

**The Parish of Birch with Fallowfield**  
**Holy Innocents Church**

*2 Wilbraham Road – Fallowfield – Manchester M14 6JZ*

☎0161 224 0535 [www.holyinnocentsff.org](http://www.holyinnocentsff.org)



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**Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2023, at 11.30am**

Apologies for absence

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Election of Churchwardens

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022
2. Matters arising
3. Report on changes to the church electoral roll
4. Election of PCC members – 4 vacancies
5. Election of Deanery Synod members – 2 vacancies
6. Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts
7. Annual Report on proceedings of the PCC, including financial statements for 2022
8. Safeguarding update
9. Annual Report on proceedings of Manchester South and Stretford Deanery Synod
10. Warden's Report, including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
11. Rector's Report
12. Closing remarks

## **The Parish of Birch with Fallowfield**

### **Holy Innocents Church**

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### **Minutes of meetings held on Sunday May 1st 2022, starting at 11.30am**

Apologies for absence

Hilary Jones, Stuart Jones, Beryl Newton, Joan Hayes

In attendance

Alan Clarke (chair), Andrew Gait (clerk), Joanna Gait, Revd Richard Young, Revd Jane Walker, Jack Young, Lynda Newton, Joanna Gait, Harry Lowe, Peggy Lowe, Sue Neesham, Barbara Kinch, Betty Ormrod, Judith Clark, Faith Escreet, Peter Jordan, Hilary Peate, Andy Peate, Sarah Peate, Stephen Pennells, Revd Michael Ainsworth, Harry Molander, Bill Godfrey (via Zoom)

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

##### **1. Election of Churchwardens**

The purpose of this meeting is to elect two churchwardens. There were two nominations:

Lynda Newton (nominated by Stephen Pennells, seconded by Betty Ormrod)

Alan Clarke (nominated by Stephen Pennells, seconded by Betty Ormrod)

With no further nominations, Lynda and Alan were elected as the two churchwardens.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

##### **1. Opening remarks**

Alan Clarke opened the meeting with an explanation that we would make this as short as possible due to the current circumstances of the pandemic, with as few questions as possible (questions were encouraged in advance over the previous week, and none were received).

##### **2. Minutes of the meetings held on Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2021**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of that meeting (proposed Barbara Kinch, seconded Peter Jordan, with all in favour).

##### **3. Matters arising**

None.

##### **4. Report on changes to the church electoral roll**

There are currently 79 names on the electoral roll after a minor revision where 2 people were removed and 3 were added. There are now 16 (+1 from last year) residents and 63 (+0 from last year) non-residents on the roll.

##### **5. Election of PCC members – 3 vacancies**

There were 2 nominees:

Barbara Kinch (nominated by Alan Clarke, seconded by Stephen Pennells)  
Janet Batsleer (nominated by Margaret Beetham, seconded by Andrew Gait)

With no further nominations, each of the nominees were duly elected.

6. Appointment of independent examiner of the accounts

It was proposed that Hugh Cairns should continue as the independent examiner (proposed Harry Lowe, seconded by Jenny Daggers, with all in favour).

7. Annual Report on proceedings of the PCC, including financial statements for 2018

A written review of the year was tabled. The financial statements were also tabled. There were no questions taken at the meeting; no questions were received in advance of the meeting.

Q: What has happened recently with Taban?

A: It is a registered charity funded for 3 years, halfway through its second year. We are considering options in terms of expanding but these are not straightforward at the moment.

8. Financial statements to be received by the meeting

The financial statements, accounts and report were received by the meeting (proposed Hilary Peate, seconded Barbara Kinch, with all present in favour).

9. Safeguarding: Child Protection Policy & Vulnerable Adults Policy

A written report was presented to the meeting. There were no questions. The policies are available to view on request.

10. Annual Report on proceedings of Hulme/South Manchester Deanery Synod

A written report was presented to the meeting. A mission community that has recently started between more local churches has in essence replaced how the smaller old deanery of Hulme used to work. There were no further questions.

11. Wardens' Report, including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

Alan Clarke and Lynda Newton presented a written report. Alan indicated that we have two tenders for work on the roof of £86k and £145k and are waiting for two further tenders. The cheapest of the current tenders have indicated they would do the work during the summer.

12. Rector's Report

Richard Young presented a written report.

Q: What are our plans for when energy prices rise later in the year?

A: We are in a large parish buying energy basket now until September. Harry Lowe expects us to get a quote at some point soon, but at the moment he thinks we need to wait. We have new thermostats and a system whereby the thermostats can be turned on or off remotely. It is not such a good idea given the building to keep the heating on all the time. Alan and Richard are still learning how to use the remote controls effectively, but they think they are saving costs in the times when in the past the heating has been left on.

A vote of thanks for the wardens was proposed by, amongst others, Jenny Daggers, Barbara Kinch and Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth.

The meeting ended at 11.55am with the Grace.

**Holy Innocents Church, 2 Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6JZ**

Annual Report and  
**Financial Statements of the**  
**Parochial Church Council of Birch with Fallowfield**  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Incumbent  
The Revd R M Young (from April 24<sup>th</sup> 2018)  
c/o 2 Wilbraham Road  
Fallowfield  
Manchester

Bank  
NatWest Bank  
699 Wilmslow Road  
Didsbury  
Manchester  
M20 6NW

Central Board of Finance  
80 Cheapside  
London

Independent Examiner  
Mr H Cairns

**Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council  
and activities of the Parish**

***Membership of the Parochial Church Council***

The maximum number of elected lay representatives on the PCC is currently nine: each serves for three years, three retire at each APCM, and elections are held to fill the vacancies. We also elected two Deanery Synod representatives at the 2020 APCM to serve until 2023.

Incumbent	The Revd Richard Young		From April 24 <sup>th</sup> 2018
Associate Priest	The Revd Jane Walker		From June 24 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Wardens	Alan Clarke	Lay Chair	From APCM 2021
	Lynda Newton		From APCM 2018
Representatives on the Deanery Synod	Jenny Daggers		From APCM 2020 until 2023
	Reza Shekar Farush		From APCM 2020 until 2023

PCC Members	Andrew Gait	PCC Secretary	From APCM 2020 until 2023
	Jack Young	Treasurer	From APCM 2020 until 2023
	Sue Neesham		From APCM 2020 until 2023
	Margaret Beetham		From APCM 2019 until 2022
	Andrew Jenkins		From APCM 2019 until 2022
	Barbara Kinch		From APCM 2019 until 2022
	Assunta del Priore		From APCM 2021 until 2024
	Kaveh Golab		From APCM 2021 until 2024
	Hilary Jones		From APCM 2021 until 2024
	Janet Batsleer		From APCM 2022 until 2025
	Barbara Kinch		From APCM 2022 until 2025

### ***Committees and working groups***

The standing committee is required by the Church Representation Rules. Other committees and working groups are appointed by the PCC for the purpose of various branches of church work in the parish. Members of the PCC lead the working groups but members of the congregation who are not members of the PCC are welcome to join the groups.

#### *Standing committee:*

This committee has power to transact the business of the Council between its meetings, subject to directions given by the full Council.

#### *Building committee:*

This group takes responsibility for looking after all aspects of the maintenance and development of the church building.

#### *Education and Learning Committee*

The Committee is responsible for organising Advent and Lent courses and other events or meetings as appropriate. It has also taken under its wing the Quiet Place meetings on Thursdays and the Simple Quiet Saturdays once a month.

#### *Young people/Children's church:*

This group takes responsibility for the involvement of children in the life and worship of the church; provision for children and their parents within the church; and the encouragement of young people, children and their parents as active members of the church community.

#### *Music/Worship/Liturgy:*

This group takes responsibility for the musical life and direction of the church, considering how to enrich and extend our current musical traditions and repertoire.

#### *Eco-church:*

This group takes responsibility for discussing and suggesting ways in which the church could improve its eco-friendliness.

### ***Church attendance***

The average weekly attendance at the Sung Eucharist for Sundays where the church was open during this year was 55.

### ***Review of the year***

The Revd Richard Young continued as our Rector, supported by Revd Jane Walker, Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth, Revd Canon Alma Servant and Revd Janina Ainsworth.

Sunday Services continued with social distancing and hygiene measures in place to mitigate possible infection from Covid-19, with services continuing to be live-streamed for those who were not able to attend. The Standing Committee and PCC continued to review our procedures throughout the year, deciding to go with a model whereby we went with decisions that 75% of people felt comfortable with.

Midweek Eucharists continued to take place on Mondays and Thursdays.

Children's Church continued to meet, usually on the second Sunday of each month.

The full PCC met five times during the year with a mean average attendance of 73% (range 50-93%). The majority of the year was spent in arranging events relating to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building on the site, alongside ensuring that necessary work to the North roof took place as requested at our last quinquennial inspection, as well as transacting the everyday business of the church. As well as marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary through special services and inviting visiting preachers who formerly had links with the parish, we also hosted a live broadcast of the BBC Radio 4 series Any Questions in September, and we ran a project entitled "Coming through the door" which invited current members of the congregation to share their memories of their first visit(s) to Holy Innocents, which were collated and made into booklets which were then given to those who wished to see them.

We continue to be involved with our local Mission Community alongside other like-minded local churches, and continue to attend South Manchester Deanery Synod meetings.

Close links continue with St James' School with members of the congregation serving on the Governing Body. A large part of the year was taken up with discussions with the governing body of St Philip's Hulme over federation between the two schools, whereby the two schools would have a single executive headteacher and a single governing body. An agreement was reached and the process officially completed on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

The PCC agreed to continue funding for choral scholarships for the academic year 2022-23. Currently we have three choral scholars who support us on a regular basis, one of whom conducts.

We ran a Lent Course and an Advent course, and the church continues to support Peace and Justice campaigns, including supporting asylum seekers, Christian Aid, Traidcraft and Fairtrade.

A Romanian orthodox congregation continue to use the building on Sunday afternoons.

The Alteri choir continue to use our building for their regular fortnightly rehearsals. Orchestras and musical societies continue to use the building for concerts.

In Lent our giving supported the Oasis charity in Gorton, and in Advent we donated to the work of the UNHCR through a charity called Safe Passage.

The church continued to receive income from the mobile phone mast installation.

*Andrew Gait,  
PCC Secretary,  
March 2023*

## Holy Innocents Accounts 2022 Treasurer's Report

### Income

Planned giving has increased marginally, but loose plate collections remains static.

One off grants – we received hardship money distributed as needed together with a one off grant towards heating / lighting from the C of E

Other funds generated from EasyFundraising.co.uk – charitable donations from spending with Amazon / Ebay etc. This is a very useful and pain free way of generating income and we advise any online shopper to register with the site and check whether the online store is participating.

Rental income increased significantly from increased use by the Romanian Orthodox Church. We continue to get rent from the telecomms equipment in the tower and are fortunate that unlike some other churches, this has not been reduced.

Investment income has fallen, as has the fund valuations reflecting the market during 2022. It should be noted that at the time of writing, there has been a significant improvement and as with all investments, fluctuations in value are a fact of life.

### Payments

Organist – we have increased payments to cover increased activity / responsibility for music / choir.

Parish share increased to £20k. There has been a further 10% increase for 2023

Church running expenses have generally been kept down – the large payment for the organ related to protective covering covering during renovations. The December 2022 electricity bill will be paid in January 2023 but a keeping a close eye on use of heating has had a positive effect despite increases in unit costs.

Church repairs – a major reduction in our reserves for the replacement of the roof of the N aisle together with redecoration of both N and S aisles internally. Payments have been staggered under architect supervision. At the year end we still have one payment to make when the work is signed off but under the contract this will not occur until one year after completion i.e. December 2023. We will then apply for reimbursement of vat under the Listed Places of Worship scheme.

**Holy Innocents Church**  
**Balance sheet (Church of England)**  
**As at: 31 December 2022**

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Investments	214,788	245,107
	<u>214,788</u>	<u>245,107</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	1,474	—
Investments	14,510	14,325
Cash at bank and in hand	36,153	123,601
	<u>52,137</u>	<u>137,927</u>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>52,137</u>	<u>137,927</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>266,926</u>	<u>383,035</u>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<u>266,926</u>	<u>383,035</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	152,633	255,429
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Bells renovation	180	180
Designated - Covid19 Hardship	2,015	2,000
Designated - Hall Damage Deposits	25	25
Designated - Designated gifts/legacies	1,003	1,003
Designated - Church Lunches	43	43
Designated - Organ Fund	—	—
Designated - Rector's fund	51	51
Designated - Sunday School	(1)	(1)
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - CCLA 124001413S Youth Centre	31,441	34,617
Restricted - Advent Retiring Collection	30	30
Restricted - Agency	—	—
Restricted - Bell Ringers	—	—
Restricted - Hardship Grant	(150)	—
Restricted - Lent Retiring Collection	—	—
Restricted - National Disaster Appeal	—	—
Restricted - CCLA 124001400D Sale Holy Innocents	13,591	13,591
<b>Endowment</b>		
Endowment - CCLA 124001320S Atkins	50,423	57,955
Endowment - CCLA 124001090F D. Atkins	9,861	11,523
Endowment - CCLA 124001220D Lancaster Rd	329	329
Endowment - CCLA 124001175S Year dye	5,448	6,255
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<u>266,926</u>	<u>383,035</u>

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

As at 31/12/2022

£

As at 31/12/2021

£

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*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

**Holy Innocents Church**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Receipts</i>						
Planned giving	27,442	480	—	—	27,922	26,995
Collections and other giving	2,244	—	—	—	2,244	1,511
Other voluntary receipts	1,939	—	150	—	2,089	1,284
Gift Aid recovered	8,422	—	—	—	8,422	6,794
Other receipts	573	—	—	—	573	336
Activities for generating funds	21,187	—	—	—	21,187	16,843
Investment Income	5,005	—	—	1,568	6,574	8,316
Receipts from church activities	413	—	—	—	413	137
<b>Total income</b>	<b>67,230</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>69,429</b>	<b>62,219</b>
<i>Payments</i>						
Cost of generating funds	(54)	—	—	—	(54)	—
Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,139	464	300	—	1,903	324
Parish Share	20,000	—	—	—	20,000	18,532
Clergy and Staffing costs	3,610	—	—	—	3,610	2,700
Church Running Expenses	21,437	—	—	—	21,437	24,651
Church Repairs & Maintenance	108,321	—	—	—	108,321	4,669
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>154,454</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>155,219</b>	<b>50,877</b>
Gains / losses on investment assets	(17,640)	—	(3,176)	(9,502)	(30,319)	30,182
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>(104,864)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(3,326)</b>	<b>(7,933)</b>	<b>(116,109)</b>	<b>41,523</b>
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,068	—	—	—	2,068	2,046
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	(2,068)	(2,068)	(2,046)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(102,796)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>(3,326)</b>	<b>(10,002)</b>	<b>(116,109)</b>	<b>41,523</b>
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>255,429</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>48,239</b>	<b>76,064</b>	<b>383,035</b>	<b>341,511</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>152,633</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>44,913</b>	<b>66,062</b>	<b>266,926</b>	<b>383,035</b>
<i>Represented by</i>						
Unrestricted						
General fund	152,633	—	—	—	152,633	255,429
Designated						
Bells renovation	—	180	—	—	180	180
Church Lunches	—	43	—	—	43	43
Covid19 Hardship	—	2,015	—	—	2,015	2,000
Designated gifts/legacies	—	1,003	—	—	1,003	1,003
Hall Damage Deposits	—	25	—	—	25	25
Rector's fund	—	51	—	—	51	51
Sunday School	—	(1)	—	—	(1)	(1)
Restricted						
Advent Retiring Collection	—	—	30	—	30	30
CCLA 124001400D Sale Holy Innocents	—	—	13,591	—	13,591	13,591
CCLA 124001413S Youth Centre	—	—	31,441	—	31,441	34,617
Hardship Grant	—	—	(150)	—	(150)	—
Endowment						

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	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
CCLA 124001090F D.Atkins	—	—	—	9,861	9,861	11,523
CCLA 124001175S Yeadye	—	—	—	5,448	5,448	6,255
CCLA 124001220D Lancaster Rd	—	—	—	329	329	329
CCLA 124001320S Atkins	—	—	—	50,423	50,423	57,955

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# Holy Innocents Church

## Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts</b>						
<i>Planned giving</i>						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	24,062	480	—	—	24,542	25,550
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	21	—	—	—	21	195
0201 - Other planned giving	3,359	—	—	—	3,359	1,250
<i>Planned giving Totals</i>	27,442	480	—	—	27,922	26,995
<i>Collections and other giving</i>						
0301 - Loose plate collections	1,094	—	—	—	1,094	1,076
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	1,150	—	—	—	1,150	435
<i>Collections and other giving Totals</i>	2,244	—	—	—	2,244	1,511
<i>Other voluntary receipts</i>						
0410 - Giving through church boxes	90	—	—	—	90	50
0550 - Donations appeals etc	449	—	—	—	449	230
0701 - Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	1,003
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	1,400	—	150	—	1,550	—
<i>Other voluntary receipts Totals</i>	1,939	—	150	—	2,089	1,284
<i>Gift Aid recovered</i>						
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,422	—	—	—	8,422	6,794
<i>Gift Aid recovered Totals</i>	8,422	—	—	—	8,422	6,794
<i>Other receipts</i>						
0901 - Other funds generated	573	—	—	—	573	336
<i>Other receipts Totals</i>	573	—	—	—	573	336
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
1220 - Bookstall sales - fund raising	25	—	—	—	25	—
1240 - Church hall lettings - fund raising	21,162	—	—	—	21,162	16,843
<i>Activities for generating funds Totals</i>	21,187	—	—	—	21,187	16,843
<i>Investment Income</i>						
1001 - Dividends	3,818	—	—	1,566	5,385	5,322
1020 - Bank and building society interest	461	—	—	1	463	18
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	725	—	—	—	725	2,975
<i>Investment Income Totals</i>	5,005	—	—	1,568	6,574	8,316

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	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<i>Receipts from church activities</i>						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	294	—	—	—	294	137
1330 - Coffee	119	—	—	—	119	—
<i>Receipts from church activities Totals</i>	413	—	—	—	413	137
<b>Receipts Grand totals</b>	67,230	480	150	1,568	69,429	62,219

## Payments

<i>Cost of generating funds</i>						
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	(334)	—	—	—	(334)	—
2511 - Coffee and Biscuits	280	—	—	—	280	—
<i>Cost of generating funds Totals</i>	(54)	—	—	—	(54)	—
<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving</i>						
1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies	—	—	—	—	—	30
1850 - Home mission	899	464	300	—	1,663	104
1870 - Secular charities	240	—	—	—	240	190
<i>Missionary and Charitable Giving Totals</i>	1,139	464	300	—	1,903	324
<i>Parish Share</i>						
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	20,000	—	—	—	20,000	18,532
<i>Parish Share Totals</i>	20,000	—	—	—	20,000	18,532
<i>Clergy and Staffing costs</i>						
2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	260	—	—	—	260	—
2950 - Organist	3,350	—	—	—	3,350	2,700
<i>Clergy and Staffing costs Totals</i>	3,610	—	—	—	3,610	2,700
<i>Church Running Expenses</i>						
2201 - Parish training and mission	3,005	—	—	—	3,005	3,680
2301 - Church running - insurance	5,275	—	—	—	5,275	5,057
2310 - Church office - telephone	313	—	—	—	313	315
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	1,433	—	—	—	1,433	474
2330 - Church maintenance	1,734	—	—	—	1,734	1,065
2331 - Cleaning	147	—	—	—	147	—
2340 - Upkeep of services	943	—	—	—	943	2,288
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	2,082	—	—	—	2,082	2,270
2360 - Administration	201	—	—	—	201	3,177
2401 - Church running - electric	1,586	—	—	—	1,586	1,296
2410 - Church running - gas	4,257	—	—	—	4,257	4,705
2420 - Church running - water	456	—	—	—	456	320
<i>Church Running Expenses Totals</i>	21,437	—	—	—	21,437	24,651

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<i>Church Repairs &amp; Maintenance</i>						
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	105,349	—	—	—	105,349	2,940
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	2,972	—	—	—	2,972	1,729
<i>Church Repairs &amp; Maintenance Totals</i>	108,321	—	—	—	108,321	4,669
<b>Payments Grand totals</b>	154,454	464	300	—	155,219	50,877

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

## **Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Birch with Fallowfield**

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022. This report is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the 1993 Act').

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulations and under section 43(2) of the 1993 Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required of an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 1993 Act and Regulations

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.



Hugh Cairns

11 Beechwood Court, Holme Road, M20 2UA

Dated 06/02/2023.

# Birch with Fallowfield Safeguarding Report

## March 2023

We follow the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policy. A copy of the Safer Church Safeguarding Policy has been signed on behalf of the PCC and the policy statements have been reviewed. Safeguarding information including contact details for the P.S.C. are displayed on the church web site and on noticeboard in the porch along with ChildLine and Silver Line details.

There have been two safeguarding concerns in the last year. Both of which were dealt with according to guidelines with support and advice from the diocese. During this year I have also renewed my safeguarding training on the latest diocesan course.

As a general reminder anyone with any concerns about safeguarding should speak to the Rector or Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator who then will follow the recommended diocesan procedures. In no circumstances should a member of congregation question anyone independently as this can affect further actions.

Lynda Newton

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

March 2023

## **MANCHESTER SOUTH AND STRETFORD DEANERY SYNOD 2022/23**

**Area Dean: Rev. Nick Watson**

Deanery Synod met as follows

### **29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Christ Church Brunswick, with some members joining via Zoom.**

At this meeting we were joined by Paul Berry, the Diocesan Giving Adviser who informed us about the Generosity and Thankfulness initiative and shared resources.

We received the General and Diocesan Synod Reports.

Information was also shared about Eco-church and the Energy Footprint tool and it was hoped net zero would be achieved by the Diocese by 2030.

Towards the end of the meeting there was an opportunity to meet in small groups to share what was going on in our churches and Mission Communities.

### **29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (via Zoom)**

At this meeting our Area Dean outlined 'The Deanery Story' so far. It is now one year since the new deanery structure came into effect.

There was also an update on the Mission Communities.

There was a breakout Session in which members were asked how best to engage PCCs and congregations with the changes taking place in the Diocese

Parish Share and Parish Finances. Rev. Nick commented that the parish share is not coming in at the level at which the Board of Finance set the Diocesan budget. It was encouraging to hear that our Deanery's parish share contribution is relatively better than most other deaneries.

There was an update on the Energy Tool Footprint with churches encouraged to use this in order to provide the diocese with the information it needs as it seeks to achieve its carbon net zero target.

## **17<sup>th</sup> October at Emmanuel Church Didsbury**

Bishop Mark Middleton joined us for our meeting and gave an update on the Transformation Programme.

Work was also done on the Deanery Mission Action Plan, setting out our medium-term targets and key short-term actions as a deanery.

Rob Chilton spoke about the 'Warm welcome' initiative, in a bid to co-ordinate offers for warm spaces during the coming winter.

Information was also given about the Income Survey, October Count and authorising of Eucharistic Assistants.

## **Mission Community**

Our mission community continues to meet, with Richard Young acting as our co-ordinator.

Experience Easter training sessions were planned by Capt. Phil and Rev. Anne. These were opened up to the wider Deanery.

There will be a Eucharist for Ascension Day (18<sup>th</sup> May) at Christ Church, West Didsbury at 7.30 p.m. with input from other churches in our Mission Community

Anne Pilkington

**The Parish of Birch with Fallowfield**  
**Holy Innocents Church**

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**Wardens report on the fabric of the building**

There has been considerable time, effort and money spent on the maintenance of the fabric during the year.

The north aisle and former vestry roofs have been replaced. All the adjoining masonry has been re bedded on a layer of lead to protect the walls below from water penetration. Fortunately, we were spared the expense of replacing the ceiling plaster. All the exposed timbers were sound which was a blessing and consequently reduced some of our costs. We did however need to carry out repairs to the south side aisle roof before the interior redecoration commenced.

We undertook to have a report on the repairs to the tower and spire as required in the Architects report. The estimated costs are for £7000. and work is scheduled to commence shortly. It is suggested the damage is due to weather penetrating the pointing and stonework, causing it to become porous and crumble. I recall the tower and spire being repointed over sixty years ago; I remember sitting in the porch with my father for a gift day! That porch is now the entrance to the pub next door.

The PCC were required to complete a comprehensive Asbestos survey covering the whole building before work could commence on the roof. There are issues arising out of this which will have to be addressed in the future. Health and Safety legislation requires such surveys are carried out whenever major maintenance work is planned therefore in the future; we would have to complete the appropriate survey beforehand.

Parts of the electrical installation have been replaced much of which is now forty years old. We fortunately with a few exceptions have LED lighting throughout the church much of it replaced over twelve years ago. The lighting in the upper apse and several spot lights will need to be replaced in the future as their halogen bulbs are being phased out.

We have been in a very fortunate position to facilitate all of these projects due mainly to our benefactors whose generosity has made this possible and remember them with gratitude.

Planning ahead the south aisle roof needs to be replaced possibly to incorporate some form of renewable energy panels, hopefully within a five year period as funds become available. The grounds around the Lady Chapel and the apse are a little neglected although kept tidy by our gardeners are a possible area for improvement. Internally the soft furnishings and carpets are showing their age and are looking tatty and in need of replacement.

The wardens are grateful for your support over the past year. We are thankful to Richard and the clergy team for their much-valued ministry to the community gathered here at Holy Innocents.

Lynda and Alan

## **Rector's Report – March 2023**

As we move towards the end of our 150th celebratory year I find it has been not one of events but one of people. We have welcomed guest preachers and presiders from the past, from new ordinands to our Bishop. It has also been a pleasure to welcome back people who have moved away and for whom Holy Innocents will always be a place where they found refuge. This leads me to reflect on our community as being at the centre of a much wider network stretching back into the past and I hope also into the future. Our Coming Through The Door booklet was a lovely expression of this community: I look forward to seeing the next edition. This year we have also welcomed people from the parish into church for the BBC Any Questions broadcast: it was lovely to see so many neighbours and friends in a place they don't usually come but together with us and enjoying themselves.

I believe this will go down as the year we did emerge out of the pandemic. We have lifted all restrictions save one: from Easter Sunday you will be free to celebrate the Peace in whatever way you wish - subject only to the inhibitions of those around you.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee members, Alan, Lynda, Hilary, Andy and Jane for carrying much of the responsibility of leadership this year alongside my fellow priests, Michael Jan, Alma and again Jane. We are increasingly working as a leadership team both as a Standing Committee and as a PCC and our meetings, it seems to me, have become more confident and more enjoyable as well as more effective. We are always looking for new people to come and join in the fun.

Particular thanks to Harry, who is stepping down as Treasurer after long, faithful service, and to Jack, who is picking up the role. Our finances are in good health thanks entirely to your faithful giving. This year we have replaced the north aisle roof and are about to repair the steeple. At the last PCC, we dreamed about a building which is not only zero carbon, but with zero cost of energy, a building where we could throw open our doors to many more community and other groups and thereby enrich further that network I spoke of earlier.

Thank you to you all. Holy Innocents is a very special place and I feel privileged to minister here.

RICHARD YOUNG

8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023