

Parochial Church Council Report to the A.P.C.M. May 2021.

Since the last APCM in October 2020, the PCC have met four times, three of which have been visual meetings using Zoom technology. Not many people would have forecast at the last APCM that seven months on the Covid-19 restrictions would still be in place and seriously affecting church activities. However, the Team Rector and the Churchwardens have worked tirelessly to keep things going in one way and another.

Despite these restrictions meaning that income generating events such as the Flower Festival did not take place and collections at church Services being curtailed, the Treasurer has managed to steer the finances in a way which enabled Turton to pay the Parish Share for 2020 (£44,000) in full. We even got a letter of thanks from Bishop David! Encouraging on-line giving and use of Standing orders helped to maintain income. The Hundred Club continued to generate a considerable amount for church funds and now has 90 members.

Visual on-line Sunday Services have continued and continued to be popular. They are a Turton Moorland Team effort involving local people providing photos and videos as well as the readings and prayers and the Team clergy contributing as well. It is proposed these on-line Services be continued into the future even when restrictions are lifted as they benefit a substantial number of people.

A lot of work has been carried out in the church grounds since a grant designed to improve the health and well-being of the community was obtained from the National Lottery Community Fund. The Memorial Garden paths have been flattened / smoothed to allow wheelchair access, and some small saplings removed to prevent roots lifting the paving flags; the main flower beds are being replanted under the supervision of a landscape designer. 32 Allotments have been installed in some of the car parking area and behind the rented garages. All of these have been taken for use by local people and there is a waiting list. The PCC is now looking at the land round St James and how it might be better used.

Some of the money involved in the grant is allocated to up-rating the machinery and equipment used by the Churchyard Team who have continued throughout the Covid restrictions to keep on top of the work required to make sure that the church grounds are in good order.

As you will see from the Fabric Report, there are other items involving high costs for the near future, notably the replacement of the church heating boiler and the repairs to the lych gates. Grants are being applied for in order to meet some of the cost of these essential works.

The P.C.C. has certainly been active in all aspects of keeping Turton churches running during these difficult times. Let us look forward to a future where we can re-engage with church activities as before Covid-19.

Ross Heron, Secretary to St. Anne's P.C.C.