

St Berteline & St Christopher's Church
The parish of Norton.
APCM Annual report for 2020

Contents

1. Structure, Governance and Management	Page 3
2. Administrative Information	Page 3
3. PCC Secretary's Report	Page 4
4. Financial Report and Review (incl. examiner's statement)	Page 4
5. Vicar's Report	Page 11
6. Report of Church Wardens	Page 12
7. Deanery Synod Report	Page 17
8. Electoral Roll Status	Page 17
9. Safeguarding Policy	Page 18

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC has a number of committees dealing with a particular aspect of parish life, including worship, tithes and building maintenance. These committees are responsible to the PCC and report back regularly for discussion by the full PCC.

[Back to contents](#)

2. Administrative Information

The Church of St. Berteline & St. Christopher is located in the Parish of Norton, Runcorn, Cheshire. It is part of the Diocese of Chester, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Norton Hill, Windmill Hill, Runcorn, WA7 6QE.

The number of elected lay members of the PCC is in relation to the number of church members on the Electoral Roll, and this parish is allowed six. PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-Charge:	Rev Dr Stephen Torr
Wardens:	Kathryn Dean, Bekki Ford
Lay Reader:	Christine Greeve
Deanery Synod Rep:	David Young (elected 2017)
PCC Members:	(2018) Carole Lewis, Lisa Darlington, (2019) Adrian Gough, Joyce Dippnall, (2020) Nicky Banlin, Paul Otter.

PCC members serve for three years from election, so those elected in 2018 will complete their term at the APCM in March 2021. There are currently no deanery synod representatives, so two people could be co-opted to those vacancies.

The Electoral Roll Officer is Mark Slater and the Treasurer is Jane Slater.

[Back to contents](#)

3. PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC will have met six times since the APCM in October 2020. A very brief meeting in October directly after the APCM to appoint officers was followed by five monthly meetings, all held by Zoom and all chaired by Rev. Dr. Steve Torr.

There are six elected and four ex-officio members serving on the PCC, and attendance at meetings has been good. Standing agenda items at each meeting included finance, buildings and fabrics, events, policies & procedures and safeguarding. At the meetings, the PCC has dealt with a range of issues with the aim of maintaining and improving the life of the church, the community and the church building. There have been two additional meetings to the usual bi-monthly pattern due to preparations for the forthcoming interregnum and future plans.

David A. Young (PCC Secretary)

[Back to contents](#)

4. Financial Report and Review

The PCC accounts are those of Norton Parish Church Only. The PCC holds bank accounts at Lloyds Bank, Runcorn & Warrington Branch and CCLA Investment Management Ltd, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET

These accounts have been independently reviewed by Chris Inch FCA on 17.2.21

RECEIPTS

General Fund (Unrestricted)	£	£
Regular Planned Giving		
Planned Giving	16,230.80	
Recovered Tax on Planned Giving	8,312.94	
Loose Collections	80.19	
		24,623.93
Occasional Giving		
Flowers	0	
Donations	2,330.00	
		2,330.00
Parochial Fees		
Weddings (Banns and Services)	0	
Funerals	0	
		0
Outreach		
Refreshments	10.60	
Community Café	298.55	
Chutney Sales	35.65	
Events (including Big Local Events)	497.86	
		842.66
Other Receipts		
Specified Donations	26.22	
Income from Invoices	1,979.35	
		2,005.57

Transfers from Other Church Accounts

Transfer from Lloyds Deposit Account	0	
Transfer from CBF Account	1,300.00	1,300.00

Income from Investments

CBF Deposit Account Interest	57.97	57.97
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Total Receipts (Unrestricted)		31,160.13
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Restricted Funds

Existing Restricted Funds

Emergency Fund	0	
Accessible Toilets*	0	
Signs & Courses	0	
Fire Doors	0	
HAF - Summer 2020 Grant	7,533.00	

Total Receipts (Restricted)		7,533.00
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Total Receipts (all investment)		38,693.13
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PAYMENTS

General Fund (Unrestricted)	£	£
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Diocesan Fees

Parish Share	13,283.40	
Parochial Fees	0	
		13,283.40

Employee Costs:

Employee Costs	4,039.75	
HMRC Costs	0	
		4,039.75

Premises Costs:

Council Tax	1,778.43	
Utilities	2,469.19	
Insurance (Church)	677.52	
		4,925.14

Operational Costs

Supplies	160.66	
Diocesan Support	0	

Annual Report 2020 – Parish Church of St. Berteline and St. Christopher, Norton

Flowers	5.98	
Wedding / Funeral Expenses	0	
Hall Hire	-178.20	
Licences / Website	399.80	
Repairs and Maintenance	525.63	
Service Costs	322.09	
Stationery	350.73	
Gifts	163.78	
		1,750.47

Outreach

Social Events	366.35	
Big Local Events	420.35	
Community Café	176.47	
Catering Supplies	20.86	
		984.03

Tithe

2019	1,128.00	
2020	0	
		1,128.00

Bank Adjustments	7.00	
		7.00

Other Payments

Specified payments	26.22	
		26.22

Transfers to Other Church Accounts

Transfer from Deposit account	0	
Transfer from CBF Account	1300.00	
		1300.00

Total Payments (Unrestricted)	27,444.01
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Restricted Funds

Existing Restricted Funds

Accessible Toilets (All Churches)	0	
Signs & Courses	14.40	
HAF - Summer 2020 Grant	7,534.81	

Total Payments (Restricted)	7,549.21
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Total Payments (all investment)	34,993.22
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Total Receipts (Unrestricted) less Total Payments (Unrestricted)	3716.12
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Total Receipts (Restricted) less Total Payments (Restricted)	-16.21
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Total Receipts less Total Payments 2020 (All Investment)	3,699.91
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Summary of Total Funds: December 2020

Detail	Lloyds Current	Lloyds Deposit	CBF Deposit	Total
Signs & Courses		340.60		340.60
Emergency Funds		3000.00		3000.00
Accessible Toilets			3833.00	3833.00
General Building Fund			2000.00	2000.00
Tithe 2019**	308.00			308.00
Tithe 2020 from Gift Aid 2018-19	2136.97			2136.97
Tithe 2021 from Gift Aid 2019-20	2465.75			2465.75
Messy Church Donation	161.33			161.33
Total Restricted Funds	5072.05	3340.60	5833.00	14245.65
Unrestricted Funds	2755.88	4093.72	3702.00	10551.60
Total Funds	7827.93	7434.32	9535.00	24797.25

Financial Review**1a Receipts**

A total of £38,693 was received in 2020, with total expenditure of £34,993 being incurred. Leaving a year end surplus of £3700.

It should be noted that receipts include £8314 Gift Aid from HMRC for 2 tax years 2018-19 and 2019-20. Of this £2137 is reserved for 2020 Tithe payments & £308 is remaining for 2019 Tithe payments. Taking this into account leaves a surplus of £1255. A further £2466 is reserved for 2021 Tithe payments.

Unrestricted Funds – Received

Regular Planned Giving totalled £24623 in 2020 [£14720 Standing orders / Envelopes; £76 collection box; £4 Junior Church and includes £8313 Recovered Tax reclaimed through the Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme for the period 2018-19 and 2019-20]. Overall giving via Standing Orders and Envelopes reduced by £1009 from 2019.

Donations of £2330 were received including £2000 COVID grant from Chester Diocese.

£844 was received in respect of Outreach activities with costs incurred totalling £786 leaving a net surplus of £281 – a reduction of 72.4% compared to 2019 due to the national lockdown.

Outreach	2019			2020		
	Inc. £	Exp. £	Variance £	Inc. £	Exp. £	Variance £
Refreshments	85	147	(62)	11	21	(10)
Chutney & Jam	55	n/a	55	36	n/a	36
Community Café	1829	970	859	299	176	123
Social Events inc. Big Local Events	2225	2059	166	498	366	132
Total	4194	3176	1018	844	786	281

Following the lockdown on 23rd March 2020 the church building had to close and all the usual social events were cancelled, including the annual fun day, the monthly brunch gatherings, the Christmas Tree Festival and Burns Night. Although some events, through the ingenuity and support of the congregation and the wonder of ZOOM were able to take place – including monthly Quiz Nights, Create for Christmas and Messy Church.

We continue to receive support from The Big Local, however their own events were also curtailed due to the lockdown (e.g the Children's Centre Fun Day and the Lunch & Tea Dance) Fortunately the Christmas Lunch was able to go ahead – albeit on a 'take-a-way' basis. This was fully funded via the Big Local.

Due to the closure of the church in March, income from Slimming World ceased. In 2019 the hire of the church generated £4703 and this is a significant loss of funds to the church and will remain so until restrictions are removed.

Specified donations of £26 were received on behalf of The Children’s Society which have subsequently been paid over to the society.

Interest from the CBF Deposit Account totalled £57.97.

Restricted Funds

A grant of £7533 was received from Edsential Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) in summer 2020. This was a grant bid for by Carole Lewis and Kathryn Dean to provide food to feed, and provide activities for, families in Windmill Hill over the school summer holidays. The total amount spent was £7535.

1b Payments

Total expenditure incurred in 2020 was £34993.

Unrestricted Funds

Diocesan fees aka the ‘Parish Share’ totalled £13,283.

Total employee costs were £4039 in respect of the Church Administrator post. No HMRC costs apply. Premises costs, which relate to the vicarage (council tax & water rates) and the church (utilities, insurance and telephone rental) totalled £4925, a reduction of £551 on 2019 due to the closure of the building.

Operational expenses totalled £1750 during 2020. This is much lower compared to a ‘normal’ year due to the closure of the church building. Costs include £160 on essential resources for cleaning materials & supplies, £526 on repairs & maintenance. Service costs of £322 including Easter, Christmas, Messy and Junior Church and stationery costs of £351 which includes the rental & per-copy costs for the photocopier. A refund of £178 was received regarding the hire of the Children’s Centre for Junior Church – again due to closure following COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, the annual Music Licence of £212 and promotional costs (website) totalling £188.

Other expenses in 2020 include £6 for church flowers and £163 was spent on gifts to supporters of our church.

Charitable Donations.

Tithe funds

Each year the church sets aside 10% of giving to donate to charities and worthy causes nominated by the congregation.

£1282 outstanding 2019 Tithe payments were brought forward into 2020; £974 have been paid during 2020 [Halton Haven Hospice; Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Runcorn and Widnes Cancer Support, Sightsavers, Friends of St Berteline’s school, Barnabus Fund and Water Aid] leaving £308 [Friends of Windmill Hill School and Parent to Parent Venus Group] which was necessary to carry forward into 2021.

£2137 is reserved from 2018-19 Gift Aid claim for 2020 Tithe payments and £2466 from the 2019-20 Gift Aid Claim for 2021 Tithe payments.

Reserves

A £2000 General Building Fund plus a further £3833 designated for future alterations to the church, including the accessible toilets remains in the CBF Deposit Account.

£3,000 remains in the Lloyds Savings Account and is held in reserve to cover emergency situations that may arise.

Bank Account Summary:

Lloyds Bank Operating Account

Opening Balance January 2020	2839.53
Transactions	4988.40
Closing Balance 31st December, 2020	7827.93

Lloyds Bank Deposit Account

Opening Balance January 2020	7,434.32
Transactions	0.00
Closing Balance 31st December, 2020	7,434.32

CBF Deposit Account

Opening Balance January 2019	10,835.00
Transactions	-1,300.00
Closing Balance 31st December 2020	9,535.00

Total Church Funds at 31st December 2020	24,797.25
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Summary

2020 was a very difficult year in more ways than one. The global COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national lockdown prevented the continuation of normal services and events. Whilst this did result in a reduction of some expenditure, the majority of expenses continued at the same or a similar level. The loss of income from our annual events and from Slimming World impacted hugely. Initially a very much welcomed £2,000 Grant from the Diocese alleviated some of the pressure. However, it could be seen that a 'double' gift aid claim for Tax years 2018-19 and 2019-20 was required, which released £3712 (net of Tithe commitments) of urgently required funds, this plus an additional £1300 of the 'non-specified' reserves - which was moved from the CBF fund - helped to 'keep our heads above water'.

We are not out of the woods yet, as of writing in February 2021 a 3rd national lockdown is still in place and the church building remains closed. This will obviously have an impact on 2021 funds and the continued support via regular giving is even more important than ever.

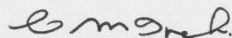
Jane Slater – Treasurer

St Berteline's Financial Report

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Regular Planned Giving	24,623.93	20,175.26	20,777.18
Occasional Giving	2,330.00	1,030.04	1,520.51
Inreach / Outreach	842.66	4,194.56	4,121.13
Parochial Fees	-	1,340.00	43.00
Other Receipts	1,979.35	6,231.01	4,945.56
Specified Donations	26.22	354.80	422.05
Income from Investments	57.97	79.08	42.97
Restricted Fund	7,533.00	1,297.60	
	<u>37,393.13</u>	<u>34,702.35</u>	<u>31,872.40</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Diocesan Fees	13,283.40	13,388.20	11,923.32
Employee Costs:	4,039.75	4,104.05	3,536.04
Premises Costs	4,925.14	5,476.76	5,129.22
Operational Costs	1,750.47	4,064.61	3,516.97
Inreach / Outreach	984.03	3,175.77	2,958.69
Tithe	1,128.00	5,852.00	
Other Payments	33.22	368.32	73.00
Restricted Fund	7,549.21	2,198.40	
	<u>33,693.22</u>	<u>38,628.11</u>	<u>27,137.24</u>
<u>Surplus / (Deficit)</u>	3,699.91	(3,925.76)	4,735.16
Opening Funds	21,097.34	25,034.61	20,299.35
Closing Funds	24,797.25	21,097.34	25,034.61
Diff	(0.00)	(11.51)	0.10

These accounts have been independantly reviewed by:

C. M. INCH FCA


17.2.21.

[**Back to contents**](#)

5. Vicar's Report 2020

2020 has been one of the strangest and most difficult years many of us have ever faced, thanks largely to the COVID pandemic. Personally, it has pushed me in all sorts of uncomfortable and painful ways to recognise afresh the fragility and vulnerability of creation, and particularly the human form, and to reflect on what the meaning of life might be, what form hope takes and where it may be found. And, what it means to be the church in such strange times.

I have found myself returning to a section in the Old Testament book of Lamentations which reads,

²¹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.' (Lam. 3.21-24)

Here, the writer first notes the pain and torment of the situation. However, he then is drawn to the fact that God's love and mercy never end because God is faithful...each day...even when we are not and regardless of what we are experiencing. And this, the writer realises, is all he needs and where he finds hope. In contrast to a world that continues to anaesthetise itself against its own fragility by pretending we have the capacity to forever overcome our own mess (history doesn't do a great job of supporting this view!) the church, following the writer of Lamentations is called to proclaim an alternative. Hope is found in the fact that God is love and God is faithful to God's creation and God promises to make all things new...eventually. Hope is found in God assuming the fragility of humanity, as Jesus, and yet overcoming that fragility in the resurrection as *the* way of making all things new. The church must proclaim this hope in word and deed whilst also providing safe spaces to voice our pain and the pain of the world to the God whose mercies are new every morning.

This last year I have been so very proud of the ways the St Bert's church family have continued to care for one another and the surrounding community. In spite of the church building being closed for significant periods the church has continued to be open through the virtual world, through phone calls, through Foodbank, through 'click and collect,' through holiday hunger projects and through continuing in prayer. I am thankful for the support and care you have shown each other and all the hard work that has gone into the last year. May we continue to pause, pray, look with eyes of faith to see where God is at work, and join with Him in cultivating His Kingdom here on earth.

But what of the meaning of life? A meaningful life is, I suggest, one that is infused with meaning by finding our place within God's salvaging of creation. It is a life where our gifts and passions are identified and drawn into the wider, deeper, richer work of God uniting heaven with earth in the here and now. Over the last 5+ years The Torr family have had the privilege of journeying with you as we have tried to discern together God's meaning in our lives, both individually and together as a church, and for that, we are thankful. However, to continue to respond to the call of God to the Torr family, we will be moving on. But, we will not forget our time here and are deeply grateful for being able to share this time with you. May you continue to walk with God, invite others on the journey and know his presence, his peace and his blessing.

Prayers and blessings,
Steve.

[Back to contents](#)

6. Report of Church Wardens

During the last 12 months, there have been no faculties, Quinquennial inspections or Archdeacon's inspection. The Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2021.

For most of 2020, the Church followed Government and Diocesan Guidelines for Covid-19 safety. This has included hosting services indoors, while being socially distanced.

2020 has not been a normal year in the Church Diary! As with all other establishments, Covid-19 has had a huge impact on us. The Church followed Government and Diocesan Guidelines, leading us to make adaptations to our worship, such as no physical sharing of the peace and no sharing of the chalice. As the seriousness of the situation became clearer the UK government imposed a lockdown in England. Wales & Scotland followed similar guidance set by their governing bodies. The terms of the lockdown mean people could only leave their homes for essential items. Workplaces changed and only those with essential jobs that couldn't be performed from home were permitted to travel to workplaces. This meant that on March 16th we took the decision to close the Church building. During this time no services and any hire or social activities could take place.

The 2020 lockdown periods were:

March 16 2020 – July 4 2020 – Initial Lockdown

November 5 2020 – December 2 2020 – 2nd lockdown

Once the decision was made to close the church Steve quickly moved the Sunday service to a said live service through Facebook, this continued till the end of 2020.

The Foodbank as an essential local need was reopened in April. Members of the public were asked to knock on the church door and parcels were passed out to them. Steve Torr lead and managed this due to the manager and keyholding volunteer shielding (shielding is a term use for people with health issues who cannot leave home for any reason). However, in August Steve had to step down from Managing this and unfortunately there was no one suitable for health and safety reasons to open and lock the building. So mid-August we (the Wardens), took the difficult decision to ask foodbank to close temporarily till another manager could be found.

The church was opened for private prayer on 13th July, which a few people shared in.

Then the guidelines eased in September and a health and Safety team were set up to ensure that the church reopened with strict social distancing measures and cleanliness in place. We were permitted to allow 22 people + 1 clergy into the building for a service. Everyone attending had to wear a face mask, remain 2 meters apart and not stop to talk to each other at the end of the service. There was also a ban placed on public singing so music could only be listened to. To aid with reduced capacity a booking system was introduced, and the congregation were asked to book in before attending.

Many thanks to this team who got the church ready for reopening in September. Steve did continue to provide a Facebook service whilst open for those congregation members who were unable to come into church. It was a shame it was so short lived, and Steve reverted to Facebook services when we once again found ourselves in the 2nd lockdown.

We reopened early December and managed to have live services throughout the month. We also ran a zoom Christingle for a congregation of over 100, with make at home Christingle packs.

Buildings and Maintenance

The following have been carried out:

- Preparation of the church and garden for Summer Holiday Hunger Scheme
- Gas boiler safety inspection
- Electrical PAT Testing
- Garden Maintenance

We would like to thank David Young, Colin Keeley, Adrian Gough and Mark Slater, who are the members of our Buildings and Maintenance Team. Particular thanks to everyone who came together to help with the holiday hunger scheme preparations, which involved the erection of 12 gazebos in the church garden, whilst maintaining social distance with each other!

Summer Holiday Hunger Scheme – Halton Activity Fun (HAF)

We were delighted to have been successful in securing funding to provide food and activities for local families in the summer. The scheme was based on 4x4x4, four weeks, four days, four hours. We collaborated with Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Halton Street Soccer and Norton Priory. The Children's Centre provided activity bags for all the children, which contained 4 day's worth of activities for the children to complete at home. Although the Halton Street Soccer provided activities for a separate group of children, the church was able to feed these children too. Norton Priory provided fantastic hands on activities after families had been fed in their gazebos.

Sadly, Carole, who was the vital piece in the jigsaw, broke her collarbone on holiday so was completely out of action from the 2nd week the scheme ran. We quickly had to request more funding to allow us to continue to feed for the four days we had promised, as Carole had previously agreed to cook for one of the days. Fortunately, funding was given and Manor Farm Catering stepped up and provided delicious food for three days each week. Kathryn catered each Friday with the help of The Brindley Theatre who provided homemade frozen pies for three of the weeks. We were so fortunate and it really felt as though the town and community came together, despite some setbacks.

We had an amazing team of volunteers ranging from 16 to 65! I would like to say particular thanks to Oli Ford and Harriet Dean who volunteered almost every day during the four-week programme. Oli was a master with the IT recording numbers every day and Harriet stepped up and managed volunteer rotas and generally got stuck into cleaning toilets, serving food, helping children, whilst maintaining a smile (in the rain too!) Having said that, all our volunteers had a brilliant time and offered to help again with any future schemes we plan to put on.

HAF data

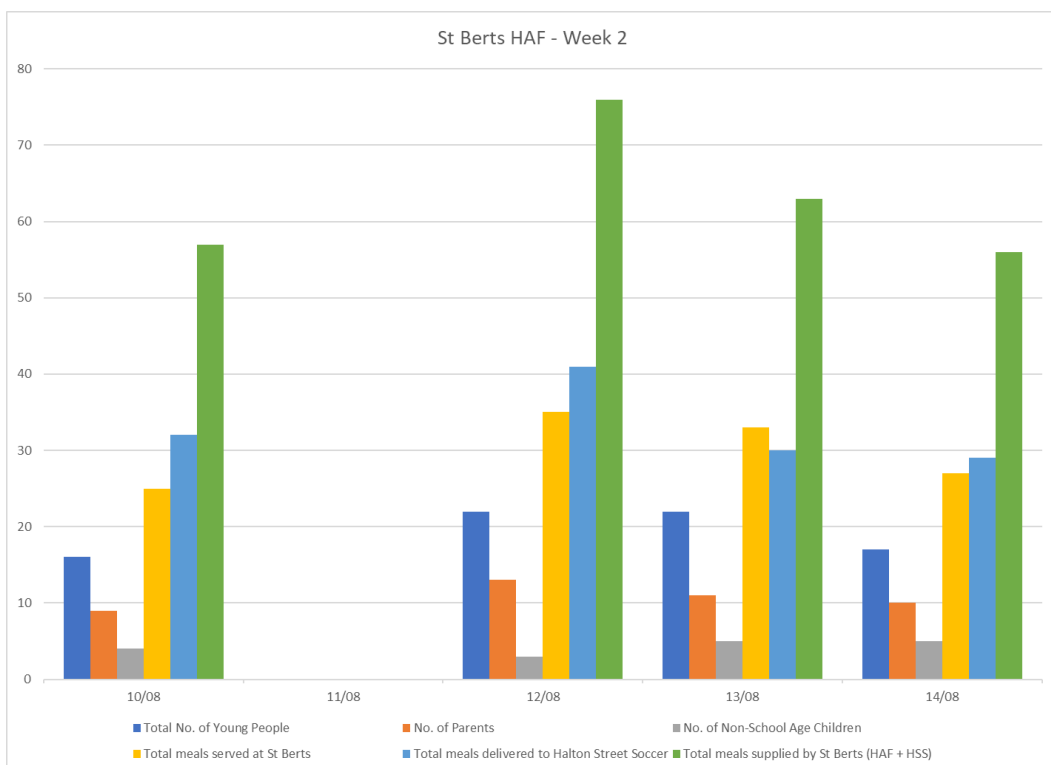
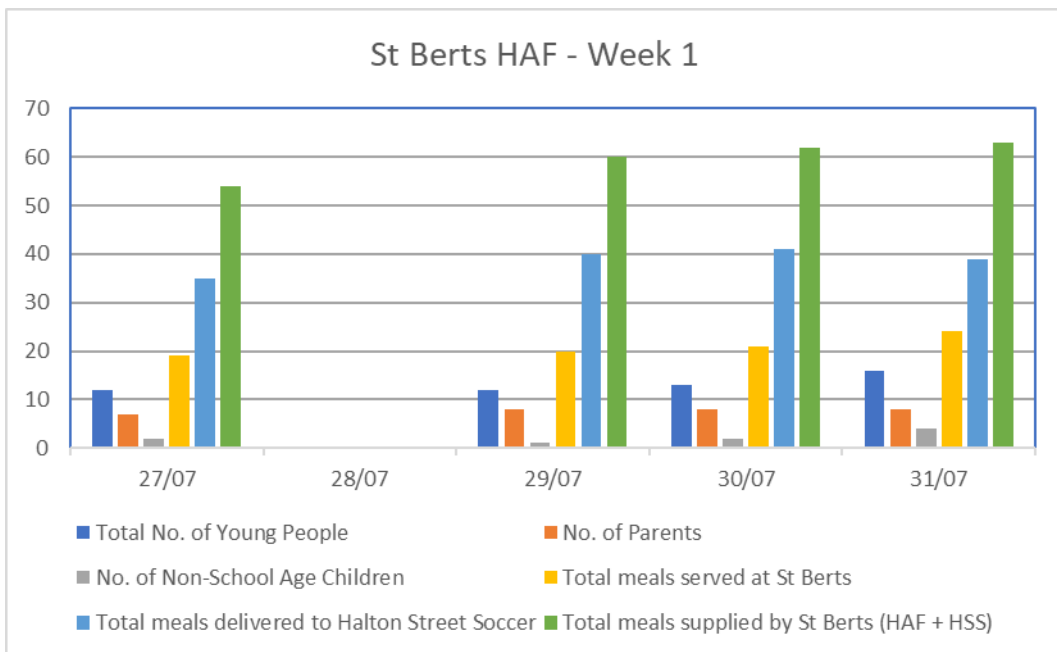
The main aim of the HAF was to supply meals to children in receipt of free school meals (FSM). For this reason and due to covid-19 requirements we were requested to ask each person attending to complete a simple registration form. This asked if the children received FSM or has a SEND (special educational need or disability), statement. This data was collected and then passed to the Halton council HAF organisers. During the HAF we also analysed the data we held to assess the effectiveness of the scheme at St Bert's.

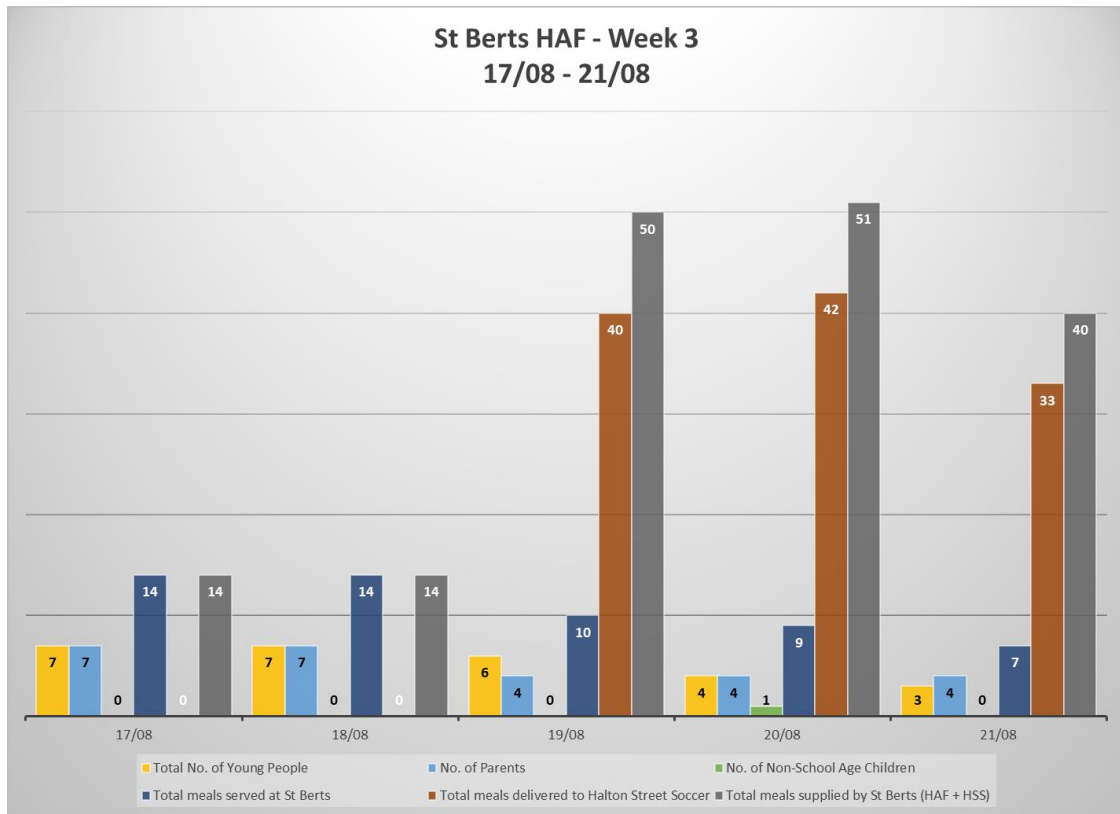
HAF ran for 4 hours/day, for 4 day/week for 4 weeks of the 2020 Summer holidays. Each of the weeks we opened Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The weeks we ran were:

27 th - 31 st July	Week 1
10 th – 14 th August	Week 2
17 th – 21 st August	Week 3
24 th – 28 th August	Week 4

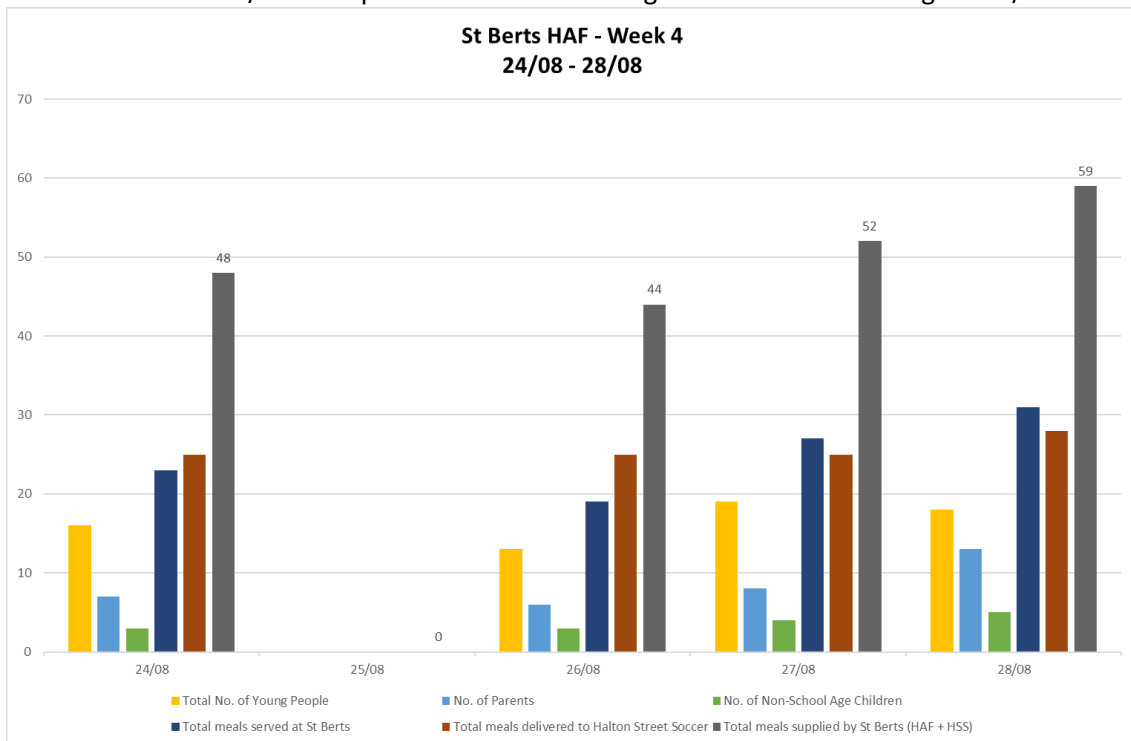
Over the 4 weeks we served a total 863 meals. We only have data for the children attending St Bert’s HAF a breakdown of which can be seen below. Of the 863 meals 505 were delivered to a sports club being held at Windmill Hill School, they held their own registration data so we are unable to break that down.

Total No. of Young People. (School age)	No. of Adults (+18yrs)	No. of Non-School Age Children (below reception class age)	Total meals served at St Berts	Total meals delivered to Halton Street Soccer	Total meals supplied by St Berts (HAF + HSS)
223	134	42	358	505	863

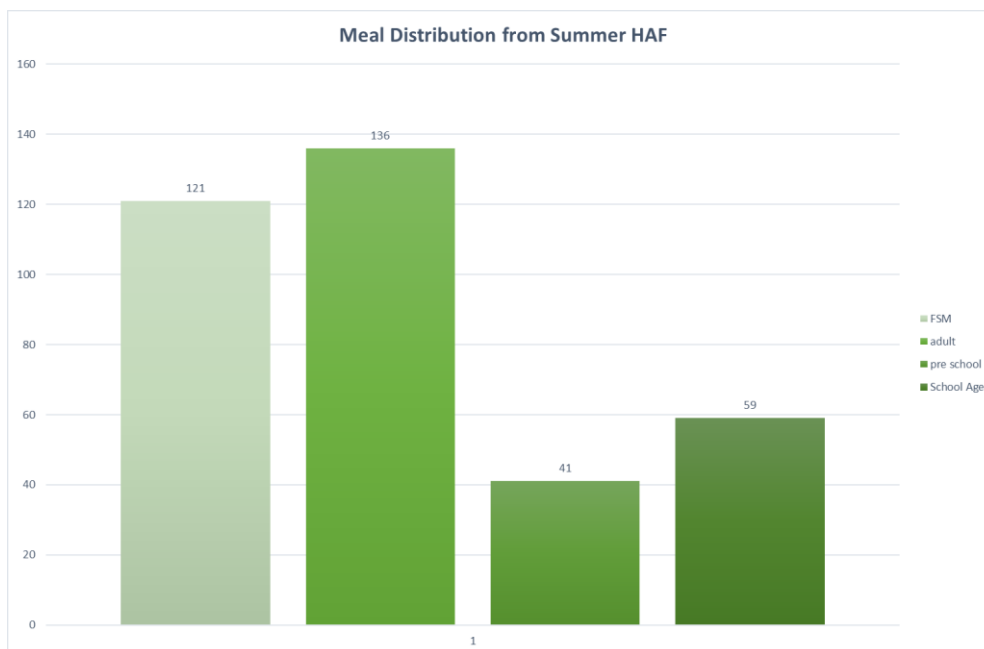




Due to excessive food 17/08 meal packs of leftovers were given to those attending for 18/08



The breakdown of St Berts number by school children not receiving FSM, those receiving FSM, adults and children of preschool age is as follows. From the 358 meals served at St Berts Church 121 were for children eligible for FSM.



Due to the restrictions with Covid-19, we have been unable to have many live social gatherings. The last social gathering we were able to hold was a Burns Night on 25th January, Carole catered for this with a two-course supper served. It was well attended and raised needed funds for the church. Thank you, Carole, for all your hard work and the effort you put into the social activities of church. From the start of the lockdown our social activities have consisted of monthly zoom quizzes held on Saturday nights, these have been organised by several members of the congregation and well attended. Also after church coffee and chat on zoom, which has been regularly attended by a small hand full of those watching the Facebook services.

Children’s Ministry

Despite the restrictions with Covid-19, we have managed to keep our Children’s Ministry going thanks to Zoom! During the first lockdown Holly, Bekki, Kathryn and Janine formed a rota to do Junior Church on Zoom; we had about six families join. We used a variation of videos, stories, crafts and simple worship for each session. The children often read bible passages or prayers. After a number of months, the children’s interest started to wane. It was decided to take a different approach to ministry so from the second lockdown Holly has been organising Messy Church each month. This has grown so much and the children certainly seem to enjoy the more crafty approach to ministry! Huge thanks to Holly for taking this on, the children have absolutely loved the activities and you energise everyone! On behalf of all the children as well as their mums and dads, we thank you very much!

Next Steps

We held several Quiz nights on zoom which were attended by the Next Steps children.

Community Outreach

We said a fond farewell to Maureen Hazelwood at the end of the summer. Maureen was our verger and will be sorely missed by everyone; she was a big part of our church for many years. Maureen moved to Liverpool to be nearer her family and we wished her well with a socially distanced tea party in the church garden and gazebos.

The ladies Home Group has continued to thrive on a Tuesday morning over Zoom.

Unfortunately, Slimming World has not been able to meet this year in the church building due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Thanks to Carole who cooked 36 Christmas Dinners in her own kitchen and an army of volunteers, Christmas meals were delivered to many in need in the community. We believe they even got a choice of dessert! Well done Carole and team.

Thank You

We all work as one team but special thanks have to be given to our Administrator Paul who has kept the rotas, notice boards and service bookings going throughout the pandemic. He has worked on his own with often tight timescales and we really appreciate all you do.

Also thanks to Nikki who has cleaned our Church throughout lockdown too!

We can honestly say – hand on heart- that we are privileged to be the Churchwardens at St Bert’s and we thoroughly enjoy working alongside Steve and Holly, who are always there to offer support and advice to us both.

We thank the whole St Bert’s team for all they do to make St Bert’s what it is today, even during lockdown! As we move into another interregnum, we look to the PCC and congregation for support, patience and guidance during this time.

Kathryn Dean & Bekki Ford February 2021

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24

[Back to contents](#)

7. Frodsham Deanery Synod Report

Elections to deanery synod occur every three years, and the present synod was elected in 2020. At our (much delayed) APCM in October 2020 no one was elected so St. Bert’s is currently not represented at the local synod. There have been no meetings since October 2020.

David A Young (PCC Secretary)

[Back to contents](#)

8. Electoral Roll Status

Total on roll		43
Made up from:	Resident	35
	Non-Resident	8

Mark Slater – Electoral Roll Officer

[Back to contents](#)

9. Safeguarding Policy

SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on: 15th March 2021.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints: Christine Greeve as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Revd Dr Stephen Torr

Churchwardens: Kathryn Dean and Bekki Ford

Date: 15th March 2021

[Back to contents](#)