

**SAINT MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
WHITEGATE**



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2020/2021
AND
ACCOUNTS
FOR 2020**

WHITEGATE ST. MARY'S PCC

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH FOR 2020/2021

St. Mary's Church is situated in the village of Whitegate, N. Northwich. It is part of Middlewich Deanery in the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Vicarage.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The Incumbent: The Revd Canon Paul Dawson
 The Vicarage, Cinder Hill, Whitegate, Northwich CW8 2BH.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council:

PCC members are elected by the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) to serve for a three-year period.

Incumbent	The Revd Canon Paul Dawson	(Chair)
Wardens	Mrs Christine Ball	(Vice-chair Until APCM 2020)
	Mr Peter Hayward	(Vice Chair From APCM 2020)
	Dr John Duthie	(From APCM 2020)
	The Revd Dr John Stopford	
Curate		
Pastoral Worker	Mrs Pauline Hayward	
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs Pauline Hayward	
	Mrs Teresa Finney	(From APCM 2020)
Treasurer	Mrs Martine Petty	
Secretary	Mrs Linda M Dutton	
Elected Members	Mrs Pat Powley	(Until APCM 2020)
	Mr Andy Thomson	(Until APCM 2020)
	Mrs Julie Knight	(Until APCM 2020)
	Mrs Pam Davies	
	Mrs Teresa Finney	
	Mr Deryck Petty	
	Mrs Renata Ferenczi	(Until January 2021)
	Mr Alan Newton	
	Mr Eddie Stamper	
	Mrs Danniella Linsner	(From APCM 2020)
Mr Andrew Ball	(From APCM 2020)	
Mr Ben Finney	(From APCM 2020)	

Structure, governance & management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives & activities

St. Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for The Mews, Church Green, Whitegate.

Achievements & performance

Church attendance

At the close of the roll on the 11th April 2021 there are 194 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll of whom 97 are residents within the parish and 97 non-residents.

Review Year 2020/2021

This has been no year like any other, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The APCM was not held in April as normal but was postponed by the Diocese until October 2020.

The full PCC have only met once between the national lockdowns, but have been kept informed and major decisions made via email.

Most of the sub-committees work has been suspended as meetings and events have not been able to take place.

Some of the items discussed this year included:

- The working hours and payments to the Children's Worker
- Service formats and associated risk assessments including numbers allowed to attend services due to the Covid 19 pandemic

The sub-committees when they are able to meet are made up of members of the PCC and other members of the congregation. If you feel you have any areas of expertise that could help, or if you feel you could make a difference, speak to a warden or Linda Dutton and possibly join one of these committees as a co-opted member.

Therefore this report is not as full as normal, with the Pastoral Committee, Social Committee, Flower Group, Mothers' Union, Magazine & Mews Management Committee having nothing to report.

With no singing allowed by the choir and congregation we have been able to have a musical element in services provided by organ music before and after and a piece of reflective music (either organ music, piano music or the occasional soprano solo from Emma Morley) after the sermon. Thanks are expressed to Andrew Millinchip, Emma Morley and also to John Duthie who have enabled this to happen.

PARISH OF WHITEGATE ST. MARY'S

Financial Report for APCM held on 25th April 2021 1st January 2020 – 31st December 2020

Having been unsuccessful in finding a local accountant to process the year end accounts the Standing Committee agreed to appoint DataDevelopment Ltd, of Wolverhampton. The audit is in the process of being carried out.

In the event that the accounts are not ready for the APCM please find below an overview of financial history of St Mary's for 2020.

The early part of 2020 saw the introduction of many restrictions. The closure of churches caused many concerns for the welfare of congregations and the ability to maintain the funds necessary to support the running costs of our church. The majority of money given to St Mary's is received on the plate during each service.

An appeal was launched at the start of the pandemic asking that where possible, giving could be continued by completing new standing orders set up for monthly giving into the Covenant Account. Many people chose to do this and at that time, we were fortunate to receive many one off 'donations'. It is unrealistic to expect that donations will happen again. A proportion of the standing orders mandates were only for twelve months – the time for them to end is fast approaching.

St Mary's and St Peter's have benefitted from having refunds from HMRC in respect of maintaining the role of Children's Worker during the many months of the pandemic. The amount received has fluctuated in respect of hours worked (PCC responsibility) percentage of grant given from HMRC plus the 20% top-up paid by the PCCs, sometimes a higher rate.

The closing of the five charity accounts have not been without issues. The funds from the charity accounts are restricted funds. Held within the Whitegate St Mary's Charities are Manley, Clowes and Grey. In addition, closing funds from the Dempster and Yeoward accounts totalling **£3886.82**, are held in the Santander Business Reserve Instant Access account.

Savings have been made in respect of the Mews. The broadband/telephone contract has been renegotiated at a reduction of £17.33 a month, nearly half of the previous charge. With the Mews being unable to be used, we have not employed the cleaner for many months. Unfortunately, with the Mews being closed for the majority of 2020 we saw income of **£624** compared to **£2,428** in 2019.

Mission & Giving were allocated **£2,500** for monies raised in 2020. This payment was made in January 2021 and therefore does not show in our expenditure figures.

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 1st January 2020 up to 31 December 2020

Income and Endowments Grand Totals 2020 - £67,028 - 2019 £90,730

Donations and Legacies

In 2020 the total received in this category amounted to **£47,646**. In 2019 for the same period the income was **£55,581**. A difference of nearly **£8,000**. Income was down on tax recoverable on gift aid by **£8,457**.

Income from Charitable Activities

This category covers Social and Fundraising, May Fair, fees for weddings and funerals and Mews Lettings. 2020 **£5,518**, 2019 **£26,075**. In 2019 income from social events and the fair made a profit of **£ 7,106**. The sum raised in 2020 amounted to **£368**.

Other Trading Activities

Magazine revenue for 2020 amount to **£318** compared to **£940** in 2019. Parish magazine sales, normally paid in advance in January raised **£1,218**, a reduction of **£272** from 2019.

Investments

2020 interest was **£1,041** of which **£36** is restricted funds. 2019 amounted to **£420**. Increase due to **£952** from a maturing bond.

Other Income

£3,141 was received from HMRC in respect of the furlough grant, due to the system this shows as restricted funds. It is used against salary payments. Little Budworth's share increased to **£400pm** during the year making their contribution **£5,965**. Due to the reduced expenditure on expenses and payment of salaries they overpaid **£886**. This was refunded in February 2021. A **£2,000** payment was received from Chester DBF, being interest on a War Bond to be distributed to all parishes, again, this has restrictions placed on it.

Expenditure Grand Totals = 2020 - £90,369 - 2019 = £96,293

Raising Funds

This category covers payments normally made to fund raisers and Village Fair expenditure. This shows a nil figure due to the inability of holding any fundraising events during 2020.

Expenditure on charitable activities

This section covers the majority of expenditure.

Our highest single expenditure was the refurbishment of the organ, plus parts for other musical equipment amounting to **£10,412**. Fees paid to the DBF for ministry parish share and DBF fees amounted to **£46,716**, a similar figure as for 2019. Church maintenance was greatly reduced, **£784** for 2020 compared to **£3,287** in 2019.

During 2020 salaries were paid to the Children's Worker (**£6,354.39** – increased from 2019 as more hours on contract **£3,595**). This salary is offset by payment from Little Budworth 1/3 and reimbursement from HMRC. Fortunately, the gardener was able to work throughout the year and was not placed on furlough (**£2,734.60**). The organist's salary was **£4,680**.

Clergy expenses, miscellaneous expenses and flower expenses showed a reduction of **£3,686** for 2020 compared to expenditure of **£7,337** in 2019.

Expenditure exceeded income by £23,341 during 2020, with a reduction of £5,924 on expenditure.

Balance Sheet Detail

As at 31 December 2020

Fixed Assets 2020 2019

(Mews building, Whitehead Fields) **£274,950 £274,950**

Current Assets

(All bank accounts, Bonds, Investment Fund) **£306,605 £315,322**

Restricted funds

Santander Business Reserve **£10,382**

Graveyard Charities **£8,033**

Independent Examiner's report

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C and the examiner

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in the PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5th edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 15th April 2021

Signed:



Stephen Hendy

Vicar's Annual Report for the United Benefice of St Mary, Whitegate & St Peter, Little Budworth

I would like to begin by looking at the ordinary.

We usually think of 'ordinary' as mundane, routine, nothing special. In the Church's year 'ordinary' means 'ordered'. That which is done day by day, week by week, month after month.

These times are anything but ordinary, yet the life of the Church continues, faithfully, diligently, responsibly, patiently.

At St Mary's the Mission & Giving Committee meeting (via email) decided to donate our tithed giving to two causes, one national and international, the other local. Half is being given to the Christian Aid. Our news is full of our own sorrows and troubles but the suffering of others continues. The other half is being donated to the Oak Project. Run by a local church in one of the poorest parishes of our diocese the Oak Project will use the money to provide meals for children during the Easter holiday.

We are in unusual times and there have been some remarkable people. Captain Tom Moore captured the hearts and imagination of our nation and raised £33 million. Marcus Rashford persuaded the Government to look again at feeding children during school holidays and whilst schools are closed. Many families rely on school meals to feed their children.

Such people and stories inspire and achieve great things. But like all such stories they capture public imagination and support for a while and then we move on. The Church does not. We are here in ordinary time, faithfully, diligently, responsibly, patiently. Church projects tackling social isolation or poverty do not make headlines. We do not receive huge sums of public money. But we endure and we will keep on enduring when the headlines move on. I am glad our tithed giving is supporting Christian Aid and the Oak Project.

Thank you

I would like to thank on our shared behalf those who have laboured behind the scenes to keep the order of things going during these difficult times. We have learned to engage with new regulations and tackle a bewildering range of legislation. At times the rules have changed several times in a week. It is always dangerous to mention names but I think it is right to express a particular thanks to Martine Petty for the huge amount of work she has undertaken getting to grips with the furlough scheme. That hasn't been easy and at times the regulations created a great deal of work which was then scrapped overnight and new rules introduced.

What must have been tremendously frustrating has been handled graciously and well.

I am very pleased that we have been able to keep our churches open for those who wish to attend communal worship. It was a particular delight to welcome our new Diocesan bishop, Bishop Mark and his wife, Lindsay, to St Peter's for our Benefice Plough Sunday service in January. The Government has rightly seen a bigger picture and recognised the contribution places of worship make to our national life. It has been interesting how much this has been appreciated by many who seldom, if ever, attend church. In conversations I have had with people it is clear that the local church retains that role which is to be the glue that holds things together.

I know that colleagues in our ministry team and those elected officers of our parishes have had to work in totally different ways, sometimes burning the midnight oil, sometimes sat feeling lost when rules prevent us doing things we know need doing. As we move through this time when things are changing again we find ourselves in the company of God's people who are a travelling people. God makes new beginnings in the barren places. That is where we are, it takes grace, humility and prayer to discern the way ahead.

The Engine Room

Bishop David Sheppard used to say of some people that they are 'An engine room person'. That was always a compliment. He meant that they are the kind of people who keep things

going and on whom other rely. Our engine room people are mostly elected in the nuts and bolts process we know as Annual Parochial Meetings. These have to take place before the end of May and we are making preparations for them. Of course in these unusual times how we do that is a challenge and one which we will have to monitor as lockdown rules change. Whether or not we can be there in person does not change the fact that this is something we all have a responsibility for. Please read the various reports carefully and give good time to considering the need to elect reliable and committed engine room people for our parishes. We need wise and committed Churchwardens, PCC members and those willing to act as Sidepeople for our services. On our behalf I would like to thank our Churchwardens and PCC members for their diligence through this difficult time. The range of new legislation and procedures during Covid have at times been relentless. We have been well served by those who give of their time and skill in God's service.

From here to there.....

You will not need me to tell you that this pandemic has caused widespread disruption to many ventures. Many businesses and jobs have been put at risk. We still do not know for sure how long some form of restrictions will need to be in place. We have learned to plan one step at a time.

Many of our congregation members have not been able to attend church for a long time. Some have changed their giving to bank transfer for which we are immensely thankful as it has provided a source of regular funding through the past year. All of our fundraising activities have been suspended due to Covid. It seems that quite a few of the people who ran events may not return to doing so. I don't think we can assume our usual fundraising will ever return to what it was before. With people not attending our giving has been significantly reduced.

You may have seen articles in the press about the Church of England making clergy redundant, some dioceses are indeed having to take this step. So far as I know Chester Diocese has no plans to do the same just yet but we do know there is no budget for 2022. We know that the immediate future will be challenging. This is nothing new, I have been saying for some time that the Church of England has nettles to grasp, Covid just means we have to grasp them sooner than expected. This is something our PCCs will need to grapple with because whilst we are fortunate to have some reserves those will not last for ever.

A New Normal

In early 2020 I remember saying that when this is all over we will not simply pick up where we left off. There will be no clean end to Covid, it will be with us for the long term. We will be different and need to learn to do things differently. Some things will come back, some won't. Steering a course through the next year and beyond will require wisdom, prayer and humility. I suggest that we ask three questions. Why are we doing this? Is it properly resourced? Is it sustainable?

I am therefore asking everyone to prayerfully reflect upon the task before us. We need to elect faithful and courageous people to represent us as Churchwardens and PCC members. The times ahead will bring more change than we have seen in most of our lives. But this is nothing new, previous generations have faced equal challenges, times when the world changed and the Church needed to learn and adapt.

There is no roadmap where we go from here. This is a desert time, the voice of prophecy reminds us that it is in the desert that God acts.

Paul.

Churchwardens' Report to the APCM

All aspects of life in 2020 seemed to be dominated by COVID-19, church life not excepted. Many of the St Mary's congregation were effectively confined to their homes for parts of the year, extending well into 2021, and others left their homes only occasionally. St Mary's remained open, when allowed, with careful social distancing and sanitising measures, allowing a reduced congregation to gather for worship and prayer. The weekly recordings of the Sunday sermons have been appreciated by those unable to attend. Although our Advent and Lent Groups etc could not meet, the monthly prayer meeting continued in a revised format, offering prayers for our parish and community.

We are grateful to our Vicar, Paul Dawson, and Curates John Stopford and Jane Millinchip, supported by Pauline Hayward, Pastoral Worker and Teresa Finney, Children's Worker, who have led us through this time. Changes to established routines have been required to keep us safe, and many short-notice changes to protocols have been needed to keep us legal. We would particularly like to thank Paul for taking the lead in our COVID protocols.

The church functions because of contributions from many people: there are 7 rotas involved in a normal Eucharist service, not counting the Officiant's rota or the coffee rota (do you remember that?) These rotas have continued, sometimes with reduced participants, to enable our services during COVID times. And then there are volunteers who help maintain the fabric of the church, inside and out, the churchyard, the Mews, the money, the administration.... The Wardens thank you all, particularly any we have inadvertently omitted.

On behalf of the congregation, the Wardens would like to record the great service provided by Chris Ball as Churchwarden over her term. John would also like to thank Chris for her thoughtful handover of the role and Peter for his guidance whilst settling in.

At the time of writing this report, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the COVID tunnel. It gives us hope that we may soon be able to plan a transition to a 'new normal' in our church life. We look forward expectantly to a time when we can join the angels and archangels and SING...

Peter Hayward and John Duthie

St Mary's Church Fabric Committee report for 2020

The fabric committee met twice over the course of the last year once face to face prior to COVID restrictions and the other on Zoom, under the chairmanship of Andrew Ball.

Current membership of the committee is:
Andrew Ball, Paul Dawson (vicar), Margaret Baldini, Christine Ball (churchwarden), Peter Hayward (churchwarden), David Billingham, Martine Petty, Andy Thomson.

Ben Finney has joined the committee from the last (delayed APCM) our thanks go to Martine Petty who has now left the committee.

Overall the fabric of the Church, Churchyard and Mews are in reasonable condition. Maintenance has continued with some minor delays because of the current restrictions.

There was no big clean this year. It is expected to be re-instated next October.

The policy of leaving the church heating on but at a low thermostat setting has kept the boiler running and retained background heat in the building fabric.

A new plinth for the Clavinova has been supplied and installed with the pew that was in this space being temporarily located in front of the organ screen. It has been agreed to dispose of this pew which having been modified in the past is unsafe.

Plans for the wheelchair access ramp to the church have been delayed but we hope to have a costed scheme for faculty application in the near future.

I would like to thank the committee members and others from the congregation for support and offers of help.

Andrew Ball

Mission and Giving in 2020 at St Mary's

Given that church income and outgoings were completely different in 2020 and it was impossible to meet and discuss in the usual way, we waited until the end of the church financial year to make any decisions about charitable giving. In February 2021, the Treasurer let us know that 5% of income from freewill giving at St Mary's came to **£2,250** and that was therefore the sum we could donate to other charities.

The Mission and Giving group discussed by e-mail and agreed that the sum would be shared between two charities, so that each received a meaningful amount. We therefore gave one donation of **£1,125** to Christian Aid, for we had not been able to support them with the usual Christian Aid Week campaign in 2020.

It was agreed to donate the remaining **£1,125** to a cause closer to home, the Oak Community Project run by Birkenhead Priory Parish. Archdeacon, Mike Gilbertson, had told us that one of the Oak Project plans was to provide meals for schoolchildren in the Easter Holidays but that their current funding was due to end in March. We considered this to be a very worthwhile cause, for since its launch in 2012, the Oak Community Project has been offering a range of services – food and household supplies, clothing, listening and advice, signposting to debt counselling and drug and alcohol abuse services to members of the local community.

Chris Ball – March 2021

The Parish of St Mary, Whitegate

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) meeting held on 25th April 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 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 Sue Whitehead as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Revd Canon Paul Dawson

Churchwardens: Peter Hayward and John Duthie

Date: 25th April 2021

Children's Work Report to the APCM 2020/21

No one can deny that this year has been unlike any other and has thrown up challenges to our work with children in our Benefice.

As the whole country went into lockdown in March I was furloughed, and therefore as our churches closed and then reopened, I was not working at all.

I kept in touch with our toddler group by sharing videos prepared by other children's workers via social media and the Prayer Spaces material that seemed to be available almost daily at that time. This was just a 'light touch' of letting our families know that we were still there and keeping them informed of any changes to the rules around church opening and toddler groups being able to run again (which they have NOT been able to do throughout the pandemic).

Because of the social distancing measures implemented in the churches and the strict adherence to the risk assessments and health and safety measures due to C19 the decision was taken not to run any children's activities on Sunday mornings. We also felt it unlikely that families with young children would attend the churches at this time, which has proved to be the case.

In September when school were able to fully reopen to all pupils, I was able to return to work for a limited number of hours a week, going into Whitegate Primary School to deliver some Bible story sessions with a craft activity twice a week in the after-school club to a small number of children and delivering Collective Worship to each individual class 'bubble' once a week, all socially distanced of course.

The school came into St. Mary's church, one bubble at a time, for their Harvest Services and for a Christingle making event, both of which were joyful, if hectic days which involved lots of cleaning and lots of smiles.

We then moved into lockdown 3 and school closed to most pupils, so my hours were reduced, and I just went into school once a week to deliver Collective Worship to the whole school community via Zoom from the practical area which was already set up for this purpose. Quite a strange experience to sit and talk to yourself and just faintly hear the children in the classrooms join in with the Lord's Prayer.

I made up Christingle activity bags for our toddler group families and delivered them by hand, giving me an opportunity to touch base in person and meet a very new baby, and I intend to do the same for Easter, assuming we are not allowed to run the group by then.

I have kept up to date with my training completing several courses via Zoom.

Teresa Finney Children's Worker

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020

1. Appointment of Churchwardens

The Vicar gave his grateful thanks to both Wardens for their years' service particularly to Chris Ball as she steps down from the role.

There were two nominations for churchwardens, Peter Hayward proposed by Alan Newton and seconded by Alma Stopford and John Duthie proposed by Chris Newton and seconded by Clive Richardson. Both were duly elected to stand as Churchwardens for the coming year. This was ratified by all present.

It was noted that this year the annual swearing in of Wardens would be held virtually via Zoom and both Wardens should book a slot.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2020

Present

Due to the current restrictions surrounding Covid 19 an attendance sheet could not be passed around. Therefore numbers only will be recorded.

25 people were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Pat Powley, Andy Thomson, Simon & Renata Ferenczi & Judith Hind.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2019 were ratified by all present.

3a. Electoral Roll

Eileen Lees reported that the Electoral Roll had been on display in the porch. There were 193 people on the electoral roll of which 95 were residents within the parish. The electoral roll is open again following the meeting. Eileen asked that those who have changed address since the roll had been completed let her have the correct details.

3b. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer 2020/2021

Having expressed her willingness to serve for a further year Eileen Lees was re-elected. This was ratified by all present.

4. To Receive the Annual Reports on the Proceedings of the PCC and the Activities of the Parish in General

The Vicar informed the meeting that all reports would be taken as read and asked if anyone had any questions.

There being no questions the reports were received as read.

5. To receive the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2019

The Vicar thanked Martine Petty for all her work as Treasurer, saying that it was a huge and challenging task. Those present were asked to email any questions they may have to Martine.

The Vicar also reported that at St Mary's we are blessed with reserves for use in rainy days, and that now is a rainy day. The PCC is aware that we are running at a deficit, which will increase, we were about to look at how this could be addressed when the pandemic started. It will be discussed again at future PCC meetings.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

This item was deferred to the next PCC meeting. Graham Hurst is retiring and as we use a slightly different accounting package (that the Diocese recommend), we may have to use Data Development to examine the accounts next year. Martine is to look at the costs involved. This was agreed by all present.

7. Report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of the Church

The Vicar stated that the fabric had been well reported in the package of reports. This was received by all present.

The Terrier and Log Book were available for inspection following the meeting.

8. Vicar's Report

The Vicar's report was as read.

9. Elections

PCC – There are three vacancies and three nominations for the PCC, Andrew Ball, Danniella Linsner & Benjamin Finney. There being no further nominations the three were duly elected to serve for three years.

The Vicar thanked Julie Knight, Andy Thomson & Pat Powley as they finish their term of office.

Deanery Synod – There are four vacancies and one nomination, Teresa Finney. There being no further nominations Teresa was duly elected.

Sidespersons – The current sidespeople were all re-elected. The Wardens were asked to add names throughout the year as necessary. There is a significant shortage of sidespeople and a plea for additional people was given for this important role. Sidespeople are often the first people that someone will see when they first come to church and they give the first impression and this is therefore a hugely important role.

10. Safeguarding Policy

The Vicar reminded everyone that it is a requirement for them to read and take note of the Safeguarding Statement.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed with prayers at 10.32am