

St Stephen's Southmead

APCM reports for 2021



Reflection from the Vicar

Welcome everyone to our annual report from St Stephen's for the year 2021. This is where we get the chance to inform everyone in the church and wider parish what we've all been up to throughout 2021. We have the chance to look back and ask where was God for us both individually, as a church family, and as a wider community, but also to look forward and ask where is God leading us.

Looking back to 2021

This time last year feels like a very long time ago, a different world to where we are now, and praise God for that! 2021 began with a long hard winter; months of lockdowns with seemingly no end in sight, departure from the EU as of January 1st, impending environmental crisis with little being done, left many feeling bereft. A country and its communities living in fear and uncertainty. Yet still,



St Stephen's gathered on zoom every Sunday, never missing a week, to sing praises, hear the Word, pray together, and support one another through it all. It may not have been the kind of church experience we longed for, but it was time together and time with God; and we thank our loving Father for that.

2021 was also a time of real joy and blessings for us as a church family, as 3 beautiful babies were born. We welcomed Sophie, Zachariah, and Edward in different ways throughout the year, first on zoom, later in the building. How God does bless even amidst trials! And of course every month during lockdowns, and in some of the school holidays St Stephen's bought, packed, and delivered food parcels to around 25 families each time; again real signs of the Kingdom of God breaking in amidst difficult times. Praise the Lord!

We returned to worship in person for the Easter weekend, but then permanently from Pentecost on May 25th onwards. I planned a summer of social gatherings to make the most of the warmer weather and gather as much as we could. We ran the first holiday club in St Stephens for 3 years, jointly with the Community Church, which was a lot of fun; we held the first church lunch for a long time, and we continued gathering in person in the building for worship, prayer, communion and fellowship. We also cleared out the White Hall following the departure of the Food Bank who had been using the space for storage, and also following some break-ins and vandalism, in readiness for passing ownership over to the Council (more below). My prayer in those months was that we would simply enjoy one another's company as community, whilst planning for lots of mission and ministry opportunities I hoped September would bring.



I know it was hard for some to re-engage with church over these months, as the global pandemic continued, and with many of us concerned over safety and struggling with the growing toll we'd endured over the last 2 years. It was hard for myself and the PCC to navigate all the decisions around what was best to do for the life of St Stephens (massive thank you to Hannah, Ali, Jacqui, Jo H, Steve, Sam, Janet, Rose, Trenna, and Michael for walking that walk with me). We wanted to be safe; we wanted to be church; we wanted to serve; and so much seemed to change so often, stretching us as we sought to seek out God amidst all of it.

It wasn't until September that I felt we had entered something closer to 'normality'. As a PCC, we then decided to return to our monthly pattern of services and provision for the children on Sundays. I had kept us 'altogether' and held communion every week until that point, to try to make-up for the long absence. I had hopes for lots of exciting things for September onwards; we began Kintsugi Hope (see below), I was making more contact with the schools, offering home communion to those unable to join us in church again, and many more exciting opportunities returning to 'being busy'. My memory from that time was people saying what a shock it was to return to that speed of life.

I then realised I was not ok. I signed myself off work for a week with stress and mental exhaustion, which turned into 2 and then 3 weeks, and then into a long phased return to work. I was encouraged by support from the Diocese and from St Stephens to take the time not to rush back to work, but to really take the time to re-set some healthier expectations and work/life balances. The previous few years had been quite gruelling for me, and I'm exceedingly grateful for the encouragement and support to do this.

I'm so grateful to Jenny Lowe in particular, but also to Hannah Widdows, Sam Jones, Janet Moreton, and the students for everything they did throughout the autumn term to allow me the time I needed. Thanks you all so much. Dare I say it was in fact a positive time for the life of the church, as the pandemic had pushed so many away from familiar church roles, and it was a fruitful time of people re-committing to rotas and the many jobs and needs of church life. Thanks in particular to Jenny Lowe and Gill O'Rourke

for re-energising the rota with fresh faces and recruiting lots more people in supporting the life of the church.

In Oct we had said goodbye to Rachel Healey, our administrator for a few years now. Gill O'Rourke and her husband Terry have supported St Stephens for some years, and come with a wealth of experience and knowledge of church life; we were so grateful when Gill agreed to step in as interim administrator whilst we got on top of things before beginning to recruit a new administrator. In the summer we convened a buildings team, and an 'admin/staff' team. Gill and Terry are invaluable parts of these teams and our current 'admin catch-up season'. These teams have been working so hard on jobs such as filing, asbestos surveys, fire safety, insurance requirements, electrical safety etc... ; and it is those two teams which have also been a main priority of mine over the last few months of 2021 and I'm afraid will continue to be so long into 2022. We are very much in a season of 'admin catch-up' at St Stephens - pray for this to be a solid foundation for the life of the church, but never our main priority as we seek to serve the Gospel and the Kingdom first and foremost!



Looking forward to 2022... and beyond

Dare we begin to feel like we could plan for this year and beyond with a degree more certainty? I sincerely hope so!

I'd begun a vision setting process last year which had to be paused, and that will be one of my main priorities for this year. St Stephens were delighted to finally sell the White Hall early in 2022, something the church had been working towards for a very long time (certainly before I arrived), which gives us some capital to think about how can we best serve the Kingdom and the Gospel here in Southmead and Bristol. This needs us to have a firm sense of who we are and where we feel God is leading us, in other words a core vision for St Stephens, before we can make such bold and adventurous decisions and plans. As I said, this is one of my main priorities in 2022, and will underpin a lot of what is to come. Pray for God to guide us into His Will and His Kingdom!

2021 felt like a year of contrasts to me. It started in a time of real trial and uncertainty, but with the church firing on all cylinders, reaching out and serving well. Then it ended in a time of relaxed restrictions and greater freedom, but with the church (or at least me!) exhausted and burnt out. We were just beginning to realise how much 'background admin work' had been missed out over a number of years now (not just the covid years) and we had to retreat back from a lot of mission and outreach in order to focus time and resources on this season of admin 'catch up', which is still very much on-going. This is of course essential background work if we want to build for the future, re-setting a vision for who St Stephen's are and where God is leading us, and investing the proceeds from the sale of White Hall wisely for Gospel and Kingdom.

I wonder what you would like St Stephens to look like in 2022? Or beyond? Do you have a vision for the life of the church here in Southmead? What's your passion? Unsure? Got an idea? If you ever wanted to get together and chat and dream then please do get in touch - we want to hear from you. This is a season for dreaming of vision and asking God, 'where next'?

My feelings this spring 2022 is one of hope. With Spring 2022, covid very much out of the headlines, new life on its way all around us, I hope you feel a sense of renewed hope too.

May God bless us this year with love, life, and hope for a better world.

Rev Jon Roberts

Churchwardens' Report

When looking back on the past year, there have been many moments of joy like finally being able to have coffee after a service again, the warm welcome at the Easter Trail event in the sun, singing together at the carol service and the many faithful deliveries of children's activities during lockdown. The time we spent worshipping outdoors deserves special mention: the extra work required to set up each week was much appreciated, and the opportunity to be visible in the community (and enjoy the weather!) was one unique to 2021.

I (Hannah) am also grateful for the chance to step back from warden responsibilities for the first half of the year. Thank you to Jon for encouraging that break and to Jo for taking on the role with wisdom, kindness and grace.

As with any year, this past one has held challenges. There is strength in recognising the things that are hard, especially when they point us back to God's promises and grace.

In the second half of the year, it has been and continues to be a season of 'catch up' to make sure that the building, our administrative processes and the infrastructure that supports ministry has strong foundations. These important tasks are made possible by the generosity and giftings of many of the church family. The hope and focus are that these strong foundations will make way for building fellowship, opportunities to serve the community, and listening to what God has in store for our vision as a church in Southmead.

In these months we also said 'farewell' to Rachel Healy who decided to step down from her role as Administrator after many years of faithful service. The generous commitment from Gill O'Rourke to take

on the role in the interim meant that we could carry out an effective handover and make sure the administrative side of church life was in safe hands.

From insurance surveys to Covid risk assessments, a long string of decisions being made about the curate's house, rota updates to fire safety documents, there are many strands of work that have been invested in and maintained in recent months that aim to make the life of the church run smoothly. Thank you to all who make that happen.

I (Jo) feel the church is rising strong in our recovery from Covid times; welcoming new babies, having Janet as a newly licensed lay minister and working together to revive the building are signs of newness for us to hold on to.

At the beginning of 2022, God reminded me (Hannah) of Jesus' words in Matthew 7:

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock"

Hannah Widdows and Joanna Hamilton

PCC Secretary Report

The PCC met five times in 2021.

We met primarily on zoom, although our final meeting in November was in person back in the church building. We had an average attendance of over 80%. Like in 2020, I think everyone was growing quite tired of meeting online and we were glad to be able to meet in person again at the end of the year.

Again, like in 2020, a regular theme was the operation of the church and how we should run meetings during the various phases of lockdowns or other rules. Food parcels continued to be organised at various points in the year, and services were, after around Easter, held in person.

Church property was a recurring theme. The parish property on Ullswater Road required some decisions around management and repairs, and the White Hall sale took more than a year (it was ongoing for all of 2021) to see through. Well done to Jon for his tenacity in getting this over the line.

In the latter part of the year Jon was signed off for some time and we met informally once as a PCC to agree roles and responsibilities until he returned. A big thank you to everyone who stepped up in this time, especially Hannah who took on a large amount of the leadership day to day.

On Jon's return we agreed to set up a regular employee meeting to handle some of the day to day admin decisions that need to be made and allow the PCC to focus on discussions about ministry.

Sam Jones

Sam has decided to step back from being on the PCC and being PCC Secretary. I, and the rest of the PCC, are so grateful for all Sam has done for us, particularly his efficient note taking and minutes, his support in chairing meetings during the vacancy, his support with zoom meetings, and in particular his work helping us in managing the curates house at 79 Ullswater road. We now have to work out what else we can get him to do :-) Thanks Sam!

Rev Jon Roberts

Electoral Roll

This is the official register of the adult and voting members of the church family. At St Stephens we use this as a way to keep contact details of every individual in the church family and use it to make sure we don't forget about anybody!

Janet Moreton

Worship at St Stephen's

For our main act of Sunday worship we made a few changes way back in those first months of lockdown in 2021. We stuck with services of the word without communion, we often went into small breakout rooms to chat in fellowship instead of hearing a sermon, and we heard from a range of different speakers when we did have sermons. This was a reflection of the truly tough time we were in; celebrating communion on my own felt so alien for me when it's meant to affirm us as 'one body'; I felt like we needed time in fellowship more than a sermon, and if I'm honest, I didn't feel like I had a lot of encouragement to give at times; and I felt a diversity of voices offered a richer perspective of the times we were journeying through.

What a blessing it was when we began to gather in person once again! We met for a few services at Easter, a traditional last hour of the cross on Good Friday (many thanks to Nick, Brenda, and Jenny for joining me in leading that), a creative Easter Trail outreach event on Holy Saturday (many thanks to Rachel R and Tenna for leading that), then gathered round a fire on Easter Sunday morning to sing outside and journey in for communion together. But it wasn't until Pentecost on May 25th, that we began to meet every Sunday again. We sang outside in the sunshine... thank you Jesus! I know many of us found it a glorious experience to sing together in person for the first time in over a year! We attracted passers by, peoples paused to listen, I dare say we probably offended a few too, we even had the police called on us once; and it was a joy to be so bold and creative in how we gathered, and to be so visible in our community.

Praise the Lord that we have remained worshipping in person in our building ever since then. In September we returned to the worship pattern established before I arrived, as I felt we needed that 'normality' after all the change. This meant we gathered for altogether worship on the first Sunday, holy communion with creation station for the 3-10 year olds on the second Sunday, service of the word on the third Sunday, and traditional holy communion with cinema Sunday for the 3-10's on the fourth Sunday. This is the pattern we have stuck with since, but may change again once we establish our church vision and then revisit the question of how we worship together. Worshipping has hopefully been a constant throughout all the chaos of our lives over the last few years. My prayer is that it is a constant reminder of God's constant loving presence in our lives amidst whatever we're walking through. *Rev Jon Roberts*



Licensed Lay Minister

My Journey started in September 2018 when I enrolled on the Exploring Christianity course. This was two years of growing in faith and understanding of the Anglican Church. Towards the end of the course I was excited to be invited to attend a day of interviews to explore if I was ready to go further. The interview panel decided I was suitable to move into a formation year to study for Lay Ministry.

So, in 2020, I started a further year of study. Because of Covid most of the lectures and tutorials were on Zoom. Fortunately, we were able to meet together at the beginning in Salisbury. Fellow students and tutors spent a weekend overlooking Salisbury Cathedral, where we got to know each other and discover some of what we would be studying. There was a lot of essay and report writing, as well as time spent exploring theology deeper, and books to read. Some people left the course so there were only three of us left. We chose to meet together on "WhatsApp" in between tutorials for mutual support (my knowledge of technology as started to grow a little in this last year!) Zoom meetings made it a little difficult to cover some of the syllabus effectively so there are still a couple of sessions we are hoping we can do in "real life" and are waiting for these to happen.



Covid restrictions, luckily, eased a little at the end of our course and we were able to meet for another weekend. We spent three days at Ammerdown Retreat Centre – where I was pleasantly surprised to find a strength from being around other people in total silence. Finally (in October 2021) there was the Licensing service itself in Bristol Cathedral. We were able to invite many guests to the service, and I definitely felt very special – and loved – wearing my robes for the first time and surrounded by friends and family from as far away as Lincoln and Dorset as well as Bristol.

Now that I am licensed I hope to be a support to Jon as well as you – the congregation of St Stephen's. Please talk to me if you think I might be of any use to you.

By spending this time of learning I have come to realise that the more I know, the more I need to know:- it has been a bit like doors being opened only for me to see bigger spaces that I want to explore.

Oh and one more thing it's never too late to start to learn new stuff!

Trinity College Ordinands

Since September 2020 we have appreciated the contribution of these students from Trinity College, studying for ordained ministry in the Church, with their partners and families. We have been blessed with their leadership in preaching, planning and leading services, Bible studies, and just by generally walking alongside St Stephens in our mission and ministry in Southmead.

Alex Keen

I am writing this at the end of February 2022, and I can't quite believe we have only three months left in Bristol! At the end of May we will be moving to Tamworth where I will take up a curacy in the Lichfield Diocese. I won't pretend the last couple of years in Bristol have been easy for us, but I can genuinely say it has been a privilege and a blessing to serve and worship alongside you as we have journeyed through the pandemic. You have been so welcoming, accepting, and supportive – thank you.



For me, a highlight of 2021 was being able to help with making up and delivering food parcels during the school holidays. The church has such a big love for its community, and it was great to see in action the determination and compassion of the church, despite the risks and additional challenges of covid.

I also really enjoyed the open air services in the summer. I felt it was a beautiful picture of the church family gathering together, and a witness and invitation to the community to join in.

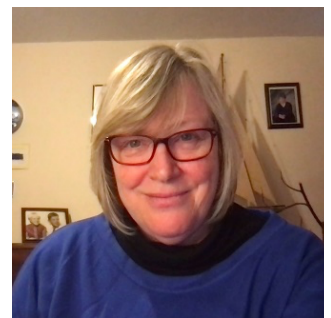
I'm ending with some words from 1 Thessalonians, which I believe God wants me to share with you. I don't know their relevance to you, but I pray that they will be an encouragement and make sense at the appropriate time:

"Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil." (1 Thess. 5:19-22)

Julie Summers

Hi everyone, Julie Summers here. It's hard to believe I've been with St Stephens as a student ordinand for nearly a year and a half now.

It's been an amazing time through the difficulties of covid and how together we've weathered the storm. I've certainly learnt such much from your genuine love for the Lord and each other. You are an incredible community of believers, and it does not surprise me one bit that you are well thought of within Southmead. This last year I've enjoyed being part of the welcome and refreshments team particularly in the summer months being outside. This gave me the opportunity to pounce on unsuspecting passers-by advertising the church services or offering a free coffee. I also had a great time in the spring helping with the Toddler group and getting to know local mums and their little ones. During the autumn I took part in the Kintsugi Hope course which ran for 12 weeks. I certainly learnt a lot from the group sharing their life stories and I made some great friendships. I've grown so much from when I first started and have had opportunities to get creative with all age services, as well as learn the robes with the more traditional services. I had never given a sermon before I started training and have had quite a few opportunities to develop the art of preaching during the Sunday services.



I will be very sad to leave you all in the summer and move on to my curacy placement. But, as I'm staying in Bristol, I hope to keep in touch with you and pop over for the odd service. So, it's not goodbye, but see you soon and thanks for having me, and may God continue to bless you all as you continue to serve him and the people of Southmead.

Stuart Samuels



I remember we started this academic year on zoom as I delivered my first sermon of this academic year via a screen. I'm glad to be able to say this year has been a bit more freeing than the previous one, and I have loved spending that freedom with you all at St Stephens. I have loved getting to know you all, even more, this year and I hope you have liked getting to know more about me. Even though my wife (Abby) has not been able to attend church due to work, we have appreciated people asking about her and how she is doing. This shows how much of an amazing community you have at St Stephens.

Abby and I are doing well and looking forward to the arrival of our first child, any prayers to help us balance our excitement and anxiety would be appreciated.

Therefore, God willing going into the summer and my final year at St Stephens, myself, Abby, and our baby will be able to attend church on a regular basis.

I have enjoyed leading worship, even while wearing robes which is a far cry from what I am used to wearing. I have also enjoyed preaching for you and learning from you throughout the year. I look forward to doing everything I have enjoyed doing within the last year and look forward to all the new possibilities available to us for the next year. More mission opportunities, engagement with our community, and more work on our land through the Green Team. I am excited to see how things unfold as we journey through this time together.

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is a small number of people that receive confidential emails of requests for prayer. In the last year we have prayed for many things in particular the pandemic and effects it has on people.

I have seen miracles happen from these prayers.

And it is a pleasure to be part of it.

Ali Prince

Bible Study

Throughout 2021 we were still unable to meet for Bible study face to face. However, a small group continued to meet on Zoom from about March to July and again in September, studying the book of Acts together. We eventually got to chapter 16! Maybe sometime we'll be able to finish the last few chapters!

It was more difficult to keep in touch with those who used to meet face to face but it's been wonderful to start doing that again in the new year.

Whether it's meeting on zoom or face to face, it's a joy not just to look at the Bible, but to share the different insights and experiences people have, and to pray for one another.

Jenny Low

Make Lunch & Food Parcels

Unfortunately we have been unable to get back to Make Lunch since the pandemic, but a group of us have distributed food parcels to families that have been referred to us mostly from Make Lunch, Kids Matter & schools.

There has been a small group of people doing this buying, packing and distributing throughout the community.

We've had families come and ask us for help also, so it is nice to know we have built positive relationships that in turn hopefully will join us when we can get Make Lunch started again.



Thanks to everyone that has donated time or money or even prayed for our community.

Ali Prince

Children and Families work

Looking back at 2021 it has been hard to remember what it was like!



Toddlers remained closed until April. But what a joy it was to see parents and children connect again. We are thankful to God for the way it has grown from a few families, to become a place of friendship and positivity. We are so grateful for the team we have - thank you Ali, John G, Vicki, Abby and Andie.

For Sunday provision we delivered activity packs, and when we were able to meet again in person on Sundays, we provided activities and snack, in personalised bags until September when restrictions began to ease.

We have been asking the question "What Is God Like?" during Creation Station and Cinema Sunday we continue to watch "What's in the Bible with Buck Denver".

I have been grateful for the commitment of our families to St Stephens. Many churches have seen a decline in families returning to church in person - this has not been the case here. Thank you to God for sustaining us during this time and for the friendships and support that our families know from one another and the whole of St Stephen's Community.

Along with Joanna Bacon, we have persevered delivering Kids Matter programmes, needing to be patient when we've had to cancel or postpone due to the pandemic.



It has been a privilege to connect with other professionals working with 0-10year olds in Southmead and this networking has opened up fruitful relationships with Little Mead Primary Academy and Badocks Wood Academy. Off the back of this we began a programme with 4 families from Southmead and set up a new programme to start in Badocks Wood in March 2022. Thank you to all who have helped these programmes to continue, practical help with creche provision and of course, prayer. Thank you.

Looking forward to 2022, we hope for Kids Matter community links to continue to grow and to begin a Babies Matter programme too.

What is God like?

That's a very big question, one that people from places all around the world, throughout time, have answered in many different ways.

Keep searching. Keep wondering. Keep learning about God.

But whenever you aren't sure what God is like, think about what makes you feel safe, what makes you feel brave, and what makes you feel loved. That is what God is like.

Trenna Blundell

Youth

Matthew 22vs37 can be summarised as Jesus saying that the greatest commandments are to "Love God, and love people". Our goal with youth has been to use this as a road map for our time together. We continued throughout the year both online and in person. A large part of the past year has been spent looking at the issue of modern day slavery. How our everyday choices can contribute to enslaving people in different parts of the world and how we can use our voices and choices to advocate on behalf of people with less privilege and fewer choices. We took part in IJM's Freedom Sunday where we examined God's call to participate in being people who demand justice in our world.

Our prayer for the year ahead is that our youth group will deepen friendships, deepen faith, and that we'll keep learning together to "Love God, and Love people"

Joe and Steve

Safeguarding Report

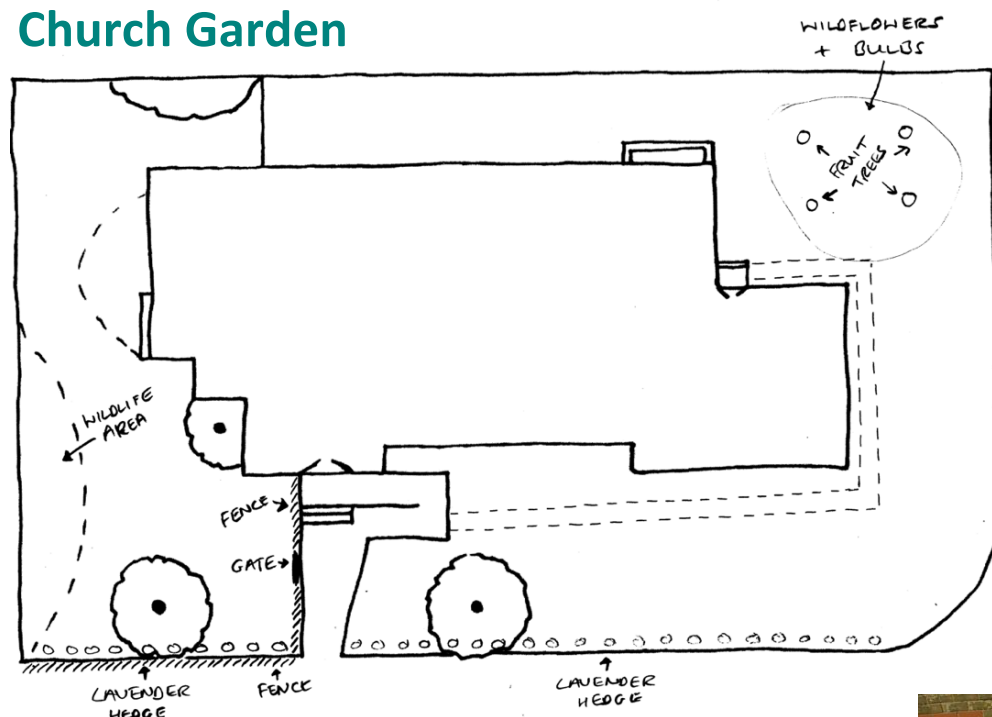
Compassion for vulnerable people is a key aspect of our culture at St Stephen's and good safeguarding practice is key to this work. Safeguarding means that everyone who engages with St Stephens is cared for in a way that is safe for both the care giver and care receiver.

The focus of the past year has been updating and utilising the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which is a piece of software designed to enable the church to easily follow best practice and to ensure we are complying with the safeguarding advice from the Church of England. Thank you to everyone who has undertaken training, filled in DBS forms and, most importantly, underpinned all of our good work together with good practice.

In the year ahead we will be focussing on ensuring that our training is up to date – so expect an email at some point!

Joe Widdows

Church Garden



Although we have some great plans for the grounds around the church, our progress this year has been slower than we hoped. However, I'm sure you've been enjoying the daffodils that are sticking their heads up at the moment and have spread themselves a bit since last year. We've also planted a couple of fruit trees, one at least of which seems to be growing ok.

The lavender planted along the front wall is also becoming more noticeable and won't it be lovely when it flowers and is covered in bumble bees? Some of the paving stones which formed a path around the church have been uncovered and hopefully we can complete that this soon. We will revisit the church garden in 2022 and hope to get it closer to the space where it can really be a blessing for the church and local community.

Jenny Low



Kintsugi Hope

"Discovering treasure in life's scars"

Kintsugi is a Japanese word describing the art of repairing broken pottery with gold, making it all the more beautiful because it is broken. A Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing small group is a safe and supportive space; for people who feel or have felt overwhelmed, providing tools for self-management, in a facilitated peer mentoring style setting.

Issues covered include; disappointment, loss, anxiety, anger, perfectionism, shame, and resilience.



In Sept 2021 St Stephens hosted our first Kintsugi Hope course. We had been approached by a local resident and member of a church in the city, Clarie Miles, who had been trained and ran 2 previous courses with her church. She was interested in running a course in her local community and wondered about St Stephens. I had certainly wondered about Kintsugi Hope previously and so we jumped at the chance to run a one-off course and see how it goes. God is good, and the group bonded really well; it was a time of great positivity and there was sharing, laughter and tears. Relationships and faith were strengthened. Following this success, the PCC decided to run another course, planned to start after Easter. Do please pray that this can be an area of growth in how we serve our community and seek to build the Kingdom.

Rev Jon Roberts

Building Maintenance

The "Building Team" has been quite busy, working in the background to improve facilities within the Church building, and outside, in the gardens.

2021 (Key actions)

All pews, needing to be retained, and other items of equipment useful to St. Stephen's Church, were removed from the White Hall, and are temporarily stored in the Lady Chapel.

Repairing and making tidy in an area of the perimeter wall of the Church garden which was hit by a car causing damage to the brickwork was partially completed. Work was halted due to a shortage of contractors caused by the Covid Pandemic.

A start was made, during the Summer of 2021, to form the "Green Team Church Garden Fence Project", in order to create a temporary fenced off area in the front garden, initially using plastic green barrier mesh, so that children could play outside within a safe area, and with no access to the road.

The Church Bell Pull mechanism and internal tower was inspected during the late Summer of 2021, giving us a good idea of what repair and maintenance is needed.

In the kitchen, a new cordless land line phone with answering machine, linking with improved and reliable Wi-fi facilities and also connecting to the Office area in the Lady Chapel, was installed during Nov 2021.

Our Church organ was tuned during November 2021, so is in fine fettle once more!

2022 (Key actions)

During early 2022, and with the easing of Covid-19 related restrictions, we have had carried out, an inspection of all electrical equipment, appliances and wiring, within the Church building.

We are modernising and improving electrical facilities, such as extra power sockets where needed, and the fitting or replacement of hot water heaters in both toilets. A much welcomed addition.

All fire extinguishers in the Church were inspected and passed during February 2022.

The fitted gas heaters in the Vestry and Choir Vestry are to be serviced and restored to working order.

During February 2022, management of the kitchen facilities was reorganised, making it easier and safer to carry out various tasks.

A Church building asbestos survey is currently being sought.

During the Summer of 2022, we should be able to complete the repair of the perimeter walls surrounding the garden, and the "Green Team" can plan and install a permanent and secure fenced off play area in the Church garden, for the children.

Also, during this Summer, the Blue Church sign board, which was on the wall, and close to the entrance doors will be replaced. Similarly, the big free standing garden notice board will be replaced with a better and more robust structure. Attention is also to be given to start the process of repairing damaged masonry and stone work, outside the Church building.

And lastly, the replacement or repair of the Church clock. A costly exercise and a funding campaign is already under way.

Michael Shields

Sale of the White Hall

Bristol City Council approached St Stephens to enquire about purchasing the White Hall and the land it sits on way back in 2019. St Stephens had been informed some time prior to this that the current White Hall building was unfit for public use; that it was of 'non standard construction,' meaning it would not be eligible for funding to restore. After careful consideration, St Stephen's came to the conclusion it was no longer sustainable to maintain the building, and felt pleased that releasing the land would also contribute to the regeneration plans for Southmead. We are delighted that in early 2022 the sale has finally been completed. Praise the Lord! We believe the plan is for Bristol City Council to demolish the existing building and build homes in line with the master plan of Southmead's regeneration, although of course this is now up to the Council.

We plan to organise a community celebration of all the White Hall has meant for the local community over the decades. If you have any stories or particularly pictures to share, then please do get in touch.

Rev Jon Roberts

Treasurer's Report

2021 started pretty much the same as 2020, as we continued in lockdown with online services. What a joy it was to start meeting again outside, as a congregation, during the summer and for meeting in person to continue regularly through the rest of the year.

I am pleased to report that our regular giving has increased from 2020, with all regular electronic giving now coming through the Parish Giving Scheme. Cash donations also look particularly high, as a backlog of cash was banked from the 2020 collections.

As projected in my APCM report last year, expenses for the year 2021 also increased. A large cost of this was an increase to the insurance for the Whitehall building, I am expecting that we will receive a portion of this back in 2022, now the sale of the Whitehall is completed.

We continued our tithe to Compassion, sponsoring a child called Esther. At the end of the year the PCC also agreed a tithe of £1000.00 to Next Link, a charity helping vulnerable women in the Bristol area. These funds cleared in the first part of 2022, so will show in next year's accounts.

The church continued to support the Food Parcel deliveries to local families in our community, with donations gratefully received to enable this ministry to continue, as was required.

Thank you for your continued support to the life of the church,

Steve Hamilton

Accounts

Parish Church of St Stephens, Southmead

Year ending 31.12.2021

INCOME

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	All	Unrestricted	Restricted	All
	fund	fund	funds	fund	fund	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Net covenants/gift aid	17,641	-	17,641	13,359	-	13,359
Tax received	3,511	-	3,511	1,405	-	1,405
Uncovenanted giving/envelopes	2,522	-	2,522	-	-	-
Collections/boxes/general purpose	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations received						
<i>total donations received-see note 4</i>	152	8,977	9,129	-	6,268	6,268
79 Ullswater Rd -net income	6,352	-	6,352	7,375	-	7,375
Other receipts						
<i>total other receipts-see note 5</i>	120		120	1,171	3,500	4,671
Grants						
Grants - General Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	30,298	8,977	39,275	23,310	9,768	33,078

EXPENSES

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	All	Unrestricted	Restricted	All
	fund	fund	funds	fund	fund	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Pastoral work						
<i>total pastoral work-see note 1</i>	2,285	-	2,285	1,298	-	1,298
Building maintenance						
<i>total building maint.-see note 2</i>	6,777	-	6,777	7,222	-	7,222
Charitable donations and missionary giving						
Parish share	14,590	-	14,590	12,360	-	12,360
Sundry items						
<i>total sundry-see note 3</i>	4,056	9,756	13,812	2,662	10,988	13,650
Total Expenses	27,708	9,756	37,464	23,542	10,988	34,530
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	2,590	(779)	1,811	(232)	(1,220)	(1,452)

Net Surplus (Deficit) B/F	23,030	15,167	38,197	23,262	16,387	39,649
Net Surplus (Deficit) C/F	25,620	14,388	40,008	23,030	15,167	38,197

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	All	Unrestricted	Restricted	All
	fund	fund	funds	fund	fund	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assets:						
Lloyds Bank High Interest Acc	-	-	37,694	-	-	37,039
Lloyds Bank Current Acc	-	-	2,314	-	-	1,158
Lloyds Instant Access Acc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer between building/general fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liabilities:						
Accruals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets	-	-	40,008	-	-	38,197

Notes to the accounts

	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	fund	fund
	£	£
Note 1 - Pastoral work		
<i>working expenses - vicar & curate</i>	1,503	186
<i>upkeep of service - altar books etc.</i>	782	1,112
<i>total pastoral work</i>	2,285	1,298
Note 2 - Building maintenance		
<i>heating, lighting, cleaning etc.</i>	1,355	3,499
<i>insurance</i>	4,710	3,068
<i>79 Ullswater Rd - repairs & maintenance</i>		
<i>repairs less insurance recovery</i>	712	655
<i>total building maintenance</i>	6,777	7,222

Note 3 - Sundry items

<i>admin, printing, stationery, postage</i>	1,059	224
<i>salaries</i>	-	-
<i>miscellaneous</i>	1,074	611
<i>church hall expenditure</i>		
<i>tithe</i>	336	1,827
<i>prior year adjustments</i>	1,587	
<i>total sundry items</i>	<u>4,056</u>	<u>2,662</u>

Note 4 - Donations received

<i>sundry donations and gifts</i>	152	-
<i>memorial gifts</i>	-	-
<i>total donations received</i>	<u>152</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 5 - Other receipts

<i>interest - cbf deposit fund</i>	16	122
<i>interest - high interest deposit account</i>	4	24
<i>Ordinary Envelopes</i>	-	749
<i>miscellaneous receipts</i>	100	500
<i>prior year adjustments</i>	-	-
<i>total other receipts</i>	<u>120</u>	<u>1,395</u>