

**THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
BOLTON DEANERY**

**THE PARISH OF SEVEN SAINTS  
NEW BURY WITH GREAT LEVER**



**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
of the Parochial Church Council**

for the year beginning 1st January 2020 and ending 31st December 2020

**Ministers**

**Team Rector:**

Rev. Mark Cowling  
Seven Saints Rectory  
130a Highfield Road,  
Farnworth, Bolton BL4 0AJ

**Associate Rector:**

Vacant position

**Team Ministers:**

Rev. Alison Comber OLM  
Rev. Tony Cowell OLM (left October 2020)

**Methodist Link**

Rev. Darren Garfield

**Pentecostal Minister**

Rev. Stephen Garner

**Evangelism Project Officer**

Sr. Dorothy Needham CA (retired Sept 2020)

**Bank**

The Co-operative Bank

Charity Registration Number: 1134133

**Parish of Seven Saints, New Bury with Great Lever**

The Parish is a single parish Team ministry covering the area of South Farnworth and Great Lever in Bolton; it is part of the Deanery of Bolton and the Diocese of Manchester. It came into being on October 10th 2011 by the joining of the former parishes of Five Saints and SS Simon and Jude’s. The population is approx. 31,000; and there are high levels of deprivation. The Parish is mainly residential with some large council estates and an industrial and commercial corridor along Manchester Road and the northern section of the parish.

There are 4 centres of worship in the Team. St Catherine’s Church in Highfield & Community Hall (Anglican/Methodist LEP) St George with St James Church and Hall - Plodder Lane St Michael with St Bartholomew Parish Church SS Simon and Jude’s School, Newport Road Great Lever

The Electoral Roll at the APCM in 2018 was 204

The average Weekly attendance\* was –

over 16’s  
Under 16’s

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
166	141	151	168	225	54
71	60	71	113	157	16

\*taken from Statistics for Mission Report October figs

There are 4 church schools in the parish – St James CE Secondary Voluntary Aided, St James CE Primary Voluntary Controlled, St Michael’s CE Primary Voluntary Aided and SS Simon and Jude CE Primary Academy

**Priorities:**

**Priority 1** - We will enhance the attractiveness of our worship communities – offering a range of distinctive congregations and communities (including traditional, modern and family friendly). We will welcome baptism, funeral and wedding families into our church families; and we will ensure that our welcome and activities genuinely show that “no-one is excluded”

**Priority 2** - We seek to deepen the prayer and spiritual life of the parish, and ourselves. We will do this through our collective worship, through being involved in small groups and through our private prayer and study

**Priority 3** - We will maintain and build on our work with children, young people, and young adults. We will resource Messy Church through the staffing transition and beyond. We will ensure that children are welcomed and included at all services, but at the same time we will have good quality alternative worship provision that focuses on children (while welcoming and including adults).

**Priority 4** - We will improve the future viability of the parish through improving our finances and completing repairs and improvements to our buildings.

**Mission Statement:** Seven Saints Team aims to be a worshiping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of our community.

This Vision will be the focus of all we do – it will inform how we plan our services and other events, how we use our resources (time, buildings, money), how we pray both collectively and individually, and how we engage with our neighbourhood and the wider world.

Web Site: [www.sevensaints.org](http://www.sevensaints.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SevenSaintsTeam](http://www.facebook.com/SevenSaintsTeam) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/SevenSaintsTeam](http://www.twitter.com/SevenSaintsTeam)

**SEVEN SAINTS CHURCH COUNCIL 2020**

**Seven Saints PCC & Meeting Membership 2019**

Position	St Catherine's	St George's	St Michael's	SSSJ's
<b>PCC</b>				
Warden	Andrew Gibbons	Mandi Stott	Elaine Guest-Evans	Deb Lyons
Deputy Warden	Sheila Smith	Rob Tyler	Anne Cheetham	VACANCY
Synod	Andrew Gibbons		Elaine Guest-Evans	Val Holden
PCC Rep 1	Marion Caughey	Lesley Durosomo	Margaret Moulton	Sam Bowerbank
PCC Rep 2	Susan Stephens	Sandra Bromley	Helen Butler	Stella Crank
PCC Rep 3	Tim Goddard	VACANCY	Kath Crossley	VACANCY
PCC Rep 4	Andrea Gibbons			
<b>Stewardship Team/Finance &amp; Standing Committee</b>				
Warden	Andrew Gibbons	Mandi Stott	Elaine Guest-Evans	Deb Lyons
Deputy Warden	Tim Goddard	Rob Tyler	Anne Cheetham	VACANCY
Treasurer	(Andrew Gibbons)	Andrea Jackson	Kathryn Fox	Peter Lyons
Stewardship Rep 1	Tim Goddard	Lesley Durosomo	Kath Crossley	Stella Crank
Stewardship Rep 2	Joy Fairbrother	VACANCY		Sam Bowerbank
Volunteer				Val Holden
<b>Pastoral Action Team</b>				
Pastoral Rep 1	Sheila Smith	Lesley Durosomo	Elaine Guest-Evans	VACANCY
Pastoral Rep 2	Catherine Lee			
<b>Mission Action Team</b>				
Mission Rep 1	Andrea Gibbons	Mandi Stott	Margaret Brockie	Nadia Osypanka
Mission Rep 2	Catherine Lee	Rob Tyler	Kath Crossley	Deborah Urmston
Verger/Sacristan	Shelia Smith	Stephen Garner	Anne Cheetham	Margaret Burke
			Elaine Guest-Evans	
Noticeboard Rep	Joy Fairbrother	Sandra Bromley	Elisha Guest-Evans	Kerry Jones
Methodist Circuit Rep 1	Andrew Gibbons	NA	NA	NA
Methodist Circuit Rep 2	Shelia Smith	NA	NA	NA
Methodist Circuit Rep 3	Joy Fairbrother	NA	NA	NA
Methodist Youth Rep	Andrea Gibbons	NA	NA	NA
Gift Aid Sec	Stella Crank		CCPAS Lead Recruiter	Lesley Durosomo
Parish Safeguarding	Mandi Stott			

Electoral Roll Officer: Elaine Guest Evans

P. C.C. Treasurer: Lesley Durosomo

P. C. C. Secretary: Andrea Gibbons

Vice Chair: Stella Crank

(Team Clergy are ex-officio on the P.C.C. and the Teams above)

## **PCC REPORT**

2020 was an exceptional year as we dealt with the limiting factors caused by the pandemic. Perhaps the toughest aspect was closing down all our children's and youth work for the year.

The PCC met 2 times during 2020 to oversee the work of the action teams and to consider major issues within the parish.

Ross Pyle continued as Parish Treasurer. The Parish was only able to pay £10,000 towards the £27,000 Parish Share requested prior to the pandemic by the Diocese due to the loss of income per the Treasurer's Report from hall rental and giving.

We went online broadcasting our services via YouTube live as the pandemic meant we had to shut our churches for extended periods and also limit numbers attending for other periods of the year. We continued operating as a Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank centre at St Georges on Mondays and added a Job Club.

We said goodbye to colleagues this year, as Sister Dorothy Needham retired and Revd Tony Cowell moved on. We thank both of them for their years of service to us in this Parish.

## **STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT**

Stewardship Team met 2 times in 2020 to oversee the finances of the parish and the fabric of our buildings.

Other areas of finance that we worked on included :- starting a refurb of St George's Church Hall and Kitchen in partnership with Third Space Bolton Work and Skills Project; recovering Gift Aid claims.

## **MISSION TEAM REPORT**

Mission Team met 1 time in 2020 to lead and envision the PCC on Mission Action Planning after preparation in 2019.

As a parish:

-We have partnered with Farnworth and Kearsley Foodbank and run a centre on Mondays at St G. We have also got Lottery Funding to run a Job Club along side this.

-We have become eco churches with Arocha.

In addition to the shared Parish plans, we hope to restart our mission activity according to each of our churches specific visions:

St Simons – connecting with SSSJ school and a community project in forthcoming community centre – something along the lines of the World Café.

St Georges – looking at further funding for other community activities. St James Primary Family Worship services launched monthly for school families.

St Catherine's – Urban Outreach Summer Lunch Club at Church for children. Mother and Toddler Group on Tuesdays. Ministry to the Thursday night congregation

St Michael's – Curating our History -funding received to start a project working with High School children to record interviews and stories with older people to capture our social heritage  
-Country Church in a Town project planned to develop conservation in the churchyard and engage the community about Climate and the Environment  
-We hope to restart in future Summer Concerts and World Cafe.

### **PASTORAL TEAM REPORT**

Pastoral Team met informally 2020 to consider ways to follow up and care for people during the pandemic. Volunteers formed telephone teams and contacted people. The WhatsApp groups for the churches were very helpful to keep connected

We continued to pray for and visit the sick and the housebound, and where appropriate to take home communion.

Mark preached a series on Wellbeing with the aim of all members learning more about pastoral care and calling the church to engage more with offering pastoral care.

### **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

Parish reps (Val Holden and Elaine Guest Evans) have been our Deanery Synod reps.

### **METHODIST CIRCUIT REPORT 2020** - Report not available

Ministers Revd D Garfield Revd P Brown Revd T Sibanda

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS REPORT**

Our Safeguarding Officer is Mandi Stott and Diocesan Church Safeguarding Training has been received for Safeguarding leads over the last 12 months. We are happy to note that no safeguarding issues have been brought to our attention this year. However, we continue to have a number of people need to renew their DBS checks and to complete the required on-line training and this is being led by Elaine Guest Evans in 2021.

## Seven Saints Treasurers Report 2020

Seven Saints PCC Treasurers Report year ending 31 December 2020.

It would not be an understatement to say that 2020 was a challenging year on many levels not the least financially.

In 2019 we were able to pay our Parish Share in full whereas for 2020 we only paid 37% of our share equating to £10,000 – share for 2020 was £27,000. This amount of £10,000 is the amount that we advised the Diocese at the beginning of lock down we would pay for the year unless we fully reopened which we did not, therefore we were able to pay the amount promised.

It is difficult to compare 2019 to 2020 as it was a very different year and in 2019, we received several large grants and a loan in respect of St Georges renovation.

Income for 2020 was £77126.73 – giving is down due to the extended closures and loss of some beloved church members. This includes several grants for special projects.

Expenditure for 2020 was £53,974 – the positive side of closure is that expenditure has been reduced i.e., utilities, service costs and with only one stipendiary clergy for the majority of the financial year this has reduced clergy costs.

The surplus on the year needs to be viewed in terms of funds still held for the special projects such as Job Club and the Heritage Fund.

Funds carried forward are £119676 (2019-£96524) again considering special projects, and restricted and designated funds leaving an unrestricted funds of £35980 over all of the churches NB this included designated funds of £22891 leaving truly unrestricted at £13089.

We should also note a liability of loan outstanding of £10k to MDBF and expenses for Sister Dorothy not paid totalling £4183.62 which we are repaying at £200 per month.

We continue to try to have funds restricted for the Graveyard at St James's released for use in the Parish totalling £26621.

Note to the accounts Accounting error in 2019 failed to show £24.33 of petty cash held by St Catherine's to resolve this a fund showing a debit balance of this amount is shown in the accounts – there is no petty cash held now and this is a correcting entry on a funds basis and does not impact Bank Account balances.

Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme claimed from the HMRC is not included in the accounts as we use the Diocese Scheme Gift Aid Lite which means the amounts claimed are not processed via the Seven Saints Bank Accounts but are credited directly to the Parish Share Account at the Diocese. The amount of Gift Aid and GASDS claimed and credited to share payment for 2020 was £6330.43 (this amount is included in the £10k parish share payment made for the year.

It should be noted that the accounting system ExpensePlus started in 2019 is proving to be very helpful and we have seen the benefit of this system this year in delivering the accounts more efficiently. I would like to record the Parish thanks to all the Treasurers who work tirelessly to ensure the financial running of the Parish.


Lesley Durosomo PCC Treasurer.

Seven Saints Team Annual Report and Accounts 2020

Signed by

Team Rector: Rev. Mark Cowling

Date: 25 April 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Cowling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical stroke at the end of the word "Cowling".