

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES

Loving God, Living Christ, Loving people

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

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**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES**

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**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020**

**Background**

The Parochial Church Council has responsibility for the whole mission of the Parish Church of Chalfont St Giles to live in God's love and share its hope. It also has responsibility for the maintenance and management of the Church buildings and fabric and the Reading Room. It is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1129372. The members of the PCC are the charity's Trustees. The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. This report covers all activities of the Church and PCC in 2020.

Readers will know that the Coronavirus pandemic and requirement for social distancing, including the required closure of the Church building since March 2020, has restricted various activities. Most of the reports in this document are affected by this development. The Church has been in lockdown three times in 2020 and, immediately after Christmas 2020 had to re-enter this. Planning for 2021 has been difficult with this background.

Further, on 6 May 2021 the Rector, Rev Ian Brown, retires so we are now in early stages of an Interregnum. As we are a Benefice, although the two parishes of Chalfont St Giles and Seer Green & Jordans have hitherto operated relatively independently, together with our fellow Parish we are in the midst of preparing a draft Benefice Profile having each prepared an initial Parish Profile. The draft Benefice Profile will be submitted to the Diocese of Oxford which will consider the broader needs of the Church and their impact on the Benefice. During this interregnum the mission of the Churches in Chalfont St Giles and Seer Green and Jordans will be through the two clergy, Rev. Jenny Tebboth and Rev Paul Henderson with the two licensed preachers, Peter Miles and Garry Walton together with the PCC and its committees and with legal and operational matters under control of the Churchwardens and Area Dean together with the PCC. We are grateful to Rev Martin Williams, Assistant Area Dean, for agreeing to chair these 2021 meetings of the Chalfont St Giles Parish members and of the Church members. We also acknowledge the considerable input during 2020 and continuing beyond the date of this meeting of the two Clergy – together with Rev Brown down to his retirement - in steering the Parish both through lockdown and towards what we pray will be an effective Interregnum together with an increasing on-line presence.

As our 2019 Annual Report commented looking at the earlier part of 2020:

As many organisations trying to cope with the disruption of Covid we have tried new ways of working – Services on line, some recorded in Church and others on Zoom, mission largely by telephone and email, meetings by Zoom to support the mission of the Church and enable its business to be agreed and transacted. We acknowledge the remarkable input from clergy (whether local, diocesan, or arch-diocesan) and lay involved to develop new ways for the Church to continue to function in these challenging circumstances. The clergy have risen to the need to develop on-line models of worship. Together with lay members in the various parish teams they have made strenuous efforts to achieve contact with parishioners in the restricted circumstances.

Thankfully, all this effort continued for the remainder of 2020 and down to date. We thank God for the care and energy of all involved.

At the 2021 Annual Parochial Church Meetings, Eileen Baldwin will be Standing down as Church Warden. She has been active in this role for 3 years, particularly challenging over the last 14 months or so. We warmly thank her for her caring service, as well as being diligent and capable, and for her involvement in all sorts of administrative, pastoral and caring roles.

Also, at this time Mike Baldwin will be stepping down as Treasurer. Mike came back to this role 3 years ago after a previous stint and has been instrumental in improving our systems in various areas, our accounting and the reporting on this. We warmly thank him for taking up this burden again and leading our finances through, in particular, the difficult times of Church lockdowns.

In expressing our thanks to both, we wish them a happy and fulfilling 'retirement' and are glad they will continue as Church Members.

**Safeguarding Duty**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Further information is at page 5 below.



## Membership

Membership of the PCC is either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or co-opted within the Rules as necessary.

During 2020 the following served as members:

Incumbent:	Rev. Ian Brown
Churchwardens:	Eileen Baldwin Hannah Tew (to 21 October 2020) Rachel Leonard (sworn in on 1 November 2020 but effectively from 21 October 2020)
Deputy Churchwarden	Melainé Teahan
Lay Chairman	John Southworth (from 10 July 2019)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mary Bentall Margaret Carey Maren Saville (to 21 October 2020) Roy Stroomer (to 21 October 2020) Hannah Tew (from 21 October 2020)

### PCC Members:

Gordon Bull had resigned and then, sadly, died in May 2020. Joseph Wiggin was co-opted as a Lay member on 15 January 2020 and Chris Neville on 4 June 2020. With effect from the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting ("APCM") on 21 October 2020 Melonie Calam and Gillian Cranefield having served the three-year term, ceased PCC membership. Mr Bolton ceased PCC membership having been elected to serve for the allowed further period after conclusion of his three-year term at 10 April 2019. The continuing PCC elected members were thus Michael Baldwin, Margaret Dykes, Edward Fitch, Bridget Paice, Phillip Rutter, John Southworth, Keith Wood-Smith and Sylvia Valentine. At the 2020 APCM Christopher Neville and Joseph Wiggin, having been co-opted to the PCC in 2020 until the date of the APCM and having been nominated were elected for three-year terms. Janelle Stevenson and Garry Walton having been nominated were also elected for three-year terms. At the PCC meeting immediately following the 2020 APCM Richard Bolton, Kate Southworth and Tracey Wiggin were co-opted to the PCC as lay members.

At the APCM Melainé Teahan was again reappointed Deputy Churchwarden for the ensuing year. During 2020 in addition to the Churchwardens the following were Church Officers:

PCC Secretary:	Richard Bolton
PCC Treasurer:	Michael Baldwin
PCC Assistant Treasurer	Sophie Bowles
PCC Minutes Secretary:	Not formally appointed – a number of PCC members have filled the breach.

Summarising, during 2020 – PCC elected members were:

To 21 October 2020	From 21 October 2020	At 31 December 2020
Richard Bolton	Richard Bolton (co-opted)	Richard Bolton (co-opted)
Melonie Calam	Melonie Calam	
Gillian Cranefield	Gillian Cranefield	
Margaret Dykes	Margaret Dykes	Margaret Dykes
Edward Fitch	Edward Fitch	Edward Fitch
Bridget Paice	Bridget Paice	Bridget Paice
Philip Rutter	Philip Rutter	Philip Rutter
Sylvia Valentine	Sylvia Valentine	Sylvia Valentine
Michael Baldwin	Michael Baldwin	Michael Baldwin
John Southworth	John Southworth	John Southworth
Keith Wood-Smith	Keith Wood-Smith	Keith Wood-Smith
	Christopher Neville	Christopher Neville
Co-opted from 15 January 2020, then elected at 2020 APCM		
Joseph Wiggin	Joseph Wiggin	Joseph Wiggin
	Janelle Stevenson	Janelle Stevenson
	Garry Walton	Garry Walton
	Kate Southworth (co-opted)	Kate Southworth (co-opted)
	Tracey Wiggin (co-opted)	Tracey Wiggin (co-opted)

The term of a co-opted member is to the following APCM when reappointment is permissible.

## **PCC Structure**

The PCC has a Standing Committee and a number of sub-committees:

**Children & Families**  
**Communications**  
**Discipleship**  
**Fabric**  
**Finance**  
**Mission**  
**Pastoral Care**  
**Reading Room Management**  
**Worship**

The sub-committees report to, and obtain permission for planned activities and expenditure from, the PCC at its regular meetings. Representatives of the PCC attend the **Amersham Deanery Synod** meetings and report back to the PCC.

The PCC **Standing Committee** (Rev Ian Brown (Incumbent), Rev Jenny Tebboth (Assistant Minister), Rev Paul Henderson (Assistant Minister), Church Wardens, PCC Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer) acts as the Executive arm of the PCC, including setting the agenda for its meetings and taking any urgent actions affecting the welfare of the Church that may arise between meetings.

The separately registered charity **The Friends of Chalfont St Giles Parish Church** continues to provide much appreciated and valuable support to the Church and keeps the PCC informed of its activities. The Deanway United Church, Living Word International Church and Hope Church and ourselves all as 'Christians in Chalfont St Giles' continue to co-operate in providing the Services on the Village Green on Good Friday and at the Feast of St Giles in September, and to support the turning on of the Christmas lights with other Christians present in the village.

## **Benefice of Chalfont St Giles and Seer Green & Jordans**

The combined Benefice, which has operated since the beginning of 2015, continues with Rev. Ian Brown as Rector (Incumbent/Priest in charge). In 2020 the Rector was assisted by Rev. Cassa Messervy (Associate Minister, and Vicar of Holy Trinity Seer Green and Jordans), Rev. Jenny Tebboth (Assistant Minister), Rev Paul Henderson (Curate then Assistant Minister) and Rev. Angela Thompson (Assistant Minister emerita). Linda West is Licensed Lay Minister in Seer Green and Jordans, assisted by Janna Holder as Children and Families leader.

The two Benefice Churches are further linked by an enduring instrument which permits (with the consent of the respective Priest) a couple who are qualified to marry in one Church in the Benefice to marry in the other.

## **Fairtrade**

The Chalfont St Giles Parish Church continues to be a Fairtrade church using Fairtrade ingredients and aiming to operate in a manner appropriate to that designation.

## **Church Electoral Roll**

In 2020 the Electoral Roll was updated for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and had 154 on the list.

## **Wardens' Report October 2020 – May 2021**

The last paragraph of the Wardens' report prepared for the APCM in April 2020 but presented in October 2020, said that we faced difficult times ahead. We did not know then how difficult or for how long the disruption to our Church life would go on.

After a release from lockdown during the summer we were able again to have a Service in Church on Sunday mornings, albeit with masks, no singing and socially distanced. How good it was to get together again! Latterly, we were able to record these services. We were also able to open the Church building for private prayer, and a huge vote of thanks goes to those who gave their time to 'watch' the church and to those who cleaned the building after Services and church watching to keep it Covid safe. During the time when the Church was unable to be open, recorded services from our clergy, with participation from church members, were made available via our website and, in order that we could all keep in touch, the weekly pew sheet was emailed to as many of the Church community as could access the internet. Our huge thanks go to Peter Heaps for his time and amazing recording skills. Many different meetings were held via Zoom – Bible studies, Sunday morning coffee and chats, wardens' meetings, and daily prayer meetings.

Attendance numbers are difficult to assess this year, given the limited spaces in Church, but we believe the recorded Services have been well attended and appreciated. Attendance was badly hit over Christmas with a total of 137 worshippers over 4 services. Normally we would get more than that number on Christmas morning alone. But the Christingle bag project for the children was a great success and our thanks go to the Post Office who ran a window display for us.



Sadly, we have lost several of our older and dedicated members this year. We are grateful for all they gave us during their lifetimes.

Last summer was warm and sunny and our beautiful churchyard was well used by people getting together with friends for coffee, by office workers in the village having their packed lunches and by many who just wanted time to be quiet and reflect. We are very grateful to the churchyard maintenance team for keeping the grounds around the Church so well-tended. The churchyard has also been used this year for a prayer trail, a children's trail to learn about Zacchaeus, and for part of the nativity trail at Christmas. It is good to see the churchyard used as a village amenity.

We are grateful to the Friends of the Church for their generosity, not least in the restoring and refitting of the two brasses in the south aisle.

Sadly, our planned Coming Home Mission in June had to be cancelled.

And in the background to all of this we have been very conscious of Ian's retirement coming up. A Vacancy Committee has been set up over the Benefice, with a team of people from both parishes, which has been busy preparing a new Benefice profile. Our sincere thanks go to those who have carried out consultations, spent time collating information, finding suitable photographs, and producing a document portraying all the facets of our church family. During this time many have of you have given much time and effort but to our PCC chairman, John Southworth, and PCC secretary, Richard Bolton, we give special mention and thanks for their sound advice. And to Jenny and Paul, who will take on added pressures during the interregnum, we give our thanks and assurances of support.

We shall miss Ian and Julie for all they have done for us over the years and pray they will have a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement.

Eileen Baldwin - Churchwarden

### **PCC Review of the Year**

In addition to an Away Day in February to discuss Mission and a Benefice meeting in October to discuss the coming Vacancy, the PCC met on 9 occasions in 2020 (2019: 7) with an average of 17 (2019:15) members in attendance.

An ongoing matter of focus for the PCC in 2020 (and continuing) has been the aim to recruit a Families Worker, ideally full-time. Most meetings also considered the progress of attempts to instal Wi-Fi in the Reading Room. *Many initiatives have been followed up this year including planning for a mission, an important element of our Mission Action Plan (MAP), intended to be run from 5-7 June 2020. In addition to regular reviews of the financial position, safeguarding and policies, committee reports, and ongoing management of Church matters, including maintenance and the ongoing review of the wider impact of the General Data Protection Regulations, topics from each meeting are highlighted below:*

- January: Procedure for the launch of the Stewardship Campaign by delivery of 'Giving Generously' was agreed. A Conflict of Interest Policy was approved and the collation of Church Policies in a single accessible file was noted as were two thefts of money from the Church and arrangements for the PCC Away Day to plan Mission Action for the Church. Change in the Church supported charities was agreed. The contactless card machine will be brought into use this month.
- March: The new 2020 Church Representation Rules were noted. Progress on the refurbishing of the floor memorial in the South Aisle was reported together with the correction of some names on the Churchyard War Memorial. Coronavirus began to impact with changes in the procedure for Communion and the Peace, a Coronavirus Plan and matters to be considered, and the forced cancellation of a planned April Messiah performance. Hannah Tew was thanked for having completed GDPR requirements in the context of the Stewardship Campaign. The appreciative enquiry approach for the PCC Away Day had been effective in the imagining of how we as a Church are being called to be more Christ-like: Discover, Dream, Design, Deliver and what this might mean. Kate Southworth resigned from Safeguarding and was thanked for her hugely appreciated work on this, and Antonia Lee was appointed to take over the safeguarding role. Thanks were expressed to Gillian Cranfield for her work in co-ordinating applications for DBS checks. Procedures around the upcoming APCM were noted including the resignation of Gordon Bull through ill-health. PCC authorised the Rector to nominate Garry Walton and Peter Miles to be authorised to Preach in the Benefice. Rev Jenny and the Children & Families Committee were thanked for holding the fort in the absence of a Families Worker. The Standing Committee was authorised to consider adoption of the 2019 Financial Statements when available.
- May: As a result of Covid all meetings from here on were agreed to be held by Zoom. The minutes of the 8 April Standing Committee meeting were approved, including: Coronavirus



continuity plan; Church security and Church Office arrangements; suspension of the 2020 APCM and elections probably to October; suspension of the planned Coming Home Mission, the archdeaconry visitation and the piano concert; cancellation of wedding arrangements; change in Trustees registered with Old Mutual; retainer fees agreed for organists; approval of Zoom subscription; and guidelines for video conferencing with young people. Rev Ian reported that: he had made a video of the Church interior and churchyard available on the Church website; funeral charges have been waived but will now recommence; thanks were expressed to the Pastoral Care Team for maintaining contacts with the challenged and to Sylvia Valentine for keeping church admin going. The first meeting of the Finance Review Committee was reported and an invitation to James White to join this approved. Initial consideration was given to an ashes area in the churchyard and further thoughts on Mission Action planning. A contribution to Friends of the Church towards the installation costs of the corrected plates on the churchyard War Memorial was approved, subsequently fixed at £200. Thanks were given to the PCC members who would have come off had the April APCM taken place but remain in place.

**July:** An additional meeting considered the re-opening of the Church for Services and approved this and its frequency and the opening of the Church for private prayer. Also endorsed the Risk Assessment which had been carried out.

The meeting a week later noted that the Bishop of Buckingham had approved in principle Garry Walton and Peter Miles' authorisation to Preach in the Benefice. The meeting noted: that Church had re-opened at 11:00 am on Sunday 12 July with pre-booked congregation members, recorded by Peter Heaps for the Church website; Holy Communion will not yet be offered; the recorded audio service will continue; wedding and funeral services may be held in Church subject to numbers; and there will be some private baptisms necessary. The Diocesan planning tool 'Emerging from Coronavirus' was put forward for completion. Rev Jenny reported that in the Summer holidays there will be two installations in the churchyard for families. Praise was given for the children's activities on the website. Votes of thanks were given to Frederique Henderson for the Ark and Rev Jenny for YZone as they laid down these responsibilities.

**September:** Rev Ian announced his retirement in May 2021 in his 40th year of Ministry. The Standing Committee had met Rev Gill Lovell, Parish Diocesan Adviser (PDA), to discuss preliminary steps for the Vacancy and what is needed. Eileen Baldwin announced that she will retire as Churchwarden at the 2021 APCM after three terms and Hannah Tew also announced she will retire following change in her family circumstances. Mike Baldwin announced he will retire as Treasurer at the same time. PCC approved reversion of the 11:00 am Sunday Service of the Word to 10:00 am, that periodic Holy Communion services be reinstated in October, and that 08:00 BCP Holy Communion service recommence from 20 September. PCC gave warm thanks to Bridget Pace, Peter Heaps and Sylvia Valentine for their considerable help at this time. PCC expressed gratitude for the Friends' committed support to the Church over the period to April 2021 of £11,562 before adding the War Memorial cost and, potentially, security cameras. PCC approved the date for the 2020 APCM of 21 October.

**October** An extra meeting was held on 14 October in particular to consider further: the proposal for a Families Worker to be appointed as soon as may be; collaboration of the two Benefice Parishes; Interregnum steps and structure; and the need to renegotiate the working arrangements of continuing clergy.

A short meeting held immediately after the APCM to co-opt Richard Bolton, Kate Southworth and Tracey Wiggin to PCC, to appoint Mike Baldwin as Treasurer and Richard Bolton as PCC Secretary.

**November:** The PCC approved a document on 'Approaching Interregnum' which had been discussed with Rev Gill and now needed to be shared with Seer Green & Jordans Parish; approved the proposed Benefice Vacancy Committee; approved the planned consultations of congregation and parish; approved that the flag on the Church flagpole be replaced; approved the membership of PCC committees and the list of Welcomers; and approved the Worship Committee plan for Christmas Services.

## Reports from PCC Committees

### Children and Families Committee

An advert advertising for a Families worker was placed in a wide number of periodicals, including Premier Christianity, other Christian magazines, diocesan links and local Churches. Contact with other organisations has also been made. We have so far had no responses that met our needs, and we ask you all to pray for future advertising.



Report back on what we could do in 2019 / 2020 -

- Manning the Sunday morning Ark was a challenge and, sadly, there were only a small number of children coming, sometimes one or two, sometimes slightly more.
- Jenny Tebboth took on Families @ 4 and Messy Church which were going well; as always, we seek to attract more outsiders.
- Chatterbox on a Thursday morning was run by Frances and Marion. At present it has had to close again due to lockdown - a shame as it was well attended and extremely popular.
- The Choir children met up for Choir Pizza after Friday night rehearsals, and this was a greatly enjoyed activity. Friday YZone is currently not running.
- Before lockdown, the secondary school young people were going to the Vestry group during the morning Service, a vitally important group for this age.
- Lock down has halted nearly all children's work for now. However, over Christmas 'outreach advent packs' were sent out, which proved to be well received.

The recent survey of the Congregation to inform the process of preparation of a Parish and Benefice Profile has highlighted the Church support for children's work and we continue to seek a full-time experienced families worker.

Kate Southworth

### **Communications Committee**

The Committee met 4 times between January 2020 – January 2021. We aim to provide a central source for communication within the Church community and for the wider village community. Updates as follows: -

#### **- Pew Sheet**

The pew sheet is now emailed to all on the Church database on a weekly basis (with the option to opt out). It contains information on services and events for the coming week, news of future events, and has become the main form of week-on-week communication within the Church community.

#### **- Parish Magazine**

After 5 years in post, Alistair stepped down this year from his role of compiling and editing the magazine. A huge thank you to Alistair for all his efforts in producing a great magazine. We are delighted to welcome Kevin Searle into the role of Editor. Since the covid crisis the magazine has moved on-line and into a quarterly format. We are in an experimental phase, moving away from its former monthly and paper manifestation. During 2020, Peter and Mary Bentall have been producing and distributing a small number of paper copies to those members of the congregation unable to access the magazine online and we are very grateful to them for their help.

Contributions to the magazine can be sent to [stgileschurchmagazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stgileschurchmagazine@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **- Church Website**

The website has become our most important method of communication in the past year. Audio recordings and videos of services are posted here every week along with the Orders of Service and the pew sheet. The site gives details of all Church activities, together with links to relevant contacts. It was built by a member of the congregation a few years ago and is maintained by the Parish Administrator. We are planning to upgrade it during 2021.

#### **- Noticeboards**

When it is possible, we update the notice boards on a weekly basis – and thanks to Meg Blunsdon for this. We have plans to add a staff notice board in the porch of the Church.

#### **- Church Facebook Page**

The Church Facebook page is up and running and has really grown during the past year. We have used this to share videos and prayers during this year while Church services could not run.

Jo Sutton

### **Discipleship Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to encourage spiritual growth in all stages:

- 1) introduction to the faith
- 2) preparation for baptism/confirmation
- 3) encouraging each member of our Church to keep growing in faith throughout their life.

The lock-down cut short our Stewardship campaign, caused the cancellation of our summer mission with Roger Simpson and with it, the planned autumn follow-up 'Christianity Explored' course.

However, we were able to complete our excellent series of talks on 'Searching Questions' with Clare Williams from OCCA by means of recorded talks and a zoom session.

Our Confirmation services have been postponed not once but twice. No new date has yet been booked.

Neither baptism preparation days nor baptisms have taken place, but we have kept in touch with previous baptism families through the Faith at Home initiative spearheaded by the Children and Families Committee.

We held our ten days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost by means of prayer stations around the churchyard which were well received and not only by members of our Church. The benefits of taking our Church life outside the building is one of our learning points from the pandemic.

Over Advent we encouraged use of the 'Time to Pray' app from the Church of England.

Home groups took a break for the first half of the year but have come back on-line now with three groups currently meeting by zoom (one started during lockdown) and more planned if we get some take up from the Diocesan 'Come and See' outreach. A couple of the groups have not yet re-formed. We intend to keep using the Diocesan 'Personal Discipleship Plan' in addition to home groups.

YZone (our youth group) met over the summer in a limited way by zoom but is currently without a leader – a serious hole in our Church discipleship provision as there is potential for a thriving group in the village.

We have been aware of the invisible congregation who listen to on-line services; a sermon series on Christian basics was designed to speak to this group and we are participating in the diocesan 'Come and See' initiative hoping to meet some of them.

Our 2021 Lent series is based around 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' by Paul Mark Comer.

Peter Miles and Garry Walton now have permission to preach and have joined the preaching team which is a great blessing especially as we prepare for the Vacancy. We will continue to integrate teaching on creation-care into our service structure.

It has been very encouraging to see the number of people at Morning Prayer each day increase greatly through our use of zoom. This is another positive outcome from the pandemic and will probably continue.

Jenny Tebboth

## **Mission Committee**

### **The Five Marks of Mission:**

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The Mission Committee meets regularly, and major items have been:

- The Coming Home Mission with Roger Simpson had to be postponed due to Covid and, as we enter vacancy, we do not envisage this happening until at least 2022.
- To continue to work towards "ECO" status.
- To make a larger statement on our beliefs, positioned in the Church porch,
- To review and update the list of charities we support:
  - A Rocha UK [the Rock],
  - Fawsett Trust,
  - Rope (Reaching Oppressed People Everywhere),
  - Street Kids Direct, and
  - Traidcraft.

Each one is represented by a 'Mission Champion' who keeps in touch with the charity, represents it to the congregation, gives an update of their work each year to the congregation at a 10:00am service and writes articles for the Parish Magazine.

In addition, we support and raise money each year for the Mission to Seafarers, The Children's Society (through Christingle), the Ensors, Saunderton Lodge homeless accommodation and the Trussell Trust.



Our community outreach initiatives – Rendezvous Lent Lunches and Chatterbox - have not been able to take place this year but during lockdown around 100 'Try Praying' booklets were taken from dispensers at the Reading Room and by the lych gate.

Jenny Tebbboth

Mission Champion reports:

**A Rocha UK** is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. Responding to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and demonstrating the Christian hope for God's world, they work with:

- Churches through their Eco Church programme
- Christian environmental leaders through their interdenominational convening work
- Families and individuals through their Wild Christian scheme and community, supporting people to enjoy, nurture and defend nature in their own homes and communities, and by campaigning
- Christian land managers through their Partners in Action network.

St Giles Parish Church is signed up to the **Eco Church** programme and expect to gain the bronze award by the end of the year.

Keith Wood-Smith

**Fawsett Trust** is a local charity supporting elderly residents in need in Chalfont St Giles with vouchers at Christmas, exchangeable only in our village shops. We are grateful for the contribution from the PCC and for the generous further individual contributions which enable this work to continue.

Richard Bolton

**ROPE (Reaching Oppressed People Everywhere)** is a local charity headquartered in Amersham.

'The foundations of our approach stem from our almost 30 years of working with international partners. We invest into partnering with a small network of on-the-ground, local organisations and churches led by local visionaries who seek to bring about transformational change in their communities. Living in their own communities, they have the vision and drive to transform lives for those in poverty but need access to resources and wider networks.

They currently work with 21 partners across 16 countries around the world.

Frances Hawkins

**Street Kids Direct** - Our Deanery and Parish have a particular link with Steve Poulson one of their programme Development Managers.

Steve supports Street Kids Direct partnered projects in a range of ways, from donor relations, to implementing the child protection policy, in an effort to strengthen and develop them. Steve also helps coordinate the Honduras mentoring programme and programmes in Talanga and Ciudad España, Honduras.

No mission champion at present

**Traidcraft Exchange** is a Christian charity working to reduce poverty by trading fairly with marginalised groups.

Traidcraft continues under Margaret Dykes' energetic hand; however, due to the restrictions imposed during the pandemic, running stalls after services has not been possible. Margaret has developed a "click and collect" model of trading which allows people to e-mail or phone orders to her which she then arranges to deliver in a Covid-safe way. She has also spearheaded the Church's support for the Chiltern Food Bank raising money from a wide range of supporters to purchase goods from Traidcraft in support of the Food Bank's mission. Since the beginning of the Covid emergency £30,000 has been raised for this project which included support for the 165 Christian Advent calendars donated at Christmas.

Margaret Dykes

### **Social Outreach Report**

Members of the outreach team aim to support Rendezvous, Songs of Praise lunches, Lent lunches, Marriage prep catering, and the Advent Supper. We started the year in 2020 as normal with Rendezvous, Songs of Praise lunches and Lent lunches, but all went pear-shaped shortly after!

Pat Searle

### **Pastoral Care Report**

The Pastoral Care Group have met 3 times this year. We offer support to those from our parish and the wider community whenever there is need and for as long as that need remains. Contact is generally by word of mouth or

from our publicity leaflets available in Church, the chemist, the GPs surgery and the library. After the initial visit by a member of the team, support continues while there is a need.

A new MAP document is in preparation for April 2021. We will continue pastoral care in every area and to support prayer ministry in Church whenever we can. Support through home communion visits is also offered. We have welcomed a new member to our team, Ruth Walton. The Pastoral Care team supported clergy at the All Soul's Day service in November, made and delivered posies of flowers locally following Harvest Festival and took flowers to the community following the on-line Mothering Sunday service in March.

COVID - The consequences of Covid have been the biggest challenge for the team this year. The clergy's priority was to ensure that every member of the Church family was contacted and offered support where needed during lock-down and beyond. The names on the electoral roll were divided into 17 groups and one person was asked to make contact and continue indefinitely wherever necessary. This arrangement is continuing.

This year has stretched our pastoral care role. It is, however, an honour to be involved in this much needed role.

Margaret Carey - Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

### **Reading Room Management Committee**

The Reading Room is still very much in need of maintenance and decoration, plus an additional disabled / baby change toilet and more storage; this will be addressed when we are able to let the facility as Covid restrictions ease.

The Committee met on 25 February 2021 to discuss an application to Bucks CC for a £10,000 grant towards costs consequential to Covid; this has to be submitted before 31 March 2021.

There has been a problem with the wood block floor lifting, probably as a result of lack of heat: the floor has now been repaired and is due to be sanded and treated when there is a glimmer of hope of the paying public being able to use our facility.

The ever damp rear wall has probably been traced to a very old section of flint wall beneath the more modern brickwork and proposals are awaiting approval by the Fabric Committee.

The Fabric Committee are looking at treating the external front wall which is the backdrop to the newly refurbished War Memorial.

Peter Crown

### **Worship Committee**

Committee Members - Cathy Langdale (Chair), Rev Ian Brown, Polly Richardson (Secretary), Sylvia Morrison Moore, Keith Wood-Smith. Regular attender - Rev Jenny Tebbott

We met just twice in 2020.

The first time was in January to plan ahead for Easter, by which time, sadly, the church had been obliged to close to prevent the spread of Covid19.

The second was in October when with hopes of gradual easing of restrictions, we planned ahead for limited opening in Advent and at Christmas. Realising that the Church would not be able to host a large congregation for a carol service we planned a Travelling Carol service for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, thanks to the kindness of Simon Swerling who offered his farm trailer. Alas, that too had to be cancelled the day before.

But we were able to host five services of Holy Communion over Christmas, which was a way in which as many parishioners as wished could worship in a safe space.

Now we have met in February and March 2021 to plan ahead for worship provision as lockdown is eased, which coincides with the interregnum beginning in May.

We have thanked Rev Ian for his superb leadership and have agreed provisional plans for the service pattern during the interregnum.

Cathy Langdale

### **Other Reports**

#### **Chalfont St Giles Educational Foundation**

The Chalfont St Giles Educational Foundation is a small village charity that has a small annual income. In 2020 it provided grants of £240 to both the Village School and the Parish Church Sunday School. The Foundation can also provide small grants to young people for educational purposes. The Rector chairs the committee.



### **Church Fabric & Furnishings**

Overall, the condition of the fabric in both Church and Reading Room is good, with only relatively minor problems being encountered and no major items outstanding. The normal regular tuning of the organ and the annual inspections of the fire extinguishers and the Served drainage system were carried out. The routine servicing of the organ blower motor was carried out, and asbestos removed from the motor box. A responsive fire alarm was installed and maintained together with the lead roof alarm system. Brasses were re-sited and installed.

The annual boiler service and safety check took place as scheduled. PATs (portable appliance testing) have been carried out on all appliances. LED lights have been installed in the Church. Small cracks on the nave wall are being monitored. Other minor repairs in the Church were carried out as needed.

Minor repairs to the roof of the South Aisle and the Tower as well as repairs to the 'dog kennel' roof next to the Vestry door were carried out. The work included repairing a section of the Church wall opposite the entrance door to the Vestry, and capping the external chimney cap.

The Churchyard was maintained throughout the year by voluntary labour from the Friends, and from a Church group. Pruning of trees was carried out with appropriate official approvals and a programme drawn up for work in 2021. The Plumb Gates were refurbished, and minor work remains to be completed on the lych gate closer. A new flagpole is required, and this will be installed in 2021. New plaques for the War Memorial have been placed by the local Council.

The Log Book of work carried out as well as the Register recording the locations of Burials of Ashes in the churchyard has continued to be maintained.

Colin Smith  
Chairman, Fabric Committee

### **Church Watch**

As a result of the Covid Pandemic, Church Watch took on a more extended role in 2020 as Churches, which had been temporarily closed for services from the end of March, became eventually allowed to open for Private Prayer whilst strictly adhering to set guidelines. This was a tall order - if we could get enough volunteers there was always the question of the Covid cleaning and its expense.

But we did it. With an amazing group of volunteers including the Clergy, we managed to open 10am-4pm Tuesday to Sunday daily from 16th June through to 27th September. This was carried out in sessions 10-12am, 12-2pm and 2-4pm with daily cleaning done by our employed cleaner and weekend cleans carried out by volunteers. Even when services were allowed to resume on a limited basis from 4th July, Church Watch continued.

Come October, when Church Watch usually ends for the year, our volunteers were so committed they wanted to carry on, so we went through October with sessions of 10-12am and 2-4pm (including cleaning) and finally finished on 31st October.

I believe in all that time there was ONLY one 2hr. session that was not covered.

This provided a much needed sanctuary, quiet time, private prayer time and sometimes just someone to see (distancing of course) to so many people that it was a remarkable outreach from the Parish Church of Chalfont St Giles, and an amazing success.

My sincere thanks to ALL who made this possible.

Melainé Teahan

### **Deanery Synod Report of the most recent meeting**

Synod met on Zoom on 26 November 2020. Revs Ian, Cassa and Jenny attended the meeting.

Mr Lawrence Tebbott (Lay Chair) was Chairman, welcomed Synod and thanked Mr Dave Kidner in charge of zoom.

Devotions - Synod joined in song with 'There is a Redeemer' played by Lindsey Mackie. Rev Ian led a short devotion.

Mrs Stephanie Summerell advised that details of the recent Diocesan Synod meeting are on the Deanery website.

The Chairman drew attention to the UK Governments' Independent Faith Review to which individuals can submit comments.

Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) presented the 2021 Amersham Deanery Parish Share Allocations and how these are calculated. In response to a question as to the likely 2022 share, this could not yet be answered but all treasurers are kept informed. Committed monthly giving has proven resilient in the pandemic.

Synod broke into 11 groups to discuss 'Living Well through the next 6 months' which had been Oxford Diocesan Webinar Discussions on:

- Working with adults coming to faith, and
- Rebuilding ministry with children

Discussion groups' comments included:

- The challenges of working with children during the pandemic
- A feeling of breakdown as churches are not seeing many families
- but some inter-generational worship to encourage young people to feel they belong.

The Chairman welcomed new Clergy and noted we had said goodbye to Rev James Leach (Gerrards Cross) and will be doing so on his retirement in May to Rev Ian Brown (Chalfont St. Giles) and later to the Rev Canon Tim Harper (Co- Area Dean, from Amersham with Coleshill).

Sadly, recent severe storms meant we were unable to contact Steve Poulson working with Street Kids Direct in Honduras, whom we support as one of our Missions. The interesting report in his November 2020 letter is on the Synod website. Subsequent to Synod his safety was confirmed, and he was congratulated on his engagement!

The meeting closed with Grace.

Looking at on-line services, there is an interesting and challenging video on the Synod website by Nick Cuthbert 'Before You Go Back ...' asking 'Why Do We Do What We Do'? Is it because we have always done it that way?

The Deanery Synod meetings take place four times a year with good and interesting speakers, and give insight into the working, planning and aspirations of the Deanery. All are welcome to attend. At present meetings are on Zoom and the link is available if you would like it. The next meeting will have been on Thursday 18 March at 7.30 for 8pm start.

Link <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk>

Mary Bentall

### Flower Guild

The membership of our Flower Guild numbers 15. On 1st February 2021 we were saddened by the death of Jill Dean. Previously, Jill was for 10 years leader of our Flower Guild. She and Peter have arranged flowers in our Church for many, many years. Jill will be greatly missed.

In the past year the impact of Covid has affected our opportunities to arrange flowers in Church. In 2020 our flowers were placed in the Church when services could be held, and 2 smaller vases were arranged when the Church was open for prayer and visitors only.

In November due to social distancing rules we were unable to hold our annual 2 workshops for the making of Christmas Wreath Rings. In the past these have been a welcome source of income for our Flower Guild funds and a welcome outreach to the village.

All weddings were cancelled for 2020 except for one lovely couple who were prepared to accept the restriction of 7 people only for their service.

In the last 6 months an unusually large number of funerals (not for Covid reasons) have been taken by our clergy. We have arranged flowers for the services at the bereaved families' requests and hope that we have brought comfort at sad times.

We look forward to unrestricted access to our Church later in 2021.

Mavis Roberts - Flower Guild Leader

### Lent Lunches



We were unable to run Lent lunches in either 2020 or 2021 through Covid restrictions. Planning for the 2020 group of lunches for six Fridays was at an advanced stage when we had to abandon it. Usually some thirty volunteers make and donate a total of thirty batches of soups, and/or help in setting up, serving, clearing up, washing up or delivering soups to some thirty shops and



businesses in the village. In 2019 the Co-op supported us by donating ninety-five loaves and 15 litres of milk over the six weeks, and we were grateful to all those who supported this Lent charity event, whether by taking lunch in the Reading Room or in their shops and offices; and their generous donations.

The charities we hoped to support are RAPE Crisis (covering High Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks districts), the Ensor missionary work in the Far East sharing 80% and the remaining 20% to the Church for its pastoral work in the local community.

Kevin Searle

### **Rendezvous**

In previous years Rendezvous has provided a welcoming café-style space in the Reading Room every Thursday reaching out to many villagers, with bacon and cheese sandwiches, home-made cakes, tea and coffee always available. We look forward to being able to resume when the current pandemic allows.

Frances Hawkins

### **Stewardship Recorder's Report for 2020**

2020 began enthusiastically with a planned Stewardship Drive, 'Living Generously', taking place during early spring. This was curtailed by the outbreak of the pandemic and never really completed. It did, however, generate over £5,000 in one-off donations (plus Gift Aid), two newly set up standing orders of monthly giving, an increase in existing standing orders of over £3,600 per year, and one promise of a legacy.

We currently have 67 members giving donations by Standing Orders which is one less than last year and this has generated a total of £53,497 (plus Gift Aid) in the last twelve months.

Obviously with the Church being closed for long periods, contributions in the collection plate and through the envelope scheme have been greatly reduced as well as there being no donations from the likes of Lent Lunches and Pancake Café. But during the year over £4,000 has been donated in smaller cash sums and the contactless plate has contributed a further £2,000 to our income, enabling us to claim under the small donations scheme (GADS). There have also been some very generous one-off donations from some of our membership.

As a result, the total eligible for Gift Aid and GADS for 2020 was £71,863.60 resulting in payments from HMRC over the year of £17,965.90.

This compares with:

- 2015 £16,721
- 2016 £19,705
- 2017 £19,906
- 2018 £20,721
- 2019 £19,190

I hope that in 2021, with a return to a more normal routine, the above figures will recover, and I encourage everyone to keep supporting the needs of the Church by donating as generously as possible.

Chris Neville - Stewardship Secretary

### **Treasurer's Financial Report for 2020**

The year started well with the launch of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign but, very soon, the financial position of the Church was overtaken by the impact of restrictions associated with managing the Covid pandemic, the consequent cancellation of many of our outreach activities and, most particularly, the closure of the Church to normal worship for the great majority of the year.

The matter of greatest concern was the extent to which these constraints would damage our inflow of regular offerings and donations, which might have led to our running out of liquid funds.

However, I offer a huge 'thank you' to our regular Standing Order donors, who in the most part have maintained their regular support; and also pass on our gratitude as well to those who normally make their donations at our services, but who have sent in cheques to maintain their giving. In addition, you will note that we received generous additional donations as part of the Stewardship Campaign, cut short as a side effect of Covid restrictions, and also a number of legacy bequests and considerable support from the Friends of grants towards a number of fabric and equipment maintenance needs. Details of all of these items can be found in the body of the accounts

As a consequence, although the level of donations has dropped overall, we have been able to keep afloat.



Additional thanks are due to Chris Neville who has maintained our submissions for HMRC Gift Aid rebate and Mike Saunders who has continued to take cheques and cash to the Bank during lockdowns and in all weathers. I am personally hugely grateful to both for their faithful support. Sadly Sophie Bowles, who has been our Assistant Treasurer, suffered considerable health issues and has had to resign from that position. Again, we are hugely grateful for her support and work over a number of years.

During the year, we started our 'Financial Review Committee' with the prime purpose of ensuring we keep an eye on the longer-term implications of managing our money: everything from 'Cash Flow' to 'Ethical Investment'. Again, my thanks to John Southworth, James White, Chris Neville and, latterly, Rev Paul Henderson for being willing to give their time and expertise to the consideration of these important issues.

Turning to the accounts themselves, let me point out the highlights, which you will find in the 'Notes'.

Income:

- Offerings (at Sunday services) dropped significantly but were compensated to some extent by increases in donations (made at times separate from services). Irreplaceable were the losses of our major services (Easter, Christmas and Remembrance) which attract larger than average congregations
- Bequests of £15,000
- Grants from Friends, given for specific project purposes – and therefore recorded as 'restricted'
- Significant reductions in receipts from 'Fundraising' (events and Reading Room lettings)

All of which left a net effect on total income of only £2,000 less than in 2019 - a remarkable result in the circumstances.

Items worthy of noting amongst our expenses:

- An accounting error in 2019 resulted in all insurance for the Reading Room being charged to the Church for 4 months. But add together insurance for both Church and Reading Room for both 2019 and 2020 and you'll see that actually total insurance is just 1.7% more than in 2019 as the result of a new contract with Ecclesiastical, the Church's insurers
- Large increase in maintenance costs, offset by support from grants from the Friends
- Significant reduction in Administration costs, brought about by:
  - an undesirable reduction in travel costs forced on us by lockdowns following a considerable reduction in the visiting of parishioners, partially offset by an increase in phone calls
  - Significant reduction in printing and copying costs brought about by a renegotiated contract

So overall, our costs were reduced by over £12,000

And our net position was that we had to dip into our reserves by about £9,000: we had anticipated having a £28,000 loss for the year but, in the event, our costs were significantly reduced as we could not take on the Families Worker, whose costs had been anticipated

BUT that is also offset by the fact that the market value of our investments was around £5,000 higher than at the end of the previous year

For the future:

- This has been one of the most difficult years on which to base an estimate, since so much depends on the National situation with regard to the Covid pandemic. We've worked on the assumption that we shall not get back to a full range of Church activities until the end of July 2021.
- However, we still take the view that our longer-term future, depends hugely on our work amongst families and it is still our aim to recruit a Families Worker.
- And we have to take account of additional costs associated with managing the Interregnum, bearing in mind that the Parish Share costs associated with having a full time Rector are not reduced during the Interregnum
- We are assured that we shall be receiving during the year a very generous bequest of £37,000 from the estate of the late Barbara Betts. We thank God for the fact that former parishioners wish to leave us with significant support.

Putting that all together we anticipate that we shall end up with a deficit at the end of 2021 of around £8,000. BUT do remember that without Barbara Betts' legacy, it would be closer to a deficit of £40,000 – and, in the longer run, relying on 'one-off' bequests to support our operating costs is not a wise or sustainable situation.



It is my belief that we should be aiming to use bequests to improve the infrastructure and facilities of our Church, in a way that leads to lasting benefit for future generations. The gap between regular income and operating expense is still a major challenge to the membership and requires some fundamental debate about finding a resolution.

Mike Baldwin  
February 2021

### **Rector's Review of the Year 2020 (including the first quarter of 2021)**

Last year this report referenced the Brexit debate as the backdrop to our Church and national life. The Brexit settlement came into being at the start of 2021. In the end it arrived with barely a murmur, so thoroughly have our lives been changed by the Covid crisis over the past year. It was 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 when our lives changed, and the unprecedented lockdowns began. Church life was cancelled in the sense that our regular and settled pattern of Church worship, pastoral contacts, social events and all normal routine abruptly ended.

The Church quickly developed alternative means to reach the faithful locally and nationally through online worship; live-streamed services on YouTube and Facebook became regular features. The Diocese of Oxford produced a weekly worship event chaired by the Bishops and others featuring a wide variety of worship with participants from across the diocese. These we accessed on the Church website which rapidly became the focus for our own weekly audio recorded services thanks to the skill and expertise of Peter Heaps, former professional sound engineer, and Sylvia Valentine our Administrator and web master. 'Zoom' came along and entered all our daily lives as the means for sharing in Morning Worship, PCC meetings and for all meetings when actual face to face contact was not possible.

I want to pay tribute to all who have worked so hard to adapt to the new realities over these past months. To Sylvia in the Church Office who has had to adapt to mainly working from home and holding things together on the web site and through the electronic pew sheet weekly news. Sylvia has coped with many other issues, not least seeing the usual boundaries which work in the physical space which the office affords, become so blurred. This virtual world of work no longer affords any real boundaries at all. My ministerial colleagues across the benefice, Cassa, Jenny and Paul have all stepped forward to learn new virtual skills as well as adopting older practices, like phone calls to those without the facility of an internet connection. We have all had to react to changing circumstances as gradually freedoms were curtailed and new ways of being Church were discovered. Our morning prayer meetings on zoom started in March 2020. Those morning prayer times are still in operation at the time of writing and have drawn many more people to prayer than had been the case when prayers were said in Church with just two or three of us alone, now including Church members Gill Walmsley in Australia, Shirley Woodall in Cheshire and Joyce Norton in Northampton!

We have needed to shut down the Church at times. At other times, the Church watch team have performed heroically to enable parishioners to come into the Church and gain a little peace and quiet from the coronavirus raging all around. The Churchwardens, deputy warden Melainé Teahan, and team of volunteers have had to learn the new ways of welcoming people wearing masks and sitting silently apart in Church for funerals and services of worship. We held a very few weddings during this time including one for just six persons in total present! Cathy Langdale has adapted to the new musical realities, with husband Peter in support together with our excellent team of organists led by Chris Weaver and with the Rutter twins as well. All of these, with our smaller than usual choir, have worked miracles enabling musical worship to continue to this present time.

The Pastoral Care Team have been to parishioners a source of loving care in any number of ways, ranging from the distribution of 190 postcards with short messages of encouragement, to endless phone calls and practical caring actions. New pastoral carers have appeared to take charge of small groups of parishioners who have little access to on-line technology and thus keeping them in touch with Church life. Margaret and Bill Dykes have developed their Tradecraft work to channel over £30,000 (to date) worth of goods paid for by parishioners to support the Chiltern Food Bank. A wonderful and generous response to need, but also a terrible sign of the reduced financial times we are living through.

Many features of Church life have changed and adapted in the Covid crisis. Our mission to the parish entitled 'Coming Home' to be led by Roger Simpson in June was cancelled. Instead, our contact with the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics enabled us to use their resource to hold a series of talks and discussions on zoom. The Diocese of Oxford has tracked the many new and occasional participants in on-line worship over the past year and offers a course entitled 'Come and See' which began in spring 2021 and in which we are taking part. Our Church business has been interrupted by the world pandemic. Our AGM could not be held in person but was postponed and held on zoom in the autumn. Hannah Tew laid down her work early as Churchwarden since the covid crisis forced her to spend her time in home schooling her children and in searching for paid employment. We thank Hannah most warmly for her work among us wishing her and her family well in these hard times. And we welcomed Rachel Leonard stepping forward as our incoming warden in Hannah's place. Sophie Bowles, our Assistant



Treasurer, contracted cancer over the past year and has undergone treatment which has severely disrupted her life. Sophie has had to lay down her role and we do thank her most sincerely and wish her a successful return to full health.

Mike Baldwin has carried the dual roles of Treasurer and Assistant Treasure and has been hugely challenged by the extra workload. Mike is always resourceful and hardworking, and we thank Mike for his great faithfulness, skill and boundless energy in keeping our finances on course in the difficult financial circumstances which are reported elsewhere in this report. The Baldwin household has been front and central in keeping our Church afloat this past year. Eileen as a Churchwarden has been tireless in her role and we thank her for her kind and caring leadership. Eileen has brought many people together and has been the kind and effective glue binding many church members and projects together during the three years of her wardenship. Both Eileen and Mike have signalled their need to step back from their roles this spring and we thank them both for the loads which they have carried for us all. The Standing Committee of the PCC led by John Southworth and under the eagle eye of Richard Bolton, its Secretary, has been vital in taking forward Church business and helping us to adapt to the changing times. John is a hard-working and diligent chair of the PCC. Richard has a remarkable command of the detail across the whole range of church business and I thank them both for the incredible job they have undertaken for the church at its business end. And particular thanks to Richard who has put all of this Annual Report together! A Benefice Vacancy Committee has been set up under John's chair as preparations are made for the Vacancy when I leave in early May.

I pay tribute to Rev Cassa Messervy who has been my most able full-time colleague in Seer Green and Jordans. The new reality in the Benefice to come is that as Cassa and I both leave in short order, Cassa to take up new ministry in the Wychert Vale Benefice in Haddenham, and myself into retirement, this will have a significant impact upon the Churches. Since Cassa has been such an effective minister in the villages, my attention has been almost entirely focused upon Chalfont St Giles. My successor as Rector will necessarily have to share the time more fully across the three villages of the Benefice and its two Churches. Holy Trinity Church will receive a new minister in time (after the appointment of the Rector here) but that minister will most likely be House for Duty once again (as it was back in 2014 before Cassa's arrival) working just three days a week in return for free housing in the vicarage.

Rev Angela Thompson has been a vital part of our church since she came as one of the first women to enter ordained ministry in the Church of England. She has served in the Parish as curate in training and as Self Supporting Minister, caring for the needs of many in times of joy and in sorrow. Angela brought her particular gifts and emphasis in the ministry of prayer for healing to our church. The evening service of Holy Communion with prayers for healing will return after the covid crisis and bring strength and wholeness to many. This is in part a testimony to Angela for which we are all deeply grateful. Since husband Robin has been unwell, Angela has drawn back from active involvement in church life. As time has passed, she has relinquished her valuable work as local hospital chaplain to care for Robin full time. Angela no longer holds Permission to Officiate (PTO) and so the time to say goodbye to Angela in a formal capacity has arrived. Angela will still be available to support members of the Pastoral Care Team as and when. Her great pastoral wisdom and counsel will always be so much in demand. We thank Angela for her presence with us; for her prayers, her inspiration and we wish her and Robin well in their life together.

I warmly thank Revs Jenny Tebboth and Paul Henderson for their tireless hard work and inspiration. Jenny and Paul both arrived as callow Curates in training some years back. Look at them now and give thanks to God for the gift which they are to the Benefice! I could not have enjoyed my time with you all half so much without these two. They are a joy and a great asset. Look after them kindly and well throughout their time of Ministry to come.

We have lost many loved members of our Church and community to death this past year. It has been so hard for their families having to say goodbye to loved ones with extremely limited numbers of people able to be present ranging from 6 to 30 as at present. As I write this, in the past year of the Covid crisis from among our Church members we have commended into God's hands, Rosemary Hogg, Gordon Rivett, Gordon Bull, Myles Hawkins, Joan Tunstall, Judith Wright, Ann Auket, Ella Tyrell, Alun Roberts, Mike Greenaway, David Worley, Jill Dean, Peter Parkin, Ken Lees and a past Church member Ian Anderson. It has been my sad but privileged duty to take part in several of their funeral services.

In common with my able colleagues Jenny and Paul we have welcomed into the Ministerial Team Peter Miles and Garry Walton. Garry and Peter have received the Bishop of Buckingham's 'Authorisation to Preach' in the Benefice. The opportunities for their preachments have been rather limited to date but we know that in the Vacancy they will be a great resource for the Church and support to Jenny and Paul, as well as to Linda West and Janna Holder in Seer Green.

It has indeed been my privilege to share with you as Rector for these past seven years. I could not have wanted for a better Church community in which to see out the last of my almost 40 years in Ministry. Thank you all for making Julie and I so welcome among you. Thank you for supporting us so fully and so well throughout our time here with



you. It is the greatest joy to be able to share the good news of the Gospel of Christ here in this place. Pray for your ministers; support them as best you can. Consider too if God is calling you (yes you!) to Ministry in the Church today. These are challenging but exciting times and I pray that God will raise up more willing workers to serve the work for the growth of the Kingdom of God here in this place.

Ian Brown

### OUR MISSION ACTION PLAN Pre and Post Covid

- On Saturday 9 February 2020, the PCC went away (to the village Infant School) to consider where we are now with our mission action planning
- We used a method called 'Appreciative Inquiry' recommended to us through work carried out by and across the Diocese of Oxford
- Appreciative Inquiry proceeds in four stages:
  - Discovery
  - Dream
  - Design
  - Delivery
- **Discovery:** Appreciative Inquiry is an approach to the Church which asks questions of appreciation such as: What do we value about this Church? Where does the Church do well? What are our stories around our experience of Church from which we can learn?
- **Dream:** We looked at two biblical stories from the gospel of Luke to help us forward: the calling of the first disciples (chapter 5 verses 1-7) and the parables of the mustard seed and yeast (chapter 13 verses 18-21)
- **Design:** We began to talk together about a 'statement of intention' arising out of the stories and dreams we shared, and some lines of interest emerged: going out into the community, making our worship more accessible to all, being more culturally relevant more inviting and welcoming with better use of our facilities of the Church building and churchyard and then to better nurture spiritual growth
- **Delivery:** putting the theory into practice...

And then along came Coronavirus!

Perhaps all of this terrible time of Covid will have one positive outcome here; we may well need to include a greater number of people and a wider range of stories about the Church than we imagined back in February 2020. Furthermore, the Rector's retirement in May 2021 forces us to think afresh into and beyond the Vacancy. And this may be and become a particularly good thing for our ongoing Mission Action Planning.

At its meeting on 17 March 2021 the PCC approved the proposed Mission Action Plan for the Vacancy. This will guide our Church life for the time being until the appointment of our next Rector and another stage in our Church life unfolds.

Ian Brown  
March 2021

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Chalfont St Giles for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the summary of receipts and payments and the statement of assets and liabilities..

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



John David Lee BA FCA  
Lee Accounting Services 2018 Limited  
Trading as Lee & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
26 High Street  
Rickmansworth  
Hertfordshire WD3 1ER

Date: 17/5/21



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1129372**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted and Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable & Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary Receipts	4	95,308	593	-	95,901	105,840
Receipts from Fundraising	5	8,781	-	-	8,781	17,604
Receipts from Reading Room	6	1,525	-	-	1,525	4,904
Receipts from Church Activities	7	770	-	-	770	2,588
Other Receipts	8	973	8,756	177	9,906	2,114
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>107,357</b>	<b>9,349</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>116,883</b>	<b>133,050</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
Voluntary Income Costs	9	3,575	-	-	3,575	4,600
Fundraising Costs	10	4,573	146	-	4,719	8,312
Reading Room Expenses	11	2,609	35	-	2,644	3,689
Church Activities Costs	12	104,731	9,751	-	114,482	112,687
Management and Administration	13	14,311	80	-	14,391	20,140
Other Costs	14	310	70	-	380	2,705
<b>Total operating costs</b>		<b>130,109</b>	<b>10,082</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140,191</b>	<b>152,133</b>
Transfer between funds		5,850	(251)	(5,599)	-	-
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>135,959</b>	<b>9,831</b>	<b>(5,599)</b>	<b>140,191</b>	<b>152,133</b>
<b>Surplus of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(28,602)</b>	<b>(482)</b>	<b>5,776</b>	<b>(23,308)</b>	<b>(19,083)</b>
Major non-recurring items:						
Bequest received		15,000	-	-	15,000	-
Gain(loss) on market investments		-	-	3,443	3,443	21,195
<b>Net movement of funds</b>		<b>(13,602)</b>	<b>(482)</b>	<b>9,219</b>	<b>(4,865)</b>	<b>2,112</b>
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>115,286</b>	<b>11,578</b>	<b>184,790</b>	<b>311,654</b>	<b>309,542</b>
<b>Funds this year end carried forward</b>		<b>101,684</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>194,009</b>	<b>306,789</b>	<b>311,654</b>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1129372**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restrict ed Funds	Expendable & Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Investments at valuation	-	-	-	194,009	194,009	190,566
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Cash at bank and in hand	27,973	20,000	544	-	48,517	26,758
Cash on deposit with Central Board of Finance	6,611	11,967	7	-	18,585	18,505
Shawbrook Bank	677	34,456	10,545	-	45,678	75,825
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>35,261</b>	<b>66,423</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,780</b>	<b>121,088</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>35,261</b>	<b>66,423</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>194,009</b>	<b>306,789</b>	<b>311,654</b>
<b>CAPITAL FUNDS</b>						
Permanent Endowment Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>INCOME FUNDS</b>						
Endowment Funds	-	-	-	194,009	194,009	184,790
Restricted Funds	-	-	11,096	-	11,096	11,578
Designated Funds	-	66,423	-	-	66,423	81,613
Unrestricted Funds	35,261	-	-	-	35,261	33,673
	<b>35,261</b>	<b>66,423</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>194,009</b>	<b>306,789</b>	<b>311,654</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>35,261</b>	<b>66,423</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>194,009</b>	<b>306,789</b>	<b>311,654</b>

The financial statements were approved by the committee of members on  
Treasurer to sign them on their behalf:

who authorised the Honorary

Signed:

Mike Baldwin  
Honorary Treasurer



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and Recommended Practice "Accounting and reporting by charities" (revised 2005).

The accounts are drawn up on the basis of "Receipts and Payments" (rather than "prepayments and accrual" accounting) as permitted by the Charity Commission for charities with a turnover of less than £250k a year. They are also drawn up under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investment assets at market value.

**Incoming resources**

Offerings and donations received for the general purposes of the charity are included as Unrestricted Funds. The relevant Gift Aid is shown separately. Donations whose application is restricted by the wishes of the donor are taken to Restricted Funds. Incoming resources are all accounted for gross and planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Investment income, dividends, interest and tax recoverable are accounted for when receivable. All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

An Endowment fund was received in March 2020. The amount and infrequent nature of the bequest was wholly exceptional and the receipt was separately disclosed as a "Major non-recurring item" in the 2020 Statement of Financial Activity.

**Resources expended**

The church has followed the practice of writing off 100 per cent of the cost of any additions or modifications to the consecrated land and buildings and contents of the church.

Parish Share is paid regularly and is included in expenditure for the year in which it is paid.

Unrestricted fund grants (including donations to missions) are recognised when determined by the PCC. Amounts received specifically for missions are dealt with as restricted funds and the liability for payment is recognised when the amounts are received.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred.

Expenditure incurred refurbishing the Vestry and installing a new sound system has been separately disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activity as a "Major non-recurring item" because of its value and the infrequent nature of such expenditure.

**Assets and Liabilities**

The following assets are recognised but not attributed a value in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

\*Moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal;

\*Land and buildings and improvements thereto, held on behalf of the PCC;

\*Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment where the PCC is free to dispose of such assets without faculty and where the original cost exceeded £1,000.

The following assets are recognised and a monetary value given as part of the description in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

\*Closing bank balances

\*Closing revalued balances on investments

The following liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

\*Any loans or overdrafts advanced to the PCC;

\*Any arrears of Diocesan Parish Share

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020, continued**

**Taxation**

The parochial church council is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted Funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Designated funds are Unrestricted Funds as they are not restricted by the donor and are available for any specified purpose endorsed by the PCC.

Restricted Funds are those donations and covenants where the donor has stipulated that the monies should be used for particular purposes. Any Restricted Funds received have been or will be disbursed for the purposes intended by the donor. All donations to the Fabric Fund for example are used to finance property repairs.

Endowment Funds are those where the donor has donated a capital sum, making the dividend or interest from the fund to be used as stipulated.

**APB Ethical Standard - Provisions Available for Small Entities**

In common with many other organisations of our size and nature we use our independent examiner to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

**2. RESERVES POLICY**

During the year the following policy was adopted by the Parochial Church Council;

- a) The church will seek to achieve an annual operating profit (income in excess of expenditure) equal in value to approximately three months of normal operating expenditure. This amount would currently be some £35,000).
- b) To ensure the ability to maintain the fabric of the church and other property, reserves will be retained that are at least equal to costs that might reasonably be incurred during one ten-year cycle of repair.

This amount has been estimated by the Fabric Committee to be some £250,000.



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020, continued

	Unrestricted and Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Expendable & Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>4 VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS</b>					
Offerings	8,975	-	-	8,975	18,814
Donations (inc Gift Days)	68,801	593	-	69,394	60,955
HMRC Gift Aid Rebate	17,532	-	-	17,532	19,910
Grants, Bequests, Legacies	-	-	-	-	6,161
	<b>95,308</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,901</b>	<b>105,840</b>
<b>5 RECEIPTS FROM FUNDRAISING</b>					
Wedding and Funeral Fees	7,040	-	-	7,040	9,758
Fund Raising Events	1,328	-	-	1,328	5,971
Magazine Income	413	-	-	413	1,875
	<b>8,781</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,781</b>	<b>17,604</b>
<b>6 RECEIPTS FROM READING ROOM</b>					
Reading Room Income	1,525	-	-	1,525	4,904
	<b>1,525</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>4,904</b>
<b>7 RECEIPTS FROM CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>					
Social Outreach	681	-	-	681	2,320
Children Youth & Messy Church	89	-	-	89	268
	<b>770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>2,588</b>
<b>8 OTHER RECEIPTS</b>					
Miscellaneous	242	-	-	242	1,128
Donations for Charities	-	-	-	-	339
Interest and Dividends	701	55	177	933	407
Provision of Service	30	-	-	30	-
Grants received	-	8,701	-	8,701	240
	<b>973</b>	<b>8,756</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>9,906</b>	<b>2,114</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>107,357</b>	<b>9,349</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>116,883</b>	<b>133,050</b>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHALFONT ST GILES  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020, continued

	Unrestricted and Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund (Shares)	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>9 COSTS OF GENERATING VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>					
Grants given (including tithes)	3,575	-	-	3,575	4,600
<b>10 FUNDRAISING COSTS</b>					
Fundraising Event Expenses	296	146	-	442	2,642
Wedding & Funeral Fees to ODBF	4,206	-	-	4,206	4,979
Magazine & Publicity	71	-	-	71	691
	<b>4,573</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,719</b>	<b>8,312</b>
<b>11 READING ROOM EXPENSES</b>					
Light and Heat	757	35	-	792	1,354
Insurance	1,119	-	-	1,119	707
Operating Costs	409	-	-	409	1,075
Repairs and Improvements	324	-	-	324	553
	<b>2,609</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>3,689</b>
<b>12 CHURCH ACTIVITIES COSTS</b>					
Parish Share	79,856	-	-	79,856	79,514
Heating and Lighting	2,933	-	-	2,933	5,112
Church and Churchyard Maintenance	8,296	4,314	-	12,610	5,610
Insurance	4,124	-	-	4,124	4,447
Organist, Music & Instruments	5,794	4,767	-	10,561	6,046
Other Operating Expenses	3,514	-	-	3,514	3,092
Social Outreach	109	-	-	109	615
Children, Youth & Messy Church	105	670	-	775	8,251
	<b>104,731</b>	<b>9,751</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,482</b>	<b>112,687</b>
<b>13 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Travel, Hospitality, Visiting Clergy	1,189	80	-	1,269	3,321
Telephone and Internet	1,359	-	-	1,359	1,002
Office Admin Staff	8,242	-	-	8,242	8,190
Printing and Stationery	2,479	-	-	2,479	5,754
Office Other Costs	98	-	-	98	673
Audit & Accountancy	944	-	-	944	756
PCC & Deanery Expenses	-	-	-	-	444
	<b>14,311</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,391</b>	<b>20,140</b>
<b>14 OTHER COSTS</b>					
Donations to Charities	310	70	-	380	2,705
	<b>310</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>2,705</b>
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>130,109</b>	<b>10,082</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140,191</b>	<b>152,133</b>