

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

WATFORD

Mildred Avenue, Watford WD18 7DY

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent

The Revd Dr Geoffrey Calvert

Bank:

Barclays Bank

High Street

Watford

WD17 2BE

Independent Examiner:

Karen Pryse

18 Frankland Road

Croxley Green

WD3 3AU

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010

Index

Accounting Policies	8
Annual Report	1
Annual Report for 2020	2
Balance Sheet	10
Children & Young Families Network	16
Churchwardens' Message	1
Committees	4
Deanery Synod	16
Electoral Roll	7
Estates Committee	17
Financial Activities	11
Financial Notes	12
Food Bank	18
Independent Examiners Report	14
Mission Action Plan	5
Mission and Charitable Giving	15
Mission Committee	18
Music	18
Parochial Church Council	3
Review of the Year	6
Treasurer's Report	9
Welcome and Introduction	1

St Michael and All Angels Church, Watford
Annual Report for the Year January to December 2020

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear Friends,

Church life in 2020 has been dominated, except for a few months at the start, by the coronavirus pandemic. During the first lockdown, the only church activities that could take place were online. At the start, clergy were even forbidden from entering the Church to take services, and services were recorded from the Vicarage. Subsequently, we were able to record services in Church, and then livestream. During the summer, we were able to have services with a congregation in Church, socially distanced, and with recorded choral music provided by the choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The services continued to be livestreamed. In the latter half of the year, we were affected by a second lockdown, and a period of tiered coronavirus restrictions.

During this time, members of the congregation have engaged in a Zoom coffee morning on Saturdays, which has become an important fixture in many people's weekly routine, and has given us some chance to meet socially, if virtually. The Food Bank continued to operate from St Michael's.

A network was established to keep in touch with vulnerable members of the congregation by telephone, and I am very grateful to those who have been organised and taken part in this.

I must also pay tribute to the loyalty shown by the congregation in their financial giving. Due to this loyalty, we ended 2020 in a much better financial position than might otherwise have been expected. We also learned, in 2020 of a substantial legacy from the estate of Marion Craddock Jones, and we thank her most profoundly.

During the year, we welcomed two new members to our Ministry Team. Bridget Russell was licensed to St Michael's as a reader, and The Revd Stephen Mephram as Associate Priest. Both have already made very valuable contributions to our Church life in many ways.

At the end of the year, our children and young people took part in an online crib service, which was very well received, and viewed widely on YouTube

With my love and prayers

Fr Geoff

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

It feels a bit as if we're in a time warp! We wrote to commend the last Annual Report a year ago, at the start of the Pandemic, which meant that the Report was not actually presented until October.

So much has happened in the last year and we have all had to do many things differently, or not at all. A year ago we were feeling apprehensive - even fearful, yet confident in God's loving mercy. We feel our faith has been vindicated in so many ways, as this Report testifies with its blend of faith, imagination and commitment.

So, in warmly commending this Report we want to thank you for your encouragement. Our meetings may have been virtual but your support has been very real. Thank you!

Elizabeth Watkin & Gillian Heath

St Michael and All Angels Church – Annual Report for 2020

Aims and Purposes

St Michael and All Angels PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev. Dr Geoffrey Calvert, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the Curate's House, 57 Whippendell Road, Watford and Littlebury Hall. In addition, it owns and has responsibilities, as defined in the Lease, for the West Watford Multi-Cultural Community Centre formerly known as St. Michael's Hall.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and become part of our parish community at St Michael's. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Activities for the year have been undertaken in the light of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

These activities have been seriously affected by the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020, but have taken place in new and different ways, in addition to what has been possible of our regular activities.

We seek to enable members of the community to engage with the Christian faith through:

- Worship, prayer and study
- Provision of pastoral care
- Missionary and outreach work
- Support of local organisations

The Church building at St Michael's and the ancillary buildings are the essential resources for this work to take place, although the ability to livestream services and use the Internet in various ways has been increasingly important in 2020.

Safeguarding

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). The House of Bishops' Guidance Documents "Protecting all God's Children" and "Promoting a Safer Church". have been issued to PCC members, and are available from the Vicar on request. Those requiring a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) disclosure have received them, and the ongoing programme of Diocesan and Deanery safeguarding training for those who require this has begun.

Ministry

The Vicar is supported and assisted in ministry by colleagues, both ordained and lay. The Revd Stephen Mephram has joined us as Associate Priest, and Bridget Russell as reader.

The Revd George Ochola, Honorary Assistant Priest, has only been able to join us in Church infrequently during 2020, due to his role as Hospital Chaplain during the COVID pandemic, but is still loved and valued as a minister here. Mrs Violet Allen-Smith has had to withdraw from active involvement in ministry, and we pay tribute to her past service and commitment, and look forward to her continued worship with us. Dr Martin Heath, Emeritus Reader, also supports the Church's Mission in a number of ways. Other members of the congregation engage in pastoral care, and there is a Pastoral Care Group which supports the Vicar in this area of the Church's ministry.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex-officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Dr Geoffrey Calvert (Chairman)
Licensed Ministers:	The Revd Stephen Mephram (Associate Priest) Mrs Bridget Russell (Reader)
Churchwardens:	Mrs Gillian Heath Mrs Elizabeth Watkin
Representatives on the Deanery Synod to 2023 (one vacancy)	Mr Martin Matthews Mrs Victoria Matthews

Elected Members:

To serve to 2021	Mr Andrew Kiddle, Mr Duncan Turton
To serve to 2022	Mr Simon Fowle, Cllr Mark Watkin
To serve to 2023	Mrs Marcella Browne, Mrs Sylvia Moring, Mrs Jane Talbot

Non-trustee officers appointed at PCC 18th November 2020

Honorary Treasurer – Mr Duncan Turton

Electoral Roll Officer – Mr Simon Fowle

Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Marcella Browne

Data Controller – The Revd Geoffrey Calvert

PCC Minutes Secretary – Rotating between Members

PCC Diocesan Liaison Secretary – Mrs Valerie Blacklock

Annual Report Compilation – Mr Henry and Mrs Sylvia Moring

Non-trustee advisors appointed at PCC 18th November 2020

Insurance advisor – Mr Duncan Turton

Sword Parish Magazine Editor - Mr Rob White

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC. The committees have continued to function during 2020, using video conferencing.

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Vicar, the Wardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer constitute the Standing Committee.

Finance Committee:

- Oversees the financial dimension of the work of St. Michael and All Angels by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting, and initiating and authorising fundraising activities. (There is a fuller set of terms of reference for the finance committee)

Estates Committee:

- Attends to matters relating to the fabric of the church, halls, grounds and the curate's house;
- Oversees the management of the Littlebury Hall.

Mission Committee:

- Seeks to foster support for the life and mission of the worldwide Church through prayer, publicity, events and visiting speakers;
- To make recommendations to the PCC for the annual allocation of mission & charitable giving.

Social Committee:

- The committee fosters contact with all organisations associated with St. Michael and All Angels, providing catering for parish functions and supports other activities where appropriate.

Children and Young Families Network:

- Fosters Christian growth among young people in the age group 0 – 18 years.

St Michael and All Angels Church, Watford

MISSION ACTION PLAN

1. Introduction

Our Diocese of St Albans encourages us in mission through Living God's Love, attending to the three areas of:

Going Deeper into God

Making New Disciples

Transforming Communities

The practical method we are encouraged to use is Mission Action Planning, in which practical and achievable goals are set out. The proposals are, in the main, moving forward with work we already do, and aiming to involve more people in it. The plan is one which can involve a wide range of members of the congregation. Members of St Michael's are encouraged to think and pray deeply about the plan, and how they can give their support.

2. The Mission Action Plan

2.1 to encourage younger members and families in their faith journeys

– through First Sunday Worship, Children's Church, and Toddler Church. Encouraging young people to grow into roles such as junior leaders, readers in Church, intercessors, sidespersons, and others.

2.2 to work towards becoming a "Dementia Friendly Church", by engaging with the Alzheimer's Society Programme.

2.3 to encourage new families attending Church to become more involved.

2.4 to work towards a wider and more inclusive involvement by church members in the life of St Michael's – in worship, ministry, the PCC and its committees.

2.5 to provide new opportunities for growth in Christian understanding and spirituality – by finding and developing opportunities for study and nurture groups.

2.6 to extend our commitment to community and neighbourhood relations – for example, through the Watford Inter-Faith Association, Celebration and The Bridge of Peace.

2.7 to engage with the wider Christian community in Watford – through active participation in Churches Together and Christians Across Watford.

2.8 to encourage greater support for local mission – through hands-on involvement in the Food Bank, the Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, the Refugee Partnership and New Hope.

2.9 to encourage deeper knowledge and engagement with the Worldwide Anglican Communion – particularly through hosting a Bishop attending the Lambeth Conference, using this as a springboard for us to learn and receive encouragement in our faith.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

St Michael & All Angels Church is located in the residential area of West Watford. It is a large building built over 100 years ago to enable the people of West Watford to attend Christian worship. In recent years the local population has become multi-ethnic. There is still a good number of Christians who attend St Michael's Church for worship on Sundays although half of our Electoral Roll members live outside the Parish.

Our core act of Sunday Worship, at 9.30am, involves many people, who support it as musicians, servers, readers, intercessors, sidespersons, and Children's Church leaders, by providing weekly leaflets, and in many other ways. People from many different sections of the local and wider community are welcomed. There is a said service of Holy Communion every Sunday at 8.00am. The coronavirus pandemic in 2020 has meant that these services have not always been able to take place with a congregation. Some services have been livestreamed only, whilst others have taken place in church with a congregation, but have been livestreamed to those unable to attend.

We have maintained contact with our children and young families, many of whom took part on the online crib service, which reached many, and for which many were grateful to be included.

During the year, we welcomed two new members to our Ministry Team: the Revd Stephen Mephram as Associate Priest, and Bridget Russell as Reader.

The Toddler Church has not been able to meet since the first lockdown, although we are still in touch with our regular members.

We act as a collection point for the Watford Food Bank, and a distribution point on Wednesday mornings. We have continued to maintain this service to the community throughout the pandemic. Many thanks to the volunteers who enable us to do this.

Unfortunately, services in local care homes have not been possible, nor have school visits. The church building is adaptable, particularly as it does not have pews, and both church members and other local people take advantage of its size for social activities. Church members particularly welcome non churchgoers to this type of activity as it brings them inside our lovely church building.

The Church has been used by the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church on two Sundays a month in some months when the easing of restrictions allowed, and on other occasions.

During the year, St Michael's ministered to the local community through services of Marriage and Funerals.

The church is a member of Churches Together in Central South and West Watford and of Christians Across Watford. During 2020, the Vicar also chaired Watford Celebration, and attended meetings of the Faith Leaders' Forum.

As we were not able to have a Christmas Fair, there was a Gift Day, at which members of the congregation were very generous in their giving.

10% of our Planned Giving is earmarked for Mission Giving (described later in the Annual Report). This was reduced in 2020, but the shortfall will be made up in 2021.

As a Christian Church, St Michael's seeks to welcome and minister to a wide variety of people from our local and wider communities, giving them a place to belong and find fellowship and understanding. We aim to do this through a wide variety of worship and other activities on Sundays and during the week so that people can find a place here whatever part of the community they belong to.

We said goodbye this year to Mrs Loretta Lynch, Mrs Marion Craddock Jones, Mr Michael Bown, Mr David Powell, Mrs Mary Kearns, Mr Leslie Wright and Mr Alex Adjekum, who passed away, and a number of people who moved out of the area.

Fr Geoff

ELECTORAL ROLL

There was no formal update of the Electoral Roll in 2020 because of the restrictions in attending church imposed as a result of the coronavirus epidemic.

As at 31 December 2019, the Roll stood at 70 (41 Resident, 29 Non-Resident).

By 31 December 2020, there had been 2 additions and no deletions, resulting in an amended total of 72 (43 Resident and 29 Non-Resident).

Simon Fowle

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Watford
(Charity Number 1132010).

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council presents the Report and Accounts of St Michael and All Angels, Watford for the year ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and in Accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Accounting by charities.

(b) Planned Giving and Tax Recoverable

have been treated as Income when actually received.

(c) Depreciation

Equipment, fixture and fittings are depreciated at between 15% and 25% per annum on a straight line basis. From 1 January 2013, assets have been capitalised only when the initial cost exceeds £3,000

TREASURER'S REPORT

Where to begin?

For all churches 2020 was a difficult year to say the least. St Michael's was no exception.

Our overall funds have decreased during 2020 from £92,466 to £88,398

Total incoming funds in total were £70,352. That is a decrease on last year's income of £84,489. That difference is largely due to the loss of income from fund-raising activity, hall/building hires and from services held.

Our main sources of income were:

- 1. Rental income (St Michael's Hall, Littlebury Hall, the Church and the Curate's House) - £26,938 (2019: £32,375).
- 2. Giving by Church Members and supporters (including Tax Repaid under Gift Aid) - £36,506. This was almost the same as the amount from these sources in 2019 (£40,753).

Our total expenditure ("Resources used"), at £75,273 was lower than the 2019 figure of £85,629. Ordinarily as Treasurer I would celebrate less expenditure. Of course the reduction is the wholly unwelcome product of lower costs due to our buildings being closed for some time and so not needing utilities, and our services not operating as normal.

Our biggest item of expenditure remains the Diocesan Quota, which in 2020 was £53,130. This is well over half of the church's overall spending. For 2021 this will be held at the same level by the Diocese of St Albans.

The Future

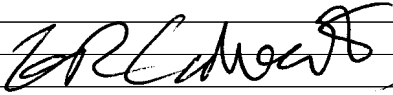
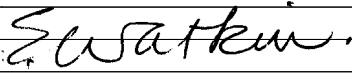
We had bank and deposit balances of £52,984 at 31 December 2020. It should be remembered however that the church building will have a quinquennial review in 2021 which will likely incur costs. Whilst the loss made by the church is a source of disappointment, overall the church is in a markedly better position as we enter 2021 than I had feared it might be.

During this most difficult of years PCC drew up an emergency budget, worked with those who pay into St Michael's to ensure that income was minimally disrupted and identified the most important of the payments we needed to make. Parishioners can be assured that in protecting the finances of the church the system worked as well as could reasonably be expected.

On behalf of PCC, I thank all of those who continued to donate to the church throughout 2020 – often whilst their own finances were subject to great uncertainty. On PCC we are always very aware that money with St Michael's is not our own money as trustees, nor is it money that belongs to the Church of England. Nor even does it necessarily belong to those who donate to us, even if those donors have reasonable expectations of how that money is used. Rather it is God's money. We at St Michael's will always treat it as such.

Duncan Turton
Treasurer

Balance Sheet

<u>Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford</u>			
		2020	2019
<u>Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020</u>	Note	£	£
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
<u>Tangible Fixed Assets</u>			
Equipment, fixtures and fittings	3d and 8	0	0
Functional freehold property -Curate's House			
57 Whippendell Road Watford (at cost)	4a	12,575	12,575
Littlebury Hall, Mildred Avenue, Watford (at cost)	4a	5,065	5,065
St Michael's Hall, Durban Road, Watford (cost not known)			
<u>Investment Assets</u>	4c	13,887	13,033
		31,527	30,673
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Debtors and Prepayments		3,888	1,783
Short Term Deposits		36,610	36,455
Cash at Bank and at Hand		16,373	23,555
		56,871	61,793
Sundry Creditors and Accruals		0	0
Liabilities Sundry Creditors and Accruals		0	0
<u>Net Current Assets</u>		56,871	61,793
<u>Net Assets</u>	11	88,398	92,466
<u>Funds</u>			
<u>Unrestricted</u>			
General Funds		78,451	83,351
Major Works Fund		4,874	4,068
Flower Fund		361	361
Vicar/Churchwardens' Emergency Fund		916	916
Organ Fund		245	245
		84,847	88,941
<u>Restricted</u>			
Major Works Fund		642	642
General Fund		2,909	2,883
		3,551	3,525
		88,398	92,466
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 2021			
Signed			
	Rev. Geoffrey Calvert, Vicar		
			
	Mrs E Watkin, Churchwarden		

Financial Activities

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford						
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020						
	Note	Unrestricted General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
<u>Incoming Resources</u>						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	36,506	0	0	36,506	40,753
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	2b	2,187	0	0	2,187	4,129
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	31,090	0	0	31,090	37,960
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	0	0	0	924
Income from investments	2e	569	0	0	569	723
Vicar and Churchwardens fund	2e	0	0	0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources		70,352	0	0	70,352	84,489
<u>Resources Used</u>						
Grants	3a	2,000	0	0	2,000	3,289
Activities Directly relating to the work of the church	3b	72,391	0	0	72,391	81,064
Generating Funds and Publicity	3c	0	0	0	0	50
Church Management and administration	3d	882	0	0	882	1,226
Total Resources Used		75,273	0	0	75,273	85,629
Net Incoming Resources		(4,921)	0	0	(4,921)	(1,140)
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments		21	806	26	853	1,869
Net Movements in Investments		21	806	26	853	1,869
Net Movements in Funds		(4,900)	806	26	(4,068)	729
Balances Brought Forward at 01/01/20		83,351	5,590	3,525	92,466	91,737
Balances Carried Forward at 31/12/20		78,451	6,396	3,551	88,398	92,466

Financial Notes

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford							
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (Continued)							
	Resources Used	Note	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
3a	Grants						
	Missions at home and abroad and charitable giving		2,000	0	0	2,000	3,289
3b	Activities directly relating to the work of the church:						
	Ministry Diocesan Quota		53,130			53,130	51,277
	Ministry Clergy Expenses		301			301	675
	Curate house Expenses		1,202			1,202	652
	Church Running Expenses inc Cleaning		7,215			7,215	7,831
	Insurance - Church		3,783			3,783	3,707
	Repairs and Maintenance		1,699			1,699	1,280
	Music		1,055			1,055	3,992
	Sanctuary Expenses		36			36	472
	Pastoral Expenses		0			0	0
	Children's Church and Youth work		51			51	92
	Purchase of flowers		0	0		0	20
	Littlebury Hall Expenses		2,581			2,581	3,804
	Sword Magazine, Messenger and See Round		195			195	785
	Organ repairs		0			0	754
	Major Church Repairs.Quinquennial		0			0	4,980
	Costs of War Memorial		0			0	0
	Parochial Fees Payable to DBF		1,143			1,143	743
			72,391	0	0	72,391	81,064
	Generating Funds and Publicity		0			0	50
			0	0	0	0	50
3d	Church management and admin						
	Printing, copying and stationery inc.maintenance of copier		410			410	459
	General Expenses		472			472	767
	Depreciation		0		0	0	0
			882	0	0	882	1,226
	Total Resources Used		75,273	0	0	75,273	85,629

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels Watford							
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (Continued)							
			Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
4	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC						
4a	Tangible Assets						
	Tangible Fixed Assets at cost		17,640			17,640	17,460
	Functional freehold properties it is not considered appropriate to make a provision of depreciation for these assets						
4b	Equipment, Fixtures and fittings see note 8		0 17,640	0	0	0 17,640	0 17,460
4c	The investments comprise the following:		375 CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund -Income shares	610 CBF Investment Fund Income Shares.	461 CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund -Income shares		
			General	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	Investments (value at 31/12/20)		634	12,472	780	13,887	13,033

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Watford (Charity Number 1132010).

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b)) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

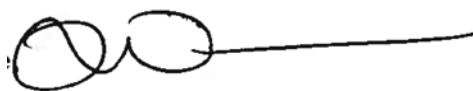
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- i. 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met;or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ms Karen Pryse

Croxley, Herts.

February 2021



MISSION AND CHARITABLE GIVING

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH - WATFORD

Mission and charitable giving for year ended 31st December 2020

We had a significantly reduced amount to allocate this year, the budget having been reduced by nearly a third and compounded by no Lent Lunch supplement and reduced Lent Box donations.

The allocations below are pragmatic and follow the criterion of balance between local/national and international.

	£
USPG - half of this amount to go to Bollobhpur Mission Hospital and Midwifery training hospital	600.00
Church Army	255.00
New Hope	200.00
Watford Schools Trust	200.00
Mercy Ships	200.00
Refugee Partnership	200.00
Town Centre Chaplaincy	200.00
Leprosy Mission	200.00
TOTAL	<u>£2,055.00</u>

The allocation to USPG (including Bollobhpur Hospital) represent a diminution of nearly 50% since 2018 and is particularly troubling since it is principally through USPG that we have a share in the life of the Anglican Communion.

No provision for the Children's Society, even though we had a visiting speaker in March, but Children's Society Boxes produced £370.

No provision for Christian Aid but the Christmas Greetings Project produced £385; a further £100 was donated in Christian Aid Week (excluding Gift Aid).

The Bike 'n Hike day raised £240 of which half is returned to the Church.

The Lent Boxes produced £55 (added in to the grant for the Church Army as in the table).

CHILDREN & YOUNG FAMILIES NETWORK

To say this has been a strange year is an understatement. However, thanks to our very forward thinking and progressive Vicar so much has been achieved. In no small way this is the case with our children and young families. Early on in the restrictions it was obvious that trying to replicate the “usual” on Zoom was not going to work with our young people. Although, it seems that with imagination and lots of lovely creativity, our wonderful family has thrived and grown.

Last September Father Geoff had a thought to produce a virtual Crib Service to show on YouTube on Christmas Eve. The idea was to use knitted Nativity figures, children’s craft and the children’s imagination to tell the Christmas story. As you know we have a small but very successful children and toddler Church and a good number of these children and young people did join in. As it was “virtual” we took the opportunity to “travel” further afield to invite children and grandchildren, who used to attend St Michael’s but have moved away, to take part. Oh my word they and their parents were so eager to join in and the product was..... well! You might have seen it BUT if not you can still see it on the St Michael’s YouTube channel. So far there have been 407 views, which is really cool.

The momentum from this Christmas fun has carried on with lots of involvement around the country, and indeed in other parts of the world, to create an Easter YouTube presentation. As this report is being written filming is underway. The craft the children, of all ages, have produced is so imaginative and effective and Father Geoff, the animation wizard is working his magic ready for Easter Saturday when it will premier on YouTube. The children have used their gifts, whether it is playing the keyboard, to even composing the music, to the use of a glue stick, to some wonderful reading. I won’t say anymore because as they say “the proof is in the pudding” so please see for yourselves on YouTube.

It might seem on the face of this short report that nothing much has been happening within our network but, au contraire, I think anyone who has seen what the children and young people have achieved, using their gifts, will agree they are growing as Christians sharing, as disciples, the word and love of Christ.

Jane Talbot

DEANERY SYNOD

It will come as no surprise that both the May and October meetings were cancelled. At a Zoom meeting in November parishes explained how they were coping during lockdown. A Deanery Synod survey revealed that 10 out of the 13 parishes in the Deanery had been able to stream services and that the Revd Dr Peter Waddell was being commissioned as the incoming Rural Dean.

Martin and Vicki Matthews

ESTATES COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the committee was in January and little did we know how the pandemic of Covid-19 was going to affect the church and the congregation, the halls and 57 Whippendell Road.

At the beginning of the year, at our January meeting, there were just a few general 'housekeeping' repairs to sort out (west end doors were not closing properly; the kitchen door was sticking) but the cracks in the Memorial Cross was a matter of concern. We had things to plan and were waiting for the colour samples for carpet to go under the altar in the Lady Chapel and also looking forward to a spring-cleaning session with our Jacobite friends.

In March the church was closed so our April meeting was a series of emails to show that the small repairs had been completed and also, that bulbs had been replaced and also, the roller door on Littlebury Hall had also been repaired. The usual checks for boilers were carried out with repairs where necessary. Drains and gutters had been cleared. Getting a reply from Cliveden (the company that installed the W M Cross) was proving difficult.

By August we had caught up with the rest of the world with Zoom. Everyone agreed that the new, blue carpet in the Lady Chapel looked particularly good. The main hall in Littlebury had not been used since March, nor had the office but the office was cleared and painted. Some cracks in the Cross had been filled and the lettering had been restored. We had several sessions clearing the gardens around the church and hope to plant a Rose Garden on the south side with contributions from anyone who would like to remember a friend or relative in this way.

In November it was reported that a weather-proof 'bonnet' had been made for the top of the cross. After much correspondence with the War Memorial Trust, Cliveden Conservation and the Diocesan Advisory Committee we were advised that Mark Battram, our surveyor, would examine the timber and lettering when he made the Quinquennial Inspection in 2021. Unfortunately, the annual inspection of 57 Whippendell Road didn't happen due to the pandemic but we know that the boiler is temperamental. However, the church boilers passed their annual inspection but are coming to the end of their lives. PAT testing and inspection of the fire extinguishers were scheduled before the end of the year.

Throughout the year we have had updates about trying to restore the letters at the base of the font: the saga will continue into the new year. Policy documents were checked when due and we held regular Covid-19 reviews to be sure that the church was safe for worship when we are allowed to enter the building for services. We also noticed where rain water had come in at the west end of the church after heavy storms; we will wait for the Q.I. report. There had been a leak by a buttress along the south aisle which was repaired very quickly by a roofer (A. Briden) in the autumn. As with every building, there is always some sort of job to be done.

Elizabeth Watkin

FOOD BANK

At the beginning of the year, our regular Food Bank volunteers continued this valuable service to the community. As many of our regular volunteers were unable to continue in the lockdown, the Food Bank service was maintained through the year by the Vicar, Mrs Jane Talbot, Mrs Valerie Blacklock, Mr Mark Simon, and Mrs Alison Makin, to all of whom we are very grateful. Food Bank has seen increased use over the year due to the effects of the pandemic.

Fr Geoff

MISSION COMMITTEE

With the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic the Mission Committee has been unable to invite speakers from the agencies we support - the last being from the Children's Society in March.

Hopefully church members have been able to add their own personal prayer support to the public worship intercessions from The Messenger.

An important part of the Committee's role is submitting proposals for the allocation of funds under Mission & Charitable Giving. Sadly, the provision in the budget was reduced by a third by the PCC in response to financial pressures, this loss being compounded by the absence of any Lent Lunch supplement and reduced Lent Box donations. A list of the finally agreed allocations appears elsewhere in this Report. It is good to note that the PCC has since agreed to enhance the 2021 budget provision to make good last year's shortfall.

I record my gratitude to Valerie, Pat, Gillian and Fr Geoff for their support and encouragement.

Martin Heath

MUSIC

During most of the year, we have been unable to have congregational singing, a live organist, or a choir. During the early part of the first lockdown, organ backing tracks were downloaded from the Internet for recorded and livestreamed worship. From the mid part of the year onwards, music recorded by the Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields was made available via the Church of England website "A Church near you", and has made a very valuable contribution to our worship. Choir members are looking forward to singing again in 2021!

Fr Geoff