



The Parish of St Paul's Church, Coven

*Address for correspondence:
The Parish Office, The New Vicarage, Church Lane, Coven. WV9 5DE*

Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2019

Vicar:
The Rev'd Dr Simon Peter Iredale

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
4 Tuns Parade
Stafford Road
Wolverhampton
WV10 6BA

Independent Examiner:
Denise Hughes
15 Ounsdale Close
Wombourne
Wolverhampton
WV5 9HU

Our web site:
- <http://stpaulschurchcoven.co.uk/>

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

The Parish of St Paul's Church, Coven

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Appendix 1 –
Summary of last year's Accounts for reference.
Included as new Financial Software only has one year's data.

The Parochial Church Council of St Paul's Coven

2019 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Paul's Church, Coven.

Aim and Purpose

St Paul's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, The Rev'd Dr Simon Peter Iredale, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church itself, which is a Grade 11 listed Building.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our parish community at St Paul's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and make suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary 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.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work; it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services, not only on Sundays, but also during the week, that our community will find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, there is a said Eucharist Service at normally 10.30am on Wednesday morning, whilst the main Sunday Service is a traditional Eucharist at 9.15 am.

There has been a marked increase in the number of Baptisms that have been performed during the year. The Vicar has adopted a more flexible approach towards baptisms and has been keen to accommodate as much as reasonably possible, times and dates of parents choosing. He has also been able to develop a less formal preparation policy, preferring to conduct this in homes and this appears to have been received positively.

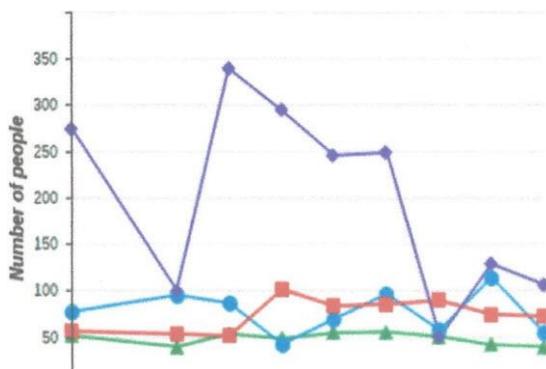
Our style of worship has continued without any significant changes. Our close proximity to the canal network has meant that we enjoy frequent visitors, joining us on Sunday mornings, from the narrowboat community passing through the area. It has also been pleasing to see the increased support

of the local community at the major festivals of Easter, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. The introduction of the 'Little Fishes' service for children on Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m. following the main Eucharistic Service was initially very successful.

The Electoral Roll was completely revised during March, as required by the Church Representation rules. There are currently 57 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 38 who live within the parish and 19 who are non-residents. The average Sunday attendance at the 9.15am Service on Sundays was 39 with 3- children, but this number increased significantly at Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. The following screenshot is taken from our Statistics for Mission Dashboard.

1. Attendance Summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Christmas	274.0	0.0	99.0	339.0	294.0	245.0	248.0	49.0	128.0	106.0
Easter	56.0	0.0	53.0	51.0	101.0	83.0	85.0	89.0	74.0	72.0
A-rag- W-1c. October	77.3	0.0	95.3	86.3	41.5	68.8	96.0	57.0	114.0	54.0
Usual Sunday	51.0	0.0	39.0	53.0	48.0	54.0	55.0	50.0	41.0	39.0

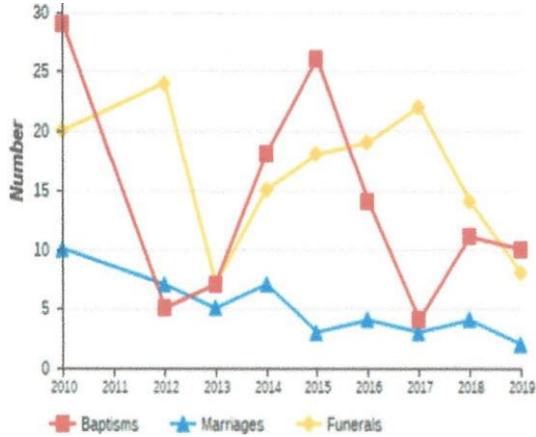


As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There have been 10 Baptisms, 2 weddings and 8 funerals during the year. Those who are no longer able to come to Church are not forgotten and receive Holy Communion in their own homes taken by our lay Eucharistic Minister.

Regrettably, overall, the number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals (referred to as 'Occasional Offices' by the Church of England) performed by St Paul's, continues to reflect the national downward trend.

6. Baptisms, ~marriages and funerals

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Baptisms	29.0	0.0	5.0	7.0	18.0	26.0	14.0	4.0	11.0	10.0
Marriages	10.0	0.0	7.0	5.0	7.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	2.0
Funerals	20.0	0.0	24.0	7.0	15.0	18.0	19.0	22.0	14.0	8.0



Two members of the PCC sit on the Penkridge Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link with the Churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. The first meeting of the year was due to be held on **29th January 2019** but the speaker was unable to attend as she was uncertain of being able to get home due to the heavy snow in her area. As the conditions locally had begun to deteriorate rapidly the decision was taken to postpone the meeting and rearrange it sometime in the future.

Weather conditions for the second meeting on **12th June 2019** caused no problems and it was held in St Paul's Church Coven. Fr Simon led the opening prayers and the Rural Dean introduced the Rev Pauline Shelton from the Diocesan Vocations and Training Team. Major changes were being made particularly in Lay Training in order to better meet lay Training needs and this presentation was being made to update all Deanery Synods. She talked about the National Initiative 'Setting God's People Free' which offers tools to 'work things out' from the grass roots up and then about the courses available for lay people. It was an interesting and very informative talk especially for those who want to take on the challenge of playing a more active role in Church Ministry. The Diocesan Synod Report, EcoChurch and Deanery Strategy were also discussed.

The meeting on **10th October 2019** was held at St Peter's Church Codsall and the evening began with a service of Holy Communion led by Rev Rachel Dale. Afterwards refreshments were served in the hall and then Helen Palfrey introduced speaker Sue Egerton who was the Diocesan President for the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Lichfield. Sue updated Synod on the current work of Mothers' Union in a light-hearted way by using visual aids to represent various aspects of the work done. A rubber chicken was a link to the way in which families in developing countries may be given a couple of chickens or goats which immediately benefit the nutrition of the family (eggs and milk). Pencils and medication represent the literacy programme in which reading, writing and numeracy are

Taught to adults, mainly but not exclusively women, who never had the benefit of school as children. A baby's bib represented work done in the diocese to supply teenage mums with some essentials. Leaflets about all aspects covered were available and Sue was thanked for an informative and entertaining talk. The Diocesan Synod Report, EcoChurch and Deanery Strategy were again discussed together with Deanery News and an update on forthcoming meetings.

The meeting also receives reports from the General Synod.

Church Fabric

Maintaining the fabric of the church is an ongoing process. Repairs and renewals cost this year have been £3636. The main outlay being the replacement of the joists and floorboard in the toilet area, which were found to be dangerously rotten. The repair and replacement to a number of tiles on the Church roof was finally completed on Tuesday 10th March. This work will cost an estimate of £1500 +VAT. The VAT should be recoverable. The work has been approved by diocesan faculty, and the contract awarded to Alliance Technical, who should have completed the work during November, but have been hampered by the extreme wet weather encountered this winter .. The only other works that have been identified as needing to be carried out in the next 6 months in to clear and redecorate the cast iron wall head box gutters internally.

During the year we have completed the statutory required electrical, portable electrical equipment and gas inspections and checks. The annual resistivity test of the lightning conductor has been carried out. A health & safety check has also been carried out, and the COSHH and H & S policy reviewed. The annual Fire Extinguisher inspection has been completed.

The Church Building logbook and Inventory of all Fixtures and Fittings have been completely revised and rewritten, complete with photographs, in preparation for an advised and planned Archdeacon's Inspection Visitation (which as yet has not occurred).

Mission and Evangelism

Our Church sponsored Beavers Cubs and Scout group _1st Coven St Paul's, continue to be extremely successful and we retain strong links with them. They offer youth shaped scouting across all sections and work hard to ensure they provide 'Skills for life' in line with the Scout Association Vision. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have had the opportunity to participate in specialist activity days such as Archery and attending the Wolf Mountain Activity Centre, visits to the Cinema and Pantomime as well as camps and weekends at the Patsull Activity Centre. The number of young people involved with this Scout Group is now 63. Our team of dedicated leaders have now all achieved the prestigious Wood Badge award and Maryann Edge, the Group Scout leader has achieved her Managers Wood Badge. The Executive Committee has a dedicated group of enthusiastic leaders, parents and volunteers serving on it.

2019 saw the organisation and execution of the successful first ever "1st Coven Summer Show" which was planned and delivered by a subcommittee, joined by a number of parents and community groups as well as the Air Cadets and Andeejay, who hosted the programme. It was a huge success and a great community event, whilst raising nearly £1000 for the group's funds.

Our relationship with St Paul's First School continues to go from strength to strength and the links between it and the Church have grown and developed further during the first year of Fr Simon's ministry in Coven. We are committed to developing pupils' knowledge of Jesus Christ through school visits and services in church. Two regular members of the congregation serve as Foundation Governors.

The **Parish Magazine** continues to thrive and our thanks go to our editor Jane Morris for all her hard work, as well as the team of dedicated contributors and distributors.

Our **Website** is updated on a regular basis and our **Facebook** page has many loyal followers.

Charitable works. During the year, we have raised money for Christian Aid, The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, Compton Hospice and the Church of England Children's Society. Our Food Bank initiative in Coven, working with The Well in Wolverhampton started in the Spring. The Well, a Christian organisation, supports over 6000 families across Wolverhampton. Working as a collaboration of St Paul's Church, Coven Mothers Union and St Paul's First School we have delivered a staggering 400 Kilos of donated food during the year.

Our mother and toddler group, **Yummy Mummies** sadly folded just before the Summer holiday season, due to a dwindling number of members.

Coffee Pop-in on a Saturday morning offers friendship and refreshments to all villagers.

Coven Mothers Union has once again has had a fabulous year and is a significant outreach organisation for missions and evangelism. It is the youngest and most active branch of Mothers Union in the Lichfield Diocese and is ably and creatively led by Jo Knight. Throughout the year they have conducted many fund-raising activities and supported a wide number of charities and hospitals. In March, a 'Cuppa & Cake event' was held in Church for the Haven Women's Refuge from domestic abuse in Wolverhampton which raised £753. £501 was donated to the Lakeside Priory for young women suffering with Mental Health.

In April the Big Brekkie succeeded in raising £357 for Christian Aid. In June they joined the Scouts Coven Show and the Church Afternoon Fayre and Berry and Bun event raising £555 and £306 respectively, which was used to buy Mum Bags for the GEM Centre and for Church funds. In September they started the 'Life sucks without Socks' initiative helping the homeless with socks, hats and gloves, trainers, Jeans, jogging bottoms, pants and Travel passes donated to the Good Shepherd Centre in Wolverhampton. September saw the 'Smalls for All' initiative collecting 12 enormous bags of 'gently worn' bras and new pants which were sent to women & young girls in Africa and India via Brewood Inner Wheel. While people living in Western Society tend to have easy access to underwear and take it for granted, in many more remote or poorer parts of Africa, that's far from the case. Underwear is a luxury that isn't easily available and, if it is, many people just can't afford. At a very cold Coven Lights switch on they raised a total of £255 from sales of Christmas craft items and donations which was donated to Acorns Hospice.

Additionally, talented knitters created baby items, blankets, baptism bears, premature baby hats which were donated to the Walsall and Princess Royal neo natal units.

Our **God's Acre** initiative, working to improve the look and maintenance of the Church grounds has continued throughout the year, meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. A small, but dedicated and hardworking group, under the direction of Alan Badger, have started to make a real impact on the look of the grounds. The work the God's Acre team supplement the general maintenance that South Staffs Street Scene team complete, as the churchyard immediately surrounding the church is 'closed'. We have been joined by some new members and our thanks go to them for all their unstinting work and in particular to Sue Flavell who is charting and recording every gravestone, position and inscription in the old churchyard.

The **Fundraising and Social Committee** have met throughout the year and organised and held several events including a Quiz Nite, a Horse Racing Evening, Afternoon Fayre and Berry & Bun Event, Murder Mystery Evening and Frost Fayre. They have sung Carols at the 3 Hammers Golf Club and at the Anchor Inn. In total raising nearly £5000 towards Church funds and without which, it's worth noting, we would not be able to meet our running expenses and Parish Share. Our thanks go to Jan Carr for her dedicated organisation and administration of the **Bonus Ball**.

Financial Review

Our income for the year was £27418 and our expenditure of £33258 resulting in a deficit of £5866.80. Income from standing orders and weekly envelopes („Planned Giving“) is significantly down from £13,843 to £8502 which represents a difference of £5341. Our 'small plate collections' were slightly up from £2208 in 2018 to £2339 this financial year. Gift Aid remains of significant importance in our overall income, contributing £3611, our sincere thanks go to Bob Bailey for his work. The contribution to the Diocesan 'Parish Share' - which pays the stipends and housing costs etc. of the clergy, as well as Diocesan administration - remained the same at £18,220.

Safeguarding

The PCC has fully complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Our Vicar, both Churchwardens, our Pastoral Visitor and Sacramental Extended License Holder and Safeguarding Officer all have DBS checks and certificates.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. We especially would like to thank our Churchwardens, Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer, Safeguarding Officer, PCC Secretary, Deanery Synod Representatives, Verger and Sacristan as well as so many others who have contributed throughout the year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 7 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 96%.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated in Church Lane, Coven, Wolverhampton, WV9 5DE and is part of the Deanery of Penkridge, in the Diocese of Lichfield. The correspondence address is the Parish Office, The New Vicarage, Church Lane, Coven Wolverhampton WV9 5DE The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from the 1st January 2019 until the date this report was approved were:

Ex Officio

The Incumbent	The Rev'd Dr Simon Peter Iredale	
Churchwardens	Mrs Karen Jones Mrs Pauline Appleby	Churchwarden Churchwarden, Sacristan & Verger
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Clare Huguet Mrs Linda Plant	PCC Secretary
Elected Members	Mrs Janet Beason Mr Bob Bailey Mr Alan Badger Mr Roger Jones Mrs Paula Finney	Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer Stewardship Officer

Approved by the PCC on 16th March 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

pp The Rev'd Dr Simon Peter Iredale – Vicar

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Paul's Church, Coven
Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 9 to 12.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider 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:
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act: and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners report

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 charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. Which given me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, mention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Mrs Denise Hughes

Date 01st March 2020

Signature: *D. Hughes*

Relevant professional qualification or body:
PGCE in Secondary Education (Business), BA
Hons Business, HNC Business, ONC Business

Address
15 Ounsdale Close
Wombourne, Wolverhampton WV5 9HU