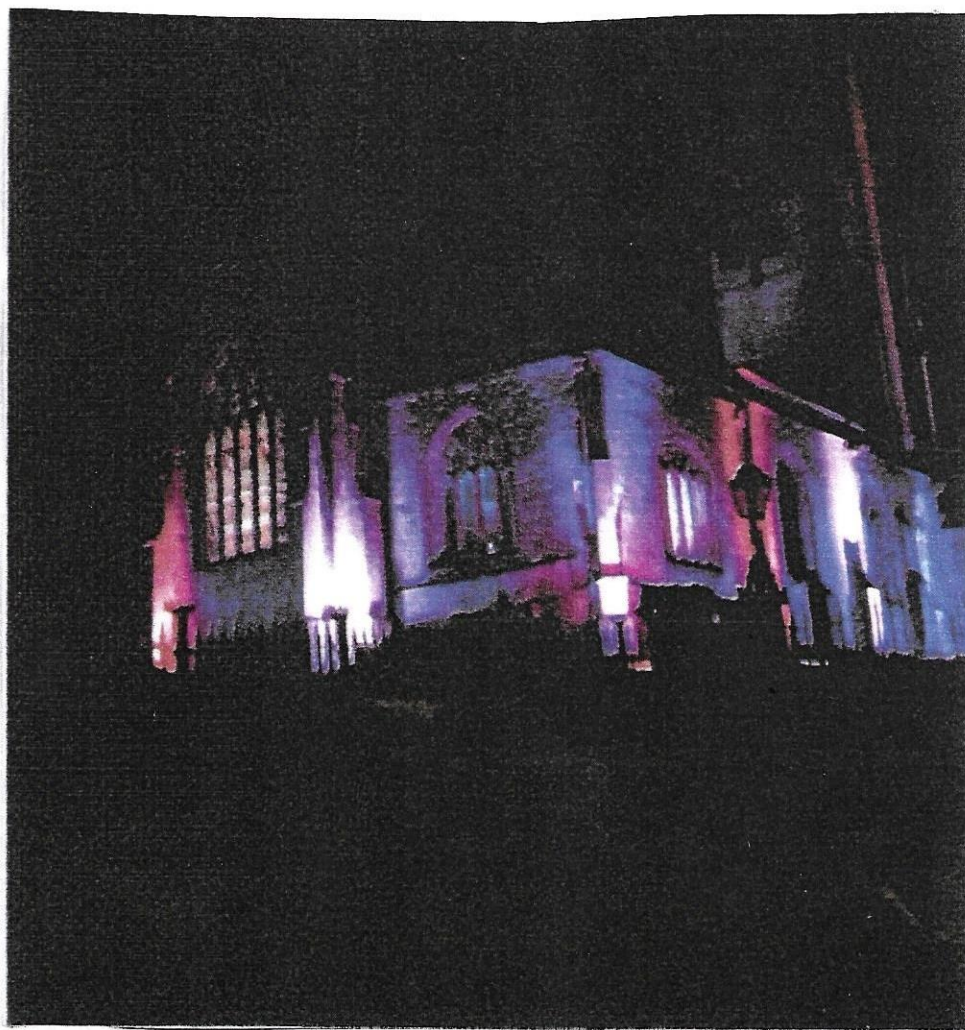


Beaminster Area Team Ministry



**The Parish of St Mary, Beaminster,
(Charity Commission No. 1133757)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2020



St Mary's Church Beaminster

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

St. Mary's Beaminster is situated in Church Street, Beaminster. It is part of the Beaminster Team Churches and in the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England.

Status: The PCC is a registered as a Charity with the Charity Commissioners.

Charity registration No: 1133757

Team Rector: Revd. Canon David Baldwin

Team Vicar: Revd. Jo Neary

Team Curate: Rev. Fiona Beale

Church Wardens: Vacant

Elected Members:

Philip Crawford and Hugh Lindsay (Standing down in 2021)

Sue Counsell, Brian Ridley Wendy Simmons and Barbara Simmonds (Standing down in 2022)

Tom Cunningham, Tony Giddings, Judith Hansen, Vivien McMurray and Dan Rootham
(Standing down in 2023)

Deanery Synod Reps: Kath Barnett, Ann Crawford and Rudi Simmonds.

Team Council Reps: Judith Hansen.

Lay Vice Chairman: Rudi Simmonds

Secretary to PCC: Vivien McMurray

Treasurer to PCC: Wendy Simmons

Church Office and address for correspondence: 8, Hogshill Street, Beaminster DT8 3AE.

Team Administrator: Anne Woodward

Team Online and Media Administrator: Harry Neary

Bank: HSBC. 17, East Street, Bridport DT8 3JZ

Independent Examiner: Gareth Hewett

Structure, Governance and Management: the method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities: St. Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent the Revd Canon David Baldwin in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church-pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and churchyard.

Committees and their briefs: The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact PCC business between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The various subcommittees meet as and when required.

Team Safeguarding Officers: Liz Brown and Barbara Simmonds

Team Health and Safety Advisor: Neville Adams

Electoral Roll Officer: Jenny Langridge. At the end of the year there were:-111 parishioners on the roll. (Previous update: 118). 5 people had died and 2 had moved away. The 5 year update was completed in 2019. The average weekly attendance was much reduced as the church was closed for a good part of the year.

The Parochial Church Council: Review of the year January to December 2020

Due to restrictions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, the PCC only met twice, in February and December. The delayed APCM was held in church in September. The Standing Committee comprising the Team Rector, Lay Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were able to meet in February but unable to meet prior to each meeting after that. Normally they gather to decide the agenda but this year communicated as needed during the lockdowns. Some decisions were taken by email or phone call. Minutes of the PCC meetings are displayed on the notice board in Church. The bulk of the PCC agenda is covered by reports of the work of the subcommittees: 1.Finance: Chairman Hugh Lindsay. 2. Fabric: Rudi Simmonds and Tony Giddings. 3. Mission and Outreach: Chairman Revd Jo Neary. 4. Worship: Chairman Revd David Baldwin and Pastoral care: Chairman Rev Prebendary Alastair Wheeler. 5. Health and Safety: Chairman-vacancy. 6. Church Environment Group: Chairman Gill Perrott. These groups also include members of the congregation and normally convene between PCC meetings sending their reports to the PCC via the secretary. 2020 has been very different as very few meetings were able to take place.

The year began as usual and with a few problems with the lift. The finances were looking much improved following a legacy and the fundraising efforts by the congregation. The Director of Music had plans for the choir and would continue the lunch time concerts. Rumours of the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic were circulating. The Prime Minister announced the first Lockdown on March 23rd and the church was closed until further notice as we all stayed at home. Easter was therefore very different and although the weather was good, people were unable to meet as normal with family. We stayed indoors only going out for a little exercise or for essential food supplies. There was very little traffic and we all came to appreciate the sights and sounds of nature around us as never before. Residents came onto their doorsteps to 'clap for carers' each Thursday evening. Otherwise the town was eerily quiet. On one Thursday, the church was lit up by a local company with blue lighting to acknowledge the tremendous work being done by all the workers in our NHS. The following week by special request, the church was bathed in red, white and blue lighting to commemorate VE day in May. It was quite a spectacle.

As we were unable to congregate, the clergy and media administrator had begun to put together a weekly service on line. The Pew News became the 'From the Hub- Covid 19 weekly Update'. This was circulated by email, viewed on the Team website or printed and distributed by the computer literate to those who could not access it. Prayers and weekly coffee and chat took place via Zoom. It was noticed that more people were accessing the church on line as lockdown continued and some

spiritual searching began. People living on their own began to become socially isolated but shopping was delivered and neighbours looked out for each other. Messy Church increased its virtual attendance. Funerals were allowed to take place with numbers restricted to 15 with 2 metre social distancing and weddings were cancelled as numbers were so restricted. Funerals were later increased to a maximum of 30 attendees but by then face masks were to be compulsory. Jack Barnett stepped down as churchwarden at the end of May after 6 years of service. Gradually the church was opened for private prayer and in July churches were able to hold services with restricted seating, fresh air and hand gel. The building was left to air for 72 hours before the Sunday service. Separate entry and exits were established and the clergy poured over the guidance from the [www.Gov. UK](http://www.Gov.UK) website which was updated on a regular basis. A 'QR' code was generated for those visiting the church with smart phones. Otherwise a register for contact details began so that contact could be made with 'Track and Trace' in case of an outbreak or resurgence of the virus. The congregation was definitely not allowed to gather outside the church after the service and socialising over coffee became a distant memory. However it was wonderful to hear the organ being played again and although singing was not allowed humming was permitted.

In July St. Mary's Beaminster received the Gold Eco Award following all the hard work put in by Dr. Gill Perrott. A special Golden Celebration rose was presented to the Church Environment Group. In August the numbers at weddings were increased to 30 people only. We were able to meet outside with 6 other people. In September the PCC was able to hold the delayed APCM in church with social distancing and mask wearing. Our curate Fiona Beale was ordained by the Bishop of Sherborne at the end of the month. The Deanery also set up the LPA and LLM course but this would continue on line as the months went by. In October the Youth Band requested that they meet weekly in church which was permitted. The food bank was transferred from being a joint project with the Children's Centre and would now be run by the church, working in partnership with Dorset Council.

Robin Musson became ill and died in November. As well as all his work with the British legion, he had been a stalwart of the church for many years and treasurer on the Team Council. In fact several well-loved members of the congregation died in 2020. Eric Whittle, Bob Quemard and Jim Beeny also left us, along with Beryl Maw (the amazing lace maker). They had all contributed to the life of our church in different ways and are missed. Eric bought and installed the Christmas tree for the church each year without fail until it became too difficult for him. Jim Beeny led the gardening team and took delight in keeping the churchyard in order. Bob always the well turned out gentleman was looked after devotedly by Rita as he began to decline from his dementia.

Great progress was being made by scientists in 2020 to create a vaccine and the Government decided on a system of Covid tiers. Plans were made for Christmas and it looked as though families would be permitted to meet indoors in reduced numbers. As it happened, this did not come to pass. There was to be no singing for Advent but a small choir was permitted, and came together to sing for 2 Carol services and 2 midnight services because of social distancing. Sadly the congregation was still unable to sing. However the rise in Covid infections began again and the country went into lockdown as we went into 2021. It has been an extraordinary year that we will never forget and this annual report will make interesting reading in years to come.

Vivien McMurray (PCC Secretary)

St. Mary's Ringing Guild Report

In March 2020, the first Covid lockdown closed the tower and there was to be no ringing. The clock continued to play 'Hanover' through the day, thanks to the conscientious clock minder, reminding us of the pealing bells.

As lockdown eased in summer 2020 we were allowed by law to ring three bells for fifteen minutes for Sunday services. A rota was drawn up and the 3 ringers would climb the stairs. If Chris and Pippa Luckcraft were both ringing there could be 4 bells! Masks were worn throughout, hands sanitised and social distancing maintained. I don't think anyone really enjoyed the experience! A muffled bell was rung for funerals. The only other ringing has been hand bells in the churchyard before Christmas morning at a safe distance. It was a joyful sound and lovely for us to get back together. Three or four ringers had never rung hand bells before and, with lockdown restrictions, we had to practice under the pavilion roof!

Into the New Year, the tenor bell was tolled 100 times for Captain Sir Tom Moore. A different bell was rung at the January funeral of Revd Canon Barney Milligan and 99 times for the Duke of Edinburgh as part of a national tribute on the day of the Royal Funeral. Harry Murley and Chris Luckcraft deserve credit for doing this.

We have lost some ringers through lockdown and now only have seven able to commit to regular Sunday ringing. Getting back to ringing will be a 'slow and careful' process as we move cautiously towards regular ringing again when we are allowed to. ...but there is no rush!

Jill Parr (Tower Captain)

The Friends of St. Mary's

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, we were not able to hold our AGM this February but all those on the committee as of February 2020 agreed to carry on. The then current committee namely: Jenny Tyler (Secretary), Gill Sansom (Treasurer), Peter Brook, Evelyn Snell, Sally Mallinson, Sue Corner and Tony Giddings were willing to continue into 2021. Eric Whittle died this year and is greatly missed. He had been the secretary of the Friends of St. Mary's for many years.

The Friends had planned 2 fund raising events-a jazz concert in the Spring and the return of Parnham Voices for a concert in the Autumn. Hopefully these events will be rescheduled when restrictions have been lifted. We hope to be able to once again raise funds to support the essential work of the Church.

Jack Barnett (Chairman)

CHURCH ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR 2020 (Coronavirus - reduced services) WITH COMPARISON FOR 2019

	Sunday 8.00		Sunday 09.30		Sunday Evensong		Wednesday 10.00		Breakfast @ 10.00		Messy Church	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Number of services	33	52	33	52	2	7	10	44	0	3	2	9
Attendance (Adults)	336	751	1456	3294	24	138	89	478	0	152	60	320
Attendance (under 16)	0	0	6	91	0	0	0	0	0	12	51	286
Average attendance all ages	10	15	44	65	12	20	9	11	0	55	56	67

These figures include Easter Sunday Service but exclude the Christmas Services (2019) 9.30 under 16 includes Confirmation Service

	2020	2019
Christmas Eve/Day attendance	100	385
Services during Advent attendance	51	827
Remembrance Service attendance	0	215
Saint Days and Special Services	19	*1110
* including School Services		
Baptism Under 16	1	6
Marriages	1	3
Thanksgiving Service/deceased	0	2
Funerals in church	3	9
Burial	4	6
Interment of Ashes	5	5
Funerals elsewhere	16	13
Home Communion	72	160

During the lockdown periods there has been an enormous amount of online services, pre-recorded or live-streamed, through the church website, using Facebook and Zoom. Our thanks must go to our Clergy team and Harry Neary for their ingenuity and commitment during this wearisome time. It is difficult to estimate how many 'hits' and Zoom/Facebook followers we have had, but it has been phenomenal. A special mention also to the Messy Church team. Their efforts on Messy Church Zoom are worthy of Blue Peter Badges! **Marlene Jackaman - ACPM Report May 2021**

Team Safeguarding Officers report for 2020

All necessary Safeguarding checks were carried out during the year, with some changes to procedures being made as necessary because of the pandemic. For example, some document checks for DBS applications and renewals were carried out on Zoom during periods of lockdown, and others took place outside, with social distancing procedures in place.

As we reported last year, the Diocese has developed a Safeguarding microsite, and over the year this was gradually rolled out, and has proved to be very useful. All applications for DBS checks, and records of these and Safeguarding training are now centralized on the microsite, and so it is now much easier for us to keep track of the level of DBS check individuals have, and when DBS clearance needs to be renewed. Safeguarding training courses and updates moved online from the start of the pandemic.

The safeguarding statement required by the Diocese is on the front page of the Team website, and gives our contact details, as well as those of the Diocesan officers. Safeguarding has been an agenda item at all PCC meetings across the Team during the year. As a Team we have complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Liz Brown and Barbara Simmonds, Beaminster Team Safeguarding Officers

Lay Pastoral Assistants – Alastair Wheeler

Canon David Baldwin has asked me to take on the role of encouraging the small team of Lay Pastoral Assistants in their role of supporting all of us as church folk caring for one another and for others in our wider community.

While every church member shows Christian love and concern in action for those we know, the team of LPA's are asked by David Baldwin or Jo Neary to assist them in specific support and contact with others. These range from people who are sick or housebound to young Mum's contacting the clergy for Baptism or involved in other church groups.

This form of lay ministry – things church members are specifically trained and authorised to do – has been around for thirty or forty years now, but Salisbury Diocese, and this Deanery, are encouraging and promoting the way it works around here, and how it can be further developed.

So two new people, Vivien McMurray and Angie Alexander, went through the official training course over the winter, using new ways of being trained at a distance because of lockdown. At Easter we welcomed them into the team. While one of our long term LPA's Helen Smith also did the course as a refresher and to keep up with ways the Diocese sees LPA ministry.

As well as Helen, Vivien and Angie have joined existing LPA's Gill Perrott from Beaminster and Dermot Stack from Drimpton, each of whom brings their own gifts of personality and wide ranging experience of supporting others.

Over the last year we have lost two of our longstanding LPA team members who have both moved to focus on other commitments and opportunities.

Liz Brown and Paul Grant, both of whom are members of Salway Ash church community, have significant personal commitments and involvement in supporting others in different contexts, including schools and cancer care, and are concentrating on giving time to those ways of helping others.

LPA's names and phone numbers are printed in the magazine, but if you or someone you know feels that an LPA may be able to help them you are asked to talk to David or Jo in the first instance so that their time commitment doesn't become swamped!

Alastair Wheeler

Report on the Fabric of the Church during 2020

With the church being closed for a large part of the year, and activities restricted to only essential tasks, it has been a quiet year for the fabric committee. No major problems have been identified.

At the beginning of Lockdown in April, Ben Sabran replastered areas of the internal church walls and recoated them in distemper. At the same time he removed all of the cobwebs in the vaulted ceiling and cleaned and polished the Rood Screen. He also made a full inspection for any visible signs of wood beetle rot.

In the autumn he cleaned all of the rainwater goods and roof gullies, cleaned the bird nesting from the bell chamber and power washed the pathways.

There has been progress on two existing projects, the repairs to the church boundary wall and the update of the kitchen facilities with provision of toilets within the church building.

1. The plans for the repairs to the boundary wall and the various required approvals have been completed. Work is expected to be carried out during 2021. An additional task identified is the removal of a tree in the cottage garden that may be causing additional damage to the wall foundations.
2. The kitchen / toilets plans are to be ready to be reviewed and approval by the PCC. During investigations, the need to install a sewer from the church to the mains in Church Street was identified. The planning for this is ongoing.
3. During the year, the problem with water collecting in the crypt became worse, due to failure of the drainage pump. Work should take place during 2021 to replace the pump. The crypt was also checked for asbestos, no problems identified and a report should be available soon.
4. A further task is being planned to remove the cage over the stairs to the crypt (on the south side of the church) and replace it with a level pathway, to provide better flat access to the garden of remembrance and the church grounds.

We are grateful to Tony Giddings for project managing and progressing the above four activities.

During the year the ECO sub-committee have identified various options for reducing the church's carbon footprint, which have been investigated and proposed to the PCC as detailed below.

1. To replace internal lights and the flood lights with low power LED lights. This was approved by the PCC. One quotation has been received but we are awaiting receipt of a second quotation before proceeding.
2. A Solar Array on the south roof, which would church reduce the church electricity consumption from the grid and offset part of the carbon footprint from the gas consumption of the heating boiler. It was agreed by the PCC to approve the installation provided the necessary approvals could be obtained. Detailed work to identify array fixing method, roof structural survey, planning permission and Diocesan approval are being carried out.
3. To investigate the installation of an Air Sourced Heat Pump to provide part or all of the church's heating system. It was decided that further information would be required on the overall running costs (reduction in gas consumption but increased electricity consumption) before a decision could be reached and this will be discussed by the PCC in the future.

These 3 activities have been researched and coordinated by Gillian Perrott, who we thank for her effort to improve the carbon footprint of the church and other ECO projects.

Other minor tasks are outstanding, including repairs to the flagpole which have not been carried out yet due to the pandemic, but should be able to be addressed in 2021 when conditions allow.

This year Jack Barnett stood down as Church warden and also as chair of the fabric committee, after many years of looking after the church and its fabric. He will be missed, not only for the work he did but also for his extensive knowledge of the fabric of the church.

Rudi Simmonds - Vice Lay Chair of the PCC

St Mary's Church Beaminster

Report to the APCM for the care and maintenance of the Churchyard for 2020

Sadly our Leader Jim Beeny died towards the end of 2020. He was a very special man, a retired Farmer who was so good with the Management of the Churchyard. He was a quiet, smiling man who always had a friendly word for everyone. His knowledge of wildlife and the green earth was so cheering to us all, and we are greatly missing his leadership.

The Team of Jean Sherlock, Jenny Tyler, Keith and Ing- Marie Beldham and Ian Largent meet weekly on Thursday mornings and we also put in more time individually to keep things up to standard. The main grass cutting is done professionally but the Memorial Garden cutting is tended beautifully by Ian and Keith. Fortunately we were able to continue despite Covid regulations as of course we mainly work separately. However we did so miss our coffee and catch-up after our sessions.

This year we received an **Eco Gold** award for the Churchyard, for which we are all very pleased. Gill Perrot was awarded a Yellow Rose which is planted in the main border in commemoration of this.

Memorial Garden: In the past year it has been noticed that more artificial flowers and inappropriate pots and ornaments have been put on the plaques – not adhering to the rules and guide lines and making it very difficult for grass cutting.

Pathways around the Church take up much of our time, we do not like using Chemicals but sometimes this is inevitable particularly the outside wall along the road. Some of the Trees and shrubs are getting rather large - Jean and Ing- Marie have worked very hard on this particularly near the lift area.

We are once again making an effort to grow more wild flowers in the Churchyard, the soil is rich which is not good for wild flowers, but is wonderful for everything else. Next year we plan to grow a goodly number of Snakes Head Fritillaries and other suitable bulbs.

The Garden Shed is to be replaced in May for which we are very pleased. Sadly, the wall at the West end has still not been repaired.

Lots of people visit the Church and all say how beautiful it is. Long may it remain so.

Jenny Tyler

The Parish Church of St Mary of the Annunciation, Beaminster

APCM Music Report, 2020

2020 was a very different, challenging and musically fragmented year as the world dealt with the pandemic, Covid-19.

Our very loyal, dedicated and enthusiastic choir at St Marys sang from the beginning of January to 15th March. They continued to grow in confidence and always sang liturgically appropriate music to the very best of their ability. Sadly, the choir didn't sing again until December!

After 15th March churches were locked the length and breadth of the country. People were encouraged to stay at home and to shield thus trying to reduce the spread of the deadly disease. However, behind the scenes folk were being creative and supplying 'stay at home' congregations with on-line services. I recorded a lot of organ pieces for use with these services both on an instrument in Stoke-sub-Hamdon and also at St Mary's, when I was allowed to.

Church services resumed again in July and kept going until November, but there was a big difference. The seats were all socially distanced, members of the congregation remained seated and wore face coverings throughout, the services were said, we could 'hum a hymn' behind our face coverings and no choirs were allowed to sing as this action was deemed 'dangerous'!

There was a lifting of the lockdown towards the end of the year and the choir were allowed to get together again to celebrate Christmas. It did seem a bit odd as we hadn't even celebrated Easter! After much discussion, we sang, in a socially distanced manner, from the chancel leaving plenty of metres between us, the clergy and then the congregation. This worked extremely well and we were most grateful for all the lovely, encouraging and positive comments from members of the congregation. It really was most wonderful to hear singing in St Marys again.

Another Lockdown meant the end to the choir singing for 2020!

Our very successful series of Lunchtime Concerts resumed in January and stopped in March. Due to restrictions, no concerts are allowed to take place anywhere.

In many ways, 2020 will not be forgotten easily.

*Martin J. H. Schellenberg
Director of Music & Organist
April, 2021*

St Mary's Beaminster Church Flower Arrangers Report 2020

It was of course a strange year! It all started normally with the weekly pedestal arrangements in Church, looking through my 2020 Diary I saw that Walk In Wednesday began the new year activities on the 8th January, Raucous Chorus began their new season, Moviola started up, Keep Fit classes started and Church services took place, the Flower Arrangers Christmas Lunch took place and generally things seemed normal. On February 7th my Grand daughter flew over from Denmark and reported that in the Airport people were wearing masks, the threat of Covid had arrived but we carried on as usual until 23rd March, when we began our first lock down. The Church closed and so did everything else! No flowers! 14th June the Church opened after 12 weeks but it was decided that there would not be flowers for the immediate future. Vivien put some quite lovely artificial flowers on the pedestal. In September the flower arrangers were back for reduced placements for Harvest Festival, it was so good seeing the colours back and the Church itself coming alive again. After the Festival flowers we were then able to put small pots of living flowers on the pedestal, David agreeing if folk came into Church to pray or just to sit quietly it might help brighten their lives a little, a symbol of hope! For the Remembrance Service I had ordered the Flowers, but on the 5th November we were again in lockdown, flowers cancelled, everything cancelled, so I had to call poor Gemma (Gemma's Flowers) and cancel our order as well. We did flowers for Christmas, again reduced placements, but it felt so good the group of 6 of us being together again and hopefully bringing 'Comfort and Joy', the Christmas theme through out the Churches.

Yes a strange year indeed, with new experiences! Think we may all have learned a few things about ourselves and the great value of friendships. 2021 will be another story!

ECO Group Report 2020 for the APCM

The highlight of this year has been gaining the ECO Church Gold Award on 18 July. This was the pinnacle of just over 3 years involvement by the ECO group. We had to achieve Gold in all 5 sections:-

Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Lifestyle.

We produced a comprehensive Power Point presentation of 90 slides which can be viewed on the Beaminster Churches Team website, select NEWS, next ECO Church and scroll down to the photo of a light bulb! This was sent to A Rocha prior to the 90 minute Zoom assessment. The ECO group + Jo Neary were grilled by 3 assessors from A Rocha Eco Church. They were particularly impressed with our Community involvement. The PCC presented the ECO Group with a Golden Celebration rose which is now planted in the Churchyard in the bed beyond the Strode Room.

Since then, ECO Church Beaminster has been active in joining/ working with Climate Action Groups:-

Beaminster Area ECO Group (BAEG) West Dorset Friends of the Earth (FOE)

West Dorset Environmental Alliance (WDEA), made up of; Turn Lyme Green, Transition Town Bridport, FOE, BAEG & ECO church. The aims of these organisations are info sharing & action taking. An additional aim of WDEA is consulting regularly with our MP (Chris Loder) on Climate Change & environmental matters.

David Langridge and I were part of the Beaminster Long Term Resilience Policy working party made up of some members from ECO Church, BAEG, and the Town Council.

Lastly, Dorset Climate Action Network (Dorset CAN) which is a Dorset wide alliance of groups sharing info & support, working towards actions to mitigate Climate change & lobbying local & national government.

All of the above by way of ZOOM!

Throughout the year a pilot group made up of church & community members took part in Sustainable Dorset's Green Living Guide. We called ourselves Greener Choices and met for 7 sessions discussing Food, Energy, Travelling, Water, Waste, Community. We gained information, discussed & were encouraged in individual action to reduce our Carbon Footprints. We had to cope with Zoom in Covid lockdown. We gained mention in Sustainable Dorset's AGM as the most impressive group!!

During the autumn we had visits from various Solar PV & Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installers who assessed possibilities towards our aim for the church building to be carbon zero by 2030. A paper on this was produced for the December meeting of the PCC, who approved the go ahead with Solar PV. The PCC will hopefully approve, when they have some further information, of ASHPs to run our under-floor heating already in place, early next year.

Gillian Perrott

Sheet1

Friends of St Mary's Church, Beaminster

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
Donations (subscriptions)	785.00	1427.00
Tax recovery	278.75	294.25
Fund raising – donations		37.00
Fund raising – Garden Party		316.00
Fund raising – Stonemason's Talk		255.00
Legacy		100952.97
		103282.22
Total	1063.75	103282.22
Expenditure		
Admin' photocopying	13.24	8.10
Garden Party wine		33.60
Stamps and stationery	19.47	
Gift token – auditor	5.00	
PCC Boiler contribution		5000.00
Total	37.71	5041.7
Statement of Account		
Carried forward HSBC	102616.06	4375.54
Carried forward CCLA	14030.83	13942.98
Total resources at start of year	116646.89	18318.52
Income	1063.75	103282.22
Interest CCLA	236.59	87.85
	117947.23	121688.59
Less expenditure	37.71	5041.70
Total	117909.52	116646.89
Represented by		
Balance at HSBC	2689.13	102616.06
Balance at CCLA	115220.39	14030.83
Total	117909.52	116646.89

The Beaminster Area Team Annual Clergy Report 2021.

The past twelve months have been a real test for everyone. The Church has not been exempt from this testing and for many church communities across the country it has heavily highlighted the fragility of their existence both spiritually and financially. Having been unable to meet for regular acts of worship and for the many community and social activities has put a severe strain on funding. This has become a real threat to the existence of the church in some areas.

In a recent conversation with Neville Adams LLM over his concerns for Drimpton, I was grateful to him for starting a much needed discussion that all of our churches should be having. I told Neville that it is worth remembering the Parochial history of a parish when reviewing its life. Along with Seaborough, Drimpton was once in Somerset and Bath & Wells Diocese. Only when county boundaries were changed and both parishes came into Dorset did they become part of Salisbury Diocese. At that time both churches became Chapels of Ease within the Parochial Parish of Broadwindsor, thus they did not have parish status. Under the development of the Beaminster Area Team (1978 -83) Canon Tim Biles created three parishes that had never existed previously; Drimpton, Seaborough, and Salway Ash. Also at that time the united parishes of South Perrott & Chedington with Mosterton, Toller Porcorum & Hooke, Netherbury (including S Ash) & Melplash with Mapperton were all separated into stand alone parishes. In my humble opinion this was, even then, unsustainable in the long term as it meant that every year the team had to elect 14 Parochial Church Councils, with 14 Church Wardens, and 14 sets of officers. Decline in church

attendance was at that time well noted and continues today. Also the requirement of individual church congregations to uphold and finance the repairs to buildings of historical importance to the nation (4 grade 1, 2 grade2* and 5 grade 2 listed buildings) in the Beaminster Team has finally led to a dearth of those willing to stand for leadership roles within the church and has put a real strain on finances.

All of the above deflects us away from the real calling of those of us who are proud to call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ and who wish to place at our heart true Christian witness of serving the communities in which we live and work, which of course is the gospel imperative. At the heart of this is our corporate worship which can take many forms. These could include prayer walks around the village, litter picks as a way of blessing both the community and showing our care of God's creation, home based prayer groups, working parties to help those unable to look after their own gardens, etc. All of these express how we follow the two great Commandments to love the Lord our God, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Over the past few years I have been looking at how we can simplify the structural bureaucracy that has constantly hampered the Team, allowing us to move forward with our real desire to bring the love of God more into our communities. Last year I had planned, before lockdown in March, to bring together those parishes who could not elect Church Wardens and full complements of PCC members to begin discussing how we develop a closer structure of working together as one PCC, with individual church committees becoming standing committees of the PCC. As we begin to be able to meet again I will be inviting parishes in this position to meet with me soon.

Whilst I know that this will be unpalatable to some, many realise that we cannot just keep on doing what we have always done, especially as what we have always done has in reality been the bearer of the present unsustainable situation. Only fifteen years ago the Team comprised three stipendiary clergy and seven partner priests as well as five lay readers. When I arrived every parish had one Church Warden who led one service a month. It is easy to see why the rota could support 12 services every Sunday.

It is the tradition that I thank everyone for their service over the past twelve months and whilst I do not name everyone here I will be doing so at each annual meeting. But I do thank Anne and Harry for their continual support of the Team and Jane for her personal care and support for my wellbeing during this Covid strange time.

Revd Canon David Baldwin

2020 has been a quite unimaginable year. We have been so grateful to live in an area of the country where the impact of Covid on health has been relatively limited, yet the loss of income, jobs, business, connectedness, and relationships has been a huge challenge to all our communities.

I have been so hugely grateful that David and I began some form of online ministry with our Rev Chat series long before the whole Church of England was forced online. It gave us some confidence as we recreated the Beaminstre Area Team on Facebook, YouTube, and through our website.

It has been an innovative year. We have pre recorded services, provided collective worship via YouTube, live streamed Messy Church, provided summer holiday activities in a bag, hosted outdoor carol and Christmas services, built a new online community on Facebook, even conducted an entirely online Holy Week including a live streamed Exultet sung from a back garden. We have prayed together, studied the bible together, met together, chatted and drunk coffee together, conducted business together, and consumed gin together via the wonders of Zoom.

It hasn't been church in the same way that we have been used to, but it has still been church. We meet together virtually, we worship God and encourage one another. We know not everyone is included, and we have tried hard to connect with those not online through phone calls, garden conversations, and the printed word. We know some feel isolated and left out, we are sorry. Thank you to those who have kept in touch with others and gone the extra mile in being a good neighbour.

So much was paused over the last year, so much was missed but God's presence was never paused or restricted. Huge thanks to the whole of the staff team for their hard work and creativity. Thanks to our churchwardens and congregations for caring for each other and filling in endless risk assessments. But if it hadn't been for Harry then much of what we have produced would have never seen the light of day, thank you so much.

I feel hopeful for all that lies ahead, because our hope lies in God: creator, redeemer and sustainer.

Revd. Jo Neary

St Mary's Beaminster PCC Finance Sub Committee Report to APCM 2021

The Finance Sub Committee meets regularly before each PCC meeting and when any important financial issue arises. Because of the lockdown it met only twice in 2020. Wendy Simmons continues as an excellent Treasurer and we are very grateful to Brian Ridley, our Gift Aid Officer, for all that he does in recording donations by Bankers Orders and in recovering the Gift Aid.

General Fund

The detailed accounts for the General Fund show that it had a deficit for 2020 of £22,500 as compared with a deficit of £1058 in 2018.

In view of the lockdown, it is difficult to make useful comments on many items of income and expenditure.

There was a fall of 10% in Tax efficient giving from £47,800 in 2019 to £43,300 but more substantial falls in Cash Collections and Hospitality, arising from the absence of Walk in Wednesday and Lunch time concerts for most of the year. In 2020 the PCC made donations of £2,500, including £1,000 to the Sudan as compared with £1,600 in 2019.

There was no Festival in 2020 but the Festival made a generous donation of £1,000.

Parish Share rose from £53,696 to £56,144, an increase of 4%

Fabric Fund

The Fabric Fund received legacies totalling £378,000 and a generous donation of £5,000 from the Friends of St Mary's.

Bank balances at the year end totalled £495,400

The PCC has several significant building works outstanding at the year end including the party wall with Knowle Cottage and the improvements to the Mort House.

The financial position is sound.

Hugh Lindsay
Chairman Finance Sub Committee
May 2021.

**St Mary's Beaminster Parochial Church Council - General Fund
Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2020**

2019	Receipts	2020
47813	Tax efficient giving	43557
7075	Cash collections	3345
	Donations:-	
	Hospitality inc.Sunday Coffee	
4290	& Walk in Wednesdays	1057
185	ECO Group	-
2667	Other giving	1083
2813	Team News - see note 1	2559
	Various other collections &	
6772	receipts - see note 2	43136
71615	Receipts from parishioners	
13989	Tax recovery	12204
7190	Fund raising inc.Lunchtime Concerts	1571
92794	Total voluntary	108512
4481	<u>Hire of church (Festival donation)</u>	1000
6367	Fees & Expenses	2893
516	Flower Fund	-
113	Interest	70
104271		112475
	Payments	
53696	Parish Share	56144
	Team Overheads	
6336	Team Expenses	5375
1200	Church Office	1500
	Receipts disbursed	
2813	Team News	2559
6772	Various (see above)	43136
	Transfer to Fabric Account	1105
	Organ/Services	
930	Organ Maintenance	-
-	Piano	-
7130	Choir & Organist	6563
677	Services Supplies	337
1763	Printing , Stationery & Postage	1055
	Church Building & Grounds	
7075	Insurance	7020
2934	Heating & Lighting	4838
-	less refund	-368
58	Repairs & Renewals	4470
4915	Maintenance	5429
1863	Churchyard	1250
957	Cleaning	536
171	Refuse	144
99290	Carried Forward	136623

99290	Brought Forward	136623
	Mission & Outreach	
2812	Hospitality inc. Sunday Coffee	
332	& Walk in Wednesdays	791
145	ECO Group	499
14	Fairtrade	-
604	Social	82
-	Flower Fund	94
	Health & Safety	94
1600	Donations (Sudan)	1000
	Other	1500
532	Architect	-
1000	Strode Room	1000
106329		141683
-2058	Deficit/Surplus	-29208
	Legacies (General Account)	
1000	Livingstone	-
-	Talbot	35000
-1058		5792
	Reconciliation	
11303	HSBC Balance	10132
15060	CCLA Balance	15173
26363		25305
-1058	Deduct deficit/Add surplus	5792
25305		31097
	Represented by	
9762	HSBC General account	15284
370	Stewardship	570
15173	CCLA	15243
25305		31097

Notes

1 Team News subscriptions collected and paid to Beaminster Team News Account.

2 Various other 'In & Out' items :-

Legacy (Talbot)	40904.00
Calligraphy	30.00
Gift Aid :- Friends	278.75
LPOW.(VAT refund)	1923.40
	43136.15

The attached Accounting Policies form part of this Financial Statement.

Approved by the PCC on 23/05/21 (and signed on behalf of the PCC by
 Reverend Canon David Baldwin (Rector) *David Baldwin*
 rs Wendy Simmons (Hon Treasurer) *Wendy Simmons*

Reviewed and agreed to the books and records by Mr Gareth Hewett.

G.S. Hewett

MR. G.S. HEWETT

24 May 2021

St Mary's Beaminster Parochial Church Council - Fabric Fund
Financial Statement for period ended 31 December 2020

2019			2020
	Income		
5,000	Donations		10,105
156	CAF		156
	Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme (Refund VAT-Church Boiler)		1,923
59,624	Legacies Nichols		
-	Talbot	320,904	
-	Livingstone	1,000	
-	Gildersleve	55,000	
-	Palk	1,000	
			377,904
132	Interest		76
<u>64,912</u>			<u>390,164</u>
	Expenditure		
11,540	Church Boiler		-
<u>11,540</u>			<u>-</u>
<u>53,372</u>	Surplus/Deficit		<u>390,164</u>
	Reconciliation		
34,251	HSBC	87,491	
17,600	CCLA	17,732	
51,851	Resources at beginning of year	105,223	
53,372	Deficit/Surplus	390,164	
105,223		495,387	
	Represented by		
87,491	HSBC	477,579	
17,732	CCLA	17,808	
105,223		495,387	

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Approved by the PCC on 25/05/21 and signed on behalf of the PCC by
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Mrs Wendy Simmons (Hon. Treasurer) *Wendy Simmons*

Reviewed and agreed to the books and records by Mr Gareth Hewett

G.S. Hewett
Mr. G.S. Hewett

24 May 2021

Beaminster Parochial Church Council

Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Incoming Resources

Contributions receivable are accounted for in the period to which they relate.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on the cash accounting basis.

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Beaminster Parochial Church Council

I report on the St Mary's Beaminster Parochial Church Council Fabric Fund Account and the St Mary's Beaminster Parochial Church Council – General Fund Account for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and duties of the members of the Beaminster Parochial Church Council

As members, you are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts as at 31st December 2020 for the two funds listed above.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by you 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 you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by these accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep proper accounting records has not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Gareth Hewett
Independent Examiner

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Independent Examiner

24 May 2021

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24 May 2021