00	
Benefice expenses	1,730.00		1,080.00	
Church expenses	119.68		269.05	
Church maintenance	1293.19		445.45	
Churchyard maintenance	3,350.00		750.00	
Heating electricity and water	4567.95		3,834.21	
Insurance	2099.85		2,078.60	
Charities	215.00		1,761.05	
Fees	367.66		198.98	
Cleaner	468.00		480.00	
Organist	325.00		220.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		31,441.33		29,737.34
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		1,081.63		(1,567.45)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	2021		2020	
Bank account at 1st. Jan.		7,550.71		9,118.16
Add surplus (deficit) for the year from above		1,081.63		(1,567.45)
Bank account at 31st. Dec.		8,632.34		7,550.71

**STATEMENT OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
CCLA INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER**

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Balance @ 1st January		16,506.73		16,436.93
Interest	8.60		69.80	
 Balance @ 31st December		 16,515.33		 16,506.73

Reserves Policy

The policy of the PCC is to keep a minimum of £5,000 in an interest bearing account to cover unforeseen expenditure. The chosen account is reviewed from time to time in order to achieve a competitive rate of return. The account currently used is the CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH 2022 BUDGET

INCOME	£	
Regular collections	12,800	
Donations	3,500	
Collections	800	
Gift aid and GASDS reclaim	5,800	
50/50 club	1,000	
Fees PCC	500	
Online giving	400	
Easy fund raising	150	
Sum Up	600	
British Gas/feed in tariff	2,000	
Ofgem RHI	1,200	
Fees DBF	175	
Collected for charity	200	
TOTAL INCOME		£29,125
 EXPENDITURE		
Parish Share	18,191	
Benefice expenses	1,500	
Church expenses	500	
Church maintenance	3,500	
Churchyard maintenance	1,100	
Heating electricity and water	13,000	
Insurance	2,100	
Charities	1,700	
Fees	400	
Cleaner	480	
Organist	600	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£43,071
Surplus or (Deficit) for the Year		£(13,946)

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St John's Church, Yealand Conyers

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

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Chris Gartside FCIB
The Paddock,
151a North Road,
Carnforth,
LA5 9LU
21 March 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clare Hunter

Firstly, I'd like to give a big thank you all those people who kindly donate to St John's in any form and by any amount. We could not have managed the last two years without you. We managed to get our Share (the amount we have to give to the Diocese) down, but I notice for 2022 it has crept up again. Thanks to the donations and because our Share was lower we managed a surplus of over £1000, but we had very little charity spending and only one big bill to pay this year. However, it had been decided we should get on with some of our quinquennial report work and though started, Ducketts still has to finish the job and bill us. This could amount to £3500 in 2022. Also, as we all know, the price of electricity has gone up rather a lot. I have budgeted for this, along with everything else but, to cover it, along with Ducketts bill, it looks like we are going to have to withdraw £6000 from our reserve account in 2022.

The PCC does not have any legally restricted funds. However the following amounts are being kept for particular purposes:

- Donations received towards improving the church lighting £3825
- Legacy received in 2018 £1000

Finally, many thanks to Chris Gartside who has agreed to be our Independent Examiner and spent some time working with me on our Church finances. Also thanks go to Granville Tunnicliffe Wilson (Banker and Gift Aid Treasurer) and Sally-Ann Rothwell (Churchwarden) who have certainly made life easier for me this year.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Donations policy

In the past the PCC has made charitable donations of £1500 annually. Because of the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, the PCC agreed in 2021 to continue charitable giving with a provisional amount of £750 included in the budget. It was agreed that the amount of charitable giving be decided according to St John's excess income.

Charity giving 2021

Charity	Special	From Church	Total
	Collections	Funds	
	£	£	£
Bishop's Harvest Appeal	180.00	35.00	215.00
TOTAL	180.00	35.00	215.00

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

The usual service pattern comprises the Parish Eucharist on Sundays at 9.15 am, at which we use contemporary language, sing hymns, and celebrate the presence of God in the Scriptures and in Holy Communion and a simple, said service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 9.15am.

Everyone is welcome - there are toys and activities for children.

At the end of each service coffee, tea and biscuits – and a good chat – are enjoyed by all.

“COME AND JOIN US”

Details of all churches in the benefice can be found on the website www.ubwby.org

Find us on 

