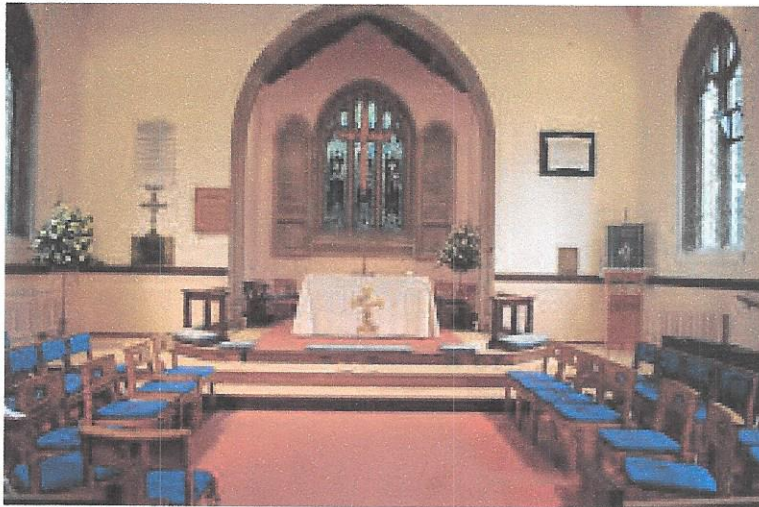




Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Reports for the APCM for St Nicholas Church, Winsley



2020-21

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, WINSLEY.
MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND APCM,
WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL 2021 BY ZOOM**

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

- 1) Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1) Opening Prayer

- 2) Apologies for Absence

- 3) Minutes of 2020 APCM

Pages 3 - 7

- for approval
- matters arising

- 4) Election of Lay Persons to PCC

- 5) Appointment of Independent Examiner

- 6) To receive reports on

Pages 8 - 26

- changes to the Electoral Roll
- the activities of the PCC and the Parish generally, including the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
- the Financial Statements for year ending 31/12/20
- the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

- 7) Other Business

- 8) Closing Prayer

Note. The Rector's Annual Report to the Benefice is included in this pack at Pages 27-33. It may be discussed at the end of the meeting, however it does not form part of the formal APCM agenda

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL AT 2021 APCM

**ST NICHOLAS'CHURCH, WINSLEY
MINUTES OF MEETINGS on FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2020**

Present:

Revd Ann Keating (Chair), Cedric Pierce (Secretary), Alan Bryant, Val Bryant, Elizabeth Bush, Daphne Cox, Yvonne Geddes, Mary Hewetson, Patricia Legge, Eric Legg-Bagg, Jean Legg-Bagg, Roy Ludlow, Geoff Parker, Heather Parker, Penny Pierce, Dreen Rees, Rosemary Rees, Paul Simmonds, Angela Symonds, Kathy Van Griethuysen, Alison Wells, Bob Williams.

Apologies:

Paul Batson, Caroline Billingham, Paul Billingham, Phillip Bush, Denise Button, Vernon Button, Richard Mann, Tessa Mann.

PARISHIONERS' MEETING TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

Roy Ludlow was nominated by Cedric Pierce and seconded by Penny Pierce. Elected unanimously by show of hands.

Linds Batson was nominated by Penny Pierce and seconded by Cedric Pierce. Elected unanimously by a show of hands.

It was noted that this would be the second year in office for both Churchwardens.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Revd Ann Keating opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.

Minutes of the 2019 APCM

There were no comments on the draft Minutes of the 2019 APCM, which were duly signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod

Cedric Pierce and Penny Pierce were both proposed by Linds Batson and seconded by Roy Ludlow. Elected unanimously by show of hands.

Election to Parochial Church Council

Alan Bryant had completed 3 years as a member of the Parochial Church Council and his re-appointment was proposed by Roy Ludlow and seconded by Patricia Legge. Elected unanimously by show of hands.

It was noted that Patricia Legge had now completed 6 years as a member of the PCC and was retiring. She had kindly agreed to continue acting as Treasurer (without being a Member of the PCC) as a temporary measure pending the appointment of a replacement.

Paul Simmonds was also retiring from the PCC so that he could concentrate on other things.

Warm thanks were recorded to both Patricia Legge and Paul Simmonds for their faithful work over many years. As a consequence of their retirements there were vacancies on the PCC which will require filling in due course.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Roy Ludlow proposed that Diane Aderyn be re-appointed as Independent Examiner and this was seconded by Daphne Cox.

Ann Keating commented that although Diane Aderyn was also Independent Examiner of both another Parish within the

Benefice and of the Benefice Accounts there did not appear to be any conflict of interest.

Diane Aderyn was appointed by unanimous show of hands.

Changes to Electoral Roll

Mary-Ann Baxter was unable to attend the meeting but reported via The Secretary that the number of Parishioners on the Electoral Roll at 31st March was 104 – two up from the previous year.

The Activities of the PCC and Parish Generally

It was noted that the Annual Report to the APCM had been produced in February, anticipating that the meeting would be held in March. In the event this had not been possible due to the coronavirus pandemic and the meeting had been re-scheduled for 2nd October. Consequently, the various reports were now somewhat historic.

There were no questions or comments on the written report.

Updating the meeting Ann Keating said that it had been necessary to implement many changes to church life as a result of the pandemic. Whilst church services had been suspended, a weekly online service had been introduced across the benefice and this had proved popular. The plan was to continue with these for as long as necessary. Meanwhile, both staff members who had been furloughed throughout the summer were now returning to work. Newslink had been produced regularly and published online, with approximately 40 copies posted out to people who did not have Internet access. The newsletter had been produced by Ann Keating initially, and more recently by a member of the Christchurch congregation. Trial services had been tried in each of the four parishes in July and August so that people could get used to the new arrangements which involved social distancing, sanitising of hands, the wearing of face-masks, truncated services and no singing. From October

onwards the plan was to hold at least one service per month in each church, and possibly two. In November for example, there would be communion at St Nicholas on the first Sunday, a short outdoor remembrance service on 8th November, and a benefice service with the Bishop of Ramsbury held in Christchurch at the end of the month. It was too early to give details of any Christmas arrangements which are currently being considered. Ann commented that she was mindful that there were active cases of coronavirus in the local Bradford-on-Avon area and that ongoing care was necessary. She was anxious to focus on the pastoral support of those who needed it over the autumn and winter and was aware of a congregation member in another parish that had received no contact for over six months which had been quite damaging for her. Meanwhile, the Open the Book team were producing presentations online for use in schools, however most other activities remained suspended. The experience of the last six months had highlighted some shortcomings both in the IT available in the benefice, and in human resources to produce online material. Along with the PCC, she was currently considering how best to address this.

Elizabeth Bush commented that a number of people in Avon Park do not have access to a computer. Ann replied that she is in touch with Avon Park although care was needed with visits due to the risk of transferring infection to vulnerable people. She said that she had someone in mind to coordinate arrangements in the centre so that residents could gather to watch the online service together.

Alison Wells proposed a vote of thanks to all those involved in doing so much to keep the parish running at present. There was general applause.

The Financial Statements for 2019

Patricia Legge introduced her report and pointed out a printing error where some pages had appeared in the wrong order. There were no questions or comments about the 2019 financial year.

Turning to the current year, Patricia Legge commented that income had remained satisfactory throughout the pandemic due to most people now giving to the church through the parish stewardship scheme. With most activities suspended there was little other income, although overall the financial position was healthy.

The meeting recorded its thanks to Patricia Legge for all her hard work as treasurer.

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church

The churchwardens reported that what they wished to say had been incorporated into the main body of the report. There were no changes to the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church to report.

The Proceedings of the Bradford on Avon Deanery

The written report was noted without comment.

Safeguarding

Caroline Billingham was unable to attend the meeting but reported via The Secretary that there had been no safeguarding incidents in the year under review, and that she continued to meet regularly with the Rector and Safeguarding Officers from the other parishes within the benefice. All DBS checks remained current.

Other Business - None

**St Nicholas Church, Winsley
Annual Report and Accounts of The Parochial Church Council
2020/2021**

Administrative Information

St. Nicholas Church is situated in the village of Winsley, Bradford on Avon, part of the Benefice of North Bradford on Avon and Villages, part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. Within the parish is a Church of England VC Primary School.

The correspondence address is:

The Rectory, 6 Millbourn Close, Winsley, BA15 2NN

The Benefice Office is:

Office 2, 1a Mount Pleasant Centre, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1SJ

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

PCC members who have served from the 2020 APCM until the date this report was approved are:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Incumbent and | Revd Ann Keating, Chairman |
| Clerks in Holy Orders | Revd Tessa Mann |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Churchwardens: | Roy Ludlow (from April 2019) |
| | Linds Batson (from June 2019) |

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

| | | |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Cedric Pierce, <i>also Church Secretary</i> | Retiring in 2023 | (3 years) |
| Penny Pierce | Retiring in 2023 | (3 years) |

Lay Members of the PCC

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Alan Bryant | Retiring in 2023 | (6 years) |
| Yvonne Geddes | Retiring in 2021 | (3 years) |
| Heather Parker | Retiring in 2021 | (6 years) |
| Geoff Parker | Retiring in 2021 | (6 years) |
| Dreen Rees | Retiring in 2021 | (3 years) |
| Marjorie Rowland-Jones | Retiring in 2021 | (3 years) |

Note. During the year under review Mr Paul Simmonds, Mrs Caroline Billingham and Mrs Patricia Legge were not members of the PCC but took the roles of Health & Safety Officer, Safeguarding Officer and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

Election of Parochial Church Council members

The maximum number of lay PCC Members is 9. Taking account of those retiring (which includes people who have completed 6 years and who are therefore not eligible for re-election), there will be 8 vacancies on the APCM. Nominations may be made up to the APCM.

Structure, governance and 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.

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll was updated in March 2020. At that time the number of parishioners on the Roll was 104. Since then, 3 parishioners have died, 3 have moved away and one new parishioner has joined.

The Roll is undergoing its annual revision and currently stands at 99. This number will be confirmed or updated at the APCM.

Coronavirus Pandemic

As is well known, nearly all of the year was overtaken by a worldwide pandemic, severely restricting the activities of all charities and employers across the country. The UK went into lockdown on 23rd March 2020 when all church buildings were closed to limit the risk of infection. Restrictions were eased in the summer, but were tightened again as infections rose in the autumn. A new lockdown was imposed in January 2021.

The pandemic with its associated lockdowns and restrictions had a significant impact on normal church activities. Whilst our aims and objectives have remained unchanged, there have been limitations on what can be delivered, and the way we practice (e.g., services and the various meetings) have had to change.

Aims and Objectives, Performance and Achievements

1. The objectives of the PCC are defined by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956. St Nicholas PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Ann Keating, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also maintains The Church Hall situated opposite the Church.
2. The PCC of St Nicholas, Winsley is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at the church and to serving our local school and community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship in the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve all groups within the community.
3. When planning activities, the PCC has considered guidance from the Charity Commissioners on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
4. The main activities of the PCC seek to enable people to live out their faith in the parish and community through:

- The provision of regular public worship that is open and accessible to all. This includes services using HC CW, HC BCP, Prayer and Praise, and Café-style Refresh (which takes place in the village school), and meditation services. *Note, the majority of public services took place online from the start of the pandemic*
- The provision of pastoral work by clergy and Lay Pastoral Assistants, including home administration of Holy Communion, hospital visiting, leading worship in our local Residential Care Homes, visiting the sick, the elderly, the bereaved and others with a particular need. *This activity was restricted and undertaken within strict government guidelines from the start of the pandemic.*
- The teaching of the Christian faith through sermons, home groups, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, Activities for Children, and Collective Worship and Open the Book in our local Primary School. Our local school, pre-school 'Acorns' and parents and toddlers' group 'Sunbeams' visit the church for key church year festivals and the former two for their graduation services. *Note. Activities took place online from start of pandemic. Visits to the church were suspended.*
- Sunbeams, a group for Carers and young children is held in the Church Hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday morning of the month and continues to be very popular. *Note. This activity was suspended from the start of the pandemic.*
- 'Kettle's On', a fortnightly coffee morning, is held in the Church Hall; it was started in September 2018 and has proved very popular with people from the village. *Note. This activity was suspended from the start of the pandemic.*
- The promotion of the Christian faith through various events organised by the PCC; such as support for our local School Fayre, appointment of School Governors etc.
- The support of other charities involved in Christian outreach and development such as designated charities for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Carol Service donations and regular donations to The Hub which runs the local foodbank.

- Various church house groups, which run throughout the year enabling congregation members to support one another in their Christian journey and discipleship as well as additional groups meeting for Advent and Lent. *Note. This activity took place online and by telephone from the start of the pandemic.*
- Various Prayer Groups, a Men's Groups and a Ladies' Group that meet regularly and underpin our outreach, fellowship and discipleship. *Note. This activity took place online and by telephone from the start of the pandemic.*

5. The church is a vibrant and active community, keen to pray, grow in faith and to serve the community.

6. The PCC takes very seriously the need to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe whilst involved in the church's activities and services. The PCC has adopted the Church of England Policy 'Keeping Children Safe' in addition to our Benefice Policy on safeguarding. Copies of this are displayed in the church and church hall. The Rector and Safeguarding Officer meet with other Benefice Safeguarding Officers regularly throughout the year, monitoring requirements for DBS checks and safeguarding training. There was one safeguarding situation in the year which was referred to the diocese Safeguarding team by the Rector in consultation with the Safeguarding Officer and was eventually resolved. All DBS checks are up to date. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

7. Church Attendance: There were **104** parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll from April 2020. Services in the church building were suspended for much of the year, to be replaced by Benefice-wide online worship. Typically, over 100 people per week tuned in to this from across the benefice and wider afield. When we held services in the church building, we had to restrict numbers to reduce the risk of infection, the maximum attending being 48. We were able to hold a Christmas morning HC family service, attended by 35 people.

9. The PCC has agreed each year to donate 10% of the proceeds from regular planned giving to charities at home and abroad. A sub-committee makes recommendations to the PCC on which charities to support each year.

Review of the year

The APCM which had been due to take place on 31st March 2020 was postponed until 2nd October, due to the pandemic. Those due to retire from office remained in place until the APCM could be held. New officers were elected for a shortened year until the current APCM.

The PCC was provided with a written report of activities in May 2020. Subsequently it met 5 times in the year, its main focus being on what services and facilities could be provided safely within the pandemic's restrictions. Between PCC Meetings, the Standing Committee undertook an enhanced role, including undertaking risk assessments linked to re-opening, and monitoring finances.

Other Sub-committees met between meetings and Minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. Safeguarding and Health & Safety are standing items on every PCC meeting.

The PCC had to cancel its 'Away Day' which normally enables it to be more strategic in its planning and prioritising. It will need to reschedule this when possible as its current Strategic Plan has now expired.

Proposals to combine the four PCCs within the benefice into a single parish have been on hold, although Winsley PCC have previously voted for this to be taken forward. In the meantime, regular Churchwardens meetings have been arranged with the Rector to make decisions on Benefice wide issues.

The Fabric Committee, under the Chairmanship of Paul Simmonds continues to look after the church premises. With the buildings only used for limited purposes during the year, there is little to report although we are grateful for a member of the congregation's work to restore the main gate to the churchyard. The fall of part of a coping stone from the church roof (it is thought caused by frost damage) has triggered an inspection by a professional.

The church building was closed and services moved online from the start of the pandemic. Following a relaxation of government restrictions, the building was opened for private prayer from the summer, and

occasional services were reinstated subsequently, subject to “social distancing” and other hygiene requirements.

For services, the Churchwardens ensured that social distancing was maintained, and names of members of the congregation recorded, by emailing and 'phoning invitations and noting positive replies. On the whole, this worked well. We had intended to limit numbers to 40. We never had to turn anyone away although numbers did reach 48 on one occasion. It helped that a number of people attended as couples or in bubbles.

Christmas celebrations were more challenging than usual, as we were having to manage a rapidly changing Covid scenario. However, we wanted to bear witness to the community that the Church was still there – still open – and in business.

We have all felt the absence of singing in our worship, but made up for it by holding two well-supported Carol Singing evenings in the week before Christmas, stopping at various points around the village so that people could hear the Christmas story in familiar carols.

For the first time, we decorated our churchyard. The nativity story was depicted on laminated cards which were hung around the railings for the children to see. We had a brightly decorated Christmas tree outside, which was lit up at night – together with a floodlit tower. The bright star of Bethlehem, above the porch, shone day and night. Children from Winsley School each decorated a large pebble with a Christmas scene and arranged them as a cairn in the churchyard.

We took the decision early on to keep the church open, heated and decorated for Christmas from the beginning of Advent and on to Candlemas, in order to offer a welcoming and peaceful space for everyone who visited. In addition to our usual tree, crib and window-sill decorations we had an Advent Prayer Tree.

We took a Christmas tree to St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh, and decorated it as part of their Christmas Tree Festival. Posters proclaiming comfort and joy were posted on the nearby wall. As we had bought two Christmas trees, this third tree was given by the retailer as a gift to the church.

There was only one Christmas service in Winsley, on Christmas morning. Attendance was relatively low as a significant number of regular worshippers took advantage of the one permitted day to visit family. For those of us who were able to attend, the atmosphere was wonderful and positive. Tessa made excellent use of the audio visual

system and some wonderful online resources, which greatly enriched our worship. However, due to rising infections in the community, services were suspended again from the start of 2021.

Revd. Tessa Mann has continued as the Foundation Governor at Winsley Primary School (which is now part of the wider Palladian Academy Trust) and has been able to provide online collective worship for the children. She is available for pastoral support to the staff, albeit online or by telephone in the main. Open the Book, which teaches Bible stories to the children through drama has continued by video, acted out and filmed by members of the congregation.

Revd Keith Charnley applied for his license as PTO and re-joined the team as a retired priest in November 2020. We are delighted to welcome back his ministry.

The Rector continues to build strong links with our local Methodist Church and members of their congregations normally support key services such as the Carol Service and Maundy Thursday Eucharist. Prior to the lockdown, every three months we joined one another's congregation for the main Sunday service with one church leader presiding and the other preaching. St Nicholas remains a staunch supporter of BACT (Churches Together in Bradford on Avon and Villages) and the Rector meets regularly with the leaders of other churches in the group.

Following the PCC's earlier decision to focus mission on our children and families, Mrs Zoe Yeomans was employed by us from 6th January 2020 as our Children's and Families Worker. With her primary school and guiding background, she is proving a real asset, although sadly the lockdown and restrictions began shortly after she started her employment with us. She has spent most of the year on furlough with most activities suspended, however she was able to provide resources for children to use in the summer, during autumn half term and approaching Christmas.

Over 200 baby Jesus's in a 'manger'; were knitted by members of the congregation and their friends to give out to children at Christmas time in line with the Nativity theme. In previous years we have given donkeys, sheep, angels and stars.

Homegroups have continued throughout the year, online from the start of the pandemic. Additionally, there has been an informal network of keeping in touch by telephone across the congregation. The Men's

Group resumed activities online in December but sadly Kettle's On and Sunbeams have remained suspended from the start of the pandemic.

A new Women's Group is being formed with representatives from the church and the community. Unfortunately, its first evening was scheduled for the first evening of the lockdown in March. However, these monthly gatherings planned, will resume once restrictions allow.

The local skittles league was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. The Church skittles team normally play in the village social club opposite the church. This has been fun and strengthens links with the local community.

The PCC is grateful to members of the congregation who have continued their regular giving throughout the pandemic. Although overall income is down mainly through the loss of income from hall lettings, weddings and so on we have nevertheless been able to pay our Parish Share and bills, albeit with the help on some legacy income. The Rector also wrote to everyone on the Electoral role during the summer explaining our financial situation which the Treasurer advised resulted in increased giving, some of which was via the Parish Giving Scheme.

St Nicholas is very much a part of the life of the village and its members play an important part in the local and wider community.

Financial Review 2020 (see pages 18 - 23).

Deanery Synod Report (see pages 24-26)

REPORT APPROVED BY THE PCC ON 18th March 2021

AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY REVD ANN KEATING, PCC CHAIR

Rev Ann Keating

18th March 2021

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH WINSLEY FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

Our financial accounts for 2020 have been examined by Diane Aderyn. These are attached with her signed Independent Examiners Report.

Unrestricted Funds

The total receipts for voluntary giving were £50,884 which included £11,272 in gift aid. This is down on last year as we have sadly lost a few of our members. Other income is very low which is due to the lockdown.

In mid-year we sent out a letter to all our members explaining the situation and were very grateful to the response. We had 1 person joining the PGS, 1 giving monthly into our bank account, 3 people increased there PGS each month and we received £3,030 in donations.

We have been very blessed this year with 3 legacies amounting to £11,000. These were from the late Dr Cox, Betty Parr and Jenny Jeffs

The total expenses were £67,793, which includes our share of £40,894 to the Diocese. We were 5% down on last year's expenses

Restricted funds

Audio £3,933, Ladies £638 and a new account Youth £249

We made a profit of £3,250.

Reserve Policy

It is a PCC policy to try to maintain a balance in our savings account which equates to at least 3 months unrestricted expenses. Our monthly expenses are in normal times about £5,000 a month, therefore savings should be at £15,000. We were doing well building this up each year but were not able to save in 2020. Our savings as at end of 2020 are £12,649. We have not drawn on this account for the past few years.

Our current Unrestricted bank balance as at 31st December 2020 is at £26,678.

There is no increase from the Diocese for our Share in 2021

Thank you to all who so very generously give and support our wonderful church.

Patricia Legge
Treasurer
February 2021

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Receipts and payments account

| | Note | Unrestricted Fund | Restricted Funds | Total | 2019 |
|--|------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Receipts | | | | | |
| Voluntary receipts: | | | | | |
| Planned giving | | 39,612 | - | 39,612 | 39,224 |
| Gift Aid recovered | 4a | 11,272 | 4,924 | 16,196 | 14,310 |
| Collections at services | 4b | 691 | - | 691 | 6,047 |
| Other voluntary giving | 4c | 3,217 | 11,982 | 15,199 | 8,170 |
| Legacies received | | 11,000 | - | 11,000 | - |
| Grants received | | 500 | 4,851 | 5,351 | - |
| | | <u>66,292</u> | <u>21,757</u> | <u>88,049</u> | <u>67,751</u> |
| Church activities: | | | | | |
| Hire of Church Hall | | 1,044 | - | 1,044 | 6,625 |
| Fees for weddings and funerals (net) | | 3,303 | - | 3,303 | 3,896 |
| Other income | | 176 | - | 176 | 134 |
| | | <u>4,523</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>4,523</u> | <u>10,655</u> |
| Activities for generating funds | | | | | |
| | | 176 | - | 176 | 2,308 |
| Investment income | | | | | |
| CCLA deposit interest | | 53 | - | 53 | 93 |
| Total receipts | | <u>71,044</u> | <u>21,757</u> | <u>92,801</u> | <u>80,807</u> |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Church activities | | | | | |
| Parish share | | 40,894 | - | 40,894 | 39,850 |
| Clergy expenses | | 2,402 | - | 2,402 | 2,429 |
| Salaries of Benefice staff | | 3,052 | - | 3,052 | 3,306 |
| Church running expenses | 4d | 11,690 | 264 | 11,954 | 15,406 |
| Church Hall running expenses | 4e | 4,692 | - | 4,692 | 6,650 |
| Tithed giving | | 3,415 | - | 3,415 | 5,424 |
| Other giving | | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | - |
| Youth Worker | | - | 12,196 | 12,196 | 1,052 |
| | | <u>68,145</u> | <u>12,460</u> | <u>80,605</u> | <u>74,117</u> |
| Costs of generating funds | | | | | |
| | | 49 | - | 49 | 38 |
| Lee Abbey | | | | | |
| | | (400) | - | (400) | 400 |
| Total payments | | <u>67,794</u> | <u>12,460</u> | <u>80,254</u> | <u>74,555</u> |
| Excess of receipts over payments | | | | | |
| | | 3,250 | 9,297 | 12,547 | 6,252 |
| Cash at bank and in deposit account at 1 January 2020 | | | | | |
| | | 36,078 | 17,432 | 53,510 | 47,257 |
| Cash at bank and in deposit account at 31 December 2020 | | | | | |
| | | <u>39,328</u> | <u>26,729</u> | <u>66,057</u> | <u>53,509</u> |

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St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

| | Note | Unrestricted Fund | Restricted Funds | Total | 2019 |
|--|------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Cash Funds at 31 December 2020 | | | | | |
| Treasurer's current account (inc. Petty cash) | | 26,678 | 5,120 | 31,798 | 28,616 |
| Youth Worker current account | | - | 21,609 | 21,609 | 12,297 |
| Total bank current accounts | | 26,678 | 26,729 | 53,407 | 40,913 |
| Treasurer's deposit account | | 12,649 | - | 12,649 | 12,596 |
| Total deposit accounts | | 12,649 | - | 12,649 | 12,596 |
| Total Cash Funds at 31 December 2020 | | 39,328 | 26,729 | 66,057 | 53,509 |
| Other Monetary Assets at 31 December 2020 | | | | | |
| Gift Aid recoverable | | 902 | 4,110 | 5,012 | 8,013 |
| Lee Abbey advance payment | | - | - | - | 400 |
| Ladies Fund float | | - | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Expenses recoverable | | - | - | - | 1,030 |
| Amounts paid in advance for Benefice expenses | 3 | 353 | - | 353 | - |
| | | 1,255 | 4,160 | 5,415 | 9,493 |
| Liabilities at 31 December 2020 | | | | | |
| Payment of fees to Salisbury Diocese | | 1,989 | - | 1,989 | 2,312 |
| Amounts owed for Benefice expenses | 3 | - | - | - | 1,071 |
| | | 1,989 | - | 1,989 | 3,383 |

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

| | Youth Worker £ | Held for Women's Group £ | Audio Fund £ | Total £ | 2019 £ |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Receipts | | | | | |
| Donations (net) | 11,982 | - | - | 11,982 | 7,435 |
| Grants received | 4,851 | - | - | 4,851 | - |
| Gift Aid | 4,924 | - | - | 4,924 | - |
| | <u>21,757</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>21,757</u> | <u>7,435</u> |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Salary (inc. NI) | 11,133 | - | - | 11,133 | - |
| Other | 1,063 | 2 | 262 | 1,327 | 2,980 |
| | <u>12,196</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>262</u> | <u>12,460</u> | <u>2,980</u> |
| Excess of payments over receipts | 9,561 | (2) | (262) | 9,297 | 4,455 |
| Balance at 1 January 2020 | 12,298 | 940 | 4,194 | 17,432 | 12,977 |
| Balance at 31 December 2020 | <u>21,859</u> | <u>938</u> | <u>3,932</u> | <u>26,729</u> | <u>17,432</u> |

The Youth Worker Fund represents donations to be spent on the salary and incidental costs of the Youth Worker. 1

The Women's Group make donations to the PCC to be held until allocated by agreement with the Women's Group to specific expenditure of the PCC.

The Audio Fund represents donations received to fund the purchase of a projector and associated audio visual equipment.

3. Benefice Office expenditure

Expenditure by the Benefice of North Bradford on Avon and Villages is shared amongst the four parishes within the Benefice in proportion to their Parish Share. The Benefice Office expenditure attributable to St. Nicholas (including the £353 paid in advance at 31 December 2020) is:

| | £ | 2019 £ |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Clergy expenses | 2,402 | 2,429 |
| Salaries of Benefice staff | 3,052 | 3,306 |
| Upkeep of services | 28 | 80 |
| Other church running expenses | 210 | 115 |
| Benefice Office rent & phones | 1,825 | 1,315 |
| Benefice Office printing and stationery | 2,043 | 2,151 |
| | <u>9,561</u> | <u>9,396</u> |

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley
Financial statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

4. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments

| | Unrestricted Fund | Restricted Funds | Total | 2019 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Receipts | | | | |
| a. Gift Aid recovered | | | | |
| Stewardship | 9,371 | - | 9,371 | 12,539 |
| Collections and donations | 1,901 | - | 1,901 | 1,771 |
| Youth Worker | - | 4,924 | 4,924 | |
| | <u>11,272</u> | <u>4,924</u> | <u>16,196</u> | <u>14,310</u> |
| b. Collections at services | | | | |
| Ordinary | 691 | - | 691 | 5,074 |
| Special services | - | - | - | 973 |
| | <u>691</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>691</u> | <u>6,047</u> |
| c. Other voluntary giving | | | | |
| Alms boxes | 186 | - | 186 | 153 |
| Income from donors | 3,031 | 11,982 | 15,013 | 8,017 |
| | <u>3,217</u> | <u>11,982</u> | <u>15,199</u> | <u>8,170</u> |
| Payments | | | | |
| d. Church running expenses | | | | |
| Upkeep of church | | | | |
| Insurance | 1,906 | - | 1,906 | 1,873 |
| Utilities | 1,304 | - | 1,304 | 1,530 |
| Cleaning and caretaking | 1,410 | - | 1,410 | 1,110 |
| Maintenance | 2,320 | - | 2,320 | 1,812 |
| | <u>6,940</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>6,940</u> | <u>6,325</u> |
| Upkeep of services | 664 | - | 664 | 793 |
| Organists' fees | 125 | - | 125 | 725 |
| Benefice Office rent & phones | 1,825 | - | 1,825 | 1,315 |
| Benefice Office printing and stationery | 2,043 | - | 2,043 | 2,151 |
| Other | 93 | 2 | 95 | 2,170 |
| Purchase of projection and audio equipment and consumables | 0 | | | |
| | - | 262 | 262 | 1,928 |
| | <u>11,690</u> | <u>264</u> | <u>11,954</u> | <u>15,407</u> |
| e. Church Hall running expenses | | | | |
| Insurance | 953 | - | 953 | 936 |
| Utilities | 1,069 | - | 1,069 | 1,600 |
| Cleaning and caretaking | 1,410 | - | 1,410 | 1,110 |
| Maintenance and other costs | 1,260 | - | 1,260 | 3,004 |
| | <u>4,692</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>4,692</u> | <u>6,650</u> |

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PCC OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, WINSLEY**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act: and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and,
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations.

have not been met with; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Diane Aderyn FCA
65 South Wraxall
Bradford on Avon
BA15 2SE

Diane Aderyn
27 February 2021

BRADFORD DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2020

Message from the Rural Dean, Canon Andrew Evans

2020 was an exceptionally challenging year for our Deanery Churches, but we have met those challenges head on. In the first lockdown it was remarkable to see how so many churches managed to develop some kind of online church service almost immediately and from a standing start. Not many organisations are that adaptable, especially if they are institutional! As lockdown progressed, we became more adept at these technological advances, and more imaginative ideas emerged as to how to connect with our communities within the rules of lockdown. It is amazing how fresh challenges cause God to inspire ingenuity among his people.

2020 turned out to be a bit more of a marathon than most of us had, at first, imagined. We had to cope with more lockdowns, changing rules, and tiers and for some of us, having to tell our wedding couples that the thirty people who had been invited to their wedding needed to be reduced to fifteen! We had to learn how to do communion in one kind in a COVID-19 safe manner, and how to cleanse our buildings from possible COVID-19 infection. Risk assessments became the norm. Masks were on and singing stopped. The usual fundraising events were cancelled, and we had to do stewardship talks online and write to everyone to keep levels of giving up ensuring Diocesan share was paid. Many churches used reserves to make sure their full share was met. Online Alpha Courses (and similar) have thrived, community engagement has grown, and we have worked diligently to keep in touch with our fellow church members. On top of this we managed to celebrate Easter in lockdown and Christmas with severe restrictions, and in many cases with a more significant engagement with our communities than in previous years.

This is a big well done from your Rural Dean.

Synod meetings in 2020

- 11 February @ St. Katharine's Church, Holt
- 17 June cancelled and replaced with a written report due to the country wide lockdown
- 15 October via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Then in November 2020 we were invited by Bishop Andrew to join a Zoom meeting entitled "*Beyond the present*". This provided an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that had been done within the Deanery and Diocese and time to listen and reflect together on how to move beyond the present and confidently approach an uncertain future.

Speakers in 2020

At the February meeting we welcomed the following Children & Families Workers as we thought about "*Exploring the value of engaging children and families in our Deanery*":

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Hannah Tarring | Melksham Team Ministry |
| Zoe Yeomans | Churches of North Bradford on Avon & Villages |
| Tom Bullock | St. James' Church, Trowbridge |

We were posed some questions to consider and then share our thoughts and ideas:

Where do you find Children, Families & Young People?
Who do we want to reach and see blossom in faith?
What could the blossom of the tree represent?
What could the fruit of the tree represent?
What fruit do we see within our miniseries?

Our June meeting was cancelled and replaced with a written report which shared many encouraging ways in which churches have adapted during the pandemic and how they have reached out to their communities, schools and created services online including Messy Church live on Facebook!

The October meeting was our first experience of Deanery Synod on Zoom! We did not have a guest speaker; however, a full agenda of business was carried out including hearing about fund raising for Kadugli, how churches are using their outside spaces for worship outdoors, elected officers to roles (please see below for details), how online services and Alpha groups were progressing, a finance report from the Treasurer, how churches were reaching out and supporting families and school ministry and training opportunities were shared from local and national organisations.

At the October meeting the following Deanery Officers were elected:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Information Officer | Dawn Farmer |
| Lay Chairman | John Joy |
| Lay Pastoral Officer | Marilyn Stubbs |
| Secretary | Dawn Farmer |
| Treasurer | David Robinson |

Clergy and laity news

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Rev. Joy Albone | Priested to Canalside Benefice |
| Rev. Katie Jackson | Welcomed as Curate to Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt |
| Keith Hamilton | Welcomed as LLM to Broughton Gifford, Great Chalfield and Holt |
| Rev. Jill Perrett | PtO ministering in Canalside Benefice |
| Claire Horton | Welcomed as LLM to Canalside Benefice |
| Lay Pioneers | Six candidates were licensed in February 2020 from the following three churches: St. James, St. Katharine's and St. Thomas' |

Deaths

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Simon Ruslings | Lay Worship Leader, Churchwarden and Treasurer in the Benefice of North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood, and Steeple Ashton |
|----------------|---|

Deanery Share 2020 – David Robinson (Treasurer)

In spite of the pandemic, the 25 parishes of the Deanery together paid £691,120 (94.5%) of the Share allocation of £731,531 for the year which is hugely heartening. In fact only two parishes [of the same Benefice] were significantly behind. I know that all parishes have had to dig into their reserves to achieve this but after all it is just this type of unforeseeable event for which Reserves are there. So a huge thank you to all PCC members, particularly Treasurers, for making this happen and for your continuing resolve to overcome the situation.

The overall Share paid across the Diocese totalled 89.6% so our Deanery should feel proud to have achieved what we have contributed to Share, itself being 90% of the costs of our stipendiary clergy in the Diocese.

Much as we would like to hope differently, 2021 will still be a challenge. For information, there is no increase to Share over 2020 for any parish.

At the same time, we have also contributed over £11,700 to our Kadugli fund in 2020 (and a 13% increase over 2019) and from which nearly £9,000 had been distributed.

Report on Synod link with Kadugli – John Joy

This has been an eventful year for Sudan, and for Kadugli in particular. For Sudan there has been a gradual extension of democratic government, and alterations in the law so it is no longer an offence to convert from Islam to Christianity.

Freedom of religion, and the rule of law may be the theory, but they need to be accepted and applied in practice, and this may take some time. There have, for example, been outbreaks of violence in the Kadugli area, and some of it seems to have been terrorist inspired. This, and perhaps the threat of Coronavirus, have impeded the progress of the Rooted in Jesus course we took out in 2019. We remain in touch with the church, however, and steps are being taken to re-invigorate the course.

Peace Primary School in Kadugli opened at the beginning of 2021 with 11 teachers and over 200 pupils. It has raised considerable interest in Kadugli, and by next year may have as many as 350 pupils. This would call for the premises to be enlarged, and we wait to hear what is proposed. Meanwhile Bishop Hassan is concerned that the children of poorer families should not be excluded through inability to pay the fees. The United Benefice (Holt, Broughton Gifford and Great Chalfield) therefore raised over £1,000 for the school.

In response to the distress and displacement caused by the violence, the deanery raised £3,000, largely through a sponsored walk (thank you to everyone who contributed) topped up by the deanery. We also raised over £1,000 through a takeaway cream tea organised by Sue Cottle in Steeple Ashton (thank you Sue).

Other good news from Kadugli is that currently there is no Coronavirus there, and that without any overt evangelism, several Muslims have become Christians.

There is still much progress to be made, so please take to heart the words of Archbishop Ezekiel "Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan".

Wedding Fair

Three synod members represented the Deanery at a Wedding Fair at the Civic Centre in March 2020, just before lockdown. Several very good conversations had taken place with wedding couples. The table was attractive with a nice sample wedding cake, flower display, flyers with suggested readings and hymns and where to find information on the C of E website. In addition the Deanery had purchased a C of E wedding banner and the three members wore lanyards.

Synod meetings

Synod meetings are open to all those who wish to attend with meeting dates and locations arranged well in advance. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared. At present due to the pandemic all Synod meetings are being held via Zoom. During 2020 there was opportunity at each meeting to share what has been taking place and to learn from each other, offer support and receive encouragement.

Meeting dates for 2021 which at present shall take place remotely via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic are as follows: 10 February, 16 June, and 20 October.



Churches of North Bradford on Avon and Villages

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh
St James' Church, South Wraxall, St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Annual Report from the Rector 2020 - 2021

Introduction

None of us would have anticipated a pandemic, a complete lockdown of the country from March, followed by gradual reopening with restrictions and a further lockdown still current as I write in February 2021. This resulted in intermittent closure of our churches and disruption to our activities such as our carer and toddler groups, our coffee mornings, our planned weekend retreat to Lee Abbey; most of which have had to be put on hold due to government and Church of England restrictions.

However, on a positive note, we have learned new skills in order to move services, Open the Book and Collective Worship online. Many of us have retained that human contact by socially distanced walks, and learned to communicate much more by email, Zoom, Teams and WhatsApp, as well as spending more time actively listening to one another, even if just by phone.

We have utilised our churchyards as safe spaces outdoors, and our churches (when open) to provide activities for families, and opportunities of private prayer and reflection, and to promote our faith by expressing the different church seasons in different ways.

'Church' has happened albeit somewhat differently. From the very first week of lockdown which coincided with Mothering Sunday, posies were made and left with prayers in our churches for families to collect. Throughout the year we have demonstrated to our communities that our churches are open; our faith is alive, and I am extremely grateful for the creativity and commitment shown by so many with such a sense of joy.

Using Advent as an example, the use of church porches for Nativity displays, a Christmas Tree festival and displays of Nativity Sets from around the world as well as laminated prayers hung in trees from our school children, the Nativity Story told in pictures on railings; all these proved very popular with our communities who made a point of calling in regularly on their daily walks, and joined in by donating toys and money to chosen charities. Of course, thanks go to those who keep our churches open and safe week by week through opening, setting up and closing, drafting risk assessments, making sure churches are deep cleaned, that face masks and hand gel is always available and who sensitively book people in to attend Church Services.

Funerals have been allowed by the Government and have continued throughout. We have all experienced the deep sadness concerning restrictions on the numbers attending these services, especially when they have been much-loved members of our community. Supporting families through the process of making arrangements depending on the restrictions at the time, has taken much time and sensitivity.

Frustration was felt by our wedding couples many of whom tried in vain to hold the wedding of their dreams, only to find restrictions would not allow large gatherings. Weddings were initially banned until 4 July when one couple did get married on that day with seven guests present. Many have postponed their wedding to 2022 in the hope that the virus will have subsided. Only one family proceeded with a baptism; other families have postponed.

Funerals, weddings and baptisms are now much more complicated to arrange in church as there are so many details to consider in order to operate legally and keep everyone safe. Thank you to our PCC Standing Committees which have had to join me in making some difficult decisions, quickly, on behalf of their PCC.

A special thank you to Tessa for all her support and hard work this year. We have missed our regular planning meetings with Rachel, but Rachel has continued her pastoral care through her work. This year has been a year of having to respond straight away to the situation at hand rather than being able to plan, and we look forward to a time when restrictions ease.

Sunday Services

In September 2019 we adopted a new pattern of church services whilst retaining the variety of services including HC CW and BCP, Matins, Refresh, Prayer and Praise and Monday Meditation. It was hoped that this would meet the varying needs of our congregations and those who wish to join us. The Staff team took the decision that each Sunday must be sustainable with one or two priests, so we have adopted a different pattern of worship. We were due to review in August 2020. However, Sunday Services in church have been sporadic this year and we have been balancing the restrictions with keeping our congregation members safe.

When not in lockdown, until January, we have held some Sunday Services in church and we were very fortunate with the weather in holding a service of Holy Communion in the churchyard at Monkton Farleigh, outdoor Remembrance Services in each of our four communities, a Bereavement Service remembering those who had died, (although only the pastoral team could attend due to social distancing) and On Christmas Day all our churches held a service which were well attended. Hymns and Worship Songs are very much part of our worship and we look forward to the day when we can raise our voices in praise again.

As services moved online from March, we have been able to record different members of our congregations reading and leading prayers, with different members of the clergy preaching. I know those watching have really appreciated seeing others on screen, and I am grateful to all those who have spent time recording and discovering ways of sending large files through. Thank you to Tessa's husband Richard and to my husband Malcolm for filming and to my daughter Amy for editing each Sunday recording.

Pastoral Support

We are pleased to have the support and prayers of our retired ministers and we are delighted to welcome back Keith, who returned to ministry in October following his sabbatical. He joins our group of retired ministers Paul, Bernard, Pat and Jim.

Ways of supporting members of our churches through Prayer and Communication chains were set up early on in the first Lockdown, and as NewsLink is mainly online, we have been more creative with space and content, without having to worry about the additional cost of colour printing. 39 people continue to receive NewsLink by post or hand delivery, so we hope everyone is kept in touch. Thank you to Hilary for coordinating the latter and to Denise who produced NewsLink weekly for us whilst Tessa was furloughed and now continues with this role.

Paul continues to provide oversight of the pastoral care and support given by our Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs), Denise (L), Denise (D), Gill, Daphne, Elizabeth, James and Stephen. Their pastoral support has been much needed this year. We welcome Margaret Blagbrough who has volunteered to coordinate services and support for our members at Avon Park, especially when restrictions ease.

Many thanks also to Jill who has continued to help me with the administration for, and contact with, wedding couples; her support has been invaluable. Sadly, Rachel, our LLM and our LWLs Denise (L) and Cedric and Penny have in the main not been able to lead worship this year, but once we return to regular Sunday worship, we hope to enjoy their many gifts within our team.

Musicians

We are forever grateful to our team of musicians whom we hope will return to playing regularly for Sunday services. Thanks go to Keith Bennett, Pippa Tate and her music group, Gerry Hoddinott, Jane Simmonds, Tricia Burns and her music group, Jackie Rice and Harold Jones who play for us. Sadly, no brass or wind instruments are allowed in church at present. This year we were sorry to say farewell to Fay Egerton who has withdrawn from playing.

Benefice Administrator - Tessa Stacey

After three years, Tessa has left to pursue her career as a Bereavement Coordinator for Dorothy House and as part of this role, she is training as a Counsellor. Tessa was a joy to work with and her creativity, her work on setting up the website and keeping us known on Social Media, especially Instagram, is very much appreciated. Denise Button is kindly volunteering to cover the role whilst we consider a revised job description to meet our changed administration and IT requirements.

Communication and Safeguarding

Both groups have continued to meet online.

The former considers how best we can best communicate with our communities, both internally and externally which has been even more important when we have not been able to meet

regularly face to face. Ann Chapman designed a new Christmas Card for us depicting the Three Kings. These were distributed to everyone in our parishes, promoting activities in our churches and churchyards, rather than Church Services, which we could not predict at the time of printing. We also continue to seek to raise our church profile in local publications and village websites, especially 'A Church Near You'.

Safeguarding remained a priority and I continued to meet regularly with The Parish Safeguarding Officers to update our list of DBSs required, and training needed in our parishes, as well as to review Safeguarding procedures and policies. Most training has reverted to online for the time being.

Children's and Families Work

Tessa continues to take responsibility for overseeing Children's and Families work in the Benefice and for line-managing Zoe. Although Zoe only started in January 2020 and has been furloughed for some of the time, her ideas on how to include families in activities such as the Light Trails in our churchyards during half term in October, and activities during Advent and Christmas, have been inspirational and we look forward to her again supporting our families and the volunteers who are involved in children's and school work. One of the reasons for appointing a Children's and Families Worker is to build on our strengths and create new ways of being church for new generations.

Church Buildings

We continue to seek to improve our buildings for flexible use in the present and to preserve them for future generations. Various Faculties have been successful this year including the removal of a pew to create a prayer corner in St Peter's, the restoration of church bells in St James, and the application to install a kitchen and toilets in Christ Church is making good progress with the Diocese and external bodies such as Historic England and Bradford on Avon Preservation Society.

Church Schools

Our work with our three Church of England Primary Schools and our pre-schools has continued in different ways this year. Collective Worship has been online and Winsley Open the Book team produced videos on YouTube for our schools to use and they were very well received.

Thanks go to Tessa and Angela for their continuing and growing support for Winsley school which is part of the Palladian Academy based in Bath. Tessa is now Vice-Chair of Winsley School Governing Body and Sabine is Vice-Chair of Christ Church Governing Body, both providing much support for their Governing Bodies Chairs, and are well-placed to bring their Christian influence on both schools. Angela continues to be a Foundation Governor of Winsley School, Jane, the Vicar of Shaw and Atworth is a Foundation Governor of Churchfields School and I continue as the Ex Officio Governor of Christ Church School. A key task for Governors in the latter is the appointment of a new Headteacher and a new Deputy Headteacher although this has proved very problematic when schools have been, in the main, closed except for the children of essential workers and for children who are at risk.

Thrive

Thrive is a Diocesan initiative run by CPAS, an organisation very much involved in training church leaders and PCCs. It brings together groups of volunteers from different Benefices to be learning communities, reflecting on the life of our churches and exploring ways that they can grow.

I volunteered our Benefice before the pandemic struck and the first weekend of training was delayed but took place in November online and we are now starting to meet on Zoom. There are 7 lay representatives from each of our four churches as well as Tessa and me as clergy, and we are supported by Rhona Floate, our Rural Field Officer for Wiltshire.

Our volunteers are Val Bryant, Alan Bryant, Jean Legg-Bagg, Hilary Pike, Gill Fairhurst, Rachel Exley and Valerie Calpin. We will report progress via our PCCs.

Church finance

Each of our four churches managed to pay their Parish Share in full in 2020 so thank you very much to everyone. Funding our churches and our initiatives however remains a challenge, and following Stewardship campaigns encouraging people to give via the Parish Giving Scheme, future plans are to launch a Legacy Campaign.

The present...

Despite the pandemic, due to the support from so many, our parish churches remain places at the heart of our communities. Although many of our physical activities are currently on hold, we need to remember that much continues online, such as house groups, PCC meetings, marriage preparation and of course our Sunday services which attract not just members of our church communities, but those who would not normally come to church, and those who are house bound. There is so much that is positive in and emanating from our churches that we will want to continue into the future.

The future...

As ever, there are some challenges and opportunities ahead of us this year including appointing some new Churchwardens and other office holders to enable our churches to flourish. We also need to encourage more people to be on welcome teams, to read in church and to lead us in prayer, and training will be provided. There is new legislation to enable churches to join together into a single PCC which may ease the burden on individual churches and at a time of uncertainty in the Church of England, we should seriously explore this.

Thank you to all who support the churches in our Benefice in so many different ways, both practically and spiritually. We are a 'priesthood of all believers', and as such seek to involve people more fully in the various aspects of Christian mission and ministry.

Renewing Hope: Pray, Serve, Grow: My vision

There will always be more to work on in terms of encouraging families, growing more leaders, working on different modes of communication, stewardship campaigns and fund-raising. We will continue to explore the creative use of our buildings for mission, ways of growing disciples and how to enable those on the edge of church to know more about the Christian faith. Most importantly, we continue to discern where God wants us to put our time and energy.

Our churches today are vibrant communities. However, it was clear before the pandemic that we are not growing numerically, and just as Christ Church is engaged in doing, we seriously need to consider what 'church' in the future will look like, and how we can use our church buildings to support future ministry and our communities.

We will continue to build up strong links with our communities, with our primary schools and with families. We wish to create new worshipping opportunities, and new communities to enable us to offer Christian support and teaching in ways that work for today's families, and for different generations who might want to engage in ways that fit in with their very busy lives. At the moment we cannot predict the future. We do not know if the drift from living in cities to homes in towns and villages will continue. It is likely that our communities will however change as more people work from home for much of their working week, and are therefore available locally. This may open up all sorts of opportunities for us to engage differently with individuals.

Priorities for 2021 - 2022

1. To build back our church communities as we re-engage with regular worship and our social activities can restart.
2. To continue to use our churchyards and churches with resources for those who are on the margins, or new to Christianity.

Christ Church - to support the Faculty process and community engagement to install a kitchen and toilet facilities, new lighting and office and storage space.

St James - to support the Faculty to restore the church bells and explore ways of encouraging local school children via their teachers to engage with the project.

St Nicholas - to develop further links with Winsley Methodist Church to support the redevelopment of the church building

St Peter's - to support the PCC in submitting a faculty for church tower repairs
to develop its new prayer corner for use by the local pre-school and school.

Benefice a. To explore 'one parish' developments

- b. To encourage creative work with children and families
- c. To be fully engaged with *Thrive* as we seek to grow and develop our churches and leaders
- d. To creatively use our church buildings and churchyards to engage our communities
- e. To recruit a Benefice Administrator to meet the changing needs of the Benefice

The future may be uncertain, but I look forward to the future with confidence as we continue our journey of prayer and faith together.

Revd Ann Keating, Rector.

February 2021