

# **Building God's House**

# Knowing Jesus and making Him known

# Transforming Lives and Communities



Annual Report 2021

# Pages 1- 21

These pages represent our report to The Charities Commission in a format as required for charities with an income greater than £100,000

This report was approved by Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

# ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 Legal and Administrative information

#### **Chair of ECC**

Charity number 1143702

Revd Trudie Wigley 23 Sedgebrook Liden SWINDON SN3 6EY

#### Churchwarden

John Davidson

#### Acting ECC Secretary

(non-voting) Jackie Hancock (to 31/10/21) St Paul's Church Centre Swindon SN3 5BY

#### Churchwarden Vacancy

ECC Treasurer

#### Mr Anthony Prichard 1, Poltondale Covingham Swindon SN3 5BN

#### Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

#### Independent Examiner

Mr Paul J Crowley FCA Derrick Newman Limited Chartered Accountants, 29 Bath Road, Swindon SN1 4AS

#### **Church Address Details**

St Pauls St Paul's Drive Covingham Swindon SN3 5BY St Timothy's Grundys Liden Swindon SN3 6HP

Church office at St Pauls: 01793 435987 | dorcan.church.office@gmail.com

www.dorcanchurch.org.uk

# THE DORCAN CHURCH

A Local Ecumenical Partnership between The Church of England & The Methodist Church serving the Swindon urban villages of Covingham, Nythe, Liden & Eldene.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God, and in Jesus Christ unity has been offered to all people. Through the Word, we are called into a relationship with God and with one another as the children of God – a relationship inaugurated by Baptism into Christ through the Holy Spirit, nurtured and deepened through the ministry of word and sacrament and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life of loving service.

(from the Declaration of Intent of The Dorcan Church)

## **OUR PURPOSE**

"Transforming lives and communities, Knowing Jesus, and making Him known"

# OUR PICTURE OF CHURCH

# "A growing and vibrant church, confident in its purpose and trusting in God"

- a church which makes Jesus known
- a church of disciples
- a church in, and for, the community
- a church which cares

The Trustees of the Dorcan Church are the Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council, which has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbents in promoting the activities of the Church in the Community. Members of the Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council are either ex-officio, elected at the Annual Church Meeting or co-opted in accordance with the Constitution Governing Document dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011, as amended from time to time thereafter.

# Membership of Ecumenical Church Council (2021-2022)

Elected Members (electe	
Janet Prichard	until 2022
Tony Prichard	until 2022
Nicki Broom	until 2023
Nicki Clinch	until 2023
Sam Glennerster	until 2023
Nathalie Marshall	until 2023
Peter Mulcock	until 2023
Chris Rose	until 2023
Clare Rose	until 2023
Jenny Poole	until 2024
Clare Smith	until 2024
Albertine Davies	until 2024
Co-opted Members (co-o	
Sue Morgans	until 2022
Alex Scott	until 2022
Churchwarden (appointe	
John Davidson	until 2022
ECC officers	
John Davidson	Church Warden
Revd Trudie Wigley	Chair
Tony Prichard	Treasurer
Vacancy	ECC secretary
Ministers	
Revd Trudie Wigley	
Revd Stuart Fisher	
Revd Stephen Roe (wef 1 <sup>st</sup>	
	ntatives (elected for a 3-year term)
Jenny Poole	until 2023

# Other Appointments: Church Stewards (Appointed on an annual basis)

#### **Other non-trustee elected Positions:**

#### St Paul's

Nathalie Marshall (Senior Church Steward) Nicki Broom Angela Davidson John Davidson Sandra Marshall *Vacancy* 

### St Timothy's

Jo Bush Sarah Paterson Brenda Phillips Anne Davey *Mo Davey as support No senior steward appointed* 

## **Representatives to the Methodist Circuit meeting**

Nathalie Marshall Tony Prichard

## **Additional Facts and Figures**

Average Sunday Attendance (October count statistics):						
St Pauls	46 adults	3 under 16s				
St Timothy's	8 adults	0 under 16				
Messy Church (monthly)	on hold due t	o the Coronavirus				
Church at home services	50 people pa	rticipated online				
Total		<u>3 under 16s</u>				

Typical week-day attendance: Jan to March 2021Mid-week communionNo Service due to CovidTiny Tots St Paul'sclosed due to CovidTiny Tots St Timothy'sclosed due to CovidTotal0 adults 0 pre-schoolers

Occasional offices:

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Baptisms	1	0	12	10	15	14	15	8	10
Funerals	16	18	16	24	9	13	16	13	22
Confirmations	0	0	5	4	0	1	4	0	0
Weddings	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1

# CHANGES IN APPOINTMENTS OF AUTHORISED MINISTRIES

**Mrs Mary Boitz:** In summer 2021 Mary and the family moved from Swindon to a new home near Stroud. Mary is a Methodist Local Preacher and was an active preacher here at Dorcan. We thank her for her insights and encouragement to us all in our discipleship through her preaching and worship leading at Dorcan. Whist we miss them all, they go with our love and our prayers into this next chapter.

**Rev Andrew Wigley:** Andrew's appointment came to a close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. We thank him for his faithful ministry amongst us and send our love and prayers to him as he looks to the future.

**Deacon Stephen Roe:** We warmly welcomed Stephen on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 as our new Methodist Minister, and his wife Angela. Stephen will have oversight of both Stratton Methodist and Dorcan Church, and we thank him for coming to be with us and look forward to his ministry amongst us. Welcome to you both.

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of ECC members is set out in the Constitution Governing Document dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011, as amended from time to time thereafter. All those who are part of the church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may then stand for election to ECC. The maximum number of elected members to ECC is 13.

### **Meetings of ECC**

The trustees met 5 times during 2021 in January, March, May, September and October, with the first three meetings on Zoom necessitated by Covid. Due to the absence of a Secretary, in October 2021 ECC agreed that meetings would be on hold until we were able to appoint and therefore business has been transacted by Standing Committee since this date.

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

The aims of the charity are affected through a number of committees and teams, as follows:

*Centre Management Committee:* The Centre Management Committee meets to co-ordinate Property-related matters across the Dorcan Church in support of the Church's Vision and Mission. It forms a link between the 'do-ers' and the decision-making processes at Finance and ECC. It provides oversight to the Centre Administrator in the letting, maintenance and development of the premises at St Paul's and St Timothy's. The Centre Management Committee also sets out to balance the use of the centres both a) to help enable the mission of the church and b) to provide facilities for the benefit of the community.

*Children and Young People:* This committee looks to the ministry to children and young people, spanning our schools work, missional outreach to young people in our community, as well as nurturing and caring for those children and young people who worship and are a part of The Dorcan Church. This committee has not formally met this year, however the CYP ministry has continued faithfully during the pandemic for which we are grateful, and the committee will resume this year.

*Finance Committee:* The team worked under the delegated authority of ECC and looks after our financial resources, managing the day-to-day finances of income, giving and expenditure. It looks to prepare an annual budget for approval by the ECC.

*Focus group:* With our 5-year plan of Building God's House coming to an end just before the pandemic, we are now looking to discern our broad priorities for the next 5-year period. This new Focus Group, agreed by ECC in October 2021, will take a lead on the thinking, planning and suggestion of priorities for the next season,

and at the same time act as a place to support the smooth communication and practice of the various working groups with ECC. All authority and decision-making remains with ECC. The group is still "under construction" with the terms of reference being agreed yet its broad scope will include: Working on the strategy and direction; making recommendations and engaging with other Working Groups; providing a focus and guidance as to priorities and implementation; giving a place of initial thinking to discuss creative ideas and their role within priorities agreed by ECC; widening and sharing in the shaping and work of ECC, Standing committee and other working groups

*Preaching team (previously ministry team):* There were no meetings during 2021.

*Safeguarding:* Safeguarding practice is central to the mission and ministry of the church. The safeguarding team work to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe in our churches, and that all those who are survivors of abuse are listened to, valued and supported. **Safeguarding remains the legal responsibility of the ECC.** 

Standing Committee: The standing committee is authorised by the ECC. It has the power to transact the business of the ECC between meetings, subject to any direction from ECC. It comprises seven people, with a quorum of five from the Ministers (including Anglican and Methodist incumbents), Churchwarden, Treasurer and two others from ECC. The committee met more often in 2021 due to both the implications of the Coronavirus pandemic and the absence of ECC meeting from October 2021. Between meetings it agreed risk assessments, finances and other day-to-day requirements.

# **Electoral Roll Report**

2022/21	2021/20	2020/19*	2019/18	2018/17	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13*
139	146	147*	162	161	159	152	135	137*

\*Full electoral role revision

Another difficult year... but are we discouraged, no of course not! We have so many reasons to thank our extravagant God for... all His many blessings to us, despite the setbacks of the past 12 months, and we are so lucky to be able to worship Him in our lovely buildings.

There are currently 139 people registered on the Dorcan Church Electoral Roll / Members list. Happily, we have welcomed 5 new Members into our congregation. However, we've had to say 'goodbye' to 14 Members, 3 of whom have passed on to glory, and the remainder have either changed churches, or moved away from our Parish.

I must mention that there are also other people who are part of our wider congregation. I'm thinking about the families that come to Messy Church... the young families at Liden who are so pleased to be able to return to Tea and Toast once more, and of course all the families who meet for Tiny Tots, both here and at St. Tim's. A big 'Thank You' to all who dedicate their time and energy to the smooth running of these groups, and may I encourage you to pray for their energy and protection as they carry out God's work in the community.

If there are any of you who are thinking of becoming a Member or would like to find out more about what is involved, please speak to a Minister, a Churchwarden, or to me. Any details you give will be treated in the strictest confidence. Membership enables you to vote at the AGM, and also allows you Stand for Office.

May God's blessing be with you all.

#### Barbara Wilcox Electoral Roll/Membership Secretary

# **Churchwarden and Senior Stewards reports**

2021 appeared to pick up where 2022 left off, as Covid lockdowns continued, and more events and services were held outside than inside for much of the year. Occasional meetings were still held in the building, the office was in regular use, and some of our hiring users started to return towards the end of the year. Where we could, we ended services outside so as to be able to SING, and the local households in Covingham had to put up with a very loud Easter Sunday morning. Even the carols by candle light service was outside in the cold, lit with fairy lights and battery tea lights, though we did manage limited Christingle services indoors.

Streaming of the majority of services has continued, so those worried about infection, ill, or even away from home could join us online. We are grateful for the technology to allow us to connect in this way.

In September we hosted the Circuit welcome for Deacon Stephen Roe, and it gave much joy to see the centre full of worshipers again.

Jackie, our long suffering church administrator, decided to retire, but we were thrilled to welcome Maggie as a replacement administrator. Maggie has fitted in well, despite all the challenges that we continue to throw at her, and we look forward to working with her for many years to come.

The community at St Tim's continued to meet a couple of times a month, and were pleased to re-launch Tiny Tots in the autumn, along with St Pauls.

### Nathalie Marshall and John Davidson

## Diocesan Synod annual report

The Diocesan Synod, which is the primary, elected representative body drawn from across the Diocese of Bristol, met four times in 2021: in March, June and then following the elections for a new Synod in September and November. As well as hearing about and discussing a wide range of areas of the Church's work, it helps formulate and approve policy and the diocesan budget and debates important local and national issues affecting the Church.

## **Transforming Church Together**

A large part of the Synods work during 2021 was focussed on Transforming Church Together. In March the Synod took part in the consultation and engagement process that took place right across the Diocese. At its June meeting the early findings of that consultation process were shared with the Synod and members had the opportunity to reflect on these, feeding back their ideas which led into the development of the Vision, Purpose and Values. In November the Archdeacons led an activity introducing the Synod to the emerging strategic priorities.

### **Diocesan finances**

The Synod's role approving the financial plans of the Diocesan Board of Finance was part of both the June and November meetings. In June Andrew Lucas, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, presented the 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements and updated the Synod about the performance of the organisation in strategic as well as financial terms.

In November, he presented the 2022 Budget for approval and Synod members participated in round table discussions to follow up any clarifying points and share views on the proposed budget.

Andrew reflected on the impact of the pandemic on the DBF's finances, long-term issues of affordability for the Diocese, the future impact of the new strategy and the strength of the DBF's balance sheet.

He also highlighted the tension between the desire to balance the budget and the need to invest in future ministry, with a large part of the projected deficit of  $\pounds 681k$  in 2022 being due our continuing commitment to investing in future ministry. With prayerful consideration, the Synod approved budgeted expenditure of  $\pounds 9.712m$  in 2022.

#### Other reports and discussions included:

The **Annual Safeguarding Report** in June, presented by Andy Wills, Independent Chair who spoke to synod about the considerable developments by the National Safeguarding Team following the publication of the report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), and media attention on a number of issues. As the **Creating Connections** strategy came to the end of its active period during the year and the Synod heard reports from some of the initiatives and projects which had been started to support it.

Bishop Lee recapped that **investing in curacies** was one of the main strategic choices under Creating Connections, which committed the Diocese to growing vocations to ordained ministry by 50%. This was in line with a national Church of England initiative in the light of the gap between ordinations and retirements. A 50% increase would largely meet overall stipendiary clergy deployment plans nationwide. The Synod heard from Liz Townend (Diocesan Director of Education), who gave a presentation on education work in the Diocese and specifically the growth of **new church schools**.

Two years after Diocesan Synod declared a climate emergency in November 2019, Clare Fussell (Diocesan Environmental Officer) gave an update report to Diocesan Synod members on progress **Diocesan Secretary** 

# **Report from Swindon Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod has met quarterly over the past year, sometimes virtually and in person when possible. In May we focused on post-covid recovery and identified 5 areas where coordination across the Deanery could be helpful. They were live-streaming services, children's work, schools' work, re engaging with people we lost touch with and outreach and pastoral care. In July we discussed racial justice and experienced part of a liturgy from another culture as well images and music. Other topics of concern we have explored over the past year have been Eco Church, Living in Love and Faith and Transforming Church Together.

## Jenny Poole, Lay Representative

# North Wiltshire Circuit report of 2021 for the Dorcan Church

March saw Rev. Andrew Wigley's last circuit meeting before he went on sabbatical in May and then left the circuit. Nigel Tucker also came to the end of his time as Senior Circuit Steward, and Lynda Thompson stepped into his shoes. Mark Barrett announced his retirement in Summer 2022, and the decision was taken for David Gray to replace him as Superintendent at this time. This arrangement should allow for a smooth handover. In the meantime, the Circuit Invitation Committee has been formed to arrange for a replacement for Mark. A probationer minister has been requested, (and was appointed early in 2022). We welcomed Stephen Roe to the circuit in September.

Wroughton Church was closed, and moves have started to maximise income and sell the building. Sherston and Luckington joined due to low membership, and are now a class of Sheldon Road Methodists (Chippenham). Ramsbury Church building was finally sold, and a process of rationalisation of manse buildings across the circuit was started.

At Connexion level, God In Love Unites Us was passed at synod, meaning that Methodist Churches and Ministers can now register to officiate at same sex unions. (This does not affect Dorcan since the building is an Anglican owned building.) The decision was taken for Circuit Stewards to attend Church Councils across the circuit, including Dorcan ECC.

We thank God that we can have input from and to the Methodist Circuit. Nathalie Marshall

# **Bristol Methodist District**

The Autumn District Synod was held, as usual, at Kingswood School, Bath. The usual formalities and administrative matters were dealt with, such as the welcome of new ministers to the District and the appointment of a new Synod Secretary, Hanna Bevan. The main theme of the Synod was 'The Earth is the Lord's', and we were led by Revd Dr Mike Perry of environmental Christian charity A Rocha in a consideration of the theological basis for creation care. He also described the Eco Church project, overseen by A Rocha, which is a practical way for churches to show their care for creation and challenge themselves to do better, and which we are pursuing here at Dorcan. Jane Stacey from Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol described that church's journey towards a Silver Eco Church award and John White from the Hazelnut Community Farm project in Bristol described a pioneering way of being church through growing and tending a community garden. The Synod then debated and adopted the District Environmental Policy.

The Spring Synod was due to be held in Weston-Super-Mare, but due to rising levels of Covid infections a decision was taken to switch to an on-line 'Zoom' meeting. Appropriately, as the Synod took place in early April and the war in Ukraine was uppermost in many of our thoughts, the theme of the Synod was 'Put Peace into each other's Hands', with the main presentation being from Revd Dr Jonathan Pye, the District Chair, on the theory of 'Just War', and how it might apply in the current situation. We missed being together physically, but meeting electronically saved a lot of time and expense.

In common with all the other Districts across the Connexion, The Bristol Methodist District is taking part in discussions with neighbouring Districts about the creation of a South-West Regional Group, focussing on the support of Ministers, Lay Office-holders, Circuits and Local Churches, and the implementation of Connexional strategies. These discussions are expected to go on for approximately the next three years, when a report will be presented to Conference. It remains to be seen what effect these discussions will have on Local Churches. **Stephen Roe** 

# **Safeguarding Report**

The past year has been a strange one for all of us with the continuing restrictions of the pandemic and we are slowly beginning to reestablish some activities and start up some new ones. Our current number of volunteers is 50, all of whom have been safely recruited and have received safeguarding training. The new National Safeguarding Training has been introduced by the Anglican Church which is much more challenging and comprehensive than the old system. The DBS check requirement has just changed from every 5 years to every 3 years and after the initial safeguarding training, there is a requirement to attend refresher courses every 3 years so our team is kept busy.

It is everyone's responsibility in the church to look after each other, and if there are any concerns, please bring them to the attention of our team.

Jenny Poole – Safe Recruitment and Concerns Sue Morgans – DBS checks Dianne Lane – Training

Jenny Poole

# **CHARITY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Dorcan Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between The Church of England and The Methodist Church, serving the Swindon urban villages of Covingham, Nythe, Liden & Eldene. The partnership includes the congregations worshipping at St Paul's, Covingham and St Timothy's, Liden. The Church continues to advance the Christian faith across the locality, both as a worshipping community but also as a serving community.

2021 continued the challenges of 2020. Where we ended the previous year looking forward in hope to a better year, in many ways we were disappointed, with continued waves of Covid, restrictions and lockdowns. Masks became normal, and we became used to catching the smile in someone's eyes not in their mouths. We continued to long to spend time together, to eat and drink together, to hug one another. Brief interludes of seeming normality seemed to tease us and then crash us down again.

The church continued to have to adapt to new ways of worshipping, combining face to face with live streaming, and despite everything has continued in care and connection with each other and the wider community. Thankful for business interruption grants, furlough payments, and church members generosity continuing, the finance committee have worked hard to ensure that the books have remained balanced. We continue to serve a faithful God! Once we were able to meet again, a small number of children and young people were able to restart meeting, and rekindle the relationships that so suffered through lockdown. Near the end of the year messy church restarted much to the joy of many local families.

Grateful for the internet to maintain connections without physical presence, we continued to navigate livestreaming and recording and publishing services, complete with the restrictions on recorded media that this brought. We badly missed our musicians, but were grateful for recordings made available on the internet that we could share.

Where we were able to meet, we weren't able to share refreshments until nearing the end of the year, and even then many were nervous. Lettings started to pick back up in the Autumn, and it was wonderful to be able to share our building with our community again. The rental income was also important to pick back up where the furlough payments and Covid grants had left off.

Pastoral care isn't easy over zoom, but we have continued to keep in touch, and meet where we could. Once buildings started to reopen, we needed the support of a large team for risk assessments, cleaning, moving chairs around and ensuring proper ventilation in the buildings to reduce risks. We re started singing together, but kept our masks on to protect the vulnerable, and moved to sharing communion by intinction.

We were sad when the time came to say farewell to 'Rev Andrew' our Methodist Minister for ten years. Andrew is missed by the Church, but we have been pleased to welcome Deacon Stephen Roe and his wife, Angela, Stephen coming to us in place of Andrew. Stephen has a different calling and gifting to Andrew, so the church has had to shift gears somewhat to adapt. We have also welcomed a number of visiting Methodist Presbyters, and Anglican Ministers, to lead us in worship while Trudie and Andrew were away on sabbatical, and to help fulfil the sacramental requirements of the church. Before he left, Andrew worked hard to redefine roles of various positions including Church Warden and Senior Steward, and we are grateful that these newly defined roles, and Stephen's wider links across the Methodist Diaconate, have enabled us to strengthen our relationship with the wider Methodist Church, as we continue to discern our calling as single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership, and the struggles and joys within that position.

The past 2 years have not been easy, and as we emerge from the pandemic we have to discern the way forward with less resources, but we recognise God's grace leading us through thus far, and trust that the way forward will be clear, step by step. Onwards, to 2022, in the light of Christ.

## Nathalie Marshall (Senior Steward)

# **Fabric Report**

2021 continued to provide us with Covid related challenges, and our buildings also challenge us, as we try to maintain them in a fit and proper state, financed by letting income, which we are trying to get back to pre-Pandemic levels.

St Pauls saw Covingham Library sadly depart in 2020, and the room has now been transformed, with new flooring, and Led Lighting, and is proving to be a popular lettable space, used by several groups, including Covingham Parish Council, dancing and craft groups, and Cid's Café. The rest of the centre is also seeing increased use, and we are grateful to those who voluntarily assist, with ongoing maintenance inside and out, church volunteers and external groups like Good Gym, and with opening and closing after parties.

We had a fairly satisfactory Archdeacons Triennial Visitation in August 2021, and the Archdeacon was very complimentary, but a fact of life is that our buildings, always seem to be in need of some attention, and we are aware that the roof at St Paul's will need attention soon, and at St Timothy's the boiler showing its age, as is the flat roof over the vestibule. **John Davidson** 

## Financial Report for 2021

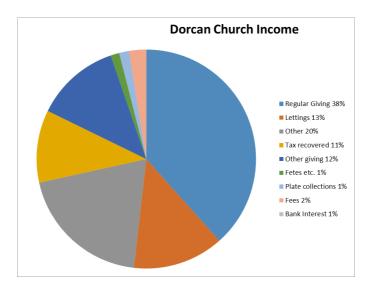
As we slowly came out of the Covid restrictions of 2020 we were still unsure of how our budget would stand up. Our budget forecast for day to day running was for a deficit of £7.7K. Fortunately we were eligible for some of the Government's support grants totalling £22,372 which helped to replace our lost income. Eventually we had a surplus of £5.2K which enabled us to put something into the Maintenance Fund against future repairs. We have been able to continue to repay the loans we took out for St. Paul's boiler replacement.

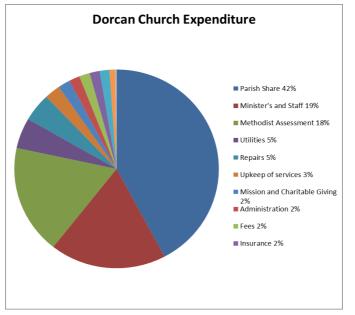
Gift aid continues to be claimed quarterly which maintains our cash flow such that both our Parish Share and Methodist Assessment have been paid as they became due. We continue with the Parish Giving Scheme whereby members can donate by direct debit. Donations and Tax recoverable from Gift Aid are received monthly reducing the work of the Treasurer and improving further our cash flow. However our regular giving has seen a reduction of just over £1K.

### **Church Fabric.**

In order to facilitate the work of the Church it is important that we maintain the fabric of both St. Timothy's and St. Paul's Church and Community Centre. Both are important to our work while bringing financial challenges. The Old Library Room has been converted into a Small Hall and we replaced the fifty year old carpet with laminate flooring and repainted the walls.

Income		Expenditure	
Regular Giving	51,479	Parish Share	51,000
Grants	22,372	Repairs	5,524
Lettings	17,975	Minister's and Staff	22,234
Tax recovered	14,361	Methodist Assessment	21,460
Other giving	16,771	Utilities	5,998
Plate collections	1,941	Mission and Charitable Giving	2,308
Fees	3,391	Maintenance	184
Other	4,074	Administration	2,068
Bank Interest	3	Upkeep of services	3,053
Fetes etc.	1,704	Fees	2,030
		Insurance	1,933
		Cost of events	1,859
		Council Tax	1,075
		Stewardship Campaign	82
Totals	134,072		120,808





#### Tony Prichard & John Davidson Finance Committee