

# St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston

## **Election of Churchwardens: 28 April 2022**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (29 April 2021)
3. Election / Appointment of Churchwardens.

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 28 April 2022**

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1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting (29 April 2021)
3. Election of up to THREE members of the Parochial Church Council, to serve for THREE years.
4. Electoral Roll report (Janet Martin) The revised roll can be consulted on the notice board in Church.
5. Annual Report for 2021 on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally (Mary Dicken)
6. The Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2021 independently examined. (Robert Richmond)  
Gift Aid Report (Marian Watson)
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church (Brian Page)
9. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (David Bard/Andrew Overitt)
10. Vicar's Report
11. Any other matters of parochial or general Church interest
  - Bellringers (Samantha Gorman)
  - Community Hall Report (Suella Hunting)
  - Craft Group (Christine Casey)
  - Diocesan Synod (David Bard)
  - Flower Arranging Report (Barbara Hylton)
  - Magazine Committee Report (Dianne Conway)
  - Monday House Group (Sarah Bard)
  - Mothers' Union Report (Mary Richmond)
  - Muddy Church (Anna Lovewell/ Katy Holloway)
  - PMC (Rebecca Herrick)

Refresh (Rebecca Herrick)  
Safeguarding (Jennifer Crompton/ Simone Few)  
SYG (Paul Whitmell)  
Web Site (Rebecca Herrick)  
World-wide Mission Committee Report (Susan Lowdell)

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## ***Minutes of the meetings in 2021***

### **Election of Churchwardens**

This took place on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 19.30 in Church and on Zoom with the PCC Secretary, Mary Dicken in the chair. The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft led Opening Prayers.

Thanks were expressed to Marian Watson for her work in producing the booklet of reports.

Those present were: David Bard, Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Dorothy Butler, Christine Casey, Dianne Conway, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Rosemary Feuell, Rebecca Herrick, Suella Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Josephine John, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Janet Martin, Janet Marven, Andrew Overitt, Brian Page, Canon John Pinder, Canon Pamela Reed, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson.

#### 1 Apologies for absence

These were received from David Holloway, Katharine Hollloway, Paul Shakeshaft.

#### 2 Minutes of the last meeting (15 October 2020)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, on the proposition of Brian Page seconded by Susan Lowdell and signed by the chairman.

#### 3 Election of Churchwardens

Andrew Overitt was nominated by David Bard and seconded by Mary Dicken. Marian Watson was nominated by Rosemary Feuell and seconded by Barbara Hylton.

There being no other nominations, the chairman declared that they were duly appointed. She thanked the churchwardens for their tremendous contribution to the life of the Church especially in the difficult circumstances of the pandemic along with the interregnum.

## The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This took place on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 19.30 in Church with the Churchwardens, Andrew Overitt and Marian Watson, in the chair.

Those present were: David Bard, Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Dorothy Butler, Christine Casey, Dianne Conway, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Rosemary Feuell, Rebecca Herrick, Suella Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Josephine John, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Janet Martin, Janet Marven, Andrew Overitt, Brian Page, Canon John Pinder, Canon Pamela Reed, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond, , The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson.

### 1 Apologies for absence

These were received from David Holloway, Katharine Hollowat, Paul Shakeshaft.

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting (15 October 2020)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, on the proposition of Robert Richmond seconded by Suella Hunting and signed by the chairman.

### 3 Election of up to three members of the PCC to serve for three years

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Andrew Beale	Rebecca Herrick	Simone Few
Rebecca Herrick	Sarah Bard	Marian
Watson		
Anna Lovewell	Josephine John	Rebecca
Herrick		

As there were no other nominations, they were duly declared elected by the chairman.

It was agreed on the proposition of Andrew Overitt, seconded by Mary Dicken, that Josephine John, LLM, be appointed to the PCC to serve until the next APCM.

### 4 Electoral Roll

Janet Martin presented the revised Electoral Roll, with eighty-nine names on it, seven being non-resident. The Roll had been displayed in Church. Thanks were expressed to Janet for all her hard work. It was proposed by Rebecca Herrick and seconded by Brian Page that the Roll be accepted and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

### 5 Annual Report for 2020

The report was received, with thanks being expressed to the secretary. The report was accepted on the proposition of Rebecca Herrick, seconded by John Crompton, all voting in favour. Amendment from David Bard re Maintenance of Churchyard – ask him for details.

- 6 The Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
Robert Richmond reported. He stressed that 2020 turned out better than he had expected. Well done everyone! Many thanks were expressed to Robert for all his work. The statements were accepted on the proposition of Brian Page seconded by John Crompton, all voting in favour.

Marian Watson's report Gift Aid for 2020 was received. Marian was thanked for all she had done.

- 7 Appointment of Independent Examiner  
David Thompson was proposed by Marian Watson and seconded by Robert Richmond, and this was agreed, all voting in favour.
- 8 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church  
Brian Page reported. Brian updated the meeting on the faculty application for the projector.
- 9 Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod  
David Bard and Andrew Overitt reported on Deanery Synod proceedings during the year.  
Andrew has asked the Rural Dean to begin negotiations on the Ministry Share.

10 Any other Matters of Parochial and General Church Interest

1) Other reports

These were received from

Bellringers	Samantha Gorman
Community Hall report	Suella Hunting
Craft Group	Christine Casey
Flower Arranging	Barbara Hylton
Magazine Committee	Dianne Conway
Monday House Group	Sarah Bard
Mothers' Union report	Mary Richmond
Partnership for Missional Church	Rebecca Herrick
Prayer at St Mary's	Dianne Conway
Refresh	Sarah Bard
Safeguarding	Mary Dicken
Sawston Youth Group	Paul Whitmell
World-wide Mission Committee	Susan Lowdell
Diocesan Synod	David Bard

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:03 with Compline, led by Rosemary Feuell.

Mary Dicken, Secretary to the PCC

## **Electoral Roll 2021 - 2022**

There are 87 names on the Electoral Roll (copy attached), of whom seven are not resident in Sawston. The Electoral Roll has been revised again this year in accordance with the Church Revision Rules and changes are as follows:

### **Added**

Mr Christopher Alan Hooper

Mrs Wendy Maria Redgewell

### **Removed**

Mrs Diana Margaret Chatwin

Miss Rosemary Feuell

Mrs Angela Phyllis Jacobs

Mrs Elisabeth Susan Partridge

A copy of the Electoral Roll is retained by the Electoral Roll Officer with names, addresses and date of joining. A copy without addresses is displayed on the notice board immediately inside the Church.

Any queries, amendments or new applications should be sent to the Church Electoral Roll Officer:

Janet M Martin

Church Electoral Roll Officer

[Janetm.martin@ntlworld.com](mailto:Janetm.martin@ntlworld.com)

## 2021 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 Kathryn Waite from 22 June 2021, 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. The Parish Council undertakes responsibility for the churchyard. The Community Hall Committee is responsible for maintaining the Community Hall in Church Lane 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**

**All aspects of the work of the PCC have been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lock-down period from January to March 2021. In addition, the new vicar was instituted on 22 June and up to that date the parish was in Interregnum.**



## **Worship and Prayer**

During lockdown all services were available on Zoom, and were held in Church subject to the rules in force at each particular time. A service for families, Muddy Church, was held in the Churchyard each month, when permitted. Several trails were set up around the churchyard for those from the village to access. We were fortunate to have the help of The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, now a self-supporting minister, and of Canon John Pinder, both in the Interregnum and beyond. In the latter part of the year we resumed the pattern of a Eucharist at 9.15am, followed by Open Door and with Muddy Church and an all-together service once a month.

We circulated two questionnaires during the year to ascertain opinions among the congregation on various issues and the responses were very useful in forward planning.

At the close of 2021 there were 89 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 8 of whom are not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance in person in Church, counted in October, was 50 adults and 18 children. There were 45 communicants at Christmas. The Christmas services held for the community had nearly 300 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 held 8 baptisms. There were two weddings and we held 17 funeral services in our Church or Burial Ground 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. The meetings this year were held on Zoom. The Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day was also held virtually.

## **The Church Building and Grounds**

Normal routine maintenance was carried out. The second stage of the installation of the new A/V system was completed. The architect drew up his recommendations for how the work identified in the quinquennial inspection should be carried out and tenders will be sought in 2022.

David Holloway and his team took over the mowing of the burial ground and some working parties took place to maintain the ground to a high standard. The Community Hall opened again to hirers in September and has continued to thrive since then. The church office continued to operate under the very efficient management of Marian Watson.

## **Pastoral Care**

Regular contact with all members of the Church family was maintained to ensure that their needs were provided for. Visits to the bereaved were carried out where possible and this remains an important aspect of ministry. Visits to the schools began again in September.

## **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, The Children's Society and Save the Children, along with The British Red Cross, and Christian Hope International.

We co-operated with The Royal British Legion for the much-reduced Remembrance Sunday commemoration as well as for a service in September to mark the centenary of the Royal British Legion and to remember Burma Star Veteran, Jimmy Kempe.

In the Partnership for Missional Church journey, the process moved on to explore how to implement the missional challenge.

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. It was especially appreciated during the pandemic lockdown.

## **Ecumenical Relationships**

Few events were held as the Free Church was also in Interregnum, but with the appointment of the Reverend Phil Nevard good relations have been resumed and all three ministers officiated at the Remembrance Day service.

## **Financial Review\_**

The financial statements attached to this report show total net income of £66598.73, and expenditure of £64254.53, resulting in a surplus, before revaluations, of £2344.20, which, when depreciation of capital assets is deducted, and the gain in value of investment assets added, results in a positive movement in overall funds of £1740.27. This outcome is better than had been

expected, but only because payment for phase 2 of the new audio-visual system, at a cost of £10260.76, was delayed until January 2022.

Although this is not, on the face of it, a particularly strong outcome, it has been achieved against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, which prevented any fundraising events from taking place. Regular giving was 7% lower than in 2020, mainly as a result of the loss of a couple of generous standing orders, and one-off donations were also lower, but a substantial legacy almost compensated for this. A total of £6273.96 was received from the Community Hall Management Committee as the annual balancing transfer, all of which was added to the Hall Restricted Fund, as it had been received as a grant from SCDC for the exclusive benefit of the Hall, to help it cope with the impact of lost lettings income due to the pandemic. This resulted in a balance on the Hall restricted fund of £25058.42 at the year end.

A total of £6033.18 was spent on maintenance of buildings and renewal of fittings during 2021; £3346.20 of which was spent on urgent parapet repairs, £416.60 on architect's fees, £700 on a contribution towards the cost of a new Hall gate pier, and £410 on organ maintenance. The Ministry Share of £41487.82 was 7.6% higher than in 2020, but is increasing by £15451 to £56938.80 (a 37.2% increase in just a single year) in 2022, as Granta Deanery, given hardship in other parishes, has finally had to end its generous subsidy, meaning we will pay the full Ministry Share, going forward.

Over the year, there was an overall decrease in general funds of 10.3% to £58322.52, and an increase in restricted funds of 12.2% to £77646.24. This is an unwelcome trend and will need to be compensated for over the next few years.

2022 will be an extremely challenging year financially, with the delayed payment for phase 2 of the new audio-visual system, greatly increased energy costs, and the huge increase in Ministry Share. Without support from beyond the church community, we anticipate a reduction in overall funds of between £20000 and £25000, as a result.

## **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. The Safer Recruitment process will enable us to keep a closer contact with all volunteers and to support them in their ministries.

## **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 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. The licensed lay minister was appointed at the APCM to serve to the next APCM, and one person was co-opted to the PCC during 2021. 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 2020 with an average attendance of 92%. 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.

#### **Worship Team**

This was established at the start of the Interregnum to undertake the practical arrangements for worship, while we were without an incumbent.

The Parish Representatives along with those from Babraham, representatives of the Patrons and the Rural Dean and Archdeacon interviewed the candidate for the incumbency and appointed the Reverend Kathryn Waite.

The PCC welcomed the Reverend Kathryn Waite when Bishop Stephen inducted her on 22 June. Attendance was limited but many aspects of village life were represented and refreshments in the churchyard were enjoyed by all.

## **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 New 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 2021 are:**

Vicar:	The Reverend Kathryn Waite (chairman) from 22 June
LLM	Jose John
Churchwardens	Andrew Overitt and Marian Watson (vice- chairmen)
Synod Representatives	David Bard and Andrew Overitt

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

Co-opted member was The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft.

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.

The PCC appointed Jennifer Crompton and Simone Few as Safeguarding Officers and they put in train measures to ensure compliance with the latest guidance. The PCC adopted a Safer Recruitment Policy and is gradually implementing this.

*Compiled by Mary Dicken and Robert Richmond to reflect the position on 31 December 2021.*

Approved by the PCC on 17 March 2022.

Signed on their behalf by Kathryn Waite, chairman.

## Gift Aid Report

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

At December 2021 16 donations are received via Standing Order: 14 of which are Gift Aided

8 people donate using weekly envelopes: 6 of which are Gift Aided

12 people donate through Parish Giving Scheme: 9 of which are Gift Aided

Gift Aid returns are claimed quarterly throughout the year.

The total tax reclaimed over the four quarters of 2020 is as follows:

Q1 (01.01.20-05.04.20) GASDS	£2515.25 including £198.25
Q2 (7.04.20-30.06.20) GASDS	£1240.5 including £18.75
Q3 (01.07.20-30.09.20) GASDS	£1219.13 including £35.13
Q4 (01.10.20-31.12.20) GASDS	£1213.25 including £47.75

Parish Giving Scheme donations for 12 months £15294.15

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has remained static during 2021. 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 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and claims Gift Aid entitlement on your behalf. Pays Gift Aid into the PCC account once it is received from HMRC usually on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. 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. For up to date information please take a look at their website.

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  
April 2022

## SAWSTON PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARY 2022 FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

There have been three Fabric Committee meetings held in the church since the last AGM. Although Brian Page agreed to act as chairperson only during the interregnum Rev. Kathryn Waite had no objections to him continuing and this was also agreed by other members.

Fabric Committee members: David Bard, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Suella Hunting, David Holloway, Brian Page, Paul Shakeshaft, Rev Kathryn Waite and Marian Watson.

The main matters arising from the meetings are set out below.

### **2020 Quinquennial Report**

It was agreed that all the priority AA,A and B items set out in the quinquennial report should be actioned. A fee proposal from the architect, Ashley Courtney, was received for producing tender documentation so that a minimum of three tenders could be obtained to clarify the costs needed for the works. The tender documents have now been completed and are ready to be sent out to specialist contractors capable of carrying out repairs to Listed buildings.

In addition to works set out in the quinquennial report the Fabric Committee requested the clerestory windows become operable once more to improve church ventilation during the summer months.

### **Laser Projector**

The installation is now complete but there are still some teething problems. Spectrum Stone have made good around the supporting bracket and the cost for this work has been settled by Absolute. The church electrician needs to review the availability of mains sockets to reduce the risk of tripping the RCD's.

### **South Aisle Door**

A quotation has been requested to replace the timber steps leading out into the churchyard via the south aisle with the original one high step being replaced by two. It was agreed that the internal steps should be replaced as soon as possible. BP agreed to submit proposals for the new stone threshold to the DAC in order to obtain a List B approval. Once DAC consent has been received the external flagstones can also be lowered so that the top step is flush to the churchyard ground level.

### **Burial Ground**

There has been a large amount of ground disturbance in the churchyard by moles that could cause damage to the mowers and so it was agreed the moles should be deterred. It was found that the boundary walls/fences between the churchyard and the Sawston Hall appear to be the responsibility of the church based on a document dating from the time the Hall was sold to the Cambridge Language School. Some repairs to the red brick wall are contained within the quinquennial works schedule.

### **Pugin Brasses**

Quotation still awaited from the Skillington Workshop to restore these memorials to their original condition.



### **Silver Candlesticks**

it was agreed that James of Saffron Walden should be approached to provide a quotation for repairing them and for re-gilding the high altar cross.



Brian Page  
Chair of Fabric Committee

## **Granta Deanery Synod Report to St. Mary's APCM, April 2022**

Granta Deanery Synod held three main meetings between April 2021 and April 2022. In addition additional sessions were held to discuss 'Living in Love and Faith' (19<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, Hinxton Village Hall) and Deanery Planning (12<sup>th</sup> March, St. Mary's Church, Linton). The main synod meetings were held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 (Holy Trinity, Balsham), 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 (All Saints, Little Shelford) and 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 (All Saints, Harston). All meetings were held entirely in person.

At the July, 2021 meeting, the synod received a presentation from Sarah Jorgenson on 'Hope into Action'. This charity had been set up in 2021 in Peterborough to house homeless people, especially ex-offenders. As well as providing housing, the charity sought to engage churches in providing support for its tenants. The charity provides training for volunteers who wish to take up this role. Tenants stay on average, 18-24 months before moving on to more permanent accommodation. Currently the charity had 90 houses, 280 tenants and 75 churches involved in 25 different locations.

It was reported that the plan to establish a deanery mental health first aid (MHFA) group to signpost people to mental health resources was proceeding. A number of training options had been identified and work was being undertaken to establish whether a parish-based scheme could be set up.

The Revd. Simon Talbot, Rural Dean, reported that General Synod would again be unable to conduct its next meeting in person. That meeting scheduled for the following weekend (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July) would be the last in the present cycle and elections would be held during the late Summer. The term of the outgoing synod had been extended from five to six years due to the pandemic.

Jenny Duke gave an update on YOUTHINC, thanking parishes for their support. The project had been in existence for five years with the aim of giving young people over 8 years old, in the deanery access to Christian youth work. Youth worker Sam Graham had moved to a new post and a replacement was being recruited. Ten parishes had benefitted from Sam and Storm's (intern) work. Although YOUTHINC had some reserves

and was applying for grants, further funding would be needed and parishes would be asked for further contributions in January.

Giving, and fund raising by parishes had been significantly diminished by the pandemic and it was likely that several parishes would be unable to meet their full ministry shares for 2021. It was anticipated that, as a consequence, deanery reserves would be reduced by £27,000 by the end of the year.

The November meeting began with a presentation from Julie Norris on the ethical implications of creating, storing and using embryos and the issues involved in reconciling modern understandings of human reproductive biology with traditional teaching. Several members present were professionally involved in active research in this field and a lively discussion ensued.

Simon Talbott reported that seven members from the diocese (four clergy and three lay) had been voted onto the General Synod. He was pleased to have been returned and he congratulated Felicity Cooke from Stapleford who had been newly elected.

David Parry-Smith gave an update on mental health first aid (MHFA). Originally, it had been suggested that volunteers would take a two-day certificated course, but an alternative route via the Heart and Soul Wellbeing service, located within the Cambridge & Peterborough Foundation Trust had been suggested. Work was currently being undertaken to establish a parish based approach to the promotion of mental health and wellbeing. It was suggested that a meeting of interested volunteers should be convened.

A short presentation on the work of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) was given. The RSCM had been recently reorganised under the direction of Hugh Morris. Moves towards modernisation included greater priority being given to safeguarding issues and an extension of its remit to include worship song and the provision of music in services when no choir or worship band was available.

The date for the annual deanery fair was fixed for 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 (10am – 12noon).

It was announced that Simon Talbott had been invited to become the Bishop's senior chaplain. He would therefore be moving to Chippenham, near Newmarket and resigning as rural dean. He asked for prayers for his new rôle.

Jenny Duke reported that YOUTHINC was still looking for a new youth worker. A very successful concert for girls between 9 & 13 had recently been held. It was intended to follow this up with a similar event which would also include boys.

At the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> March, the new Rural Dean, Revd, Michael Wilcockson was introduced.

It was reported that almost 90% of the 2021 ministry share requests had been met and the Treasurer, Michael Younger, thanked PCC treasurers and congregations for their efforts in achieving this. Of 24 parishes in the deanery, 19 met their full share in 2021. It was anticipated that a further four would meet their share in full in 2022. Parishes which had not already done so were urged sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme.

Michael Wilcockson reported on how discussions on 'Living in Love and Faith (LLF)' were proceeding in parishes. Some had already fed back to LLF. The deanery was

willing to support parishes which had not yet embarked on the process, but would like to do so. Discussion was scheduled to take place a General Synod in February 2023. Feedback was requested from parishes by 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

The recent presentation by Bishop Dagmar on deanery planning (12<sup>th</sup> March, Linton) was reported on and a discussion ensued on the best way to move this forward, at both parish and deanery level. Fincham and Feltwell had already completed the process and it was agreed to circulate relevant documents from this source. (The meeting to discuss deanery planning has been the subject of a separate report.)

Meetings of potential volunteers had been held recently to discuss mental health first aid. It was envisaged that the role of the mental health first aider would be non-interventionist, but would provide first line help by listening and signposting to a variety of support such as G.P. services, helplines and networks. It had been agreed that the way forward was through a formal two-day course offered by Adult MFHA England. Four individuals had expressed an interest in undertaking this training, but since the cost was £300 per head, the deanery had been asked for financial support for two places. It had been suggested that each parish might be asked to contribute £50. Although the training would be for individuals, those trained would be able to form small groups to pass their experience to others. It was agreed to fund two places plus reasonable travelling expenses.

Jenny Duke reported that all the groups set up by the previous youth workers were flourishing, but it had still not been possible to appoint a new youth worker. The position would be re-advertised and the possibility of linking with other churches which already had youth worker provision with a view to creating a full-time post was being investigated.

Deanery synod meetings for the remainder of 2022 will be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July at Bartlow and Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at Ickleton.

David Bard  
Andy Overitt  
(Deanery Synod Representatives)  
April, 2022

## **Sawston Tower Captain Report 2022**

It has been just over two years since we last held an AGM, in the November prior to the Covid-19 pandemic when lockdown caused all ringing to cease at various points from March 2020 onwards.

Online Zoom sessions were organised during 2020 for the band to "meet" and once some of the restrictions were lifted during the Summer of 2020, ringing in small groups was possible. During this time we rang in short bursts for services on 3 or 4 bells including Rev. Alan Partridge's last service at Sawston and also held hand bell practices in the Church at Sawston. Unfortunately this was halted again in November 2020 as lockdown returned. A single bell was tolled for Remembrance Sunday of this year and ringing was possible for the Christmas Eve Crib service during a temporary pause in some restrictions.

During 2021, restrictions were gradually lifted and we have been able to gradually resume practices at Sawston on the 1st and 3rd Fridays, and Pampisford on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Sunday service ringing at Pampisford has been taking the form of a Quarter Peal on the 1st Sunday of the month, service ringing at Sawston is yet to resume on a regular basis but we did ring for the Rev. Kathryn Waite's Induction, Remembrance Sunday and also the Christmas Eve Crib service again. The tenor was tolled on the day of the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

So far, 2022 has been restriction free and we have continued to practice regularly. We were saddened to hear the news that Stuart Abercrombie, former Tower Captain passed away on the 4th March this year and a Quarter Peals were rung at Sawston and Pampisford.

Through all of this, we have however, managed to retain all of our ringers and learners in fact, have gained an established ringer and a new learner. Practices have been attended by the local band but we have struggled at times without our previously regular experienced visitors and Perry People. This issue was raised at the Cambridge District ADM in January 2022 and the Perry Person scheme is restarting, we have already had help from them for which we are very grateful.

Finally, thank you very much to everyone for their continued help and support for ringing at Sawston and Pampisford.

## **Steeple Keeper's Report 2022**

### **Sawston:**

Ropes - New set fitted in 2020 and remain in excellent condition.

Fittings - 1886 and are all heavily worn but remain safely and fully operational, albeit in a rather hard going fashion. Require ongoing monitoring and occasional repairs / reconditioning. Clappers are exceptionally worn and therefore the instruments are significantly odd struck throughout. Soundbows are also exceptionally worn internally and are becoming exacerbated by the increasingly poor condition of the clappers. Soundbows worn externally on bells 2,3,4,7 & 8 due to impaction of the clock chiming hammers.

Muffles: Second hand 'double' set purchased 2021 from Worcester Cathedral.

Other: Industrial Vacuum cleaner purchased 2021 and tower cleaned. Sound control in good working order.

Clock chimes: Cambridge Quarters currently non-operational (not our responsibility to fix)

Pending work - None currently planned but a full overhaul of the installation is currently several decades overdue (a 50 year overhaul was due in 1936 - this work remains pending). Bells would require quarter turning & re-tuning as part of re-hanging work.

## **Community Hall Report March 2021 – March 2022**

Covid 19 continued to have a huge effect on the Hall which had been closed to Hirers in March 2020 and only reopened in gradual stages (April and September) during the second half of 2021. We were very grateful for the continued advice and support from ACRE (of which we are a member).

### **Maintenance**

Maintenance continued despite the Hall being closed and we are very grateful to Kath, our cleaner, who checked the Hall frequently during the various lockdowns. Kath gave up her post in October and though sad to lose her we were very pleased to welcome Kirsty Redden in her place. Kirsty slotted well into the team and we continue doing our best to offer Hall facilities to Regular and Occasional Users.

John Poulter also joined the Committee in the Autumn. His help has been invaluable (for many years) with the maintenance of the hedge and tidying of the grounds and latterly we have been very grateful for his plumbing skills.

In Spring 2021 the brick pier at the end of the Vicarage Drive was replaced by the Diocese. This was an arrangement with the PCC and the Hall Committee were not

involved (other than to check the work in progress as it affected Hall Users and to ensure that the metal gates to the Hall were rehung correctly).

As reported last year other maintenance in early 2021 included refelting/reroofing two of the sheds. There were no other maintenance projects in 2021.

### **Accounts**

The Hall accounts are in the Appendix. Our profit for 2021 was £609.01 ie the amount transferred to the PCC as the excess over our base level of £9,000. In view of reduced bookings it was amazing that we made a profit in 2021, especially since we had continued to pay the PCC our customary £500/quarter. Many thanks to Jeanette and Kath who both refused to accept payments whilst the Hall was closed.

### **Latest Update**

There have been many changes to our Regular Users because of the pandemic – things are still settling but bookings are increasing again and children's parties have restarted too! We try to maintain a mixed balance of activities amongst our Regular Users and are always happy to help starter groups.

As usual thanks are due to all the Hall Committee members for the diligent work they put into ensuring the smooth running (or safe closure) of the Hall. It has been another strange year but I'm glad to report that the Hall is once again in full use as a community facility for St Mary's and Sawston. It is good news that the Church Craft Group has been meeting again for some months, Soup and Sandwiches will restart in May and Jumble Sales are being planned!

**Sue Hunting,**  
11 April 2022

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

Jeanette Harvey (Booking Secretary), Gerry Holloway (Treasurer), Suella Hunting (Chairman),  
Les Hylton, Jane Moloney, John Poulter (from Oct 2021), Hilary Streeter (Minutes Secretary)

## **St Mary's Craft Group Report for the annual PCC Meeting May 2021 - April 2022**

At the end of September 2021 the Craft Group was finally able to resume holding our monthly meetings, after what had seemed like a very extended break.

Following completion of a variety of forms now required by the Diocese, together with a Risk Assessment regarding our use of the Community Hall, all was in place to start holding our regular meetings.

There was quite a strict requirement to be met regarding disinfecting all the surfaces, tables, chairs, door handles, kitchen area and toilets prior to and after meetings and of course we had to have doors and windows open to ensure reducing the chance of Covid19 being passed on. However, it was all worth it to be able to resume our face to face contact - even if it was wearing masks to begin with!

In the interests of hygiene it was felt that it would be helpful, albeit more expensive, if our refreshments were in the form of individually wrapped biscuits. Members do generally bring their own mugs with them, but disposable (bio-degradable) mugs were available for those who needed them. All members were very co-operative in observing all the safety measures in place and plenty of hand sanitisers were available. Only four chairs were placed around each table to enable social distancing.

Our numbers were slightly reduced as during the previous year four members moved out of the area, one member sadly died and two members have not been able to return to attending meetings as their health meant mixing with other people was a danger for them. We were very sad to lose Rachel Burton who died at the end of October 2021, having been one of the kindest, most generous and hugely skilled knitters of the group.

Nevertheless we have been able to respond to a request for baby blankets (Moses basket size) to be knitted for the Besom charity, which Becca Herrick kindly passed on for us, and a lot of the members are still making and donating to various charities. I do get asked when we are going to be able to have a Craft stall at a Church fund raising event, as members are always very happy to donate the results of their "crafting" to what was our regular stall in the past.

During recent months we have been lucky enough to receive two donations of wool and various other craft items, one from a lady who was down sizing and needed to part with a huge amount of knitting wool and Becca was contacted to ask if the Craft Group could use it. Needless to say we were delighted and very grateful to receive such a donation and much of it has been put to good use by members of the group.

We were also pleased and grateful to receive a large donation of craft items from Eric Jacobs, whose late wife was a very keen crafter, and these too have been made use of by members of the group.

There was a small but happy gathering for our "Christmas" meeting and members all brought along a photo of themselves as a child/baby and we did our best to identify who they grew up to be. Members also brought along some craft items that they had made

either recently or some time ago. Everyone gave a short talk about what they had made and the variety and standard of skills was very impressive.

Our numbers have increased by a small amount, but it is quite understandable that members must feel "safe" about attending, but even if they are not able to make every meeting, it is still good to see them whenever possible.

It is regrettable that we have not been able to make our usual donation to St. Mary's Church as we have done in the past, but having had so few meetings over the last two years there have not been any spare funds.

We continue to ask only for a voluntary contribution of a suggested amount of £1.00 at the meetings, but people who have been able to make use of the donated wool and craft items have been very generous in making a donation to club funds. It is because of their generosity that I have felt more than happy to ensure that all members received a small gift and card at Christmas and Easter will be celebrated with Hot Cross Buns!

As always, my grateful thanks to Jane Maloney who comes before every meeting to put out the tables and chairs, and then returns at the end of each meeting to put them all away again. Also thanks to my "assistants" Dorothy Ward and Geraldine Stott for their help and support.

The group look forward to another year, hopefully without any more lockdowns, so that we can continue meeting, doing our craft work - and possibly, most importantly, being able to maintain the happy atmosphere found at our meetings.

Tina Casey, St. Mary's Craft Group







# Sawston Youth Group Ltd

Chairman: Paul Whitmell, 82b High Street, Sawston, Cambs, CB22 3HJ

## CHURCH AGM REPORT – SAWSTON YOUTH GROUP

This report covers the year from April 2021 to April 2022.

This is a big and exciting year for SYG as it marks our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when we first started in September 2001 with the help of Rev Giles Kendall, Kevin McMullen (then Principal at SVC) and Gerry Holloway.

The group went ahead with a summer residential at Foxlease in the New Forest in July 2021 which was attended by Kathryn. Although numbers were lower everyone that attended had a great time.

The group restarted Monday night face to face activities in September 2021. We also restarted our band on a Thursday night.

When we restarted in September 2021 our numbers were much lower than pre lockdown as we restarted with around 40 young people (we went into lockdown with 52) but since then we have had many new members join so today (March 2022) we have 59 young people in membership across school years 1 to 12.

We have also gained some new leaders in both general activities as well as band staff and in total we now have 24 volunteer leaders on the role.

Our enrolment service was held at church on the 4<sup>th</sup> October with a full church. We gave every member a 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary metal badge.

In October 2021 we planned and led a band tour to Manchester and Blackpool. In total we organised a 5 day event with many bands and young people with a parade through Manchester City Centre to a service at Manchester Cathedral. Over 400 people attended. We also played on the Blackpool Comedy Carpet by the Blackpool Tower to many hundreds of people. The aim of the tour was to restart band work in the Boys' Brigade and the tour included over 10 different groups from across the UK.

Our Carol Service was held in December 2021 to a full church.

We meet every Monday evening at the Marven Centre with a variety of programme activities including games, crafts and nights out and each week includes a devotional time of 20mins.

We held our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in Ely Cathedral in January 2022 which was attended by just under 100 people including Rev Alan Partridge and Liz, our vicar and her husband, the Superintendent Minister of the Ely Methodist Circuit and of course Bishop Stephen. Also supporting the group was Mark Chennells from the Royal British Legion, Gerry Holloway and Kevin McMullen, Tony Collett from the Rotary Club and Jonathan Russell, Principle from SVC. In addition, the dinner was attended by former leaders of the group, current leaders and supporting parents and friends. It was a marvellous occasion with music co-ordinated by Will Farrant including Pipers from London and a brass accompaniment.

The speeches were led by myself, followed by Oliver Borley (a former member), Rev Alan Partridge who also read a statement from Rev Giles Kendall (now retired and living in New-

castle) and finally by Bishop Stephen. All praised the group for what it does week on week and gave thanks to God for its Christian witness in the Sawston area.

Since SYG was formed in Sept 2001 we have awarded 35 Bronze, 24 Silver and 19 Gold DofE Awards which is something we are all very proud of.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show was held on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marven Centre which was full. All who came to watch were inspired by what we do and all enjoyed the show. The feedback to the show was very positive from all that came.

The guest of honour was Kevin McMullen who spoke of the good work the group has done over the past 20yrs. The band gave an excellent performance and the show included a tribute to those who have supported the group but who are no longer with us.

Our band continues to meet every Thursday at SVC and is also increasing in numbers. We are booked to play this summer at the Kedington Fete, near Haverhill and to lead the Saffron Walden Carnival on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>. The band will also perform at the Sawston Fun Run in May.

Looking to the future we are holding our annual residential at The Vauxhaul Christian Centre, Suffolk in July 2022 which will be led by Paul Cain. We are now also planning our outdoor summer programme of activities which will include canoeing and archery.

This has been a very busy and exciting year for SYG.

All the events for our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary have gone well and the group is in very good shape to grow and develop in the future.

Given where we started from back in September 2021 this is quite remarkable. My belief is that this is a tribute to prayer and God's love for the group as He has been holding our hand in all our events and activities. For me it resembles the poem "Footprints in the Sand" as many of us feel God has carried us through the bad times and is now walking side by side with us as we now develop and grow.

Today SYG is one of the largest voluntary youth groups in Sawston and probably in South Cambs and I hope something St Mary's can be very proud of.

If you know of anyone in school years 1 upwards who would like to give us a try, please encourage them to come along on a Monday evening.

Paul Whitmell  
Chairman

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