

# **2019 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Sawston, Cambridge**

## **Aims and Purposes**

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Alan Partridge, to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish of Sawston. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade 1 listed building and of the burial ground. Grass cutting in the churchyard is undertaken by the Parish Council. The Community Hall in Church Lane is maintained by the Community Hall Committee, which is responsible to and reports to the PCC.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of St Mary's Church Family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and regularly reviews the arrangements for key periods of the Church's year and looks for new ways to involve more people of the parish in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for those living in Sawston
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **Worship and Prayer**

The PCC tries to offer a variety of opportunities for worship. The daily round of Morning and Evening Prayer is maintained by a devoted few. There have been meditative prayer evenings, much appreciated by those who have taken part. Compline has been said in penitential seasons. The pattern of Holy Communion at 9.15am and the less formal Open Door service at 10.45am has been maintained, with joint services for Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Patronal Festival, Harvest

and Christingle. More lay leadership of worship has been encouraged. Sarah Bard is now an ALM as a worship leader and pastoral assistant.

At the close of 2019 there were 88 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 6 of whom are not resident in the parish. The Roll was newly drawn up in 2019. The average weekly attendance, counted in October, was 80 adults and 20 children. There were 68 communicants at Easter and 66 at Christmas. The Christmas services held for the community attracted a massive 917 worshippers.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. We have celebrated 9 baptisms and one thanksgiving for the birth of a child and 3 weddings and held 15 funeral services in our Church this year.

## **Deanery Synod**

Two members of the PCC represent the parish on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the Church. This year the PCC has continued to support Deanery attempts to provide for the needs of young people, taken part in the annual Deanery Fair and in the Deanery Ascension Day Eucharist.

## **The Church Building and Grounds**

Normal routine maintenance was carried out. The first stage of the new A/V system was installed and the next phase, with a dropdown screen and a more powerful projector is planned for 2020 . The Church remains open as an act of faith but problems which arise are constantly monitored.

The burial ground was maintained to the usual high standards by Robert Richmond and Roger Mansfield. A working party, largely of younger Church members, continued to undertake a series of very useful tasks. The burial ground storage shed was replaced and the appearance of the burial ground much improved. The Parish Council funded necessary repairs to the Churchyard path which had become dangerously uneven.

The Community Hall continued to thrive and to be very extensively used by the community it serves.

## **Pastoral Care**

The vicar has continued to visit the housebound and to take them Holy Communion and to hold a weekly evening prayer service at Orchard House, with the help of some members of the congregation. He has also devoted much time to the comfort of the bereaved.

Recent initiatives such as Refresh, Soup and Sandwiches and the Craft Group continued to develop.

## **Mission and evangelism**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC has continued to support a number of charities engaged in mission and several fund-raising events have been held. We have maintained our support of the Leprosy Mission's hospital at Premananda, the Friends of the Holy Land, Jimmy's Night Shelter, Cambridge and the Mission to Seafarers. The World-wide Mission committee has arranged a series of informative speakers at Sunday services so we know more about the charities to which we donate. Outreach work has included some events such as concerts, and chocolate bingo which have appealed to the wider community.

The Royal British Legion was well represented at the Remembrance Sunday service. In the Partnership for Missional Church programme, the process moved on to identifying a missional challenge and considering the best way to achieve it. Our parish magazine, published quarterly, is free of charge and keeps our parishioners informed of all the important matters affecting our Church and includes articles which help to develop our knowledge of and trust in Jesus.

## **Ecumenical Relationships**

We combined with Sawston Free Church for Trinity Sunday and held the usual Lent Groups together and the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Bruce Waldron retired as minister of the Free Church and they are currently without a minister.

## **Financial Review**

The financial statements attached to this report show total net income of £76504.91, and expenditure of £76848.72, resulting in a loss, before revaluations, of £343.81. However, a substantial gain on revaluation of investments led to a positive movement in overall funds of £1531.75.

Net income in 2019 was lower than in 2018 because we received some very substantial legacies that year. Other sources of income, including regular giving, fees, interest, and dividends showed moderate increases, whilst gifts, including a quarterly transfer of £500 from the Community Hall, and event income, were roughly unchanged, albeit with a larger proportion of each being allocated to specific projects. A total of £9116.18 was received from the Community Hall Management Committee as the annual balancing transfer, 67% of which was added to a restricted fund, totalling £16976.83 at the year end, for major items of repair, maintenance, and improvement to the Hall, as and when they arise.

2019 was another expensive year for repairs and maintenance, with a total of £14341.02 being spent on maintenance and renewal of church fittings, most of this on the new sound system, and a further £3963.73 on the new churchyard store, built to a specification dictated by its location in the protected envelope of our grade 1 listed church. The Ministry Share of £35945.09 was 7.5% higher than in 2018, and will continue to increase at this rate for the next few years, placing increasing

pressure on our funds. Other expenditure was broadly in line with that incurred in recent years.

2020 is likely to be a financially challenging year, with substantial outlay on phase 2 of the new audio-visual system anticipated, and it is likely that any surplus will be very small. However, our finances continue to be sufficiently robust to cope with this in the medium term.

## **Volunteers**

We should like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and supportive community. This includes virtually all Church members, so we cannot mention individuals but the contribution made by everyone is much appreciated.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the licensed lay minister, the churchwardens and the elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met six times in 2019 with an average attendance of 80%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, detailed below, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly. This year the committees have all continued to submit written reports in advance of PCC meetings which has meant that discussions are not needlessly repeated and the business carried out more effectively.

### **Standing Committee**

This is the only committee, which the PCC is required to appoint. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. It also oversees the financial affairs of the PCC.

### **Fabric Committee**

This is responsible for ensuring the good repair and maintenance of the church, churchyard and the burial ground.

**World-wide Mission Committee**

This maintains contact with missionary societies and co-ordinates giving to groups outside the parish and ensures information about their activities is readily available. It arranges events to raise funds and as social occasions.

**Magazine Committee**

This is responsible for producing and distributing a quarterly magazine, published on the first Sundays in March, June, September and December.

**PMC**

This committee oversees the process whereby St Mary's is becoming a Missional Church.

**Social and Fund-raising Events Committee**

This committee runs social and fund-raising activities.

**Administrative information**

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is situated in Church Lane. It is in the Deanery of Granta and the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England

All correspondence should be sent to:   The Vicarage  
  Church Lane  
  
  Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3JR

The PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Bankers              | Barclays, Saffron Walden, Essex           |
|                      | Lloyds, Cattle Market, Cambridge          |
| Independent Examiner | David Thompson                            |
| Architect            | Ashley Courtney, Roseford Road, Cambridge |

PCC members who served during 2019 are:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Vicar:                | The Reverend Alan Partridge (chairman)           |
| LLM                   | Jose John  |
| Churchwardens         | Andrew Overitt and Marian Watson (vice-chairmen) |
| Synod Representatives | David Bard and Andrew Overitt                    |

Elected members were Dianne Conway, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Rebecca Herrick, Suella Hunting, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, , Hilary Streeter and Rosina Whitmell.

The PCC appointed Robert Richmond as treasurer, Mary Dicken as secretary, Janet Martin as Electoral Roll Officer and Marian Watson as Gift Aid Officer.

Robert Richmond is not a member of the PCC.

*Compiled by Mary Dicken and Robert Richmond to reflect the position on 31 December 2019.*

Approved by the PCC on 4 June 2020

Signed on their behalf by Alan Partridge, chairman

## Gift Aid Report

The majority of donations to the church are done either by Standing Order via Barclays Bank, Planned Giving (i.e. weekly envelopes) or Parish Giving Scheme

At December 2019 22 donations are received via Standing Order: 19 of which are Gift Aided

17 people donate using weekly envelopes: 11 of which are Gift Aided

8 people donate through Parish Giving Scheme: 5 of which are Gift Aided

Gift Aid returns are claimed quarterly throughout the year.

The total tax reclaimed over the four quarters of 2019 is as follows:

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Q1 (01.01.19-05.04.19) | £2636.18 including |
| GASDS                  | £219.43            |
| Q2 (10.04.19-30.06.19) | £1810.43 including |
| GASDS                  | £275.67            |
| Q3 (01.07.19-30.09.19) | £1750.25 including |
| GASDS                  | £196.25            |
| Q4 (01.10.19-31.12.19) | £1395.25 including |
| GASDS                  | £241.63            |

Parish Giving Scheme donations for 12 months £4908.50

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) was introduced into the church at the end of 2018 and is gradually starting to grow. Donations made through this scheme use a Direct Debit, this can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. PGS collect regular donations for the parish, claims Gift Aid entitlement on your behalf. Pay the gifts into the PCC account by 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Pays Gift Aid into the PCC account once it is received from HMRC. Undertakes a basic level of donor care. Provides the (popular) option for donors to increase donations annually with inflation. Information packs with forms are available on the table at the back of church.

There are Standing Order forms available in church if you wish to donate via the bank and weekly envelopes are also available. If you can Gift your donations there are forms available in church. Once completed please return them in the envelopes provided.

If anyone would like Planned Giving envelopes, please speak to me.

***It is the responsibility of those signing Gift Aid Declarations to inform The Gift Aid/Recording Officer in writing, as soon as possible if your circumstance change and you can no longer Gift Aid, in order that records are amended and kept up to date as possible. The GA/Recording Officer should also be notified of any change of name/address.***

Marian Watson, Gift Aid/Recording Officer  
March 2020

## **Report on the Fabric of the Church**

The Fabric of the Church is in good shape and there have been no major repairs needed this year.

The replacement of the A/V system in the Church was begun with the work carried out by Absolute Audio Visual Solutions of Litlington. The second phase with a drop down screen and a new projector is still awaited. The money has been raised after an appeal, but a contractor to carry out the work is still being sought. Provision has been made in Church for using Zoom for services during the pandemic.

A working party in the Burial Ground was held in the spring but no more have been possible.

The storage shed for the mowers was duly replaced as the previous shed was unsafe. In the process the medieval wall abutting the shed needed repairs so the final cost was more than expected, but was largely met from the bequest from Frances Wilmoth.

The path from the Church to the Burial Ground was repaired by the Parish Council to whom we are very grateful.

Replacements of the the external notice board outside the Church and of the burial ground gate giving access to Church Lane are being planned.

The quinquennial inspection was due in May, but we are still awaiting instructions from the Diocesan Church Buildings Committee.

Thanks are due to the Parish Council for maintenance of the Churchyard and also to Roger Mansfield and Robert Richmond for all their work in the Burial Ground. This is the last season when they will undertake the mowing and we are immensely grateful for all they have done. Many compliments have been received about the excellent state of the Burial Ground.

**Mary Dicken** – Secretary to the Fabric Committee

(Committee: John Crompton, Mary Dicken (secretary), David Holloway, Suella Hunting, Brian Page, Alan Partridge (chairman), Marian Watson)

## **Deanery Synod Report to the APCM (15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020)**

This report covers the period April 2019 to March 2020. During that period there were three meetings of the Synod 04/04/2019 at Hauxton Village Hall, 03/07/2019 at St. Mary's & St. Andrew's Church, Whittlesford and 21/11/2019 at St. Andrew's Church, Stapleford. Subsequent meetings originally scheduled for April and July, 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic. It is, at the time of writing, hoped to hold a physical meeting of the Synod at Ickleton on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

During the year, the Synod received the following reports:

#### **4<sup>th</sup> April:**

Lisa Tuffer, the Bishop's Officer for lay learning and formation spoke on new lay training initiatives by the Diocese, including ALM training and a six-week introductory course for adults, young people and families new to the church.

David Parry-Smith and Sarah West (Deanery representatives for Linton and Whittlesford respectively) on Mental Health First Aid.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> July:**

Rev. Simon Talbott gave an update on the work of the General Synod.

Ann Allen, Operation Manger of Reach gave a presentation on that organization and answered questions. Reach is a charity, set up in Haverhill in 2005, which runs a food bank under the auspices of the Trussell Trust and provides debt counselling, and help with benefits. It operates with a ten-mile radius of Haverhill, thus covering parishes in the South East of the Deanery.

The date of this meeting coincided with Bishop Dagmar's consecration at St.Paul's Cathedral, which several members of the Synod had attended. There would be an inauguration service at Ely in September and it was hoped that she would visit the Deanery in the Autumn.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> November:**

Following a decision taken on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, this meeting was advertised as an open meeting and a number of non-synod members were welcomed. It is intended to hold open meetings regularly in order to make the work of the Synod better known.

Geoffrey Hunter gave a presentation on 'Re-imagining our churches as community assets for the common good', a three year project carried out on partnership between the Diocese of Ely, the Judge Business School Historic England and the All Churches Trust. The project focused on ways in which the fabric of churches and their facilities could be improved to make their internal spaces more flexible and inviting.

Bishop Dagmar attended this meeting and introduced herself with a brief description of her background and career to date. She then answered questions.

#### **YouthInc**

The Synod has received regular reports from YouthInc. In July, Sam Graham was appointed as youth outreach worker, to replace Rachael Went. The object of YOUTHINC is 'to ensure that every young person in South Cambridgeshire is invited to explore the Christian faith'. It runs monthly youth groups for 9-13 year olds, employs a Youth for Christ worker (Sam Graham), talks to local church leaders about youth work supports a monthly worship service aimed at young people and plans joint events. Currently 21 of the 30 parishes covered by YouthInc contributed financially to its work. Donations were also received from individuals.

The most recent newsletter (September, 2020) and minutes of the YouthInc Advisory Group meeting held on 14 September 2020 have been circulated electronically to all members of the PCC.

## Finances

As at the November, 2019 meeting, the finances of the Synod were in good order. It was expected that all parishes in the Deanery would be able to meet their 2019 Ministry Share.

David Bard Andy Overitt (Deanery representatives)

30/09/2020

## THE MONDAY HOUSEGROUP APRIL 2019 to APRIL 2020

The Monday Housegroup continued to be a weekly opportunity to gather for fellowship, bible study and encouragement until 9<sup>th</sup> March, after which it became apparent that the corona virus pandemic was about to make an impact on our normal way of life and we have continued our meetings via Zoom.

This year's Bible Studies have been:

- David - Developing a heart for God (*Lifebuilder series*)
- Galatians - Why God accepts us (*Lifebuilder series*)
- What are you waiting for? (*Advent York courses*)
- John Stott on Reaching Out (*Christianity Today - B.S. from Great Teachers of the Bible*).
- Lent Humankind and Creation Care (*St Mary's Lent course based on the book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio*)

Thanks be to God for the freedom we had to meet and enjoy the Bible together. And now thanks be to God for the technology which allows our fellowship on a Monday evening to continue.

(I still tend to rush to tidy up and put the kettle on before I remember.....)

**Sally Bard** (Co-ordinator)

If you would like more information please phone 01223 501165

## Community Hall Report March 2019 – March 2020 + Oct update

St Mary's Community Hall had another busy and successful year and continued to be very well used by both Community and Church Groups.

### Bookings

During the year there were 19 groups hiring the Hall on a regular basis – mostly weekly. There were also lets for one-off events such as fund-raisers and children's parties. In addition there was also regular use by Church Groups – Soup and Sandwiches, Craft Groups, Diddy Disciples as well as jumble sales etc and regular meetings of Church Committees and the Fun Run Committee.

## **Maintenance**

We started the year with the completion of the re-ordering of the Entrance/Car Park, including the cycle rack, and the installation of the new fire-door and drainpipes. In August the floor was cleaned, sanded and resealed,

Regular maintenance continued as usual - the Hall boiler is maintained by Compton & Parkinson and window cleaning and lawn-mowing is also carried out by paid contractors. Many other things are done by volunteers and I should particularly like to mention John Poulter who cuts the hedge.

## **Accounts**

The Hall accounts are in the Appendix. Our turnover was £18,915 and, despite the building work, we made a profit of £2,697.95. In 2019 we paid St Mary's our customary £500/quarter (£2,000 pa).

## **Future plans**

The Hall is running well and we hope to keep it that way! We have an amazing band of conscientious volunteers who work hard to keep the Hall running smoothly.

## **Finally**

As always I must thank all the Hall Management Committee and Kath, our very dedicated cleaner, for everything that they do to keep the Hall running so smoothly. In particular I must also say a huge thank you to Jeanette (Booking Secretary) and Gerry (Treasurer) for all the time that they spend on Hall matters.

## **October Update**

The Hall has been closed to Users (except for the Church Office) since March because of Covid-19 and we are indebted to Kath who has been checking the premises regularly. We have had no income since the third week of March.

The situation now (as at 3 October) is that we are allowing Church groups, of up to six, to use the premises for socially distanced meetings. The Hall Committee meets again next week to make the difficult decision as to whether to allow some exercise classes to restart. We are looking closely at Users risk assessments and insurance policies and all that is needed from our volunteer Committee to keep the Hall Covid secure. It has been a difficult time for both the Users and the Committee and we have been under great pressure to reopen. We are extremely grateful to ACRE for all their advice and support during this unprecedented situation.

Some good news – after very lengthy processes and countless discussions we received a Covid support grant of £10,000 from South Cambs for the Hall. The procedure for this was complicated since we as C of E are not on the rating system - not that we would pay any rates if we were! I won't bore you with the details but we are delighted to have received this grant and have now been able to pay the PCC what we owe in terms of the balancing transfer from 2019-20 and three quarterly payments for 2020.

**Sue Hunting, 3 October 2020**

## **St Mary's Community Hall Management Committee:**

Jeanette Harvey (Booking Secretary), Gerry Holloway (Treasurer), Sue Hunting (Chairman), Les Hylton, Jane Moloney, Alan Partridge (to August 2020), Hilary Streeter (Minutes Secretary)

## Craft Group Report

It is good to be able to report that St. Mary's Craft Group had continued to flourish and until March this year, we had had another successful and enjoyable series of meetings.

The members have continued to support the group and it has been rewarding to gain one or two new members during the course of 2019. However, I cannot let this point pass without mentioning the very sad loss of Pat Awberry Maskell who died towards the end of 2019.

Pat was a very much treasured member of the craft group and she is sadly missed by all of us. As is the usual custom the Craft Group sent a donation in lieu of flowers and a number of members attended her funeral service at St. Mary's on 23rd December 2019.

A huge amount of the craft items that the members make are donated to charity and we always do our best to respond to requests for specific items. We were approached by the Besom charity which donates "Baby Bundles" to families who need an extra bit of help in the local area and their request was for first size matinee jackets - particularly for boys. Apparently they had a plentiful supply suitable for girls but were short of jackets for boys!

Needless to say the craft group members responded in their usual generous way and we have been able to hand over to our contact Becca Herrick, a good supply of first sized jackets for boys. We have received a lovely thank you note and Becca also called in to one of our meetings to thank the members in person. I understand that one of our most prolific "knitters" Rachel Burton, has produced a good stock of matinee jackets ready for when they are next needed!

The group stall at the Autumn Fair at the end of November 2019 was a very colourful display and we were able to contribute our best ever takings to Church Funds. This could not have been achieved without the generosity and hard work of all the members who donated such a wonderful array of craft items - and also of course to all the people who bought from the stall.

Fortunately we were able to have a very enjoyable Christmas Party in December 2019 - a chance to relax - eat Christmas goodies and raise a glass to a Happy Christmas - thankfully we had little idea of what 2020 was going to bring and it was a very happy atmosphere!

We had a request to make some new bunting in preparation for the St. Mary's summer fair in the grounds of Sawston Hall and although we were not able to hold this event, there is a good amount of bunting that has been made ready for when needed again. My thanks to the small number of members who were working on this project!

I would like to thank the entire group for their support and in particular Dorothy Ward, Geraldine Stott and Jane Moloney for stepping in and ensuring that the group was kept going while I was out of action at the beginning of 2020. Sadly, like many groups, it was necessary to call a halt to the meetings last March because of the Covid19 situation.

I have seen a number of the group's members so I know that they have all been busy working on their various crafts during "lockdown" and from what I hear they have largely all kept well over the last nine months.

We are all looking forward to being able to resume meetings, but at this moment I do not anticipate any early return to this. Safety and health are of the utmost importance so we will just have to see how things progress over the winter and hope that sometime next year we may possibly be able to get back to our regular meetings. **Tina Casey** October 2020

## **Flower Arranging Report**

17 names are currently on the church flower arrangers list.

All flowers arranged in church throughout the year are bought by the ladies. In addition to their usual windowsill arrangements, many also provide flowers for the High Altar. Where there is a gap on the flower rota, any money given as a donation is used to provide flowers for those vacant slots. Over the last few years the Flower Fund has been “nourished” by the generous donation(s) made by the hard working team who organize and run the Jumble Sales. This means that materials used for floral arrangements, oasis, trays, containers, tape, can be purchased and used by our team of flower arrangers as well as providing additional flowers at festival times if necessary.

The team were involved in decorating the church for festivals throughout 2019, and although it was a quite year for weddings, the team did have great pleasure

in arranging wedding flowers for the marriage of Jonathan Bard and Emma Warner in September 2019. A floral arrangement was also placed in church for the funeral of Pat Awberry-Maskell in December.

Our Advent ring was put together by the children of Open Door for the first time – an activity which the children enjoyed doing as well as seeing their creation each Sunday throughout Advent and over the Christmas period.

The flower team met for a coffee morning in February 2020, and it was lovely that all members of the team were present. We agreed that we would meet on a regular basis either before a festival or just after one. However, our best laid plans were hit like so many other plans by Covid-19. I certainly did not fully appreciate at that coffee morning, that I would **not** be sending out emails to the team making arrangements for subsequent festivals. Even Mothering Sunday flowers were distributed in a very different way but at least they were distributed!

I know the team, like myself, have missed arranging flowers in church during 2020 but we have all remained well and we are ready to return when the time is right and safe for us to do so. A time we are all very much looking forward to.

**Barbara Hylton** September 2020

## **Magazine Committee Annual Report for 2019 - 2020**

Four editions of St Mary's Church Magazine 'Communicate' have been published this year in June, September and November 2019 and in March 2020. We are grateful to everyone who contributes material for the magazine. The magazine now has more pages. Thank you.

Print runs are usually 250 copies most of which are distributed to members and friends. Only a few go to recycling each quarter. Thank you to those church members who take a bundle to give to their friends and neighbours. For the June and December editions we had 350 copies printed. These were given out at the Summer Fair and at all our Christmas Carol

Services and on Christmas Eve. Our funds stand at £1781.72, however, we still await 6 bills probably totalling around £1,200.

Each member of the committee has a specific role in producing the magazine. We communicate via email and Dropbox. This year, Rachel Norridge has joined our committee and has taken on the task of contacting the advertisers prior to the September edition. We have added 4 new advertisers this year. The payments made by the advertisers enable us to distribute the magazine free of charge. We are grateful for the support the advertisers provide so please support them if you can. In order to cover our costs in the future we may need to find a few more advertisers. If you know of any local company that might be asked to advertise, please let us know. Rachel also receives the original copy for each edition and does an initial proof read and corrections before Dianne puts the magazine together. Rosie Whitmell designs the cover, encourages folk to contribute to the coffee and chat item and the recipe page as well as sending reminders of deadlines to regular contributors. Liz Partridge sources the children's page and proof reads the draft copy before it goes to the printer.

The next issue of 'Communicate' should be published on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The deadline for contributions is 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019. In view of the coronavirus outbreak we will review this in May. We welcome new items, ideas and photographs of events.

**Dianne Conway** on behalf of the magazine team

## Sawston Mothers' Union

The Sawston branch of the Mothers' Union has usually met in Church on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, with a break in August and September. The programme for the year April 2019 to April 2020 was as follows:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| April 2019    | Talk by Mary Dicken on the 1913 Derby  |
| May 2019      | Deanery meeting in Stapleford: talk by Hazel Williams on "My Life"   |
| June 2019     | Talk by Ros Wright on flowers in the Bible   |
| July 2019     | Meal out at the Chequers, Pampisford   |
| October 2019  | Talk by Nick Burr about the work of CamSight   |
| November 2019 | Talk by Mary Dicken on Hildegard of Bingen   |
| December 2019 | Talk by Dianne Conway and Steve Whyatt on the work of GenR8  |
| January 2020  | Carols and sherry at the Vicarage  |
| February 2020 | Annual General Meeting followed by planning for the Women's World Day of Prayer service, hosted at St Mary's |
| March 2020    | Rehearsal for the World Day of Prayer service, followed by the service the following evening                 |

The World Day of Prayer service was organised by the Mothers' Union and took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. There was a good attendance and participation by members of all the Sawston churches. Mothers' Union meetings from March 2020 to the time of writing have been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Membership currently stands at seventeen. The officers, confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in February 2020, are as follows:

Branch Lead: Janet Martin  
Branch Treasurer: Margaret Davis  
Branch Secretary: Mary Richmond

The accounts for 2019 were agreed at the Annual General Meeting. The final balance on 31 December 2019 stood at £610.60 after the branch had made donations to overseas projects and "Away From it All" holidays. The branch received £540 from a Church jumble sale and is very grateful for this support.

At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed that, during the winter months, the group would try meeting at 2pm instead of 7.30pm to avoid members having to go out after dark.

Like most organisations, the Mothers' Union has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic and, although we have discussed ways in which we might meet, it has so far been felt that it is not viable to hold meetings, whilst ensuring the safety of our members and complying with government guidelines. We continue to pray for one another and to keep in touch on an individual level. In addition, the national Mothers' Union website can be accessed at <https://www.mothersunion.org/>

**Mary Richmond** Branch Secretary

## Partnership for Missional Church

Partnership for Missional Church is a journey that is helping our church to become more missional and seeks to put God's will for our church and community at the heart of everything that we do. Throughout this year we have continued to grow in our use of spiritual practices to help us to discern God at work by listening to each other. We have been Dwelling in the Word using two passages, **Philippians 1:27-2:1-11** and **2 Corinthians 4: 1-12**. We have also been Seeking God's Way together by collectively reflecting on the gifts God has given to us as a church.

In September 2019 the PCC and the PMC team met for an away day to collectively discern our missional challenge, something we felt that that God is calling our church to:

### Missional Challenge:

*God has opened our eyes to the isolated in our community, with whom we would like to share a sense of family; bringing joy, hope and togetherness.*

Our hope is that the missional challenge will further connect us with what God is already doing in our community, connect us with the people God is sending us to and to help us to form Christian Community with them.

We have formed a Missional Innovation (MI) Team who have been formed to pray, think and reflect on our challenge and how we might be called as a church to work within it. In January 2020 we held services to seek the church family's wisdom, prayer and discernment about:

- Who the isolated are in Sawston.
- Who the people of peace are in Sawston - who are already working with the isolated or who have them on their hearts.

The Missional Innovation Team had just begun its work making contact with people that we had identified as people of peace, in order to conduct 1:1 interviews with them. We were to listen to what was on their hearts about the isolated.

Since the national lockdown, we have had to take a pause for reflection. The world has changed significantly, as have the challenges facing the people in our church and community. The PMC team and the church family will need to pray and reflect upon our missional challenge in the context of the new 'normal' we are living in. We are certain that God has been at work in the lives of people in our village. As we seek to reflect on our challenge, we should take time to let God open our eyes to the newly isolated and the people who have them on their hearts, in the hope that we can share a sense of family with them: bringing, joy, hope and togetherness.

**Anna Lovewell and the PMC Team**

### **Prayer at St Mary's 2019 - 2020**

Prayer Evenings have continued during the past year with meetings in October 2019 entitled 'Thinking things over with God' where we explored the Examen prayer to use to review the day with God and in February 2019 when Alan led an evening entitled 'Keeping your eyes on Jesus'. Unfortunately the June Prayer Evening had to be cancelled at the last minute because of a double booking at the church.

Space to Be has continued on Saturday mornings in May, July, September and November 2019 and January and March 2020. This drop in session at the church with its times of silence, of quiet music, creative activities and prayer spaces has given an increasing number of folk time and space for prayer and meditation.

The themes have been:

May 2019 - The Spirit is with us

July 2019 - Jesus said I am...

September 2019 – St Mary the Virgin for Patronal weekend

November 2019 – Let us Remember

January 2020 – Behold I am making all things new

March 2020 – A Journey in Lent

Prayer Evenings will continue in June and October and February and 'A Space to Be' will be in May, July, September, November, January and March. Due to the corona virus outbreak these will be confirmed nearer the time.

As we move forward times of seeking God's face in prayer will be important to us all.

2 Chronicles Ch7 v 14

*'14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'*

**Dianne Conway**

## **'REFRESH'**

### **PARENTS/CARERS, BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

April 2019 to April 2020

Refresh continued to meet every Monday afternoon in Church, apart from Bank Holidays, up to 9<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you so much to the faithful, small band of all helpers who made this possible. For all young Mum's/carers a cup of tea and some cake offered to you can be a real treat during those busy, sleep-deprived early months and sharing the struggles sometimes lightens the load, especially with the first baby.

The children have responded well to a song or two and a short prayer in the middle of the session. There was usually a simple craft activity for some of the older ones to enjoy. Barbara Hylton visited us for special flower craft before church festivals and the children loved it. Alan Partridge continued to be very supportive of the group and to visit us when he could.

We suspended Refresh meetings from 16<sup>th</sup> March when it became apparent that the corona virus pandemic was about to make an impact on our normal way of life.

Please pray for all the families who used to come to Refresh. Please pray too, for the helpers as they seek the right way to support these young families going forward.

**Sally Bard** (Refresh Co-ordinator)

## **Safeguarding Report for year ending April 2020**

Two issues were received, which whilst not a serious safeguarding remit, were nevertheless discussed with safeguarding admin at the diocese. Agreement was reached regarding the actions to be taken.

Numerous DBS checks were submitted, some for the 'Diddy Disciples' initiative, and some renewals also dealt with.

**Margaret Davis** (Sawston Parish Safeguarding Officer)

## **SAWSTON YOUTH GROUP**

This report covers the year from April 2019 to April 2020.

All our activities ceased in mid-March 2020 and have not as yet restarted.

In April 2019 our annual parents evening was attended by the Bishop of Ely who presided over an evening with each section showing what they had been doing in the session. There were over 150 parents and friends at the evening and the Bishop presented Duke of Edinburgh Awards as follows: 4 Bronze, 3 Silver and 5 Gold.

In September 2019 a further Gold award was presented making 6 for the session. We are all very proud of the young people and all have now been to the Palace to receive their award from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex. I know of no other youth group in Cambridge (outside of schools) with this level of success.

In July we held our annual residential in the New Forest attended by 56 people with devotions led by Alan. The theme was St Peter and the craft activity was to create the Babraham Church window. The whole event went very well given this was mostly a canvas camp with only the Juniors staying indoors.

In October 2019 we embarked on a Band Tour of Normandy to mark the 75yrs since the D Day landings. We took 85 people (with 38 from SYG) in two coaches and visited all five beaches and played at the USA Omaha Cemetery, Arromanches and the highlight was marching and playing over Pegasus Bridge. You can see what we have been upto by going to YouTube and typing in *Sawston Youth Group* where you will find many videos of the band tour and other events we have undertaken. Alan led our devotions each day and also helped with the historical aspect of the visit.

In October 2019 we held our annual Enrolment service in church and in December 2019 we held our Carol Service in Church – both filled the church to capacity. Our band also led the Sawston and Babraham Remembrance Day parades and provided bugle teams to play at both events.

As regards week by week activities the older Amicus Group attended a three-week cooking course at Footprints Café, the Juniors had a Winter walk and seniors wrote and led the Carol Service. The Explorers made Poppies for Remembrance Day and Christmas crafts. The seniors have had a woodwork project, the Amicus group visited Addenbrookes ambulance station and the Juniors have had science experiments and activities around Australia Day and the Chinese New Year. Explorers have had a film night, quizzes and lots of games.

In February three leaders attended a weekend Youth Leader Training course held at Hemel Hempstead covering all aspects of Christian youth work.

At the time of lockdown in March 2020 we had 65 young people regularly attending each week led by 22 leaders with all ages from 6yrs to 18yrs.

We do not know when we shall restart or how many of the young people we will get back as this is all in His hands but we will restart someday and hope to get back to some sense of normality.

We thank the Church for all its support to the group throughout the year and for your prayers. We will all miss Alan a lot and hope the new vicar will show the same level of support to the group that Alan has shown over the past ten years.

**Paul Whitmell** Group Chairman

## World-wide Mission Committee Annual Report

The Mission Committee members for the past year were: Revd Alan Partridge, Sue Lowdell (Chair), Marian Watson (Treasurer), Jose John, Tina Casey (co-opted member), Anne Little (co-opted member), Janet Marven (co-opted member), Dorothy Butler (co-opted member). The committee met on, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

I would like to record my thanks to the members of the Mission Committee. With their support we have fulfilled the Mission Committee's main aim to support our chosen charities and to hold a number of informal fund-raising events throughout the year.

The charities we supported in each quarter over the past year were as follows:

- (i) Emmaus Cambridge, from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Home)
- (ii) Mission to Seafarers, from 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (Overseas)
- (iii) Church Army, from 1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (Home)
- (iv) CAMFED, from 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (Overseas)

We invited speakers from each of the charities to talk to the congregation at the 9.15am service and the Open Door services. We were very fortunate to welcome the following excellent speakers to St Mary's:

- (i) Seamus from Emmaus on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- (ii) Captain John Clark from Mission to Seafarers on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019
- (iii) James Hawsworth from Church Army on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- (iv) Helena Scholfield from CAMFED on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (evening talk)

We held two fund-raising coffee mornings:

- (i) Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in aid of The Leprosy Mission.
- (ii) Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in aid of the Church Urban Fund.

As part of our ongoing support for The Leprosy Mission, we welcomed Helen Walton on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Helen updated us on The Leprosy Mission's latest projects and news from the Premananda Memorial Leprosy Hospital in Kolkata, India. Helen was presented with a cheque for £300 for the Premananda Hospital.

We held our annual St Mary's Mission Strawberry Tea on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The event went well with around 30 guests attending. It was held in the Community Hall due to the unpredictable weather and it was reassuring to note that the occasion was not affected by being held in doors. A very big thank to everyone who came and to those who helped to set up twice (once in the Vicarage gardens and again in the Hall). The sum of £200 was raised through ticket sales and donations. A cheque for this amount was sent to the Barnabus Fund; we requested that our donation be put towards their project in Syria.

2019 Harvest Festival was held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, with a bring and share lunch afterwards in the Community Hall. The donated dried goods were delivered to Jimmy's in Cambridge.

2019 Lent Box Appeal raised £200. A cheque for this amount was sent to Arthur Rank Hospice.

2019 Christian Aid Envelopes from St Mary's raised £275.28. I would like to record my thanks to Sawston Free Church for their help with the distribution and collection of the envelopes.

Cheques were sent to the following charities:

- The Leprosy Mission: A cheque for £460.00 went towards the Heal Nepal Appeal: this donation attracted a matching contribution by the UK government.
- Friends of the Holy Land: A cheque for £330.00 was sent to FHL.
- Mission to Seafarers: A cheque for £346.00 was sent to Mission to Seafarers.
- Children's Society House boxes: A cheque for £149.54 was sent to the Children's Society.
- DEC Cyclone Idai Appeal: A cheque for £400 was sent to DEC.
- Emmaus Cambridge: A cheque for £408.00 was sent to Emmaus.
- Christingle Service, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019: A cheque for £200 was sent to the Children's Society.
- Church Army: A cheque for £350 was sent directly to assist James Hawksworth's mission in King's Lynn.
- 2019 Christmas Crib Services: A cheque for £400 was sent to Save the Children.

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to thank the PCC for their very kind financial contribution towards our chosen charities for the past year and to the congregation at St Mary's for their continuing support and generosity. We pray that with God's love we will be able to continue to support them into the future.

**Sue Lowdell**, April 2020

## **Diocesan Synod Report**

The synod met twice during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Ely College and on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at the Hayward Theatre, King's School, Ely. A meeting scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 was cancelled due to the developing COVID19 epidemic.

The issues discussed at each meeting were as follows:

### **12/06/2019:**

Bishop Stephen announced the appointment of Dagmar Winter as Bishop of Huntingdon. Her consecration would take place at St. Paul's Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. The Synod welcomed Bishop-elect Dagmar to the Diocese.

Bishop Stephen commissioned the Revd. Dr. Jenny Gage as Bishop's advisor for self-supporting minsters.

The Revd. Canon Lindo Church presented a distillation of comments from the previous Diocesan Synod (09/03/2019) on the Raising Spiritual Temperature and Growing Faith initiative and invited comments on measuring its impact.

Updated Diocesan Synod Standing Orders were adopted.

The Revd. Canon Mike Booker (Bishop's Change Officer for Market Towns) and Adam Evans gave a presentation on the progress of the 'Changing Market Towns' initiative. They announced that a second Stage 1 bid was being prepared for the Strategic Investment Board for the project to be extended to a further six market towns. One of those included in this bid would be Sawston. The establishment of of Schools' Singing Project would form part of the second funding bid. This project would introduce groups of disadvantaged primary age children to church and choral music, thus teaching them about music and bringing them to faith.

The Revd. Canon Brian Atling (Chair of the Ely Diocesan Finance Committee) presented the draft budget for 2020-22, which had already been circulated to the deaneries. He advised that the Budget for 2019 remained extremely tight, due to the number of vacancies being less than expected. This situation was likely to persist throughout 2020. Bishop Stephen confirmed that the Diocese was determined to pay full clergy stipend increases.

### **19/10/2019**

The meeting commenced with a short recital from the Prince of Peace Choir from Kigali, which, together with Bishop Nathan of Kigali were currently visiting the Diocese. The Chair thanked them for their contribution.

Bishop Stephen delivered his presidential address, with an emphasis on climate justice as a priority for the coming year.

Bishop Nathan, in conjunction with Manasseh Tuyizere (Diocesan Secretary and Youth Pastor, Kigali) gave a short presentation on the work of the church in Kigali.

Rebecca Boswell, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and Jon Chapman, Independent Chair of the of the Diocesan Safeguarding Liaison Group presented an interim report and their strategy for 2020. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team was currently working on focused parish support, understanding the challenges of within individual parishes and encouraging effective information sharing and communication. The SCIE safeguarding audit at Ely Cathedral had been completed with a positive outcome.

The Revd. Canon Brian Atling presented the revised budget for 2020-22. The revision had had to take into account that there were currently no clergy vacancies, whereas the original budget had been prepared on the presupposition of 8.5 vacancies. The budget was accepted by a majority vote (one abstention). A 2.3% increase in the ministry share allocation was proposed for 2020. This would cover the anticipated increase in clergy stipends with a very small allocation for other clergy costs. The 2.3% increase was agreed by a majority with one vote against and one abstention.

Future meetings are planned online for 7<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

**David Bard** (Diocesan Synod representative for Grant Deanery)