

All Saints' Church, Yelvertoft

~ All for Jesus~



ANNUAL REPORTS 2020/21

“Encourage one another and build each other up ...”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Interregnum – Licensing Revd. Graeme Anderson 31/01/21

ALL SAINTS CHURCH – YELVERTOFT – ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PCC SECRETARY

The PCC continues to meet regularly. There have been 6 meetings (mainly in lockdown conditions via Zoom) since the last APCM with a further meeting due to take place via Zoom mid March just before this year's APCM. Each meeting is preceded by either Holy Communion or Evening Prayer which enables us a quiet reflective time to prepare for the meeting ahead and pray for God's guidance in the work that we do. The PCC will continue to meet regularly over the coming year, both via Zoom and, when lockdown restrictions permit, in person.

The meeting follows a regular agenda with members of the PCC presenting updates detailing the varied work that is required to keep the Church open for the whole community. Any major initiatives/repair work needs the approval of the PCC to proceed. As well as looking to the fabric of the building the PCC supports the rector in ensuring that mission and outreach is relevant and will allow our Church to thrive and grow.

We have this year bid farewell to Rev David Lake and wish him well in his retirement. We have also been fortunate to welcome Rev Graeme Anderson and look forward to working with him and continuing to support the work of the Church.

Regular agenda items discussed at the meeting are:

- The work of the local Ministry Team.
- Reports from the Deanery Synod.
- Our current forms of worship and a review of our services and Church events to ensure that whilst maintaining traditions they are relevant and appropriate for today, enabling an active living Church .
- Mission and outreach initiatives for our Church to thrive and grow.
- Planning of Church events and Church fund raising.
- Remedial work to the fabric of the building, including arrangements for the maintenance of the church fabric and the churchyard and the payments required to carry these out.
- Church management and finance.
- Safeguarding. A self audit is regularly undertaken and we get an update from the safeguarding officer but safeguarding remains our collective responsibility.

Whilst it has been a challenging year for all owing to the global pandemic, we have learned from challenges and sought to adapt to new technology and processes. Arrangements have been made for Zoom services and the Churchyard has been maintained and kept tidy. The church has been open when possible for everyone in the community, every day, during daylight hours.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has supported the Church over the past year.

Our Church is a very important part of our community, allowing us to grow together in fellowship and strengthen our living faith. We encourage everyone to join us in celebrating God's unfailing love for us all and the joy, strength and peace of mind that comes from knowing Jesus.

Jenny Dymond- PCC Secretary. May 2021.

Churchwardens Report for 2020

The coronavirus pandemic affected many church activities over the year and continues to do so.

No APCM or Churchwarden's Visitation

Bishop Donald allowed APCM's in 2020 to be delayed until 31st May 2021 and the Annual Visitation Services in 2020 were all cancelled.

Daily Church opening has been affected and services have been cancelled.

1st National lockdown full closure from 22nd March – 5th July with no services

Saturday 27th June and Saturday 4th July limited opening for quietness and prayer but otherwise closed.

12th July – 1st November open for Sunday services only.

2nd National lockdown- full closure 2nd - 29th November. Then as restrictions were relaxed Sunday services were held again from the 6th-27th December.

There were 33 Sunday services in Church, which were well attended. On other Sundays many joined in the Zoom services run by Jim Lyon from the Independent Chapel.

Over the 33 Sundays that services were held the average Sunday attendance was 22 adults and 4 Children.

These numbers are low because some members of the congregation were vulnerable and were shielding.

All Children's activities after the end of March were cancelled. These cancellations included Sunday School, Toddler Church and The After School Club - Shepherd's Delight. However the Children were not forgotten.

As well older members who were shielding were not forgotten.

There were no weddings, one funeral and three Baptisms.

Since the arrival of Rev'd Graeme in January 2021 the Church has had its own Sunday Zoom services sharing these with Lilbourne and recently the Church has been open for quietness, reflection and prayer on Sunday afternoons for four hours.

Fund Raising activities

Apart from the Ladies Fashion show, which took place before the lockdown all events were cancelled.

Church Fabric

Towards the end of the year the Church's insurers – Ecclesiastical undertook a review by phone of the Church's assets and risk management to see, if the premium needed to be adjusted. Our activities are in line with what is covered, but the building has changed since the last assessment in 2013 with the removal of the four back pews at the west end of the South Aisle in order to create the Community area. This has led to a slight reduction in our premium. Because the roof is covered with aluminium a roof alarm was not advised. Smart Water on lead flashing is out of date and should be reapplied. The lime trees should be assessed for any dead branches.

Regular inspections of the fabric have been carried out. The organ has been tuned twice and at the last tuning Peter Spencer advised that in order to reduce the damp in the organ the doors to the key board should be kept open. The portable appliances were checked by Bob Flanagan (PAT testing). He advised this should be done every two years. The lightning conductor is also on a two year inspection and has been carried out by Charles Barsby in 2021. The fire extinguishers had their annual inspection.

Regular maintenance carried out - church cleaning led by Lyn Wenham has been undertaken when possible. David Westerman has continued to wind the clock and has kept it maintained.

One of the heaters in the meeting room was faulty and had to be replaced.

The Inventory has been checked.

The Quinquennial Inspection is ongoing and John Barker has been reminded that he still has to complete this.

There has been a delay to the Toilet area upgrade due to the pandemic.

Churchyard and surrounding area

Grass has been kept cut around the Church and other designated areas.

Leaves have been cleared from the gulleys, roof and down pipes. The roof is due to be cleared again now.

A fallen oak tree on the boundary with the Manor has been cleared by John Bloxham from the Manor.

Noticeboard: The old lettering has been removed and new lettering with the Rector's details is now in place.

The hedge and trees need some further attention. Laurie Tedcastle has been working on the hedge on the road side of the Churchyard. And the area around the noticeboard on the road has been kept clear.

The Drive is an adopted road and pot holes need to be filled in again.

I would like to thank all those volunteers who help to keep the Church and its surrounds in reasonable shape.

Neil Robertson Churchwarden

9th May 2021

ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERSHIP YELVERTOFT WITH CLAYCOTON 27

ALL SAINTS CHURCH YELVERTOFT .

2020 YEAR END ACCOUNTS.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone due to the restrictions placed upon us by the corona virus .The church, following national legislation, remained closed during the first national lockdown, opening for a few months in the summer and had to close again for a short period later in the year.

Fund raising couldn't take place as large social gatherings were not permitted. The annual fete and the tri annual flower festival both had to be cancelled. The only fund raising activities in the year was the Ladies fashion show that took place in early March, prior to the pandemic and the ride and stride in September.

As a consequence income was reduced by £8.4k versus the previous year.

Actual 2020 £38.8k versus 2019 £47.2k

The major income variances can be listed as:-

Church collections including absent offerings	-£2.6k
Fund raising	-£2.1k
Parish news (advertising was minimal)	-£1.0k
Wedding/Funeral fees	-£1.3k
No legacies were rec'd in 2020	-£2.5k
Diocese grant for children's worker ceased	-£3.5k
Donations increased	+£1.0k
Standing order giving increased	+£3.5k
Total	-£8.5k

Expenditure remained in line with 2019; 2020 £45.7k versus 2019 £45.2k

The parish share increased by £1.5k but this additional expense was offset by small reductions in the wedding and funeral fees and printing. Charitable donations were reduced reflecting the smaller congregation numbers at our physical services, due to the pandemic.

H. Whyment

07/02/2021.

Reader Report

This is my first Reader's Report so here goes!!!

As most of you know I became a Reader during lockdown with no Vicar, so it's been a bit like being set adrift in an open boat.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported me and helped through this time.

I have had to adapt and learn techniques; as well as try and identify my role in the Benefice.

I have been actively recording Sermons, Reflections, Prayers and Children's Ministry and am now leading on line, for all three churches in the Benefice and with the Independent Chapel with Jim and Jan Lyons.

I have also taken 3 funerals, all at Crick St Margaret's, 2 of which were Burials and 1 Cremation.

During this time, we were allowed to have live services and I have enjoyed leading and preaching to you all in church during this short time.

I am looking forward to working with Graeme as he is now fully in charge of the Benefice and as a church, we will hopefully grow the church through fruitful ministry all together. It has been my honour to serve you all and our Lord during this time.

Thanks everyone for your continued support and encouragement.

Lorna Taylor

Reader, Crick Benefice

Deanery Synod

Yelvertoft is one of 43 parishes within the Brixworth Deanery and may elect one Deanery Synod representative at the APCM. The Deanery is a conduit for information and questions between parishes and the diocese.

There are 3 or 4 meetings a year with coffee on arrival and worship at the start of the two-part meeting. One part, deals with the business affecting all parishes including Parish Share, clergy appointments and news from Diocesan Synod.

The other section usually involves a visiting speaker on a relevant issue for the church in today's world. These speakers and discussions can be very thought provoking and representatives report back to their PCC. Sharing good practice, difficulties and missional ideas is very helpful and encouraging and stimulating to individual parishes.

Lay members should be

- Committed to prayer, positively seeking God's will for mission and open to the prompting of the Spirit
- able to see the bigger picture, understand and accept differences of view
- Committed to mission, growth and engagement across boundaries
- Open to new/different approaches and willing to listen to and learn from others, share ideas and experience and embrace change
- Able to provide inspiring feedback to your PCC/congregation.

Could this be you? There is a vacancy!

SMR

2020/21 Lay Minister Report

Some people have told me, very sincerely, they would like to forget the last pandemic year.

There have been many tragic and debilitating events, but as a church we need to face the situation, safe in the knowledge that Jesus always holds us in his loving care.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope for the future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Closing All Saints’ during lockdowns was such an unknown and difficult position to be in. The freedom to worship together as a church, in a church building, is something we’ve taken for granted. Perhaps it has increased our gratitude for the freedom we have in this country, to call ourselves and be openly Christian? Sadly, not a freedom experienced by Christians in some parts of the world.

The PCC was pleased to be able to provide 33 covid safe services during the year. Masks, no singing, socially distanced and no social coffee afterwards, but it felt so good to be together praising and praying. To comply with the restrictions, we used the audio-visual system instead of books. This provided an added opportunity to introduce new songs and video clips to aid the Talks. Amongst others, US Marines singing ‘The Days of Elijah’, ‘Follow me’ from Sister Act’ and a delightful pair of Chinese children singing a powerful version of ‘you raise me up’ all stirred our hearts. Later, we welcomed Sue Nicholas playing the organ and Jacqui Gridley the keyboard, with Aileen singing solo. These musical contributions were very much appreciated. We were very conscious of those in our congregation self-isolating and included some of them in our worship through their recorded video readings.

As a church, we tried to keep in regular contact with the vulnerable, those hard hit or isolating, with the occasional small gift of flowers, treats and tokens of our family faith and love in Jesus. During the latter part of the year donations were received for these ‘Behind closed doors’ gifts and all were always included in our prayers.

As a church it’s very important that we understand the way everyone has been adversely affected in one way or another. Coping with non-visitor hospitalisations, the great sadness’s of personal loss, whilst number restricted funerals and isolation from family members have been very traumatic. Add working from home, home-schooling, loss of jobs and financial worries and the year has been tough. Throughout it all church members along with other villagers have done tremendous work, supporting and helping others.

Children’s ministry has had to take a big step back, as we were unable to hold our usual Easter, Christmas, Pentecost activity days and our Summer Holiday Club weeks. We were also unable to hold our weekly termtime Toddler church and Sunday activities. Our After School club, Shepherd’s Delight continued with the delivery of weekly session bags, provided by Sue Clutterham. I am very grateful to Harlene Griffiths and Lynn Little for helping to deliver these.

Sadly, Sue is retiring at the end of her 3 year contract in July and her replacement and the future of Shepherd’s Delight will need to be prayed about and discussed by the PCC. We owe Sue a huge thank you for the appealing and fun ways she has helped the children explore and develop their understanding of who Jesus is.

The Interregnum and pandemic have brought with them an enforced change in our ‘being physical church’. Or have they? Throughout it all we have kept faith in our living Lord. We have worshipped either together in a restricted setting, or on our own at home. We have perhaps increased our prayer time and listened more to God. We have individually, done all we have been able to serve our community. Each phone call, each doorstep conversation and each note through the door has been immensely valued.

So where do we go from here?

Nowhere fast! We need to recover, recoup and reflect and allow God to lead us in the way forward, with Jesus at the centre of all we do and are.

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD! Psalm 27:14

Sheila Robertson

Lay Minister

Parish News

Throughout the last year Alan and Margie Chantler have unfailingly, edited the monthly Parish News for us. A life line in its own right when we were all confined so much to our homes, with just one short daily walk.

Although a slimmed down version, it still retained many topics of interest, information and anecdotes. We owe both Alan and Margie a massive thank you for their constancy and faithfulness, despite their own personal difficulties during this time. A great and much appreciated 'Team of Two'!

All Saints' Church Yelvertoft

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture

We will strive to create and maintain environments that are safer for all, that promote well-being, that prevent abuse, and that create nurturing, caring conditions within the Church for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Our Church Officers will respect all children, young people and vulnerable adults and promote their well-being.

2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults within the Church

We will select and vet all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church, in accordance with the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and practice guidance. We will train and equip Church Officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and to recognise and respond to abuse.

3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation

Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the Church will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops safeguarding policy and practice guidance.

4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons

We will endeavour to offer care and support to all those that have been abused, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred. Those who have suffered abuse within the Church will receive a compassionate response, be listened to and be taken seriously

5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

The Church in exercising its responsibilities to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse will endeavour to respect the rights under criminal, civil and ecclesiastical law of an accused Church Officer including the clergy. A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and Church inquiry processes. The Church will take responsibility for ensuring that steps are taken to protect others when any Church Officer is considered a risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

6. Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

The Church, based on the message of the gospel, opens its doors to all. We will therefore endeavour to offer pastoral care and support to any member of the church community whom may present a known risk. The Church will ensure that any risk has been assessed and is being managed in a safeguarding agreement in accordance with House of Bishops policy and practice guidance.

Adapted from The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults 2017

An Annual Safeguarding Audit is undertaken and Safeguarding is an Agenda item for all PCC meetings. Appropriate training and DBS checks are undertaken in accordance with requirements for individual volunteer roles and employed.

Sheila Robertson PSO

