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**ANNUAL REPORT FOR
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2020
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
PARISHONERS AND APCM
SUNDAY 11th April 2021**



Priest in charge: Rev Vinny Whitworth

Associate Priest: Rev Malcolm Bristow

St Bede's APCM – Vicar's Report 2021

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

2020 will be a year that will never be forgotten, as our lives have been turned upside down by Covid-19. It has been a dark and difficult year for us all in many different ways; some of us have lost loved ones who have died from Covid-19, families have been unable to say goodbye to their loved ones or grieve properly, many of us have been impacted financially, with people losing their jobs or even their businesses, and all of us have suffered from the profound effects of lockdown.

Covid-19 also brought many challenges to us at St Bedes during 2020. For the first time in our history we were ordered to close the church building and we were unable to meet in person for 5 months. Some of our congregation have not felt able to set foot in church for nearly a year now. Our worship has dramatically changed with the restrictions in place and we long for the day when we can all sing hymns of praise to God again in church. Many of our ministries have also had to stop including our Luncheon Club, Ladies Fellowship and our children's ministry on a Sunday morning and our fundraising and social activities were heavily impacted by Covid-19.

In our very 1st online service on the 22nd March 2020, I quoted the above verse from John 1:5 which in many ways for me sums up 2020. The Covid-19 crisis has been a dark moment in our history, yet the light of Christ still shines bright; bringing hope and life to all.

Despite the challenges that we have faced at St Bedes during 2020, it has been wonderful to see God at work in our midst. Our building may have been closed for a significant amount of time during 2020, but we as God's people are the church, not the building, and the light of Christ has been evident in us and evident in how we have reflected the light of Christ to our wider community of Morris Green and beyond.

With our building closed, we quickly moved our worship online through our online services which we hosted together with St Andrews. This not only enabled us to worship together, but it also enabled our worship to be more accessible to our wider community and beyond. During the first lockdown we averaged around 200 views each Sunday – far more than we normally get in church. Our online ministry continues today. Thank you to all those at St Bedes who have contributed sermons, readings and prayers to our online services over the past year.

Despite the challenges of 2020, St Bedes also raised our game in terms of engaging with mission agencies and charity partners. At the beginning of the year, the PCC agreed to donate £1,000 to our charity partners rather than simply a small percentage of our fundraising income which is a significant increase, and it was agreed that in 2020 we split the £1,000 between our 2 nominated charity partners; Create Bolton and Bolton Cancer Voices Choir. We were blessed to hear from both our charity partners at 2 special services during the year which focused on each of our charities and hear about the impact of our support.

On top of this; we also again this year engaged in Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus campaign and together with St Andrews we pledged to donate 1,000 boxes of mince pies (that is 6,000 mince pies). Amazingly despite the challenges of a new lockdown, we brought in over 1,300 boxes of mince pies – including 400 boxes on just one Sunday at St Bedes! As a result of our partnership with Urban Outreach we were able to bless hundreds of vulnerable people and families at Christmas; including local people in our own community of Morris Green that we were able to deliver hampers to. Another example of how the light of Christ shines in the darkness!

Throughout 2020 we also continued to develop our links and ministry alongside our church school St Bedes Academy. Sadly due to restrictions; we are not able to welcome the children to church for collective worship each week; however myself and Tony Whitehead have been recording collective worship films for use in school during the year and it was lovely to have staff from school join us for our Harvest service and to use a recorded Harvest song from the children at our Harvest service. We have increased our church representation on the Governing board with Jean Phillips adding to the team of foundation governors and it is good that we as a church are involved with the school at all levels.

Also during the pandemic, the catering team at St Bedes Academy were amazing in offering to provide lunches for those most vulnerable in our church and our community who felt unable to leave their homes because of Covid-19. It was a privilege and a wonderful opportunity for us as a church to work in partnership with our school to deliver lunches to those in need. For 4 months during the 1st lockdown, we delivered each week over 20 lunches to local people which were much appreciated, and at Christmas we delivered around 40 Christmas lunches. A huge thank you to Mary and her team at school for their kindness and support.

At this point I do want to say a huge thank you to our wardens; Gill and Jean for their work this year. There have been extra challenges in enabling worship to resume in church, and making the building Covid-secure and Gill and Jean have worked tirelessly to ensure that our worship can continue despite the ever-changing restrictions over the past year. They have also been very much supported by Elaine, our administrator. Also a huge thank you to our ministry team; Malcolm and Pat, our 2 ALMs Gill and Carol, and Tony our trainee reader who have done so much to enable our worship to continue both in-person and online.

Despite the challenges of 2020, we have so much to be thankful for at St Bedes. Despite the darkness of 2020, Jesus has been with us. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it!

Looking ahead to 2021, as people and indeed our community seek to rebuild their lives as we prayerfully come out of the Covid-19 crisis, I believe we at St Bedes have an important call from God to play our part in helping people rebuild their lives and pointing people to Jesus who is the light of the world. There is also much to look forward to also; with Tony Whitehead being licensed as a reader in July and Ben Brady, our new curate, arriving in June. My prayer is that Jesus will continue to guide and lead us in 2021 as we seek to rebuild and grow our church, our lives and our community, for His glory. Amen

Rev'd Vincent Whitworth
(Priest in Charge, St Bede, Bolton-Le-Moors)
March 2021

Treasurer's Report January to December 2020

We ended 2020 with a total deficit amounting to £7,733 of which £6,777 related to monies spent on our new Projector system, consisting of projector, retractable screen, tv screen, laptop and necessary electrics. This in effect was funded from previous years surpluses and has proven to be a great addition at the right time given the fact that we cannot sing openly and cannot distribute service literature.

This means that our actual day to day running costs deficit was only £956 for the whole year. A remarkable feat given what a challenging year 2020 was.

Income

Even though we have had a few months where the Church was closed we have still managed to keep our income via envelopes, cash and standing orders similar to last year and previous years. We also had a kind donation of £1,000 from a regular friend and this is very much appreciated along with the recent weekly sale of Face Masks by another of our regulars

Income was down regarding use of Church facilities and coffee/tea due to the Pandemic. Fundraising was also hit badly but we still managed to hold events before the first Lockdown and also managed to make money and have a good time recently from the Virtual Quiz, Body Shop event and Virtual events surrounding the Christmas Fayre. (A full breakdown is available)

Funeral, Weddings and Baptisms in Church have also struggled due to Government imposed restrictions.

Expenditure

On a positive note we managed to pay our full Parish Share of £23,000 over to the Diocese for 2020. We are sure this will be very much appreciated given how hard they have been hit financially because of the Pandemic.

Gas, Water and Electricity costs were slightly lower than last year even though charges from utility companies have increased. We did benefit from the Church being closed during lockdowns. We also managed to expand our Mission Outreach by donating £500 each to our chosen local charities, Café Create AND Bolton Cancer Voices Choir. This was also a great achievement under the circumstances and was very much appreciated.

Upkeep of Services costs ended up higher than last year mainly due to purchases of software for our new computer laptop and necessary licences enabling us to utilise our projector to the full.

Many thanks to you our loyal Parishioners you have really done us proud.

Kind Regards

Elaine and David Almond
St Bedes PCC Treasurers

BOLTON ST BEDE 2020**2020
Actual
£****BALANCES B/FWD 1.1.20**

Petty Cash A/C	19	
St Bede PCC Current A/C 02869759 A	12,592	
St Bede PCC Current A/C 02869759 B	5,500	
St Bede PCC Current A/C 02869759 C	6,000	
Business 30 Day Notice A/C 06003802	1,813	
Business 30 Day Notice A/C 06091388	439	
Memorial A/C 020414802850	565	<u>26,928</u>

Voluntary Income

Gift Aid / Regular Giving - Tax Efficient	18,574	
Gift Aid / Regular Giving - Non Tax Efficient	665	
Cash Collection	6,889	
Parish Share-Inland Revenue	5,205	31,333

Other Voluntary Income

Building Fund Donations	-	
Other Donations	1,445	1,445

Activities for Generating Funds

Hall Lettings	170	
Publications/Advertising	-	
Fund Raising	1,264	
Christmas Fair	858	
Coffee Money	84	2,376

Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities

PCC Fees	166	
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MDBF Assigned Fees	733	899
Investment Income		
Interest	1	1
Sundry Income		
Lostock 1/2 Share	-	
Other Income	95	95
Total Income		36,149

PAYMENTS

Charitable Activities

Diocesan Quota	17,795	
Parish Share Inland Revenue	5,205	23,000
MDBF Assigned Fees	733	
Incumbent Expenses (including Vicarage)	2,040	
Curate/Reader Expenses	-	
Insurance	3,151	
Water	135	
Gas	2,535	
Electricity	646	
Oil	-	
Projector et al	6,777	
Expenses for Fund Raising	-	
Photocopier	33	
Printing and Stationery and Postage	-	

Deanery Administration	20	
Church Maintenance	1,152	
Buildings Maintenance	-	
Upkeep of Services	721	
Churchyard Maintenance	-	
Wages Cleaner	1,020	
Wages Verger	-	
Wages Organist	475	19,438
Sundries		
Other	1,444	1,444
		<hr/>
Total Expenditure		43,882
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BALANCES C/FWD 31.12.20		
Petty Cash A/C	19	
St Bede PCC Current A/C 02869759 A	12,134	
St Bede PCC Current A/C 02869759 B	4,223	
St Bede PCC Current A/C 02869759 C	-	
Business 30 Day Notice A/C 06003802	1,814	
Business 30 Day Notice A/C 06091388	440	
		<hr/>
Memorial A/C 020414802850	565	19,195
		<hr/>
		19,195
		-
Surplus / (Deficit) In Period		7,733
Opening Current Account Balance		24,092
		-
Surplus / (Deficit) In Period		7,733

Movement From Other Accounts	- 2
Present Current Account Balance	16,357

Report from Independent Examiner – accounts 2020

Bolton-le-Moor St Bede PCC, Morris Green, Bolton

I have checked through the accounts of Bolton-le-Moors St Bede Church of Morris Green, Bolton and from the working papers and supporting documents provided for the financial year 2020, I have concluded that they provide a true and fair view of the affairs of that organisation. I checked the income and expenditure transactions, checking with all the relevant backing documentation provided. I reconciled these back to the bank account statements, cheque listings, reconciliations and the balance sheet. The PCC operates its accounts on a receipts and payments basis. Detailed records are kept for both income and expenditure. Monthly bank reconciliations are completed once the bank statements are received. Invoices are kept which can be tied back to the bank statements provided. The cheque listing can tie the cheques to the paid-out transactions from the bank. All documents and accounts are correctly filed and organised which helped me complete the audit in a straightforward and timely manner. Everything seems to be in good order. Fingers crossed that 2021 brings more normality back for us all!

Helen Weir MAAT – 15.03.2021

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

11th April 2021

The electoral roll has been revised in line with the Church Representation Rules stating that the roll be updated in time for the APCM.

2 new applications and 1 deletion have been approved

The number on the new electoral roll is 68 in total.

The Diocesan Secretary will be notified of this fact after this meeting.

Elaine Almond

Parish Administrator / Electoral Roll Officer

St Bede's Parish Church Bolton Le Moors - Secretary's Report – APCM Sunday 11th April 2021

St Bede's PCC held meetings in June, September and November 2020 and in January and March of this year. Due to COVID19 all the meetings took place on zoom.

The meeting of the PCC which was held in June was a continuation of the previous PCC as we had been unable to hold our APCM. It was reported at the meeting that the Church had been signed up to Easyfundraising. Any supporters who then register with Easyfundraising when making online purchases can raise donations for the Church. This has proven to be a good source of new income in the year that in person fundraising wasn't allowed. The PCC were also notified of the completed installation of the new screen and projector system, which has been very well received by members of the congregation. The Church building has remained closed and the decision was made that it wouldn't open for private prayer but would open for any funeral requests.

The main points at the September meeting were the COVID risk assessment given that the Church building was now open and a consideration of the finances given that we would be unable to host our Christmas fayre, which is traditionally the biggest fundraiser of the year. A member of the congregation has been making and selling face masks, donating the money to church, which has proved to be very successful. A tree had been planted in the grounds in remembrance of a young boy, a member of St Bedes school, who had sadly passed away. The church wardens reported on vandalism that has occurred in the church grounds. A member of the congregation has kindly repaired this. The Holy Communion lay assistants were authorised at this meeting.

The November meeting was the first meeting of the new PCC following the APCM that had been held in October. Vinny reminded us that November had been designated the national month of prayer. At St Bedes we had already seen the power of prayer with lots to be grateful for and plenty positive news. The Mission Communities paper was on the agenda, a link to the paper had been circulated and Vinny encouraged everyone to read it, with a view to having further discussions about it. Also at the meeting new foundation governors for the Local Governing Body at St Bedes school were agreed. A gift day was held in November in lieu of the Christmas Fayre, which proved to be very successful financially, for which we thank all supporters.

At the January 2021 meeting all supported the decision that the Church building remain open even though numbers were reduced. It was also agreed to support the proposal to extend the Parish Administrator role for a further 12 months effective from June 2021.

In March 2021 it was agreed that a formal response to the Mission Communities paper be submitted.

In common with everyone else 2020 was a very different and difficult year. St Bedes has had tremendous support from it's congregation and PCC members. We met all our financial obligations including paying the full parish share and supporting our charity partners. We were very successful at maintaining contact even if people were unable to visit the church in person with various initiatives, all of which were very well received. From myself a big thank you to all PCC members for their continued hard work and support.

Elaine Almond PCC Secretary

Fabric Report 2021

2020 started like any other year but soon ended up not being like any other year definitely not in my lifetime. By mid March we were ordered to close as with all other Churches and many other aspects of life. I locked the door not knowing when it would be opened again. Both Jean and I maintained a close eye on the Church building throughout the months we were closed. Thankfully Vinny right away started services on YouTube and all those who have the right equipment enjoyed them as an alternative.

We were allowed to open the doors again on the 12th July. Thankfully prior to opening we both met with Vinny and agreed how we could comply with Covid 19 rules ready for the opening on 12th. Vinny having drafted the necessary Risk Assessment and Jean and I made the necessary adjustments to make us Covid-19 Secure. Karen our cleaner maintains on a weekly basis all the sanitising of seats, doors etc., to maintain compliance with the Rules and we ensure everyone keeps to sitting in Church in a socially distance manner.

Thankfully our projector system was installed in June/July and we have been able to use this for services as we cannot have paperwork for services at all. There were some teething problems and thanks go to all who help to run the equipment each week including the Ministry Team and James. Services continued until November when we had another lock down and had to close Church again. This was short lived.

In 2020 we did have a few acts of vandalism against the Church building. Dean came to our rescue again repairing/rebuilding our notice board and metre box. Dean has also replaced all the main body of the Church lightbulbs with brighter bulbs. Our thanks go to Dean for all the work he does regularly for the Church.

Martin Horrocks also needs our thanks for the beautiful gardens he keeps for us. These were maintained throughout the lockdown and for rest of the year impeccably. He not only keeps the gardens so well but also other jobs around Church on a weekly basis all year.

Many thanks Martin.

There has not been time, opportunity or funds to pursue any work on the Quinquennial Report or to look into any other improvements due to the in-ability to meet because of lockdown rules. As soon as possible we will be looking at this work, however, generally the Church building remains in good repair and all necessary maintenance checks have been carried out over the year appropriately.

Thanks to all in Church who have supported Jean and myself this past year in our role as wardens.

Church Wardens

Gillian Blackburn

Jean Phillips

ANNUAL REPORT OF ST BEDE'S LUNCHEON CLUB

Luncheon club has not met in over 12 months as we cancelled the March 2020 lunch as a precaution because of Covid. We are certainly hoping we can continue once it is safe to do so but we don't know whether the caterer will still be in business or not so we may have to look at alternatives.

Sharron Howard.
Luncheon club organiser

ST BEDE'S CHURCH – MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON LE MOORS

PARISH POLICY ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional, neglectful, financial and spiritual abuse or exploitation of children and young people and to report any such abuse discovered or suspected.

We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole church.

The church is committed to following the guidelines and procedures published by the Diocese of Manchester in the handbook 'Safeguarding Children 2017' .

Each worker with children and young people must know the recommendations and undertake to observe them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and Good Practice Guidelines.

As part of our commitment to children and young people in our Church's life, the PCC has appointed Mrs Judith Kelleway to be the Lead Recruiter and Carol Hardman as our Safeguarding Co-ordinator

The PCC also affirm the place of children and young people in our church's life by agreeing that 'Children and young people are part of (or belong to) our church today. They have much to give as well as receive. We will listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning and in community life, we will respect the wishes and feeling of children and young people'.

Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church of St Bede, Morris Green, Bolton-le-moors

This Policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

- ` We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- ` As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
- ` We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- ` We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- ` The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- ` It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to respect any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- ` We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
- ` The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
- ` The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
- ` Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by those recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Carol Hardman to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Incumbent: Rev'd Vinny Whitworth

Churchwarden: Gill Blackburn

Churchwarden: Jean Phillips

April 2021

Fund Raising Report 2021

It's been a very difficult year as we all know as we have not been able to put on many of the events we have done in previous years. We had planned a Summer Fayre and obviously our Christmas Fayre but all was not to be because of covid19 restrictions over large parts of the year. We did manage our Winter Warmer Lunch (which itself ended up being challenging!!!!) Also before lockdown struck we had an Afternoon Tea which was as always profitable. We managed to sell Body Shop goods from the catalogue and made commission on those orders despite being seen by a lot less people. We had a Quiz Night on zoom and arranged a grand Raffle at Christmas, along with a form of gift day the day after when the Christmas Fayre should have been held, we asked for donations to Church representing what you would have spent on the day at the Fayre, many people were very generous. We had gift bags for sale in the Foyer and Julie Waller has made and sold face masks all Summer and special Christmas ones. As a Team we thank everyone for supporting the various events we have managed to do. Fund raising has been difficult but many have stepped up with ideas and the generous giving from so many has been wonderful. Through the year we have raised £2,376.

Gill Blackburn

On behalf of the Social and Fundraising Committee

APCM UPDATE 2020/2021

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

It is important that we as a Church have a presence online where many of our local communities spend a good deal of their time these days.

Studies published in February 2021 show that as of 2019/2020, the average daily social media usage of internet users worldwide amounted to 145 minutes per day, up from 142 minutes in the previous year!

Our platforms act as an extension of our church services and allow us to deliver meaningful and valuable content to both new and existing members of the congregation. The use of social media and an online presence has been highlighted this year more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic and we have been forced to utilise social media in a way we haven't done before.

Our social platforms during COVID-19 have:

- Allowed us to promote online services & fellowship groups.
- Keep in touch when the church doors were unfortunately closed.
- Promote fundraising events and encourage donations.

Facebook

287 'likes' and 303 'followers' which is a slight increase on the previous year.

Via Facebook we continue to share a mixture of church service details, prayers of the day, fundraising and event details, weekly newsletters as well as informative information to benefit the local community.

Top posts of 2020:

- Christmas raffle draw – reached 161, 43 post clicks and 12 reactions.
- Virtual Advent Calendar with Rachael – reached 275, 18 post clicks and 14 reactions.
- Christmas Raffle announcement – reached 1,400, 69 post clicks, 43 reactions.
- Church re-opening post (July) – reached 983, 24 post clicks, 8 reactions.

Other stats:

- The CofE Prayer of the Day is posted daily with around 40-50 people engaging with this every day which again is an increase on the previous period.
- 31 people are currently on our mailing list to receive the Newsletter which is issued weekly.

BRANDING UPDATE

Since the launch of our own brand, the St Bede logo is now recognisable across the community. The logo is used on our weekly newsletter, at the top of agendas and rotas, used at St Bede Primary Academy and we even have our own branded letterhead for official use. The logo is also used on the Projector at the start off all our services within Church.

EASYFUNDRAISING UPDA

To date we have raised £470.91 via 27 supporters on this platform, paid to us on a quarterly basis. We also benefitted from the one off £100 payment from EasyFundraising themselves as winners of a competition they were running

This method of donation is perfect for allowing us to reach support from outside of church, we've utilised this donation platform when running our virtual fundraising events this year and also appealed for donations via the Christmas online shopping spree.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We continue to have our newsletter posted on the website on a weekly basis. This area does need some more focus to utilise our online presence.

Kirsty Critchley & Tony Whitehead

Deanery Synod Report for APCM Sunday 11th April 2021

The Deanery Synod held meetings in June 2020, October 2020 and February 2021 which were all via zoom.

The meeting on the 10 June, the Bishop of Bolton, Bishop Mark gave an address reflecting on the bible reading (Isaiah 43 v 18-21) 'how we are having to learn to be a church in a new way'. Church is more than the physical building and he shared instances of good things happening in the diocese during lockdown.

The meeting on the 14 October, the Rev V Whitworth (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to the meeting and although we couldn't meet in person we can have the opportunity to celebrate all the exciting things that have been happening in the diocese over the last 6 months and to encourage each other in these challenging times. Across the deanery mission has been maintained and we have grown in areas with the on-line presence reaching out to more people than ever.

The meeting on the 23 February, the deanery was asked to respond to 'Missional Communities Document'. We were split into 6 groups to answer the question 'is there anything we need to amend or add to the response'. Various points were discussed with both positive and negative responses and it was agreed that the amendments discussed should be submitted to the diocese.

At each meeting there were reports from around the churches about what they were doing in keeping mission alive in their church. Also reports from the Area Dean, Lay Chair and Treasurer.

It was noted that Deane Deanery had paid the highest amount of parish share in the diocese.

The Missional Communities Document has now been published on-line. The proposal is to move to a more sustainable ministry that can grow.

Jean Phillips – Deanery Synod Rep