

Diocese of Manchester  
Parish of St John the Evangelist  
Farnworth & Kearsley  
Annual Report for 2021



## Index of Report

Chair .....	Page 3
Secretary .....	Page 4
Treasurer .....	Page 10
Planned Giving and Gift Aid .....	Page 11
Wardens .....	Page 11
Authorised Lay Ministry .....	Page 12
Electoral Roll Officer .....	Page 12
Child Protection .....	Page 12
Church Website .....	Page 13
All Saints CE Primary School Head teacher .....	Page 13
St John's CE Primary School Head teacher .....	Page 15
St Peter's CE Primary School Head teacher .....	Page 20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Farnworth St John's Brownies .....	Page 26
St John's Toddler Time .....	Page 27
St John's Youth Group .....	Page 28
Statement of Account .....	Page 29

## Chair's Report



What a difficult year.

It's been hard in so many ways, not least because of Covid, and yet good has come from it. As Jesus reminds us in Luke 13.1-9, like the fig tree we can discern if we are going in the direction God wants us to by the fruit which is yielded. There is plenty of fruit in this Benefice.

Before the end of May we will have had three appointments in the Benefice; Barry our new Reader emeritus, Tony our soon to be Assistant Minister and Steph our latest Authorised Lay Minister. These very able volunteers sit alongside a growing team including three other ALM's, and two people actively discerning Ordained Ministry, and who are well on the way to realising that calling. This is good fruit.

We have two thriving Toddler groups, a brand-new Youth group, now into double figures, an emerging Sunday school and alongside our partners at Changing Places are organising a huge Leavers assembly involving all our five Church schools. This sits alongside our weekly assemblies at three of our Church schools and the many ways in which we support them all, and the community schools too.

We have a new Worship pattern to engage with, which includes the reopening of Holy Trinity and a new monthly service there. And we are well into plans for a new monthly service in the form of a café Church based at St Peters.

As I say, this is Good Fruit.

Our biggest challenge, which will direct our future, is that of finance. We don't come close to paying Parish share. With the reshaping of the Mission community and the pressures to reduce Clergy across the Church of England, we have to ask ourselves is our future stable without solid Stewardship supporting us?

There is work to be done here, yet there is good fruit to uplift us and to encourage us onwards. I have no doubt, with some innovation and lots of prayers we will meet these challenges and continue to grow.

**Fr Stephen**

**Team Rector and Chair of St John the Evangelist Church PCC**



## PCC Secretary's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Rector Father Stephen Nolan, the Church Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Treasurer and members of the PCC for their support throughout another challenging year. The PCC met at both 'live meetings' in church and 'virtual meetings' on Zoom, on 9 occasions, during the period January to December 2021.

### JANUARY

The year started with a virtual Emergency Covid Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January, when following discussion, **a vote was taken in favour of the closure of St John's Church from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.** The reason for the dispensation of reading of Morning and Evening Prayer and the celebration of Holy Communion, both required by Canon Law, was in light of the Government's regulations and guidance on preventing the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, that it was not safe to open the church for public worship on those occasions.

A further virtual meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January when the decision was reviewed and **we agreed to open St John's Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

Father Stephen explained that David Grae had been appointed to set up the Deanery Church Plant in Bolton but no budget had been allocated to do the job. We agreed to donate £100 to the Deanery Mission Church Plant in Bolton. This was money we had allocated from our Mission Action Plan Budget for the Portrait Competition that had not gone ahead due to Covid.

### FINANCE

Father Stephen thanked our Treasurer, Sandra Croston, for producing the Finance Report for 2020. He reminded members of our 'in year' deficit and need to increase our giving. He didn't want to get into a position where we may need to close the church. He said he would write to everyone on the Electoral Roll, requesting that they pay their 'planned giving' to church by Standing Order and give consideration to reviewing their giving or make a 'One Off' donation to church.

### FEBRUARY

At the February virtual meeting, following further discussion, **it was confirmed that St John's Church would carry on as normal and remain open.**

### FINANCE

Father Stephen confirmed that he had sent a 'Begging Letter' to everyone on the electoral roll; in addition letters had also been placed on pew seats in church, requesting one-off donations and for church members to increase their planned giving.

### SET OF NEW CHURCH BELL ROPES



The secretary reported that the set of new bell ropes donated by Mrs Cynthia Gethin, in memory of her husband Victor Gethin, a lifelong member of St John's Church, Church Warden for over 20 years, and former chair of Governors at St John's School, had been received. Jim Andrews from the Lancashire Association of Bell Ringers would store them until Covid restrictions were lifted and would then arrange for them to be fitted.

Father Stephen updated on the current position regarding the bell tower ladder, which the mobile communications engineer, had stated was too near the wall and was unsafe. The first audit had stated it

was unsafe, a second audit had been carried out and stated it was safe but would benefit from grips and clips.

### **ALM TRAINING IN CHILDRENS MINISTRY**

Steph Buckley reported she had now completed 4 training sessions and had led worship at the beginning of a session.

### **MARCH**

In March, we again carried out a further review of church use during Covid at our virtual meeting, when Father Stephen told members he was still awaiting advice from the Diocese on the next steps. He informed members that the churches of St Stephen's, Kearsley Moor and St Saviours, Stoneclough were to re-open for worship on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **FINANCE**

The 2020 Audited Parish Accounts, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were shared on screen and approved unanimously for submission to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**Begging Letter Analysis:-** Father Stephen gave an interim report that so far £1,500 had been received in donations and a number of church members had increased their Planned Giving Standing Orders.

We arranged our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 in church at 7.00pm.**

### **APRIL**

At the review of church use during Covid at our April virtual meeting, members who had been attending church during the current Covid situation were asked whether they felt safe with the social distancing measures and systems that were in place. The consensus was that members felt content with the measures that were in place.

### **Bell Tower Ladder to Antenna Risk Assessment – ongoing**

Members were informed that once Covid restrictions were lifted in June, a faculty would be submitted to re-position the ladder. Father Stephen reported that following an inspection by the Diocesan architect, a recommendation to re-position the ladder had been made. However, the Diocesan Bell Tower Inspector had said the position would restrict swinging of the bell and a different position was recommended.

### **Quinquennial**

Members were informed that the Lightning Detector had been tested. Three Electrical quotations had been obtained and members had agreed unanimously that the Electrical Inspection be carried out at a cost of £1,320.

### **MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS**

Members were informed that there was no longer a requirement for marriage certificates to be issued and that they would be replaced with a marriage document and our current registration books would be signed off. No weddings had taken place this year but we had weddings booked for next year.

### **CONFIRMATION AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH**

It was announced that Confirmation would take place at St John's Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 3.00pm by Bishop Mark Ashcroft. There were to be 4 virtual Confirmation Classes and in response to a letter, which had been sent to all 5 church schools in our Benefice plus Prestolee Community School, we already had 16 candidates for confirmation.

## **BIBLES FOR TODDLER GROUP LEAVERS**

In response to a request from Steph Buckley, members agreed to buy 6 Children's Bibles, to be presented to those toddlers who had attended the group since it relocated to church and were leaving to go to school in September 2021.

## **THIS IS YOUR MOVE BOOKS FOR YEAR 6 SCHOOL LEAVERS**

Members agreed to the purchase of 'This is Your Move Books' for the Year 6 school leavers at our three church schools, All Saints CE Primary, St John's CE Primary and St Peter's CE Primary.

## **MAY**

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 our Team Vicar, Kim Lafferty, took her last service at St John's Church, before moving to take up the position of Rector at the Scottish Episcopal Church, East Perthshire in the Diocese of St Andrews.



The Chair, Father Stephen, chaired the Annual Parish Church Meeting, Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the First Meeting of the newly elected PCC on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Dr Steven Mann and Graham Martin were nominated Church Wardens. The Parish Accounts for 2020 were approved and thanks expressed to our Treasurer Sandra Croston.

The Electoral Roll Officer, Kim McIntyre, reported that the 2020 Electoral Roll closed at 103.

At the First Meeting of the newly elected Parochial Church Council, the following officers were elected – Chair Revd Stephen Nolan, Lay Vice Chair Stephanie Buckley, Secretary Dorothy McGlynn, Treasurer Sandra Croston and Electoral Roll Officer Kim McIntyre. The Standing Committee, with powers to make emergency decisions, comprised of the Chair, Treasurer, the two Church Wardens and the Secretary.

## JUNE

### SOCIALLY DISTANCED CONFIRMATION SERVICE



On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June we held our 'Socially Distanced' Confirmation Service, at which the Bishop of Bolton Mark Ashcroft presided. **We had 38 candidates, a recent record number and had to open our gallery to accommodate the congregation and their God Parents.**

## JULY

Father Stephen informed the virtual meeting that the Church of England had done a preamble prior to the lifting of Covid Restrictions on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 but had basically left the decisions to the clergy and PCC's.

He had prepared a plan, which he proposed to implement from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and keep in place until the end of September 2021. He wanted to return to normal as much as possible from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021. **It was agreed unanimously that from Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021:-**

**1) Bring back singing. 2) Resume serving tea and coffee. 3) Remove tape from pews – enabling people to sit where they want. 4) Begin receiving bread from the front of the church. 5) NO WINE YET (unless told otherwise) 6) Masks Optional. 7) Still have 2 exits open. 8) No Track and Trace. 9) Collection Plate passed round during Gospel Hymn. 10) Choir in full procession.**

### MEMORIAL PLOTS

Prior to the meeting a document had been circulated, identifying a 'new area' of the New Church Yard which would accommodate 8 additional Full Burial Plots and 20 Ashes Burial Plots. Father Stephen said that as the burials took place in the 'new area' he would make sure relatives of the deceased would be given a set of Churchyard Regulations, outlining what is allowed to be placed on graves in the churchyard. Members unanimously agreed to the additional 8 Full Burial Plots and 20 Ashes Burial Plots.

### Obituaries Memorial on Memorial Garden plot on which names could be carved.

A question was raised regarding the erection of an 'Obituaries Memorial' on the 'Memorial Garden' on which names could be carved. A decision was made to re-visit this request in 2022.

### FINANCE

It was agreed the Mission Action Fund was to be saved and used to fund the 'new' Youth Group.

Members agreed to the purchase of 15 Bibles, which would be kept in church, for the use of the new Youth Group in response to a request by Steph Buckley.



## ALM MINISTRY ROLE DESCRIPTION

The ALM – Ministry Role Description for Steph Buckley was approved for submission to the Diocese.

It was anticipated that: -

- The weekly (in term time) Toddler Group would re-start in November.
- The Second Sunday 'All Age Service of the Word' would be re-introduced in September.
- A fortnightly Youth Group would be started in St John's Church at the beginning of October.
- St John's (3<sup>rd</sup> Farnworth) Brownies would re-start in St John's School in October.

## SEPTEMBER



On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September, a presentation was made to, two of our longstanding members of the choir. Cynthia Dagnall and Sheila Glover who were stepping down after singing in the choir for 43 years.

## OCTOBER

### PROPOSALS FOR THE SHAPING OF THE DEANERY

The October meeting was attended by the Area Dean, Revd Simon Cook, who explained that it was about working together, not about adding extra work loads. It won't change how churches work. It is meant to help and look at what we can do together over the community.

### BUILDING UPDATE

**Leaking Roof in North Stairwell** - Father Stephen reported that the leak had now been remedied. It had been caused by the gutters and downspouts being blocked with leaves.

**Church Yard Wall damaged by poplar tree in neighbour's garden** – Father Stephen advised that the wall would be re-built at a cost of £5,000 + £1,000 VAT Total Cost £6,000.

### FIRST AID BOX

Following a report that the contents of the church first aid box were out of date, Denise Entwistle had very kindly bought a new First Aid Box and Accident Recording Book.



## SCHOOL NEWS

**School Assemblies** - Father Stephen reported that School Assemblies were going well. St John's Whole School Assembly in Church on Thursday mornings had now been opened up to parents.

**Experience Christmas** – Kim McIntyre had organised 'Experience Christmas' for year 3 pupils (7/8 year olds) and 6 schools (over 200 children) were attending the event, which was due to take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## MISSION ACTION PLAN

Father Stephen stated that the Mission Action Plan had been signed off pre-Covid.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continue to welcome and support newly arrived Asylum Seekers, one of whom has been baptised. We have also welcomed members of the Travelling Community and one of their community had been buried in the new churchyard

**CHURCH MAGAZINE** – The Church Magazine was re-launched in October.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**CHURCH YOUTH GROUP** – Since completing the ALM Course in Children and Families Ministry, Steph Buckley had arranged a Youth Group Consultation Evening on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021. At the meeting the views of the young people were to be sought as to what they wanted from a youth group.

**TODDLER GROUP** – It was reported that it was due to start on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

**SECOND SUNDAY ALL AGE SERVICE** – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021 had seen the re-start of the All Age Family Service of the Word, when 120 people, including 40 children had attended.

**ST JOHN'S (3<sup>rd</sup> FARNWORTH) BROWNIES** – Had re-started on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and they will be attending Church Parade at the Second Sunday All Age Services.

**SECOND SUNDAY CHILDREN'S SERVICE AT ST PETER'S SCHOOL** – It was hoped to start a new monthly Children's Second Sunday Service at St Peter's School – possibly in January 2022.

## NOVEMBER



**Poppy Petals Dropping from the Church Gallery**

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the annual Remembrance Sunday Service was held at St John's Church for the first time since Covid 19 restrictions. It was wonderful to be allowed to sing hymns again, especially the National Anthem and see our beautiful church full of worshippers.

We were able to resume the St John's tradition of dropping poppy petals from the church gallery during the 2 minute silence.

## **DECEMBER**

### **MISSION ACTION PLAN**

**Parish Re-organisation** - At the December meeting Father Stephen informed members that we had picked up 3 more churches. A joint 'Mission Team Leader' was to be appointed and there would be joint Lent Services in March 2022. Tony Cowell was to be licensed for St Stephen's, Kearsley Moor, in March 2022. The plan would be updated following the joint Mission Team Leader appointment.

### **CAROL SERVICE.**



Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December saw the return of our annual Christmas Carol Service. This was attended by 55 adults and 24 children.

### **CHRISTINGLE**

Although we had to cancel our Christingle Workshop and were unable to make Christingles due to Covid rules, we substituted 'Glow-Sticks' and our 6.00pm Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was well attended.

**Dorothy McGlynn**

**PCC Secretary**

## **Treasurer's Report**

I want to start on a personal note; the role of treasurer has become increasingly more difficult mainly due to trying to change the mandate signatories which has been going on since 2019. I have spent over 50 minutes on the phone to Barclays.....TWICE! I don't have the time or patience for this.

We have actually made a profit of just over £22,500 in 2021 instead of a loss which is great news however with the current climate of price increases we will see what 2022 brings.

Our regular giving was down by just under £1000 but our loose money on the collection plate was up which made our total giving roughly the same as 2020. We had a good year for donations which has helped the church finances tremendously. Funerals were slightly up on last year but due to the pandemic we didn't take any monies for weddings, hopefully this will rectify in 2022.

On Expenditure we are down on 2020 by over £6,500 on church maintenance and our amenities combined cost has risen by over £3,500 on the previous year and will be set to rise when the new price hikes hit us all in September.

To close, I am hoping to pass over the role of Treasurer to Pat who I will assist where needed and hopefully shall bring more organisation to the role than I previously have.

**Sandra Croston**  
**Treasurer**

### **Planned Giving and Gift Aid Report**

In 2021 there were 40 contributors (giving either via an envelope or through a bank standing order) up from 39 in 2020.

31 members had signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme, and the amount of tax reclaimed on their donations, with the addition of those who had signed One-Off Donation envelopes, amounted to £6,078 in 2021 which is an increase of 9% on 2020.

Due to HMRC's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (or GASDS for short) which was introduced in April 2013, we are now able to claim 'top-up' payments on amounts of up to £8,000 on none Gift Aided cash donations of £30 or less. The income from this amounted to £790.83 in 2021 compared with £1,258.55 in 2020. This amounts to a decrease of 37% for the year which is entirely due to the church being closed for much of 2020 because of Covid restrictions. Income received in 2021 is for the tax year 6/4/2020 to 5/4/2021 while income received in 2020 was for the tax year 6/4/2019 to 5/4/2020.

Thank you to all who contribute through Planned Giving and the Gift Aid Scheme.

**Tony Hemming**

### **Churchwarden's Report**

January 2021 started as December 2020 ended, still under Covid restrictions. In addition to losing our days of worship, we also lost our fourth minister in two years, Rev Kim Lafferty. Kim took up a post in the Scottish Episcopal Church in East Perthshire

Church fundraising events have slowly started again. Although we were not able to run the Experience Easter, or the Summer Fair, we were able to run the Winter Fair and Experience Christmas

Singing has resumed, the choir has been reinstated and had gained some new members. Communion is still wafer only Fr Stephen taking the wine on behalf of the congregation. Service times were changed to start at 11am, allowing Fr Stephen to take a 9.30 service at one of our other Churches.

The Archdeacon's Visitation was held at Bolton Parish Church. Graham and Steve, represented St. John's and were installed as Wardens for 2021-2022.

Towards the end of the year the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday family service was reinstated. This time the service is led by Alison Mole, Deborah Bithel, Steph Buckley and Nikki Naylor.

Once again, we have our own organist, Liz, wife of our Area Dean.

The Saturday gang has not reformed, but the Tuesday gang is back and are working harder than ever. The church wardens and the deputy wardens would like to thank the Tuesday gang for all their hard work maintaining our church and churchyard.

In terms of the fabric of the Church, the only notable event was a leaking roof on the north west corner of the church. This was due to blocked drainage on the roof

The APCM was once again held in Church, and attendance was much improved over the previous year's ZOOM meeting.

**Steve Mann and Graham Martin**  
**Churchwardens**



## **Authorised Lay Ministry**



**Alison Mole**

Last year we were all still living with Covid 19 very much prevalent in all our lives. Some of us experienced huge changes in our lives. Despite various restrictions we were able to meet in church for our Sunday worship.

September saw the formation of the new second Sunday family service, including myself, ALM Steph, ALM Deborah and Nicky who is going through the process for ministry training. We have enjoyed working together and leading the services each month and continued to be amazed at how much support and positive feedback we get from everyone. We aim to involve all those who attend church and have a mixture of traditional and new hymns. We thank Liz our organist / pianist for her support.

I am thankful for the support I receive from all my church family.

We are all on our journey of faith together despite being at different points along that journey but together we are a great team at St. Johns and can achieve many things.

I am looking forward to 2022 where I can continue to lead worship with Stephen and share my googled poems with you all each week. Hopefully Covid 19 will become much less a part of our lives.

**Alison Mole**

## **Electoral Roll**

As I write this report. We currently have **104** members on the roll. There has only been a little movement during the year, but a lot of response from new people to the appeal for new members. I have received forms from eleven new members, to attain the new total.

I would however, like to ask everyone who thinks they are on the roll to check that they are and that their address, 'phone number and email are on there and correct.

Thanks.

**Kim McIntyre**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Child Protection**

Again due to Covid restrictions 2021 meant that Sunday school has yet to start.

Hopefully we will soon be back to hearing our children enjoying Sunday school at the back of church and causing mischief .

I only had one request for a new DBS check which was painfully long to come through, and almost all who held a DBS certificate will need renewing. Please be aware that even if you hold a DBS certificate for a different employer (school etc) you still need one issued for church. So all who want to work with our children need to let me know so I can start the application.

We will always continue to offer our children a safe and caring environment to come and learn and play, and I would like to thank all in advance who want to continue working with children for their continuing work mentoring, teaching and protecting our parish's young minds.

Please come and see me if you have any interest in working with our parish's children and I will talk you through our process.

God bless

**Shaun Croston**  
**Child Protection Officer**

## **Church Website** **Social Media Report**

### **Social Media Report 2021**

Facebook followers continue to increase, as does Twitter followers.

Facebook followers have increased from around 160 in 2019, to 334 in 2020 and now to 424 in 2021

Twitter followers can also be seen to be increasing. For the same three years numbers of followers are up from 198 to 239 and now 277

YouTube services have been abandoned as all services can be attended in person.

Thank you to all that have contributed to the website, please keep up the good work.

**Steve Mann**

## **All Saints' CE Primary School** **Head teachers Report for the Parish**



### **Report from All Saints' CE Primary**

The Staff and Governors at All Saints continue to show endless passion and determination that our children will be the very best that they can be. 2021 was another challenging year, but our children are flourishing despite this.



This quote by Joel Osteen has spoken to me a lot over the last year. I think we have all had days when we wondered how any plan could include more lockdowns and restrictions. However, the team at All Saints has continued to pull together more than ever before, and have managed to minimise the impact of all of the disruption. All Saints truly is a delightful place to work, and turning up every day to such a positive team ethos has made things far easier than they might have been! In addition to continuing to teach to a high standard, we have also managed to keep up with our enrichment activities; ensuring that our children experience all of God's world.



Sports Day



Early Years ready for cycling!



Learning the ukulele



Picking the carrots we've grown



A trip to Moses Gate park

## Celebrations

Our biggest success of the year was our Ofsted inspection, which recognised the great start in life that we give to our children. We were so very proud of our children, families, staff and governors, who portrayed the determination that we have to improve outcomes. However, we don't only exist for Ofsted and so we participate in a continuous journey of reflection and school improvement. This year, this has seen us working with 8 other Bolton schools and with the university on a coaching programme. This is in addition to the peer review programme that we've been working on with St Peters, Kearsley West and Cherry Tree. The feedback from when other people visit our school is always overwhelmingly positive but there are, of course, always areas for improvement. We welcome these insights so that we ensure that our journey of school improvement continues and our provision for our children is the best it can be.

*“Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” Matthew 5:48*

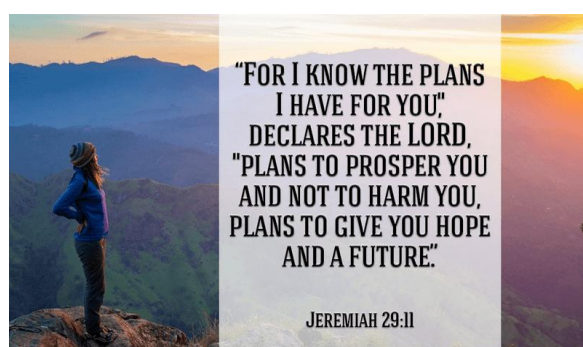


One of the things that makes me most proud is that visitors to school regularly comment on our Christian ethos. We are regularly told what a lovely school it is, how welcoming we are, how well behaved our children are, and how helpful everybody is. This is testament to the team we have built over the years and is the foundation on which we build all of our success. Our school is a real family, and we try hard to ensure that we look after each other in the way that a family would. This builds on our whole school value of Fellowship, Friendship and Hope.

### *Moving on*

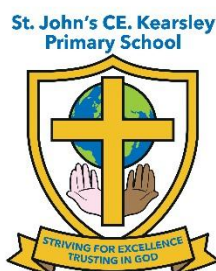
A huge part of the success that we have achieved has been down to our Governors. We have a passionate and committed team who add immense value to our work as a school. Sadly, the last year has seen two of our longest serving Governors step down. Anthony Slack and Aidan Meaghan have both served as Chair over their time at the school, and were both huge advocates for us. Although they will always be part of our All Saints family, they have both stepped down from our board. We are lucky to have Sylvia Oakes as our new chair, ably supported by a number of our foundation governors. We thank everyone for their time and energy.

The Schools White Paper means that we are likely to see more changes over the next few years, which can be a scary proposition. However, I am secure in the foundations that we have built, and in God's grand plan.



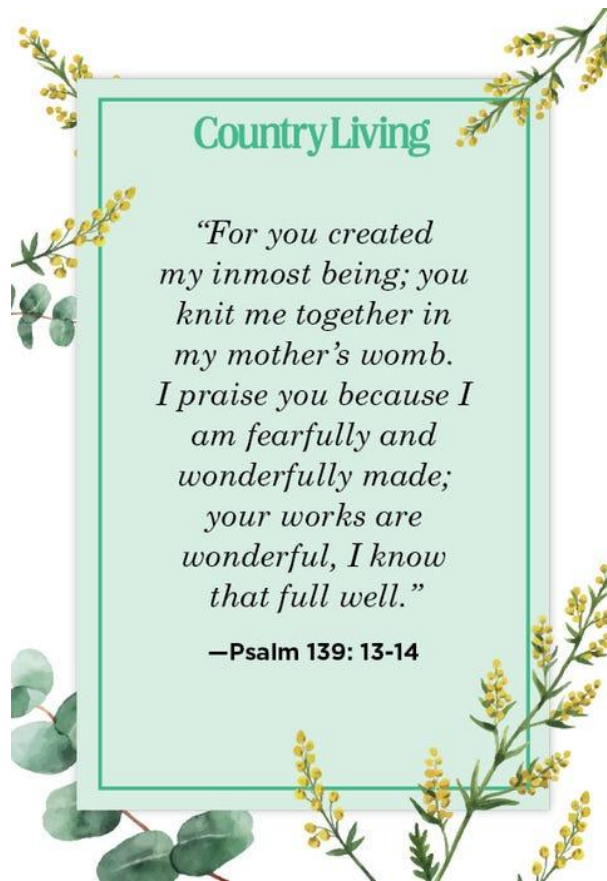
**Katie Hague**  
**Head teacher**

## **St John's CE Primary School** **Head teacher's Report for the Parish**



## **St John's CE Primary School** **Head teacher's Report for the Parish**

(January 2021 - December 2021)



***This year's report follows what can only be described as one another of the most challenging times our children and families have ever faced. The school continued to work tirelessly with its local church and community to press forward with raising standards despite the global pandemic. I feel exceptionally proud of all the children of St John's have achieved over the last year and look forward to the future now that we are able to get back to normal and 'Living with Covid'***

#### Spring term 2021

Unfortunately just as the Spring term started and we were looking forward to getting back to normal at St John's the second lockdown was announced. The school opened its doors to every year group across school and tried to get as many families back into school to support the community during such challenging times.

For the families who didn't want to risk bringing their children into school the school did its best to provide suitable learning opportunities via it Remote Learning Policy and TEAMS to all children at home during this time and ensured appropriate support for families at the point of need through our Pastoral Officer and Behaviour and Engagement Mentor making welfare calls to families and sign posting them to agencies and charities throughout the second wave of the pandemic.

Manchester Diocese supported all schools by providing spiritual guidance with weekly remote worship and this was invaluable at St John's in support our children Christian journey whilst they couldn't be with us in person – as well as providing mental well-being for children and families at home.

Upon our return in March our Reception were able to hold three 'Wiggle Worship' sessions led by Steph from Changing Places Team – this event was held separately for each bubble and unfortunately could not include parents this time.

However Experience Easter at St John's Church had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

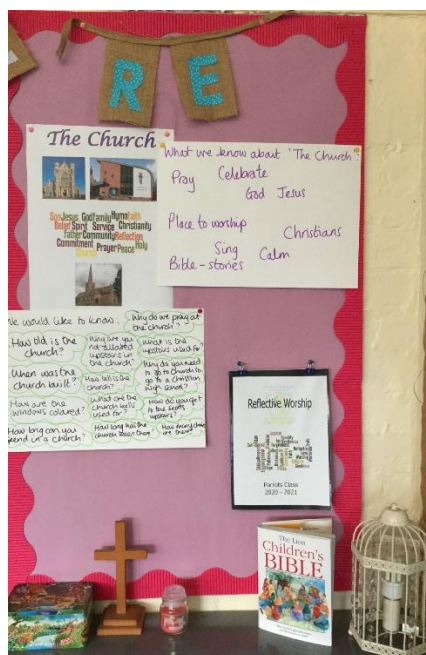
School managed to ensure we held an Infant and Junior Easter Service at St John's as normal with all classes taking part and retelling a portion of the Easter Story. This was recorded and uploaded to

Twitter and the school's FB account for parents to share in. School continued to hold its annual Easter Egg Decorating competition - albeit is as colouring competition across the school with prizes awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place per class. The Junior Unit also held a hard-boiled Egg decorating competition where children could submit their creations via TEAMS and prizes were also given out for this too.



### Summer term 2021

Thankfully St John's opened its doors to all children again for the Summer term and it was so wonderful to have all of our children back with us again.



St John's just wasn't the same without the children and for many it was their ultimate faith that God had a plan for us all that got us through such a mentally and emotionally challenging time for all concerned.

During the summer term school were still unable to return to their normal weekly worship in St John's Church however as restrictions were lifted in July we managed to hold the Y6 Leavers' Service on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July which was well attended by families and the children received a copy of the Bible as a gift from the PTA and a 'Moving On' book from St John's PCC to take with them to their secondary school.



The Changing Places Team offered a series of Y6 Transition sessions which were really well received and called 'The Emoji Project' – it consisted of three workshops to build self-esteem, encourage positive wellbeing and promote good mental health. Children discovered they can be HOPEFUL, BRAVE and KIND and create their own emoji survival kit. Linking to Bible stories and verses that will inspire everyone as they continue their spiritual journey at secondary school.



The Infant classes had a visit from the Wiggle Worship Team looking at following on from the Easter story, how Jesus appeared to his friends after he rose again. Unfortunately due to the timings of this we were unable to involve the parents as we would have wanted to.

#### Autumn term 2021

During the Autumn term school was initially able to return to their normal weekly worship both in school and at St John's Church however restrictions were put back in place by Bolton Local Authority from 18th October due to a rise in local cases. As such worship resumed on line within school and Father Stephen suggested coming into school on the Thursday morning to deliver worship to one year group at a time.

So in the Autumn term Y6 and Y5 had a visit from Father Stephen, this continued throughout the Spring term too – with all classes looking forward to their weekly visit from Father Stephen.

The youngest members of school attended their own New Reception Service at St Johns' on 23<sup>rd</sup> September where they were officially welcomed into the family of St John's and all received a wooden cross as keepsake to start their spiritual journey in school. They were accompanied by their Y6 Buddy as part of our newly introduced 'Seeds and Gardeners' Student Leadership Group.



We also were able to hold our annual Harvest Services for both the infants and juniors which were well attended and all food donations went to Farnworth Foodbank – the generosity of our families under difficult circumstances amazed me, as always.

The Changing Places Team visited to meet the new Ethos Team however due to staff absence this visit had to be postponed until the Spring term.

The Infant classes had a visit from the Wiggle Worship Team. Unfortunately due to the timings of this we were unable to involve the parents as we would have wanted to as Covid restrictions were now in place again.



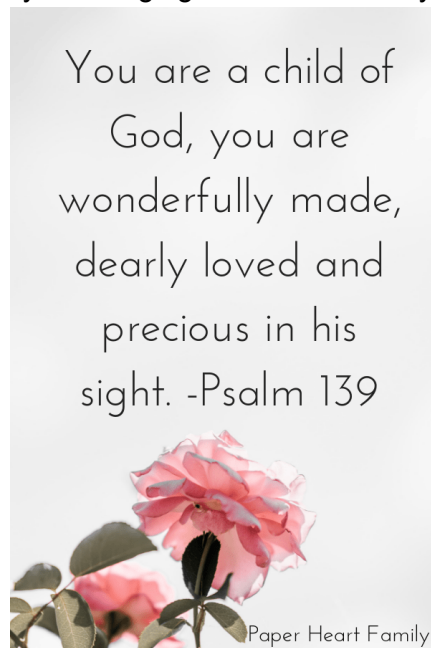
Thankfully due to the hard work of the PCC and St John's congregation the children in Year 3 were still able to take part in Experience Christmas over at St John's - this was wonderful and very much appreciated by staff and the children.



The decision was made to once again film the Christingle Services, the Tree Dressing Ceremony, the Infant Nativity and the Junior Carol Services. Due to the hard work of the staff and the support of the families no child missed out on these wonderful events in spite of the local Covid restrictions in place. All families were able to access the links to watch the events from the school FB Page and Twitter.



Finally I would like to thank all of my children, staff and Governors for all their hard work and continued support through what has been a very challenging time for the family of St John's.



Suzanne Howard  
Head teacher

## St.Peter's C.E.Primary School

### Head teachers Report for the Parish

**St.Peter's C.E.Primary School**  
**Head teachers Report for the Parish – March 2022 (Report on Jan – Dec 2021)**



**“ Learn, Sparkle & Shine...”**

2021 was once again a year filled with challenge, due to the ongoing pandemic, yet also presented an opportunity for our community to pull together, support each other and work with purposeful effort, driving forward our school intent statement.

### **What is our vision?**

As teachers we are often charged with the task of preparing our children for their future. At St. Peter's we think a little differently, and rather than prepare our children for a future that is imposed upon them, we aim to give them the skills necessary to create the future that they perceive for themselves. Today is the tomorrow of yesterday. By controlling today, we are creating the future of tomorrow. Our vision is to develop our children to enable them to create the future they aspire for themselves.

"Our children will contribute to and prosper in society."

### **How will our vision be achieved?**

We believe our vision will be achieved if we provide our children with an environment, underpinned by British and Christian values, in which they can "**Learn, Sparkle & Shine...**"

Learn = develop wisdom, knowledge and skills.

Sparkle = develop individual character; hope, aspiration and courageous advocacy.

Shine = develop community spirit and learn to live well together.

- We believe inherited traits are only one part of the story of where we may end up. The environment created in our classrooms, the culture of hard work and determination that we encourage, the recognition that we are all able to increase our knowledge through learning, we believe, has an equally valid impact on our future success. **(Learn)**
- We believe that engaging in a rich and varied curriculum will provide our children with an opportunity to develop a positive attitude to learning and an environment in which they can flourish and thrive. **(Sparkle)**
- We believe that by using Christian Values to underpin our work, children will be able to spread positive attitudes and shine as a beacon in society. **(Shine)**

Our daily work is dedicated to achieving these aims.

### **January 2021-July 2021**

January 2021 started with the Government announcement that our country would once again enter a national lockdown, and after having returned to school for one day following the Christmas period, we were told to move to remote learning and open school for children of key workers and vulnerable pupils only. Overnight we swiftly implemented our [remote learning policy](#) and successfully moved to online education.

The school continued to welcome between 70-100 pupils each day for face to face education and the staff adapted to a hybrid way of working, with all staff (except SLT who worked on site throughout) participating in a rota of on site and off site work.

Upon reopening in March there were many further challenges, with the implementation of 'bubbles', isolation of close contacts a, resulting in bubble closures, often repeatedly, and the arrival of the delta variant, with Bolton being at the forefront of this new wave. Despite this we remained steadfast on our mission to ensure our children were enabled to

**" Learn, Sparkle & Shine..."**


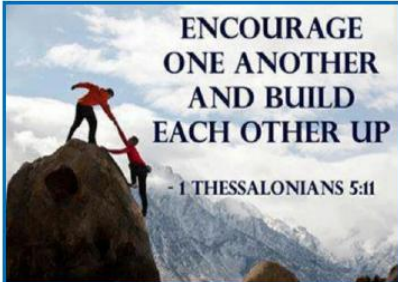
Our annual traditional Easter Service went ahead, albeit remotely. This can be found here on our school You Tube Channel.





Each week Mrs Williams recorded a whole school worship, which also was published on the school You Tube Channel and was watched across the school at the same time, along with the community and any pupils who were isolating and undertaking remote education.

During summer term we focussed on two themes, each aimed at giving a positive message on how to live life in all its fullness with God's help and guidance, providing our children with a memorable focus to guide their daily life.

Summer term 1 Theme	Summer tem 2 Theme
<p><b>"The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it."</b></p> <p><b>Proverbs 16:9</b></p> <p><b>We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.</b></p> <p>We can plan for our future and work hard to achieve it, and we can trust that GOD will guide us on our path, opening and closing doors to help us along the way.</p>  <p><b>"Learn, sparkle &amp; shine..."</b></p>	<p><b>"Positive relationships are made by respecting differences and inspiring others"</b></p>  <p><b>ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP</b></p> <p><b>- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11</b></p> <p><b>"Learn, sparkle &amp; shine..."</b></p>

The term ended with more of our annual traditions and services moving on line, which although not the same as face to face events, continue to allow our children to have their achievements recognised and our year 6 leavers to have their time at St. Peter's commemorated and celebrated.

Annual Awards Service	Year 6 Green Leavers Service	Year 6 Blue Leavers
 <p><b>Welcome to St. Peter's Award Ceremony 2021</b></p> <p><b>"Learn, sparkle &amp; shine..."</b></p>		

**September 2021 – December 2021** The new academic year started with a somewhat unexpected visit from Ofsted in the second week of term, and although we were not anticipating their arrival, we are delighted to say that they caught us ‘as we are’ and proud to report that they judged the school to continue to be outstanding.

School report


## Inspection of an outstanding school: St Peter's CofE Primary School

Alexandra Street, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancashire BL4 9JT

---

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 September 2021

**Outcome**

St Peter's CofE Primary School continues to be an outstanding school.

**What is it like to attend this school?**

Pupils at St Peter's flourish. This is because leaders and staff have high expectations of children and pupils and provide them with the very best education that they can. Classrooms are buzzing with the thrill of learning and achieving. Pupils work, undistracted by others. Pupils' learning activities are memorable as well as fun. Pupils read with passion and skill. They love mathematics and use their understanding to count and solve problems. As one pupil said to the inspector: 'Teachers teach us really well. If you get something wrong, they don't shout. They go over the work and help you.'

Pupils are happy. They are proud of their artwork, which is of a high standard and attractively displayed around the school. Pupils learn interesting, new words often and use them when speaking or writing. Statements of encouragement, such as from the Bible, are displayed prominently to prompt pupils and adults to think about their own views and beliefs.

Pupils feel safe at the school because leaders and staff listen carefully to their views and act quickly to resolve any problems. Pupils' behaviour around the school is exemplary. Pupils said that on the rare occasions that bullying arises, leaders and staff help to resolve matters quickly.

Following the visit from OFSTED the school feels to be in a strong position to move forward with ambition and determination to provide the best possible opportunities for our pupils to 'flourish' and fulfil our school vision, aims and intent.

Throughout the autumn term COVID continued to have an impact on the way the school functioned. Bubbles remained in place and in order to minimise transmission of the virus, gatherings remained limited, meaning that our harvest and remembrance services were not open to parents, but were once again recorded and placed on the school You Tube Channel.

<b>Ks1 Harvest</b>	<b>Ks2 Harvest</b>	<b>Remembrance Service</b>
--------------------	--------------------	----------------------------



Our theme for the Autumn term focussed on the idea that with God's help, alongside our own hard work and determination we can achieve all things. The children quickly adopted this new theme and could be heard reciting it daily as they bumped in to different adults around school.



A big focus for the school this year is to develop our pupil voice and promote the courageous advocacy of our pupil leadership groups. Our shine team have been working with Alison Adlum from the Children Changing Places Project every Tuesday lunch time and have written a new school prayer, which is now incorporated in to our weekly worship, with each cohort learning a separate line.









Our [school council](#) has also been working hard to develop collaborative projects, and raising awareness of and money for local charities. Prior to Christmas they organised a toy donation, event, resulting in over 600 'good as new' toys being donated to Maddi's Butterflies, a charity which works to support children with cancer, a charity very close to the heart of one of pupils.



Our Christmas events, continued to be 'virtual' but again were made available to our community through our school You Tube Channel. The links can be found below.

Reception Nativity	Ks1 Nativity
	
Ks2 Blue Carol Service	Ks2 Green Carol Service
	

Farnworth continues to be a wonderful community to be a part of. The continuation of the Farnworth Matters project, brining all primary schools across Farnworth together, to work collectively for the greater good of the community is an inspiration for all. It is a pleasure to serve a community with such supportive parents and Governors and such wonderful children. As we move in 2022 and our schools once again open to the wider community we look forward to developing more opportunities for collaboration across the parish and beyond. With God's help we trust this community can continue to build and develop, so that our children will benefit from a vibrant and aspirant community ethos.

**Thank you**

**Lynn Williams**  
Head teacher



### 3rd Farnworth St John's Brownies



Brownies restarted after the Covid Lockdown on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021. We were all very apprehensive about returning we had Risk Assessments in place, and limited the number of girls to 16. We only had one Brownie from before Lockdown and 15 new girls.

We very soon got to know each other. We made Promise Boxes to keep our Enrolment Badge in and the girls made their Promise at the Halloween Party.

We worked towards our Charities Badge by holding a Dazzling Divas and Dad Danceathon in aid of Children in Need/Girlguiding and raised a staggering £835.

In November we started working on the Brownie Programme working towards Take Action Award and completed the Make Change Badge. Our first Church Parade was Remembrance Sunday; we laid a wreath and poppy pictures that we had made.

December was a very busy month for the Brownies. It began with our Bottle Tombola and Christmas Tree Tombola at the Church Christmas Fair. The Brownies enjoyed making an edible Advent Calendar and a selection of Christmas Crafts.

We all enjoyed Goldilocks and the Three Bears Pantomime performed by Stagedoor Productions at Walmsley Parish Hall, Egerton.

The girls attended The All Age Service and sang, He's got the whole world in his hands. At this service the Brownies were presented with the Performing Badge and Charities Badge.

We ended our term with our Christmas Party, playing games, dancing, eating and receiving a Christmas gift from Santa. It is amazing what the girls have achieved since we started back at Brownies on 5<sup>th</sup> October after Covid. Well done to you all and your supportive parents. We are looking forward to 2022 and lots of new and exciting challenges.

**Susan Stevens**

## St John's Toddler Time

Like most groups, St John's toddler time did not run for the majority of 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, I kept in touch with the families via messages and Facebook, some of the Children Changing Places worship at home worksheets were shared with families on the Facebook page too.

It was lovely to see some of our families return when we could open again in November and also fantastic to welcome some new families too, the group continues to grow week on week.

It has been great for the families to return to Toddler Time where our sessions continue to be faith based, in that we read a Bible story or focus on a theme (e.g. love) each week.

Thanks to Steph Openshaw (Children Changing Places) for her advice on incorporating a small part of Wiggle Worship into our toddler group, Wiggle now joins us for our story and song time at every session and we all sing the praise song "Can you do what I do?" together.

In December, some of the toddlers came along to our all-age worship to show the congregation Wiggle and the praise song. The children were fantastic and the congregation then joined in too, waving the scarves and singing along.



There were over 20 families at our Christmas party in 2021, even though it was slightly different this year due to the adults being required to wear masks and the children not being able to share party food this did not stop the children having fun. There were lots activities for the children to do, as well as party games, individual snack packs and even a visit from Father Christmas with every child receiving a gift.

We continue to meet on Monday mornings, during term time, from 9:30am until 11am. At each session we begin with free time, during which the children can play and the adults can chat too. There is a craft or activity available as well as snack and drinks for both the children and adults. For the last 15 minutes we gather at the front of the Church to read our story and/or sing songs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stella, Denise, Michelle, Nicola and Melissa for their help – we could not run our toddler group without them.

**Steph Buckley**

## St John's F<sup>3</sup> (F cubed) Youth Group

In October 2021 we held a consultation evening in Church with four volunteers and nine young people to work out the best approach to starting and developing a church youth group. The session included some games, followed by the young people answering questions about what they would like from the youth group and what is important to them.

The group started officially on 10 November 2021, meeting fortnightly on a Wednesday between 6pm and 7:30pm. Our team of volunteers comprises Steph Buckley (ALM), Sharon Goodwin, Michelle Winter, Rachael Sutcliffe and Alison Adlum (from the Children Changing Places Project). The first half hour of each session the young people have free time where they have a choice of games that they can play – a firm favourite was definitely the table football. We then move into some group activities and games, followed by a short Bible reflection and prayer and finally the young people get to chat together over a drink and snack before going home.



During the first session entitled “Who am I?” the young people and leaders focused on getting to know each other. We also discussed our code of conduct and what we may like the group to be called. Our second session focused on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 (one body, many parts) and the third session focused on the good news of the Nativity story, where some of them performed the Christmas story and others sang, drew or were creative with origami. Our final session of the year was a Christmas party with games, bingo, pizza and treats.

One of the young people said the best bit about youth group “is playing games

together and meeting new people”.

Activity for 2022 is already well under way, along with exciting plans for making our group bigger and better. Look out for more news in the magazine in the coming months.

If you would like more information, please contact us on:

[youthgroupstjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:youthgroupstjohns@yahoo.com). You can also follow us on Twitter @StJohnsFcubed

**Sharon Goodwin**





# **Parish of Farnworth and Kearsley** **2021 Statement of Account end of Dec 2021**

<u><b>Income</b></u>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>variance</b>
101 & 103 Parish regular giving	15590.68	16484.42	-893.74
104 Parish loose cash	3083.16	2351.71	731.45
102 Reclaimed Tax	6078.27	5238.89	839.38
105 Donations	19816.00	3894.00	15922.00
105 Bells	0.00	92.00	-92.00
203a Fairs and events	811.13	478.90	332.23
203b Charity **	447.67	5.00	442.67
402 Building rental (+Mast)	12000.35	10022.54	1977.81
403 Magazine	240.00	208.00	32.00
404 Weddings	0.00	506.00	-506.00
404 Funerals	6543.07	5182.60	1360.47
404 Baptisms	0.00	0.00	0.00
monies for churchyard	1940.00	140.00	1800.00
coffee fund	0.00	298.10	-298.10
internal transfer			0.00
Register Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
insurance claim	0.00	0.00	0.00
CBF investment fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundry	52.00	88.89	-36.89
Youth worker	0.00	0.00	0.00
Clergy Expenses	3313.54	6973.08	-3659.54
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>69915.87</b>	<b>51964.13</b>	<b>17951.74</b>

## **Expenditure**

2001 Quota	13304.00	19849.93	-6545.93
2002 Clergy Stationary and Post	155.18	0.00	155.18
2002 Travel Expenses	63.88	972.24	-908.36
2002 Telephones	350.01	1112.15	-762.14
2003 Parsonages General	0.00	1610.62	-1610.62
2003 Council Tax	3939.30	3752.56	186.74
2005 Heat & light & Ins St Johns	15088.96	11442.82	3646.14
2006 Maintenance	9157.47	2749.91	6407.56
2007 Service Requisites	285.93	797.46	-511.53
2008 Churchyard	600.00	290.00	310.00
2016 Organists	0.00	90.00	-90.00
2016 Vergers	0.00	0.00	0.00
4000 Printer Stationary	348.48	515.73	-167.25
Parochial fees	0.00	4097.00	-4097.00
1004 Charity	95.50	77.00	18.50
Holiday Club	73.03	50.00	23.03
sundry	2060.71	25.00	2035.71
Evangelical Expenses	1757.08	0.00	1757.08
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>47279.53</b>	<b>47432.42</b>	<b>-152.89</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>22636.34</b>	<b>4531.71</b>	



## **Bank Reconciliation**

		Total	Current	Savings
Balance at	01/01/2021	37801.80	23224.73	14577.07
Surplus / Deficit for year		22636.34		
Presented cheques from	2020			
Minor Projects Surp/Def		-100.00		
Coffee Fund Surp/Def		0.00		
Rest fund (current) Surp/Def		0.00		
Unpresented cheques from	2021	0.00		
<b>Balance at</b>	<b>31/12/21</b>	<b>60338.14</b>	<b>45761.07</b>	<b>14577.07</b>
Minor Projects monies		1376.72		
Coffee fund monies		2675.00		
Restoration Fund monies		0.00		
Youth worker monies retained		-5053.00		
<b>Funds at year end in parish general account</b>		<b>46762.35</b>		

---