

St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston

Election of Churchwardens: 29 April 2021

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (15 October 2020)
3. Election / Appointment of Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 29 April 2021

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting (15 October 2020)
3. Election of up to THREE members of the Parochial Church Council, to serve for THREE years.
Appointment of Jose John to the PCC ex officio for one year.
4. Electoral Roll report (Janet Martin) The revised roll can be consulted on the notice board in Church.
5. Annual Report for 2020 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 2020 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. Any other matters of parochial or general Church interest

Monday House Group (Sarah Bard)
Community Hall Report (Suella Hunting)
Craft Group (Christine Casey)
Flower Arranging Report (Barbara Hylton)
Magazine Committee Report (Dianne Conway)
Mothers' Union Report (Mary Richmond)
PMC (Rebecca Herrick)
Prayer at St Mary's (Dianne Conway)
Refresh (Sarah Bard)
Safeguarding (Mary Dicken)

Minutes of the meetings in 2020

Election of Churchwardens

This took place on Thursday 15 October 2020 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 Margaret Davis, Mary Dicken, Rosemary Feuell, Rebecca Herrick, David Holloway, Katharine Holloway, Suella Hunting, Josephine John, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Janet Martin, Jane Moloney, Andrew Overitt, Brian Page, Canon John Pinder, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond, Stephen Roughley, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, Marian Watson.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from Barbara Hylton.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (11 April 2019)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, with the removal of Robert Richmond from the list of those present, on the proposition of Hilary Streeter seconded by Josephine John and signed by the chairman.

3 Election of Churchwardens

Andrew Overitt was nominated by Mary Dicken and seconded by David Bard. Marian Watson was nominated by Rebecca Herrick and seconded by Suella Hunting.

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 and in the prolonged interregnum.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This took place on Thursday 15 October 2020 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 Margaret Davis, Mary Dicken, Rosemary Feuell, Rebecca Herrick, David Holloway, Katharine Holloway, Suella Hunting, Josephine John, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Janet Martin, Jane Moloney, Andrew Overitt, Brian Page, Canon John Pinder, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond, Stephen Roughley, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, Marian Watson.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from Barbara Hylton.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (11 April 2019)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, with the removal of Robert Richmond from the list of those present, on the proposition of Hilary Streeter seconded by Josephine John and signed by the chairman.

3 Election of up to two members of the deanery Synod to serve for three years

David Bard was proposed by Marian Watson and seconded by Andrew Overitt. Andrew Overitt was proposed by Mary Dicken and seconded by David Bard.

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

4 Election of up to three members of the PCC to serve for three years

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
John Crompton	Susan Lowdell	Dorothy Butler
Suella Hunting	Mary Dicken	Hilary Streeter
Susan Lowdell	Marian Watson	Rosemary Feuell

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.

5 Electoral Roll

Janet Martin presented the revised Electoral Roll, with eighty-nine names on it, seven being non-resident. One incorrect name would be amended and a new version displayed in Church. Thanks were expressed to Janet for all her hard

work. It was proposed by Jane Moloney and seconded by Brian Page that the Roll be accepted and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

6 Annual Report for 2019

The report was received, with thanks being expressed to the secretary. The report was accepted on the proposition of Hilary Streeter, seconded by John Crompton, all voting in favour.

7 The Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2019

Robert Richmond reported. Thanks were expressed to Robert Richmond for all his hard work on the proposition of Brian Page. Robert Richmond further reported that there had been a significant shift in the way people give since 2018 with the growth of the Parish Giving Scheme, under which £1300 per month is now given. Interest on our new savings account with Redwood Bank led to the marked increase in total interest and dividends earned between 2018 and 2019. £1028 had been paid to the printers of the magazine so payments were now up to date. The balance of the cost for the PCC Away Day had been met in 2020. The cost of the new A/V system, £12749.92, has been capitalised from 1 January 2020, and will be depreciated in future accounts by 20% per annum (linear) until the end of 2024. The statements were accepted on the proposition of Brian Page seconded by Mary Dicken, all voting in favour.

Marian Watson's report Gift Aid for 2019 was received. Marian was thanked for all she had done.

8 Appointment of Independent Examiner

David Thompson was proposed by Marian Watson and seconded by Robert Richmond, and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

9 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Mary Dicken reported. A Presentation was made to Roger Mansfield and Robert Richmond in appreciation of their work in the Burial Ground over many years. The name of David Bard should be added to the list of Fabric Committee members. Some problems with the north parapet will be investigated by Ashley Courtney

10 Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

David Bard and Andrew Overitt reported on Deanery Synod proceedings during the year.

11 Matters of Parochial and General Church Interest

1) Other reports

These were received from

Monday House Group Group	Sarah Bard
Community Hall report	Suella Hunting
Craft Group	Christine Casey
Flower Arranging	Barbara Hylton
Magazine Committee	Rosina Whitmell
Mothers' Union report	Mary Richmond
Partnership for Missional Church	Anna Lovewell
Prayer at St Mary's	Dianne Conway
Refresh	Sarah Bard

Sawston Youth Group
Safeguarding
World-wide Mission Committee
Diocesan Synod

Paul Whitmell
Margaret Davis
Susan Lowdell
David Bard

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:11 with prayers.

Mary Dicken, Secretary to the PCC

Electoral Roll 2020 - 21

There are 89 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 during the pandemic and there has been no change.

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

13 April 2021

2020 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 31 August 2020, 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 grass cutting in 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 March to July and again in November. In addition, the vicar retired on 31 August, so the parish has been in interregnum since then.

Worship and Prayer

From January to March the PCC offered a variety of opportunities for worship. The daily round of Morning and Evening Prayer was maintained by a devoted few. The pattern of Holy Communion at 9.15am and the less formal Open Door service at 10.45am was maintained. During lockdown all services have been available on Zoom, with services held in Church subject to the rules in force at each particular time. A service for families, Muddy Church, was held in the Churchyard, when permitted. Several trails were set up around the churchyard for those from the village to access. We welcomed The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft back to St Mary's and she has PTO for Sawston, while Rosemary Feuell is training to become an LLM. We are also grateful to The Reverend John Pinder for celebrating at some Eucharist services.

At the close of 2020 there were 86 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 9 of whom are not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance in person in Church, counted in October, was 38 adults and 4 children. There were 22 communicants at Christmas. The Christmas services held for the community had few worshippers in person, but over 1000 tuned in to the streamed versions.

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 did not celebrate any baptisms, because of the pandemic. There was one wedding and we held 15 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 finalised so a faculty can be obtained. The architect carried out the Quinquennial Inspection in November and his report was received. Implementing it will be a priority for 2021. Some urgent work on the aisle and north porch roofs was carried out.

Robert Richmond and Roger Mansfield maintained the burial ground to the usual high standards. They indicated their wish to retire from this task and were thanked for their huge contribution. The usual working parties could not take place.

The Community Hall continued to thrive and to be very extensively used by the community it serves until the end of March. After that it was closed to hirers but the church office continued to operate.

Pastoral Care

Up to the end of March the vicar 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 also devoted much time to the comfort of the bereaved. In the pandemic care was taken to ensure regular contact with all members of the Church family and that their needs were provided for.

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 Camfed, Romsey Mill, USPG and Age UK.

We co-operated with The Royal British Legion for the much-reduced Remembrance Sunday commemoration.

In the Partnership for Missional Church journey, the process moved on to exploring 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 has been especially appreciated during the pandemic lockdown.

Ecumenical Relationships

Joint events were held virtually to mark Good Friday and Pentecost.

Financial Review

The financial statements attached to this report show total net income of £70614.56, and expenditure of £60030.70, resulting in a surplus, before revaluations, of £10583.86, to which are added a gain on revaluation of investments, and the new AV equipment purchases, now capitalised, resulting in a positive movement in overall funds of £21391.16.

This is particularly remarkable in a year during which most of the church's activities were restricted by the coronavirus pandemic. Although events income was limited to two jumble sales early in the year, this was largely offset by generous regular giving and one-off gifts, including quarterly transfers from the Community Hall, and total unrestricted giving was only slightly down from 2019

as a result. A total of £2697.95 was received from the Community Hall Management Committee as the annual balancing transfer, 67% of which was added to a restricted fund, to give a total of £18784.46 at the year end, for major items of repair, maintenance, and improvement to the Hall, as and when they arise.

After the substantial outlay on repairs and maintenance in 2019, only £2789.22 was spent on maintenance of buildings and renewal of fittings during 2020; the main contributor to the lower total outgoings. £1334.88 of this was spent on new bell ropes, and £746.15 on architect's fees re. building repairs, the cost of which will appear in the 2021 accounts. The Ministry Share of £38567.37 was 7.5% higher than in 2019, and will continue to increase by at least this amount for the next few years, placing increasing pressure on our funds.

2021 will be a financially challenging year, with substantial outlay on phase 2 of the new audio-visual system, urgent repairs highlighted by the recent quinquennial inspection, and a large increase in Ministry Share, so a significant overall loss for the year is highly likely. However, our finances continue to be sufficiently robust to cope with this, at least 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 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 two people were co-opted to the PCC during 2020. 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 95%. 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, but has not been active this year.

Worship Team

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

The PCC marked the retirement of The Reverend Alan Partridge with a special service and presentation, but in a sadly truncated form because of the pandemic. His huge contribution to village and Church life was celebrated and acknowledged widely.

The PCC prepared the Parish Profile and held the Section 11 meeting, appointing Rebecca Herrick and Andrew Overitt as Parish Representatives.

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 2020 are:

Vicar:	The Reverend Alan Partridge (chairman) to 31 August
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.

Co-opted members were The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft from June and Andrew Beale from November.

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 2020.

Approved by the Standing Committee on behalf of the PCC on 11 February 2021

Signed on their behalf by Andrew Overitt, vice-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 2020 19 donations are received via Standing Order: 16 of which are Gift Aided

16 people donate using weekly envelopes: 10 of which are Gift Aided

12 people donate through Parish Giving Scheme: 8 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 continued to grow during 2020. 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 10th 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 2021

Report on the Fabric of the Church

There have been two Fabric Committee meetings since the last AGM. A full meeting was held in the church, with Revd Alan Partridge chairing, on 25 June and the other held on 10 December via Zoom with Sue Hunting acting as host. Following that meeting Brian Page agreed to act as chairperson during the interregnum.

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

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

Urgent North Aisle and North Porch Roof Works

The current works being carried out on the north aisle, under the guidance of the church architect, are continuing. Most of the repairs have been completed but the weather has been too inclement for the lime mortars being used to set correctly. A date for completion has not yet been stated by the contractor. As can be seen there are still fenced off areas and tarpaulins left over the porch roof.

Quinquennial Report

A copy of the 2020 report, carried out by the church architect Mr Ashley Courtney, has been distributed to all fabric committee members. It sets out urgent maintenance works as well as the condition of the church building fabric both externally and internally. It is a comprehensive document that will take at least five years to implement.

Once 'lockdown' has been relaxed, a meeting of the fabric committee will be arranged in the church so that the proposed fabric works schedules can be viewed, and agreed, prior to instructing the architect to obtain tenders.

Laser Projector

A proposal to install a new laser projector has been received from Absolute who carried out the original A/V installation. The anticipated cost for this is £6,938.92 inclusive of VAT.

The laser projector will be located within the curtilage of the organ loft fixed to the north wall of the nave below the west end clerestory window on a purpose made white bracket. In this location the unique nave arcade (a mixture of Norman and Early English architecture) will be left clear.

We still await a response from the DAC regarding a Faculty. It is hoped that the projector can be added to the faculty already received for the screen that is to be erected over the chancel arch. If this is not acceptable to the DAC then a full Application for Faculty will have to be instigated. This can take up to three months to clear all the hurdles.

Burial Ground mowing

Roger Mansfield and Rob Richmond, after many years of valued service, have given up mowing the burial ground. The Vindis family still pay for it to be mowed once per month by Lilleys but in the growing season it does need additional maintenance. Persons to

take on this task are still awaited with David Holloway and his team of volunteers doing all they can to help in the meantime.

Brian Page
Acting Chair of Fabric Committee

Granta Deanery Synod Report for St. Mary the Virgin APCM

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Granta Deanery Synod met only once in the year beginning 1st April 2020. This meeting was held virtually by Zoom on 12th November, 2020.

Deanery Finance:

Michael Younger, the Deanery Treasurer, reported that due to the adverse effect of the COVID epidemic on donations and fundraising, a number of parishes would be unable to meet their Ministry Shares. It was therefore likely that the Deanery as a whole would fall short of its commitment by around £26,000. This meant that the Deanery would forfeit its rebate and reserves would be reduced by £11,000 – 12,000, leaving a balance of around £40,000. Reserves policy is to hold £25,000 which would cover two years of not receiving the rebate. If the Ministry Share were not met in 2021, reserves would be reduced to £28,000 - £27,000.

Granta Deanery Budget, 2021

Michael Younger thanked parish treasurers for their work over the year, he pointed out that the Deanery would receive £111,378 from the Diocese towards ministry costs. It was the final year in which ministry share would be adjusted to cover the actual costs of each benefice, but he confirmed that the 2016 arrangement did not assume that Sawston and Babraham's share would be met in full by 2021. The ministry share requested from the Deanery in 2021 was £19,000 less than in 2020. Some parishes would see a reduction and others a slight increase. There would be a contribution of £12,500 to Sawston/Babraham.

General Synod

Simon Talbott reported from the General Synod. The last physical meeting had been held in February, 2020. There had been short sessions held by Zoom informally in July and again in September to pass legislation to enable decisions to be made by online voting. The next meeting was scheduled for three days, by Zoom, at the end of November. The Church Commissioners had granted £70 million to the national church for distribution to dioceses and parishes. He also referred to the recently published report on sexuality, identity and marriage; '*Living in Love and Faith*'. It was intended that this should be studied by dioceses and parishes with feedback going to General Synod in 2022.

YOUTHINC

Jenny Duke gave a brief update on YOUTHINC and commended the Newsletter (circulated separately). A new youth worker, Sam Graham had started earlier in the year and an intern – Storm, had been appointed.

Vacancies

Although appointments had been temporarily frozen by the Diocese, the go-ahead had been given to start the appointment process for Sawston/Babraham and Hinckleux in 2021.

Diocesan Development Officer

Phil Marsh, Diocesan Development Officer and Mark Rodel, Diocesan Development Officer for Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Ministry introduced themselves. The meeting broke into discussion groups to consider the questions “What are you celebrating?” and “How is God working among us?” in view of the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID lockdown.

David Bard
Andy Overitt
07/04/2021

REPORT TO THE APCM 2021
THE MONDAY HOUSEGROUP APRIL 2020 to MARCH 2021

We have continued to meet regularly via zoom during the pandemic and have valued the views of newcomers and regulars alike this year.

In- house meetings were cancelled at short notice after we had completed three out of seven sessions of a Lent bible study called '*Humankind and creation care*' by Alan Partridge et al, based on Ruth Valerio's book '*Saying yes to life*' (SPCK) We took the decision not to continue it as it was a demanding course and we were all adjusting to the stresses of sudden lockdown.

We soon picked ourselves up however and met via zoom to simply read the Easter story together. We used a Lent book by Stephen Cotrell '*The things He said - the story of the first Easter Day*' (SPCK). It was a special time for us. We needed to focus on Jesus and find stability and peace together, reminding ourselves of God's changelessness.

For the summer term we chose a bible study called '*Waiting for God*' by Juanita Ryan (Lifebuilder Series). This was followed by some group reflections on the life of someone who had to wait quite a lot, the old testament character Joseph. The reflections were based on the excellent book '*Joseph*' by John Lennox (Crossway)

In the Autumn we enjoyed '*Church and Kingdom*', a Pilgrim Course (8.2)
Our Advent bible study was entitled '*Hope*' by John Birch (www.faithandworship.com)
After Christmas we started 2021 with *James - Faith that works* by Andrew & Phylis LePeau (Lifebuilder series)

It has certainly been wonderful to enjoy times of informal Christian fellowship together via zoom during pandemic restrictions. Praise God. May we be lead by him into the future.

Sally Bard (Co-ordinator)

Community Hall Report March 2020 – March 2021 + April update

Covid 19 has had a huge effect on the Hall which has been closed to Hirers since March 2020. All our 16 Regular User Groups have been unable to meet face to face and of course this has caused difficulties for them and for us.

Maintenance

Maintenance has continued despite the Hall being closed and we are very grateful to Kath, our cleaner, who has checked the Hall frequently throughout the year and run the taps/flushed the toilets to minimise the risk of Legionella. I must point out that Kath and Jeanette (Booking Secretary) have both insisted on working on a voluntary basis this year and we are very grateful to them.

Routine maintenance has continued as usual – boiler service, grass cutting etc etc. During the first lockdown John Poulter (Hall neighbour) kindly volunteered to paint the Hall gates. This was a very time consuming exercise and we thank him most sincerely. John is also our hedge-cutting volunteer!

Early in 2021 two of the three 'Church sheds' were leaking and they have now been refelted. One of them had to be completely reroofed.

Accounts

The Hall accounts are in the Appendix. Our letting income (Jan – Mar 2020) was £4,540 and later in the year we received a Covid support grant of £10,000 from South Cambs District Council. Hall expenditure for 2020 was £6,266.04. We have continued to pay St Mary's our customary £500/quarter (£2,000 pa).

April Update

As I write the rules of Lockdown 3 are starting to ease and we look forward to welcoming a children's exercise class back into the Hall from 23 April. We then have several adult exercise classes hoping to restart from 17 May.

Re-opening the Hall after lockdown has involved a great deal of work preparing a detailed Risk Assessment, Special Conditions of Hire etc. Committee members are fully aware of their responsibilities and happy to share these documents (we are also indebted to ACRE for their help and guidance during the pandemic). Many things have to be put in place as we 'return to normal' but we hope that some of them will only be needed for a short time.

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 a strange year but we hope that it won't be too long before the Hall is again in full use as a community facility for St Mary's and Sawston.

Sue Hunting, 16 April 2021

St Mary's Community Hall Management Committee:

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

St. Mary's Craft Group. May 2020 to April 2021

Sadly there is very little to report as for obvious reasons we have not been able to meet as a group since early in 2020.

During last summer when restrictions lifted slightly there were two occasions when a number of both St. Mary's Craft Group and the Wool 'n Tea group met up in the Challis Gardens. How lucky we are to have these wonderful gardens where we were welcome to sit and chat - observing a safe distance between one another of course.

Some members brought their craft projects with them, and there can be nothing more satisfying than being able to sit in a beautiful garden in the sunshine and work at crafts - or even just to sit and chat! Most of the members of St. Mary's Craft Group also belong to the Wool 'n Tea Group run by Judy Saunders, and there has always been a good working relationship and co-operation between the two groups.

I do hold some stock of craft items left over from the last Fairs held in 2019, which I hope will be sold whenever we are next able to hold another fund raising event for St. Mary's Church.

Face to face contact with other people is something we are all craving, and it will be wonderful when we can meet again as a Craft Group - and hopefully see some of the wonderful items that members have been producing during lockdown.

In view of us not being able to meet, I felt that the surplus funds from the group that I was holding should be donated to the Church, as we have done in past years. In October last year I handed in £100.00 to be allocated to the Hardship Fund, where it can be put to good use among the community. I did retain some funds to give a small gift along with a Christmas card to all the members, just to let them know that they have not been forgotten. I have also recently delivered Easter Cards to all the members and where I found people in, chatted to them on their doorsteps.

As I write this report the Community Hall Committee have just issued guidelines for the opening of the hall and in trying to understand the regulations, I think it looks as though it will still be some time before we can re-start meetings of the size we normally attract. I think that the members are all aware of our need for caution and patience.

Tina Casey
St. Mary's Craft Group

Flower Arranging Report

Firstly, I would like to report that all members of the Flower Team are well!

There has been limited flower activity in church since my last report in September 2020. Small and simple arrangements have been very much the normal over the last few months but nevertheless All Souls, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas were acknowledged with flowers. Flowers were also arranged for the funeral of our much loved and respected Thomas (Tom) Stamper.

Mothering Sunday 2021 fell during the 3rd Covid lockdown but thanks once again to our Mothers Union's generous donation of flowers and a willing team of volunteers, 70 posies of daffodils and lisianthus, a simple prayer card (designed by Petra) were delivered to members of our Church family. This simple act of kindness, thoughtfulness and caring should never be under estimated. The response has been quite overwhelming. I would like to extend my thanks to Petra and those who distributed the posies. Thank you!

It is uncertain at the time of writing this report when the flower team will resume arranging flowers in church again. Much depends on how the roadmap progresses as the various stages are unlocked and the knock on effects become apparent. There will undoubtedly be changes and I know the majority of the team are happy to return. This however will only be done if and when we can do so safely.

Barbara Hylton
March 2021

Magazine Committee Annual Report for 2020 – 2021

Four editions of St Mary's Church Magazine 'Communicate' have been published this year in June, September and November 2020 and in March 2021. The closure of the church due to the coronavirus pandemic meant fewer copies were printed and the magazines were sent out electronically and put on the church website. In June we had 60 copies printed. Since then with partial reopening of the church the number of printed copies has increased: September 140 copies, November 150 copies and March 170 copies. We will be monitoring our printing needs as the situation progresses. We are up to date with our invoice payments and have a balance of £849.72 in hand. We are grateful to all those who delivered printed magazines to their friends and neighbours.

The committee communicates via email and Dropbox. Rachel Norridge receives the original copy for each edition and does an initial proofread and corrections before Dianne Conway puts the magazine together. Rosie Whitmell designs the front 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. Rachel proofreads the draft copy before it goes to the printer. She also contacts our advertisers prior to the September edition asking them to check their advert and re subscribe. We were sad to lose Liz Partridge from the committee during the year. Her proofreading skills and editorial wisdom were much appreciated. Mary Dicken and Andrew Beale joined the committee during the year.

We have added some more advertising this year. There is currently one quarter page space available. 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.

We are grateful to everyone who contributes material for the magazine. Thank you. The next issue of 'Communicate' will be published on 5th June 2021. The deadline for contributions is Sunday 16th May 2021. We welcome new items, ideas and photographs of events. However, items submitted after the editorial date may not be included. So please make sure your contributions arrive by the editorial date. Thank you.

Dianne Conway on behalf of the magazine committee.

Sawston Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is an international Christian movement supporting families and communities in need of support in the UK and worldwide since 1876. Members are active in 84 countries and work tirelessly to serve their communities whilst offering Christian care for families, regardless of faith or background. In "normal" times, the Sawston branch meets on the first Thursday of each month for prayer, fellowship and talks on a variety of subjects. Our members support the work of Refresh, prepare flowers for Mothering Sunday, provide refreshments following the All Souls Day service and organise the World Day of Prayer when it is St Mary's turn to co-ordinate the Sawston service.

Owing to pandemic restrictions, Sawston Mothers' Union has not been able to meet in person since the World Day of Prayer service in March 2020. However, towards the end of 2020, it was decided to resume meetings on Zoom and Petra Shakeshaft kindly agreed to begin our meetings in 2021 by leading an online service on 14 January. The group is very grateful to Petra, and also to Rosey Feuell for agreeing to lead a number of our services and pre-meeting prayers.

The programme to the end of April 2021 was as follows:

14 January 2021	Service led by Petra Shakeshaft
18 February 2021	Service led by Petra Shakeshaft, with reflection by Rosey Feuell, followed by Annual General Meeting
11 March 2021	Lent reflection led by Rosey Feuell
25 March 2021	9.30am joint service with Stapleford Branch to mark the Feast of the Annunciation, led by Petra Shakeshaft
8 April 2021	Talk by the Teenage Cancer Trust

At the AGM, it was decided that, as some members were not using Zoom, the Secretary would try to obtain notes or hand-outs from speakers to be delivered or emailed to those members. At the AGM it was also decided to try to encourage more members of the church family, in particular younger members, to attend Mothers' Union meetings. It was hoped to promote some of the talks which might appeal to younger people at Open Door services and to try to raise awareness of Mothers' Union projects around the world. The talk by the Mothers' Union Diocesan President, entitled "The Modern Mothers' Union" on 3 June 2021 might serve to raise awareness of the work of the charity. The 2021 programme, which includes the relevant contact details, is attached. Anybody is welcome to attend Mothers' Union meetings, either occasionally or as full members.

Membership currently stands at seventeen. The officers, confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in February 2021, are as follows:

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

The accounts for 2020 were agreed at the AGM. The final balance on 31 December 2020 stood at £625.07 although a donation of £50 which was made in 2020 to the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo via the Big Give did not go through the accounts until January 2021.

Mary Richmond
Branch Secretary

Sawston Branch Programme 2021

All meetings will take place at 7.30pm on Zoom unless otherwise stated or unless it is agreed nearer the time to meet in person or at an earlier time of day.

NB: Please note that not all meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month.

18 February	Short service and AGM
<i>Friday 5 March</i>	<i>World Day of Prayer The service has been postponed to the Spring/Summer when it is hoped we may meet in person.</i>
11 March	Lent reflection led by Rosey Feuall
Sunday 14 March	Mothering Sunday
25 March 9.30am	Joint service with Stapleford – Feast of the Annunciation
Sunday 4 April	Easter Sunday
8 April	Teenage Cancer Trust – Judith Anderson or Yvonne Mackintosh
6 May	Family Cycle Touring – Yasmin Emerson
3 June	The Modern Mothers' Union - Hazel Williams, MU Diocesan President To be followed by short presentation by Rebecca Herrick on the Mum2Mum project.
1 July	Trinity Wall Street and St Paul's Chapel, Manhattan – Hilary Street
August	No meeting
2 September 2pm	Talk about Thomas Becket – Mary Dicken
7 October	Spiritual reflection on the Northern Lights – Rosey Feuall <i>Beforehand, you may like to think of any experiences of the natural world you may have had that you would like to share, especially if they have brought to mind a piece of scripture or have had a spiritual significance for you.</i>
4 November	Cambridge and Suffolk Volunteer Blood Runners – Les Hylton
2 December	Art and Prayer. How to “read” Christian paintings – Petra Shakeshaft
TBC December	Wave of Prayer
TBC December	Granta Deanery Advent Service

Contacts: Janet Martin, Branch Lead, 01223 835028
janetm.martin@ntlworld.com
Mary Richmond, Branch Secretary, 01223 832841
maryc.richmond@yahoo.co.uk

PMC Report to the APCM

The practical aspects of the PMC process, seeking and talking to people of peace, has been put on hold for the moment due to the other commitments of the PMC team. However, the team has continued to encourage each other and the church family to look for where God is at work around us. It has been a joy to watch many congregation members engaging with this idea over the months. We have also continued to encourage the practice of dwelling in the word where possible. We are conscious of the need to reflect on the year that has passed, as we consider where God wants us to move forward in the coming months. If you're interested in knowing more, or would like to get involved in the PMC team, please get in touch with Andy Overitt, Becca Herrick or Anna Lovewell.

April 2021

Prayer Evenings and Space to Be 2020 - 2021

Prayer Evenings continued during the past year on Zoom. Rosey Feuall led the April meeting which was a meditation entitled 'the Hidden Life of Christ' where we thought about Christ growing up. Rosey also led the August meeting entitled 'Praying by the Sea'. The October meeting was a Dwelling in the Word Prayer time using the 2 Corinthians 4. 1-12 Bible passage that the partnership for missional church team have been using. The January Prayer Evening planned by the Ely Diocese Spirituality team. Sadly no one attended this evening.

Numbers attending Prayer Evenings have dwindled. So Prayer Evenings will pause until later in the coming year when we have our new vicar and can meet in church.

As a church we responded to the Archbishops call to Pray for the Nation on Thursdays during November. Prayers were said on Thursdays at Holy Communion, at Coffee Morning, at Evening Prayer and at Compline.

Space to Be Prayer notes were sent out by email.

The themes have been:

May 2020 – Encountering the Risen Jesus

July 2020 – Images of the Spirit

September 2020 – Our Mission

November 2020 – Praying for the Nation.

January 2021 – Into the New Year

March 2021 –Lent thoughts

Hopefully it will not be too long before we can resume Space to be in church.

As we gradually emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, we must continue to pray for the healing of God's world and for our land.

'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.' 2 Chronicles Ch7 v 14

Dianne Conway

**REFRESH
PARENTS/CARERS, BABY AND TODDLER GROUP
APRIL 2020 TO MARCH2021**

We suspended Refresh meetings from 16th March when it became apparent that the corona virus pandemic was about to make an impact on everyone's normal way of life.

In May we launched 'Zoom to Refresh' endeavouring to offer a chance for parents/carers to chat to one another and to offer some low-key entertainment to the youngsters. This proved unworkable for them, so after three months we abandoned the idea. It had been worth a try.

Since then the Refresh helpers have met every few weeks via zoom to pray together for the families. This has been encouraging for us and we trust fruitful.

We are very excited that Refresh is on the brink of re-launching, as restrictions begin to lift, and are delighted that Joanne Beale, Becca Herrick and Simone Few have a vision for the future of Refresh. Both Joanne and Simone have had a baby during the pandemic restrictions. Becca writes:

"In April 2021 Refresh will be re-launched for parents/carers of babies under 12 months. We hope to run with the ethos of the old Refresh - a place of refreshment for those who have little ones in their care - alongside sticking within the current government guidelines for these groups. New parents are a group who have been particularly isolated during the pandemic and we hope that Refresh can go some way to supporting them, as we have done for so many parents over the years. Do pray for Refresh as it begins a new phase."

Thank you so much to the original small band of helpers now turned prayer supporters: Jane, Tina, Mary, Margaret, Jose, Agnes and Anne. We will certainly continue to support you in this way as Refresh is re-launched and meets together carefully in church.

Sally Bard (Retiring Refresh Co-ordinator April 2021)

Safeguarding

The usual DBS checks have been completed as necessary and all those involved with children or vulnerable adults have undertaken the appropriate training. PCC members are now embarking on basic training.

In accordance with safer recruitment recommendations, all lead roles in Church activities will have a role description and regular reviews and will be appointed directly by the PCC. All volunteers will be asked to fill in the forms relevant for their role. Once these processes have been completed we should be much more compliant with best safeguarding practice.

We are very grateful that Jennifer Crompton, assisted by Simone Few, will take over responsibility for safeguarding.

Mary Dicken – Secretary to the PCC

Sally Bard writes:

'I would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to Margaret Davis, who is retiring from her role as Safeguarding Officer. Margaret agreed to take on the role when her predecessor began to worship at another church. As I recall there were, understandably, not huge queues for this extremely important, rather onerous job.

The Diocese of Ely was still in the process of rolling out 'fit for purpose' training and recording systems and therefore moving the goalpost from time to time. This must have made the job all the more challenging, as did the fact that it was a novelty, for some of us, to have to comply with regular updates of training, CRB checks which became DBS checks etc, etc.

Thank you, Margaret. We all owe you a debt of gratitude.'

Sally Bard (ex Churchwarden)
April 2021

CHURCH AGM REPORT – SAWSTON YOUTH GROUP

This report covers the year from April 2020 to April 2021.

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

We have tried as best we can to engage with the young people via weekly zoom meetings with limited success. We probably have seen around 25% of our membership in the last year. When we went into lockdown, we had around 70 young people on our records, but we have no idea how many we shall have when we can restart.

We had to pay our annual insurance and capitation fees in November 2020 amounting to £1,860. We asked the Parish Council to help us as we have no income to cover this, and they kindly gave us £1,500 which was of great help.

We hope to be able to restart outdoor activities in June 2021 and if we are allowed, we plan to go ahead with our annual residential in the New Forest at the end of July 2021 when we hope our new vicar will join us.

We have applied for Covid 19 grants to help us restart but these are difficult to apply for and difficult to obtain.

The good news is that as far as I am aware, we have not lost any leaders and the SYG leaders are keen to get back involved. We are aware of other youth groups that have closed due to the pandemic, but we will definitely restart although I suspect, from a low point.

We did send out an Easter booklet to all our leaders and members – 129 were sent in total with two cream eggs and a colouring in competition with the words "I am loved". The booklet has a word search, crossword and many colouring in pictures relating to the Easter story. It is our way of getting the Christian Easter message to the young people and telling them that they are still loved, and we miss them.

These are difficult days for SYG with so much uncertainty so please hold us in your prayers.

Paul Whitmell
Group Chairman

World-wide Mission Committee Annual Report to the APCM April 2021

The Mission Committee members for the past year were: 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). Revd Alan Partridge served as a member of the Mission Committee until his retirement as Vicar of St Mary's and St Peter's in August last year. The committee has not met for the past year due to Government restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to the members of the Mission Committee for their support and words of encouragement during this past very strange year and I would like to thank especially Marian Watson for her contribution as Mission Committee Treasurer. In spite of the difficulties, we have been able to continue with the Mission Committee's main aim of supporting our chosen charities, and I would like to record my grateful thanks for the annual allocation of funds from the PCC to aid our work; it is very much appreciated.

Our chosen charities over the past year were as follows:

- (i) Romsey Mill, Cambridge: Home charity from 1st April – 30th June 2020.
- (ii) United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG): Overseas charity from 1st July – 30th September 2020.
- (iii) Age UK: Home charity from 1st October – 31st December 2020.
- (iv) Friends of the Holy Land: Overseas charity from 1st January – 31st March 2021.
This charity was chosen as a tribute to Alan.

No speakers have been invited to St Mary's to talk about their charities since 23rd March 2020 when lockdown started, but just prior to this date, on 12th March 2020, Helena Scholfield, Donor Engagement Officer, visited St Mary's, and those of us who were there that evening were treated to an excellent talk. CAMFED says that 'Educating Girls is the best investment we can make to alleviate poverty and create a safer world. It has an incredible multiplier effect, providing returns for generations.'

During the past year donations were sent to the following charities:

- (i) The Leprosy Mission: £300 (personally presented to Helen Walton)
- (ii) The Barnabus Fund: £200 went towards their project in Syria.
- (iii) CAMFED: £300
- (iv) Romsey Mill: £200.
- (v) USPG: £250
- (vi) Church Urban Fund: £350 (Lent Box Appeal)
- (vii) The Children's Society: £150 (£35 personal cheque) (Christingle Service)
- (viii) Age UK: £200

- (ix) Save the Children: £150 (Christmas Services)
- (x) USPG: £250

2020 Lent Box Appeal: Our chosen charity was Church Urban Fund. £350.00 was raised by the congregation of St Mary's and St Peter's from the Lent Boxes and from a Mission Committee fund raising coffee morning held on 8th February 2020.

2020 Christian Aid Week: With the church closed, the members of the congregation were encouraged to make a donation direct via the Christian Aid web page.

2020 Christmas Box Appeal: St Mary's made a wonderful contribution towards a final total of 74 Christmas Shoe Boxes collected by Sawston Free Church for onward transportation by Blythswood Care to adults and children in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

2021 Lent Box Appeal: Our chosen charity for this year is The Leprosy Mission in support of its special project in Mozambique, which will attract a matching contribution from the UK Government.

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to thank the PCC for their continued support, and to the congregation at St Mary's and St Peter's for their support and generosity. We know that we cannot take this support for granted and we pray to God that all continues to go well with the Government's vaccination programme, and that we may, later this year, be able to resume our lives once more.

Sue Lowdell, April 2021

Diocesan Synod Report for St Mary the Virgin, Sawston, APCM, 2021

The Ely Diocesan Synod met on three occasions during the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021; 7th October & 8th December, 2020 and 13th March, 2021. All meetings were held online via Zoom due the COVID pandemic.

The business of the Synod has, unsurprisingly, been much occupied by the effects of the pandemic. At the meeting of 7th October, members were invited to discuss in breakout groups their experiences of responding to lockdown by the use of remote services, community activities etc. Responses were mixed. Some feeling that online services had the potential to extend participation after lockdown, especially for the housebound and those reluctant to go out in severe weather whilst others pointed out that those unfamiliar with the technology might feel excluded.

The same meeting received a presentation from Rebecca Boswell, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and Jon Chapman, Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Liaison Group on the work of the safeguarding team's work over the previous year. The importance of ensuring that a positive culture of safeguarding good practice was well embedded at every level of church like was emphasised. Rebecca and her team were there to offer support in achieving this.

At the meeting of 8th December, Synod passed a motion supporting a new round of deanery development planning. This process will be comprehensive, looking not only at stipendiary clergy posts, but also the development of lay and ordained ministries as well as buildings finances and governance. This topic was returned to in the meeting of 13th March with a presentation from the Archdeacons. At this meeting members were invited, in breakout groups, to consider again what had been learned from the pandemic and what should be continued after it.

This meeting also received a presentation, including a short video, from the Revd. Canon Alison Myers (Chair of the House of Clergy) introducing the 'Living in Love and Faith' process. This was followed by a brief discussion in breakout groups. Since the report had only recently been published, most members had not had time to obtain and read it and it was agreed that a more careful and detailed engagement would take place in 2021.

The meeting of 13th March, 2021 to formally affirm and adopt the Covenant for Clergy Wellbeing, passed by General Synod in February, 2020. The motion committed the Diocese to implement it and more detailed proposals for implementation would be brought back to Synod during 2021.

The financial implications of the pandemic were discussed at all three meetings. At the meeting of the 13th March, Canon Atling was able to report that the large deficit anticipated in 2020 had turned out to be much less than had been anticipated and that, across the Diocese, 94% of the total requested ministry share had been received. Owing to the generosity of congregations and tight financial management, the deficit had been reduced to £600,000 on the year and it was not anticipated that any cuts in clergy posts would be necessary. He did point out, however, that 2021 would also be a very challenging year. Canon Atling again commended the Parish Giving Scheme and pointed out that during the past year, parishes which had adopted it had been more protected from the financial consequences of church closures and the inability to hold fundraising events.

Finally, members were reminded that elections to the Diocesan Synod would take place during the Summer of 2021 and the timetable for this was outlined.

David Bard

07/04/2021