



Annual Parish Meeting To Elect Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 May 2021
12.30pm following the 11am service

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Annual Parish Meeting To Elect Churchwardens

Sunday 30 May 2021
12.30pm following the I I am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 15 March 2020
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Any other business



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens Sunday 15 March 2020

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Peter Tavner (Churchwarden)
18 Parishioners

The meeting began at 11.42am with prayers from James.

- 1. Apologies:** Katie Knapton, Amanda Taylor, Cherry Hopkins, Wendy and Andrew Bennett, Erica Taylor, Lyn Harrison, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Tricia James, Marie Burrows, Alistair and Denise Wilkinson, Trish Maude, Richard and Anne Lyon, Margaret Willis, Kate Dove.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 24 March 2019:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
- 3. Matters arising:** James thanked the Churchwarden, Peter Tavner for all his work over the past year and also to Gail Kenney who stepped down mid-June after 2 ½ years of service. Much of what Churchwardens do goes unnoticed, particularly Peter's service to James and the Church as a whole.

James thanked the Duty Wardens: Cathy Davies, Michael Fincham, Cherry Hopkins, Tricia James, Gail Kenney, Julia Margretts, Hilary Pennington, Alex Riding, Peter Tavner, David Waterhouse and Denise Wilkinson.

- 4. Election of Churchwarden:** Peter Tavner had agreed to stand for a third and final year and was duly thanked by James. There were no other nominations.

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Peter Tavner	Joseph Philip	Susan Philip

The vote was unanimous and Peter Tavner was duly elected to the post of Churchwarden. James congratulated Peter on his appointment.

It was also announced that Michael Fincham had agreed to become Deputy Warden. As it was not a legal position a vote did not need to take place but support was asked of those present for Michael to take up this role, and all agreed. There was real thanks expressed from James and the church for both Michael and Peter and all that they do.

- 5. Any other business:** none.

The meeting closed with prayers at 11.49am.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 May 2021
12.30pm following the 11am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Sunday 15 March 2020
3. Matters arising
4. Priest in Charge's Report
5. Presentation of Other Reports
 - a. Electoral Roll Report
 - b. PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings
 - c. Safeguarding Report
 - d. Treasurer's ReportFinancial Statement and Annual Accounts 2020
 - e. Churchwarden's Report
 - f. South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report
 - g. Annual Activity Reports of the Parish
6. Elections
 - a. Election of PCC Members
 - b. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
 - c. Sidespeople – for appointment by the PCC
 - d. Independent Examiner
7. Any other business

Closing Prayers



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 15 March 2020

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Peter Tavner (Churchwarden)
18 Parishioners

The meeting began at 11.50am with prayers from James.

1. **Apologies:** Katie Knapton, Amanda Taylor, Cherry Hopkins, Wendy and Andrew Bennett, Erica Taylor, Lyn Harrison, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Tricia James, Marie Burrows, Alistair and Denise Wilkinson, Trish Maude, Richard and Anne Lyon, Margaret Willis, Kate Dove.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 24 March 2019:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Priest in Charge Report:** James read through his 2020 Priest in Charge Report on pages 17-18 of the APCM report. The full report is printed below:

“As I write this report I look back on a significant year of change and development at St John’s in 2019-2020, my third as Priest in Charge. From this vantage point I give thanks for all that has been, I acknowledge some difficult points in the change process, and I commit our future to God – seeking his mercy and guidance, as we seek (in 2020) to attend to ‘being, believing, belonging’. I also pray for unity, renewal, common purpose, and for the fruits of growth and new life. Isaiah says, ‘Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?’ (*Isaiah 43.19*) May we all have open eyes, to see what God is doing, and be generous, in living as one family, in order to play our part in God’s plans for the future of St John’s, building one other up in love.

Last year saw the conclusion of the first year in our ‘partnership for missional church’ development process, supported by the Diocese and the Church Mission Society. This was a dedicated process of ‘listening’, to our history, congregation and our local community, as we sought to understand ‘where we are now’ (as reported elsewhere). There will be many fruits of this process, as we stand back to ‘notice’ what God is doing and the story of our journey as a Parish Church. In 2021 St John’s will mark 125 years as a Parish Church (founded in 1896), and I hope that next year will be able to celebrate this significant anniversary of our local Christian witness in Hills Road and beyond.

A major part of the change process in 2019 was the completion of our ‘Enlarging our Tent’ building works, to create a new kitchen and toilets (including disabled toilet), to improved disabled access into St John’s, to re-develop our cloister garden, and refurbish the Wilkinson Room and re-decorate our lobby area. This was a complex and demanding process. But it was also a process rooted in a clear vision of accessibility, and blessed by the procurement of significant grants, generous contributions from our congregation, and supported by a generous legacy from long-time member of St John’s, Timothy Whitworth. I give thanks for all those who enabled the completion of EOT. I acknowledge the sensitivities of those for whom this was a difficult process. And I am thankful that we can now move on, inhabiting the gift of our new facilities, and continuing in mission.

Alongside the building process, I headed up an equally significant community engagement process, which led to the 'Official Opening' of our new St John's Centre on Saturday 28th September 2019, by the Mayor of Cambridge (herself in a wheelchair, Councillor Gerri Bird) and our Bishop, the Rt Rev Stephen Conway. This was a wonderful highlight of 2019, with displays in the Church by a wide range of community groups, performances by St John's Choir and Homerton Choir, as well as refreshments through the day, in the Wilkinson Room. We were blessed with good media coverage, in the Cambridge Independent, as well as the local Cambridge TV news, in which we were the top story!

Alongside seeking to advertise our facilities, and attract new users, a Community sub-group, has worked hard to develop new policies and procedures for the St John's Centre, in order to ensure that the place is maintained to the highest standard. Among other new activities and partnerships, one of our exciting new developments – growing out of the success of Companions – has been the new monthly Community Lunch, launched in December, and fast becoming, in early 2020, a significant local gathering, drawing many from beyond St John's, to make friends and enjoy fellowship.

Worship remains at the heart of our Christian life at St John's, and we have been blessed with an exciting year of worship, animated by our wonderful St John's Choir, as well as our Ministry Team and ordinands. This academic year we were joined by two new ordinands from Westcott House, Will Lyon Tupman and Sam Duckhouse, and Freya Bradley from Ridley Hall has continued with us (her husband, Josh Richards, was also accepted for ordination training, and is now also at Ridley).

We are much blessed by all that our ordinands, as well as our Ministry Team, give us in so many exciting and varied ways. Specific to the future development of our worship, we initiated a worship questionnaire and review, which was conducted successfully, and will lead to further enhancements in our worship, including the producing of new worship booklets during 2020. Training was also offered for intercessors, and in terms of enhancing our welcome as a parish church, not just by sides-persons, but by the whole congregation.

The Rev Chris Campbell was priested in a wonderful service at Ely Cathedral, on 29th June 2019, and held her first Eucharist as a priest the following day at St John's, 30th June, before a parish picnic in the Vicarage garden. It was a special occasion to give thanks for all Chris' ministry and to pray for her future work. I remain so thankful for the great many ways in which Chris contributes so creatively, generously and faithfully to our local mission and worship.

Alongside worship, lots of work has taken place, this past year, in offering high quality Children, youth and families ministry at St John's, for which we give heartfelt thanks, including: Children's Church, Toddle Along (which is drawing many new families), St John's Youth Group, Messy Church, and wider networking with local families. Chris Campbell has continued overseeing our whole ministry in this area, as well as developing a new vision - which was adopted by the PCC - and re-developing the Children's Area at St John's. In August 2019 a successful youth pilgrimage to the Horstead Centre in Norfolk was held, and enjoyed by everyone. Work with a wide range of local schools and sixth form colleges also continued, as well as our partnership with Homerton College, their weekly Choral Evensong in academic term.

Various courses and home groups met during 2019, and a wide range of pastoral care and support to individuals and families took place, through the care of the ministry team, clergy and especially our pastoral ALMs, for whom I give heartfelt thanks. During winter we also participated, for a third year, in the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project, hosting a pop-up night shelter for five nights in December-January. In addition, in partnership with our locally linked parishes – St James' Wulfstan Way and St Andrew's Cherry Hinton – we successfully bid for funding from the Cinnamon Network, to facilitate a parenting course (in three venues) during 2020, starting on 24th February.

Otherwise, a series of fundraising events were held in 2019, partly to build up our social fellowship, but also to raise necessary funds, alongside a stewardship campaign in the autumn. In this context members of St John's were especially encouraged to sign up to the new Parish Giving Scheme, which

enables us to plan ahead, with greater confidence, for everyone's benefit. Financial giving remains a key challenge, in order to stabilise and develop our ministry into the future.

We reviewed our overseas mission links, settling on our three major parish links – with the Bethesda project with the disabled in Berundi, the St Peter's Happiness Nursery in Arua Uganda, and our CMS mission partners Kylie and Bhim in North India (working in the area of human trafficking). Toddle Along and Children's Church adopted our historic South Africa link, Christ the Saviour, Cape Town, for which dedicated fundraising will also be held. And the Mission Committee also made steps towards developing a new ecological framework at St John's.

Finally, in 2020 St John's 'partnership for missional church' is implementing a second year phase of 'mission experimentation', especially around working with local 'people of peace', to serve the common good, which ties in well with the further development of our St John's Centre, and the ongoing vision of 'enlarging our tent', as well as enhancing our fellowship, inclusion, welcome and hospitality as a Parish Church. We have noticed that our local context is increasingly diverse and we are typically welcoming students and visitors from all over the world, as well as a wider range of local residents.

Going back to where I started, I acknowledge that it has indeed been a very significant year of change and development, but I believe God is doing a new thing, and as we seek to deepen our spiritual roots in 'being, believing, belonging', as well as being an increasingly recognised training hub for ministry, I have confidence that God has much in store for us – proclaiming his love, serving our parish and building confident disciples of Jesus Christ – in this new decade.

Lastly, I give thanks to God for all who contribute, so generously and sacrificially, to our Parish life, including wardens, PCC members, project volunteers, ministry team, paid staff, and a host of dedicated volunteers and wonderful exemplars of loving human kindness. *Deo gratias.*"

- James asked if there were any comments or suggestions regarding the report and there were none.

5. Presentation of Reports

- Electoral Roll Report:** (Fiona Richards) James thanked Fiona as Electoral Roll Officer and as she was not present he briefly summarised the electoral roll report. There are 206 members on the Roll, which is the same as last year. James wished to remember those who had died: John Davidson, Sarah Tasker, Betty Thurley and Timothy Whitworth. There were no other comments.
- Report of PCC Meetings:** (Janet Tankard) Janet asked if there were any comments but there were none. Hilary Pennington thanked Janet on behalf of the church for taking on the role of PCC Secretary (having taken over the role from Catriona Ball last year).
- Safeguarding Report:** (Sarah Talmage) James thanked Sarah as Safeguarding Officer who had taken over from Suzanne Barton last year. As Sarah was not present, Chris, who works alongside Sarah and James with regard to safeguarding, gave a brief follow up to Sarah's report. It was reiterated how much work had gone into upgrading all the new Safeguarding policies to bring the Church up to date, particularly as requirements in this area had now moved on significantly.
- Churchwarden's Report:** (Peter Tavner) Peter had nothing to add to his report. The question was asked if 500K was the correct figure for the church roof. Peter explained that this was an estimate figure given by a former churchwarden and therefore we don't know the exact figure, but that it would be a big job. James thanked Peter for standing for a third and final year as Churchwarden. James thanked Michael Fincham for all his work as well.
- Treasurer's Report:** (Roger Lilley) Roger thanked Professor Martin Dove for taking on the role of Independent Examiner and noted that the 2019 Financial Statement had been signed off. Roger pointed out that the numbers in the report were bigger than normal

because of EOT and said he would be happy to answer any questions about this or people could arrange to see him another time. With regard to the current Covid-19 situation, Roger thought we should be alright as practically everyone now gives through the Parish Giving Scheme or Direct Debit. We will have to cancel fundraising due to Covid-19, but he requested that we have a resurgence of events after this. We are still running at a deficit and falling short of running costs and unless we overcome this it will make our church running costs and mission difficult. Roger gave a list of requests in his report which he wanted to emphasise. Although there were not many people in attendance at the meeting, Roger requested all those present to please pass on the list:

- i. Join the Parish Giving Scheme: please think about this, Roger said he would be happy to talk through this.
- ii. Please support our fundraising activities.
- iii. Talk about money. People do not understand how the C of E is funded and it was explained we pay for all and fund ourselves. Please talk to Roger.
- iv. Banks now charge for cash and cheque which wasn't the case a year ago. Please move to electronic payments.
- v. Legacy: this is a difficult subject but please think of this as it can form a significant part of our finance planning.

Rosemary Woodley asked if we would have to cancel room lettings because of covid-19; Roger didn't know as yet but lettings have increased since the EOT work had been done. Liz Tavner mentioned hearing how much the Baptist church members give and wondered if it would help if we gave out the figures of what some churches expect, or display what the average figures of giving are. James explained that non-conformist churches are different as they have a financial membership, which is different to C of E membership. It was noted that this was a good point to make and Liz was thanked for this. James said that it was very much in the mind of the PCC that they have to increase giving and fundraising. We do ask in a worship push each year and clearly we are all this together in our giving. Thanks were given to Joseph Philip in his role as Gift Aid Officer. James and the Church thanked Roger for all his work as Treasurer.

Joseph Saunders asked regarding the roof cost of 500K and whether we were planning for that in the future as he thought it a considerable problem given we will have to raise it. Roger explained that we can set aside monies if we have a surplus but unless we start generating this into a fund for a new roof, we can't address the serious long term cost. Hilary mentioned that as a hypothetical figure we would need to know the real figure going forward. Peter reiterated that the figure was given by a former churchwarden and there was no estimate as there had been no survey. We will need to spend money on a survey probably about £2-3,000, which would be a big undertaking. James said that we were taking this seriously both in terms of liability and fundraising. Peter noted that the roof has no leaks at the moment; the tiles are facing the sun on south facing roof and the lining underneath is difficult. James said this will be on the future agenda.

- f. **Deanery Synod Report** (Tricia James) Tricia had sent her apologies and James presented the report on her behalf and asked if there were any comments. There were none. It was noted that Tricia finishes as Deanery Synod Rep this year and was thanked for her three years of office. James also mentioned that he was now Deputy Rural Dean in the event that the Rural Dean becomes ill with coronavirus. He also reminded those present that Roger Lilley was also Deanery Treasurer for which he was thanked.

g. **Annual Activity Reports**

Thanks were given to Elizabeth Trenchard, Director of Music, and no further comments were made regarding the report. Chris was asked if she wanted to speak about her reports but said she had nothing extra to add and requested that all just read the reports. James said that he was very grateful to all leaders and groups, and that there were so many activities going on with too many to mention for which the church was extremely grateful. Rosemary asked what Moveable Feasts was and James explained it was a study group that

met on a Monday evening. There were no other questions or comments and James said the APCM reports were on the church website.

6. Elections

- a. **PCC Members:** James thanked the whole PCC for the past year, particularly those who were standing down this year: Matthew Wolff, Hilary Pennington, Kate Dove, Don Simpson and Joseph Saunders who was co-opted during EOT. Joseph was thanked for all his hard work and for the success of EOT. On thanking those that were stepping down, James said all were welcome to come back in the future. He also thanked Tricia James who finishes as Deanery Synod Rep this year.

Four nominations had been received in advance of the meeting and no further nominations were received:

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Lucy Holden	Don Simpson	Tricia James
Richard Eccles	Michael Fincham	Liz Tavner
Elizabeth Radice	Hilary Pennington	Rosemary Woodley
Sian Binley	Sarah Philip	Joseph Saunders

James asked for votes in favour of the nominees to be elected – there was a unanimous vote in favour of each nominee in turn and all were duly elected. Thanks were given to the new PCC members for standing.

- b. **Deanery Synod Representative.** James asked if there was anyone who would like to take up this role but there were no nominees. James said he would bring it up at the next PCC meeting.
- c. **Sidespersons:** James thanked all those who currently serve as sidespersons: Caroline Broomfield, Pat Chapman, Kate Dove, June Huntsman, Olive Langley, K C Lin, Joseph Philip, Susan Philip, Sarah Seed, Don Simpson, Janet Tankard, Liz Tavner and Rosemary Woodley. James reported that due to a change of procedure sidespersons are no longer appointed at the APCM, but appointed by the PCC. No new sidespersons put themselves forward for appointment by the PCC.
- d. **Independent Examiner:** Thanks were given to Professor Martin Dove for taking on this role, he was happy to continue and those present expressed agreement with this.

7. Any Other Business

It was noted that due to an error the date of 10 June 2020 was missing off the list of PCC meetings on the back of the APCM report. All new PCC members were asked to take note.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 May 2021

Priest-in-Charge's Report 2020–2021

Rev'd James Shakespeare

Priest in Charge's Report on 2020-2021

1. REV JAMES SHAKESPEARE BECOMING VICAR

On 25th September 2020, the Diocese of Ely confirmed that the 'Suspension of Presentation' to the Benefice of St John the Evangelist, Cherry Hinton – our legal name – was terminated, that therefore I, the present Priest in Charge, would be collated and inducted as Vicar of the Parish. Originally this was scheduled to take place on 22nd November 2020. This was later cancelled, due to the second Covid-19 lock-down. Subsequently it was rearranged, and I will officially be made Vicar on 23rd May 2021, almost four years since my original licensing as Priest in Charge, on 12th June 2017. Whilst in some ways a formality, I hope that this special service, with Bishop Stephen and the Archdeacon present, will be opportunity to renew and celebrate the life and ministry of St John's, after a year of significant challenge and change.

2. INTRODUCTION: MINISTRY AT A TIME OF PANDEMIC

If anyone had told me, a year ago, as I wrote last year's Annual Report, the extent to which our Parish life, worship and mission would be upended by the global pandemic, I would have scarcely believed it possible. Already in February 2020 we could see the impact of Covid-19 in China, and starting to affect other countries worldwide, including Italy, but none of us knew what was coming. As it happens our last APCM, in 2020, was held on 15th March, the final worshipping Sunday before the first major national lock-down. It is impossible to over-state the impact of what has transpired in this past 15 months, as we anticipate this year's APCM, on 30th May 2021.

The first thing to say is that our priority throughout, as a local Christian community, has been a loving, prayerful and pastorally intelligent response, to the suffering and dislocation of Covid-19. We are part of a wider humanity, locally, nationally and globally, and share concern for all who have suffered; but locally, in Cambridge, the impact was serious too – whether in terms of sickness and death, mental health, the strain on families, education, work patterns, and normal community life.

Early on, in partnership with other church & voluntary sector partners, we sent out a letter to every local resident in Queen Edith's Ward, encouraging local street-level mutual aid, as well as offering our support as church and community leaders. This was picked up by the local media, and was part of a varied local community response across Cambridge. Within a short time however, we joined a collaborative effort, with the Queen Edith's Forum, to set up a more co-ordinated community response, which became known as the 'Happy to Help Scheme'. So whereas initially I had found myself literally responding to multiple calls from the public, to assist with food or medicine deliveries, during lockdown, a dedicated volunteer scheme rapidly kicked in. No doubt this has aided multiple individuals, over the past year, helping people to access essential supplies.

The next phase in our community response, as Churches, working with the Queen Edith's Forum, was in the setting up a local Food Hub, at St James' Wulfstan Way. I found myself on the steering group of this important initiative, which again led to a remarkable inter-agency, community and volunteer effort, enabling meals to be provided to dozens of people each week in food poverty. Whereas many people who were furloughed to lost jobs were able to access Government support, others were not so fortunate, and the pandemic has seen a huge rise in food poverty nationally.

In terms of pastoral care at St John's specifically, early on we decided to set up a telephone links scheme, operating as a pyramid, so that a range of ministry team and church volunteers would regularly phone key members of our congregation, who in turn who phone others, to keep in touch and ensure that everyone was OK, or provided with support, if this were needed. It is remarkably easy to become isolated, at an extended time of lockdown.

Bearing in mind the dedicated professional work of members of our St John's congregation, as doctors, scientists, nurses, carers and teachers, the next aspect of our pastoral response to the pandemic involved a decision to offer myself as part of the Chaplaincy Team at Addenbrooke's Hospital – which is, after all, in our Parish. It felt the right thing to do, in terms of my pastoral

training, to offer to support the NHS, at a time of acute pressure. Not least with experience of working at the Leicester Royal Infirmary in 2010. I was enabled to minister to a number of local parishioners, whom I would not have had the opportunity to visit otherwise, a wide range of patients, as well as supporting exhausted NHS staff. I also conducted several emergency bedside weddings. Joining the Chaplaincy team has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my ministry, and I'm delighted to be continuing, albeit on a less frequent basis as we come out of lockdown.

3. ST JOHN'S: CHURCH ONLINE & GATHERED WORSHIP

During the pandemic, which has involved three lock-downs – meaning that for nearly 7 months out of 12 worship services have been suspended (almost 60% of the year) – we formed a Covid-safety planning group, acting on behalf of the PCC. Consisting of myself, Rev Chris Campbell, the wardens (Dr Peter Tavner and Michael Fincham), and treasurer (Roger Lilley), we met regularly to consider what forms of ministry were possible, including the phased and safe re-opening of St John's Church, when legislation permitted it.

At times the flurry of Government announcements seemed almost over-whelming, as well as the Church of England and Ely Diocese interpretation of what was safely permitted, within strict Covid guidelines. So as well as discerning our balance of worship and other Parish activity, we entered a world of more regular Risk Assessments, social distancing, 'Test and Trace', the obligatory mask wearing, and the prohibition of congregational singing.

For some the joy of returning to gathered worship, from July-October 2020, outweighed the frustration of sitting apart, with less congregational participation, and limited congregations. Others preferred to remain online, with our excellent pre-recorded services, as well as a significant number of services and Home Groups meeting on 'Zoom'. Attempts were also made to support those unable to access technology, either by raising funds to buy equipment, or delivering material to their homes, as well as signing up to various telephone schemes, such as 'Dial a Sermon'. Overall we have discovered the importance of maintaining an online presence, many new people having joined St John's during the pandemic, and Zoom having provided a vital link to many. And once we moved back into Church, with a new pattern of morning worship (two morning services, 9.30am All Age and I Am), we endeavoured to continue a weekly online act of Sunday worship via live-stream.

It is impossible to do justice to the hard work of those responsible for preparing our worship, during the pandemic – St John's Church Online **and** gathered services – and I am especially grateful to the Rev Chris Campbell, Henry Wolff and Dan Talmage, for their video editing skills; to Iain Campbell for his generous work in live-streaming our services; and to Elizabeth Trenchard, our Director of Music, for her oversight of music. I would also like to acknowledge the vital contribution of our St John's Ministry Team and Ordinands, as well as the wide range of members of our congregation who have contributed to online series. There really has been a wealth of talent. Such creativity and vision has sustained and strengthened our Christian faith and witness, during a traumatic year for everyone.

4. ST JOHN'S MINISTRY TEAM AND STAFFING: CHANGES

2020-2021 saw some significant changes to our Ministry Team and Staffing, the latter sadly impacted by the pandemic itself. To start with staffing, therefore, it was with great sadness – as well as gratitude for services offered, over 18 years – that the PCC made a reluctant decision, in November 2020, to explore the route of making the Parish Administrator post redundant. This was due to a number of factors, principally the drastic reduction of income, during the pandemic, as a result of the Church and Centre's closure, physically. For some months the Administrator had been placed on the Furlough scheme, but a decision was made that we did not anticipate having the resources to continue with this post, unless our share of ministry was to be reduced from a full-time priest. The PCC argued that, for the foreseeable future, Parish admin would need to be covered by volunteers. Mrs Lyn Harrison has made a very significant contribution to St John's Church over many years, since her appointment began in April 2002. It therefore followed, after due consultation, that Mrs Harrison completed her duties prior to Christmas 2020. A special presentation was made to Lyn, on 17th January 2021, to thank her for all she has done, over many years, to further the ministry of St John's Church. Lyn Harrison continues as a member of St John's congregation.

Another staffing change, in 2020, not specifically related to the pandemic, was the retirement of our Caretaker, Mr David Biggs, after more than 25 years in post. David began his duties in March 1995, and over these years has also made a substantial contribution to the smooth running of St John's, and especially our Community Rooms, in his wide-ranging caretaking duties. David's service to our community and many user groups, cannot be under-estimated. David completed his duties in September, and he and his family will remain important members of our local parish community.

Otherwise our St John's Ministry Team saw some changes in 2020, in terms of personnel. We welcomed two new members, Sian Binley, who successfully trained as an Authorised Lay Minister, with a focus on pioneer ministry. In addition, we were joined by Jane Gardiner, who recently joined St John's from another Church, and has been recommended for Licensed Lay Ministry training. We are delighted to have Sian and Jane in our Team. Also, during 2020, Mrs June Huntsman, who has had a very significant pastoral ministry at St John's over many years – including the oversight of lay visiting, and setting up Companions – retired from her leadership role. We are grateful to June for all that she has achieved, over many years.

In addition, we were joined by two new ordinands, in October 2020, Tom Owen, in his final year at Ridley Hall, and Louise Bryson, in her first year at Westcott House. Alongside of them we were pleased to have Will Lyon Tupman and Sam Duckhouse both continuing as Westcott ordinands.

In terms of clergy changes, we were delighted, in July 2020, to be joined by a new self-supporting Assistant Curate, the Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy, the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide. Muthuraj was ordained deacon, and joins us with his family, Mahiba, Mano and Mona. And we were pleased to announce the appointment of a further new self-supporting Curate, Mrs Ceri Payne, presently at Ridley Hall, who will be ordained, and join as a new deacon, in July 2021. Furthermore, another member of our Ministry Team, Mr Andrew Hurst, who had been training with the Eastern Regional Ministry Course, was ordained deacon, in July 2020, and has joined the Ministry Team in the Parishes of Newnham and Grantchester.

5. OTHER ASPECTS OF MISSION

Under the leadership of Canon Kate Aylmer we continued our participation, as a Parish, in the next phase of the 'Partnership for Missional Church' project. Acknowledging all the restrictions of the pandemic, it was good to have spaces for structured reflection on 'what has God been up to, during this pandemic?' Surprisingly this discernment and reflection process helped us to notice a great many things that the Holy Spirit has been doing, over this challenging year. In addition, whilst being restricted in our face-to-face meetings, we noticed how our Parish, with our partners at St James' Wulfstan Way and St Andrew's Cherry Hinton (the 'Three Saints Partnership'), discovered lots of new external partnerships with 'people of peace', as we each sought to serve the wider community in various ways. We are in the process of discerning the way forward into this final formal year of the P.M.C. project. I am so grateful to Kate for her leadership.

Another initiative, which was set in motion in 2019 via our 'Three Saints Partnership', is the 'Kids Matter' parenting project, of which I chair the Management Team. Originally we had planned, during 2020, to roll-out three parenting courses, one in each parish. The pandemic prevented that, although an online course took place at St James' Wulfstan Way, and plans are afoot to roll out the second phase of the course in Cherry Hinton, in summer 2021, and hopefully the third phase at St John's, in autumn 2021. It is great to see a range of families being supported through this project.

Closer to home, in 2020 St John's began its significant journey towards becoming an eco church, under the A Rocha accreditation scheme. Having already decided, in 2019, under the auspices of the St John's Mission Group, to embark on this vital project, in the past 12 months St John's begun to draw together an eco church team, to further the various strands of environmental engagement, under the leadership of Mr Roger Lilley. There is also a synergy with an emerging key theme of 'Partnership for Missional Church', as well as it being a timely recognition of the moral imperative of environmental stewardship, and a tool for enhancing local community engagement. It will be fascinating to see how this project develops, as we develop our green spaces, promotion of

sustainable lifestyles, global engagement – in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow, in November 2021 – enhance our worship and teaching, music, and stewardship of our buildings.

6. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Finally, I would like to acknowledge one or two other aspects of my ministry, beyond St John's; ways in which I can contribute – on behalf of our Parish – to the wider Church. During 2020 I have been assisting as Deputy Rural Dean, including helping to support fellow clergy during the pandemic. I also continue as an Assistant Director of Ordinands, which ties in well with our role at St John's as a ministry training hub, working with curates and ordinands, and in developing vocations. Finally, I am a spiritual director, and chair a working group looking at the development of spirituality and prayer across the Diocese of Ely.

7. CONCLUSION

It has been a strange year, with lots of struggle and suffering for many, a radical dislocation of our ordinary patterns of Parish life and ministry, but also a discovering of some of the remarkable new ways that God is at work amongst us, and that Jesus Christ remains active in our midst. Inevitably our children's work, and our work with local schools and colleges was substantially curtailed, and many projects begun in 2019 – such as our Community lunch club, and St John's Centre community strategy – were put on hold. We hope to return to them, in the near future, and especially to reinvigorate our work with children, young people and families (although this did continue, in various subtle ways, during the pandemic). Nonetheless, despite a difficult year, I remain full of hope in all the possibilities of renewal, community building, and transforming mission, as we grow in faith and hope and love, into the year that lies ahead of us. **'The One who calls you is faithful and will do these things.'** (1 Thessalonians 5.24)

May I, finally, offer profound thanks to my colleagues, including Rev Chris Campbell, for her incredible ministry, creativity and support to me, Dr Muthuraj Swamy, for his profound theological vision, as well as to Dr Peter Tavner, loyal Churchwarden, Michael Fincham, dedicated Deputy Churchwarden, Mrs Elizabeth Trenchard, Director of Music, Mr Roger Lilley, Treasurer and Deputy Musical Director, Mrs Janet Tankard, our PCC Secretary, and to our wonderfully dedicated Ministry Team, and indeed to all our volunteers and dedicated Church members, as well as former staff, Lyn and David. Thank you all.

The Revd James Shakespeare MA, MTheol, DipTh, CTM



Statutory Reports

2020 – 2021

1. Electoral Roll Report
2. PCC Secretary's Report of Meetings
3. Safeguarding Report
4. Treasurer's Report
Financial Statement and Annual Accounts 2020
5. Churchwarden's Report
6. South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report

Electoral Roll Report 2020-21

There are 208 members listed on the Electoral Roll. Of these approximately 60% live within the parish.

Over the last 12 months, five names have been added to the Roll and six have been removed. Four people have moved or worship elsewhere and two have died (Margaret Owen and Mary Pigott).

I should like to pay tribute to my predecessor Fiona Richards, whose meticulous record-keeping has made it easy for me to step into her shoes.

*Cherry Hopkins
Electoral Roll Officer
7 May 2021*

PCC Secretary's Report of PCC meetings March 2020 – May 2021

PCC's members are clergy, churchwardens and others elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of the parish. Its powers and duties can be found in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, under which the principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." St John's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, its members being trustees.

St John's PCC 15 March 2020 – 30 May 2021

Rev'd James Shakespeare*	Priest-in-Charge and Chair
Rev'd Christine Campbell	Curate
Rev'd Peter Heslam	Honorary Clergy
Peter Tavner*	Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Roger Lilley*	Treasurer (co-opted)
Elizabeth Trenchard	Organist and Director of Music (co-opted)
Vacancies 3	Deanery Synod Representative
Janet Tankard*	PCC Secretary
	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Sarah Seed	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Joseph Philip	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Lucy Holden	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Richard Eccles	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Liz Radice	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Sian Binley	Elected 2020, stand down 2023

In accordance with Church Representation Rules 2020, some members of the PCC* are appointed to a Standing Committee and may transact the PCC's business between meetings.

This year our thanks go to Tricia James who completed her term as Deanery Synod Representative in September 2020; with thanks also to Peter Magill and Amanda Taylor who both stepped down as PCC members in 2020. Special thanks are given to Peter Tavner who finishes in his role of Churchwarden, having completed his third year of service. St John's is extremely grateful to all those who put themselves forward to serve on the PCC.

Due to the pandemic all meetings this year were held on zoom. One informal catch up meeting took place in March 2020 just after the first lockdown, followed by 7 scheduled meetings.

PCC meetings begin with 'Dwelling in the Word', and items such as Treasurer and Churchwarden reports, Safeguarding, and Health and Safety are always on the agenda. There are also reports from various sub-committees and special interest areas which this year included Ministry Team, Music and

Worship, Children and Families, Mission Committee, Partnership for Missional Church, Deanery and Diocesan Synod, with Eco Church as a new addition. Discussions this year mainly focussed on how to be church during the pandemic but also other specific items. Subjects discussed included:

- Church closure in March 2020 during the initial lockdown: thereafter PCC matters focussed on supporting the Clergy, Churchwardens and the many other church members involved in distanced church, worship and pastoral plans both online and phone, as well as support for church and local community help initiatives.
- Re-opening of church with detail delegated to the re-opening working group with special regard to health and safety. Support of ongoing planning due to further lockdowns/re-opening, with a mixed economy of socially distanced worship and online worship. Services, with input from the congregation were pre-recorded to YouTube with other events via zoom during lockdown, and services livestreamed when church re-opened. The PCC acknowledged, with thanks, all involved including the work of the dedicated technical team.
- Finance, with particular regard to loss of income from rental and fundraising opportunities, the deficit and how to address this. Decisions on staffing were made. Full details are included in the Treasurer's report and accompanying accounts.
- PCC approval of the lifting of suspension of presentation to the benefice. James Shakespeare will formally become Vicar on 23 May 2021, following earlier postponement due to lockdown.
- Appraisal of the re-opening of church and post covid strategy, looking forward to the eventual safe re-opening of St John's Centre, and gradual return of church and community use to our facilities.
- The overall need to look at church growth, membership, stewardship and fundraising.
- Safeguarding: PCC approval of the St John's safeguarding action plan, and individual safeguarding policies. The completion of safeguarding courses for PCC members. The annual safeguarding report has been written by our Safeguarding Officer.
- PCC approval of the annual parochial church fees and new St John's Centre hire fees.
- Approval for essential electrical works to be carried out.
- Support for St John's new eco church initiative with A Rocha UK.

Once approved, minutes from PCC meetings are available for parishioners to read, copies of which are kept on file for reference in the Parish Office and with the PCC Secretary. Meeting dates are listed in the minutes and displayed on the parish noticeboard. In addition to the overview on the proceedings of PCC meetings, the annual report contains further detailed statutory reports and accounts, a review of the year in the Priest-in-Charge report as well as individual reports on the activities of the parish generally.

We are currently entitled to 12 elected members on the PCC and have 5 vacancies; we also have vacancies for 3 Deanery Synod Representatives. Please contact Revd James Shakespeare or Janet Tankard, PCC Secretary, if you would be interested in any of these roles. The PCC would welcome new members to help us in our decision making as we look forward to an exciting period of development for St John's post pandemic.

Janet Tankard, PCC Secretary
April 2021

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues to be a priority at St John's and work on fulfilling diocesan requirements has continued throughout lockdown.

In November, with the agreement of the PCC, we opted into the Parish Dashboard scheme, which is an enormously useful tool in monitoring our compliance with safeguarding requirements and generating action plans for future implementation. In January we were promoted to Level 2 in recognition of our hard work in this area. Volunteers (including children's leaders, choir leaders, PCC, church wardens and lay ministers) all have up-to-date DBS checks and most of the essential safeguarding training has been carried out. We are enormously grateful to everyone for their recognition of the importance of this subject and the time they have taken with on-line and Zoom training.

At the PCC meeting on 21st April 2021, two policies were approved:

- Safeguarding
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the *Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016* to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Anyone with a concern about safeguarding in St John's should contact Rev. James Shakespeare (jshakespeare@btinternet.com), Chris Campbell (chris@revcc.uk) or Sarah Talmage (s.e.ward.95@cantab.net). All concerns will be taken seriously and, if necessary, will be passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. If you're not sure, it's always better to say something.

Sarah Talmage
Parish Safeguarding Officer, 2021

Treasurer's Report Financial Statement and Annual Accounts 2020 (attached)

2020 has been a challenging year for the finances of St John's. Were it not for the committed regular giving of the congregation topped up by the generosity of HMRC we would have ended the year in a far worse position. The lack of opportunities for major fundraising events, absence of income from our community rooms and occasional giving at services, impacted significantly on our cash flow. By the end of the year we were looking over a financial precipice and urgent decisions were needed.

Our major outlay is our annual contribution to diocesan ministry costs of £74k. We met those in 2020 but for 2021 we have had to significantly curtail our regular contributions until normal life can resume. We have had to examine every way we can to reduce our running costs and as a result we have reduced our paid staff and looked at numerous others ways to make savings.

Whilst, as I write this in mid April, normality appears to be returning to society at large, St John's can only look forward to resuming normal service to the community once our long term finances are secure. The assets we had at the end of 2020, £35k, are totally inadequate for a church such as ours to be able to plan for a few months of financial disruption, let alone the possibility of a need for significant repairs, maintenance or building works. Keeping an adequate bank balance at the expense of our proper contribution to diocesan expenditure is also not viable, as it would inevitably mean the subsidy of our activities by neighbouring parishes.

By the time you read this, I hope the situation will have improved. By the end of the year, there will be an urgent need for the kind of activities we have all missed for so long, social activities that we will all welcome, but will also bring sorely needed income. This will be vital if we are to going to be able to look forward to a future in which St John's plays the part it should in our local community.

I thank everyone who has contributed to the smooth running of the finances at St John's: Joseph, our Gift Aid secretary, the church wardens, those who staff the office, those who count collections, our Independent Examiner, and all those who have made sacrifices during this emergency to help things at St John's run just that little bit more smoothly. As always, if you would like advice or information on how you can support St John's financially, please do speak with me in confidence.

Roger Lilley - Treasurer - April 2021

Churchwarden Report

Following completion of the St John's Centre EOT Works warranty period work, the following has been done:

- i. Building works documentation stored in marked folders in the Parish Office;
- ii. New keys for the St Johns Centre issued to individuals against a register, including a set for Daniel Trocme-Latter of Homerton for organ-practice access. Some keys have been returned, notably from David Biggs, Lyn Harrison, Gail Kenney and Petra Shakeshaft. No Key Audit for Church and St John's Centre has been conducted in 2019-2020, for COVID reasons, but is recommended for 2021-2022;
- iii. We experienced some difficulties with the ADT Alarm. Michael kindly arranged the transfer of the contract to a local firm, Briar, cheaper than ADT & more attentive. They fixed the post-EOT issues, however, we still have some intermittent alarms, which will be resolved by Briar as we progress through the year;
- iv. The foyer defibrillator beeps at intervals, indicating a slightly depleted battery, replacement is not yet necessary, as the defibrillator remains operational, but replacement will eventually be necessary.

No practice Church fire evacuations have been conducted in 2021, for COVID reasons, but Camfire has successfully conducted our annual inspection & check of fire safety equipment and notices. AK Marshall has also successfully completed our statutory annual gas inspections of boiler systems in the Choir Vestry Kitchen, Main Boiler Room, Wilkinson Room, EOT Kitchen and Upstairs Kitchen.

The following safety checks have been deferred for COVID or Church's financial position reasons:

- i. In 2018 we had an electrical inspection by Thompsons of the whole Church & St Johns Centre. They provided an NICEIC report, highlighting a number of issues that needed correction, at a cost of c£12k, none of the highest risk category. It was agreed by the PCC to defer the work until we were in stronger financial state. We had preliminary work done satisfactorily by DS Electrical, and they have now quoted to resolve the NICEIC report issues at lower cost of £2k, this is planned for May;
- ii. Electrical appliance checks were deferred for 2 years. As we start to open after the pandemic, I recommend these should be done and we have agreed they could be done by a firm of professional testers, Thompsons or DS Electrical, costing approximately £500;
- iii. Lightning conductor earth tests were deferred. Again, these should be done as we move out of the pandemic;

The APCM is reminded of the following outstanding issues from the late 2018 Quinquennial Inspection, recommended by the Diocesan architect. Some effective remedial work was done immediately after the Inspection, cutting back shrubs against S wall, clearing and protecting guttering, but 1 item, below, was set aside because of the Church's financial position:

- i. Repair South Facing leaves of Church roof. This had been investigated by previous Churchwardens. It could involve a considerable amount of work, possibly a drone survey, substantial scaffolding, removal of tiles, relining beneath tiles and relaying or replacement of many tiles. So costs could be high. The current Church Warden and Deputy Church Warden can confirm that we have experienced no leaks in that area since the inspection. However, the issue will require attention by the time of the next Quinquennial in 2023. Note some small

leakage has occurred in the Vicar's Vestry, not raised by the Quinquennial Report, but repaired by Michael and Peter during the year, using waterproof compound on the roof. We retain a tin of the compound for reapplication if needed.

Finally can I express thanks to James, Chris, Joseph & Michael for their help.

P J Tavner, Churchwarden, 16th April 2021

South Cambridge Deanery Report

2020 brought significant disruption to the working of the Deanery. Meetings in March were cancelled and the Deanery Synod only finally met in December. In brief:

The Deanery met its allocation of Ministry Costs for 2020 though this did require some outlay from Deanery funds. Whilst the financial impact on the Deanery and the Diocese has been less than might have been anticipated, the real long term effect has still to be assessed, both in the deanery and beyond.

The Cambridge Churches Homeless project has been affected by Government intervention during the pandemic. The Deanery still has a financial commitment to support the work of the project, but the actual shape and function of the project has changed and we need to see what its future requirements will be.

The Deanery is now providing financial services for the Ministry Experience Scheme.

The Deanery Plan was agreed not to require amendments.

Lay members were elected.

There was an interesting discussion about the A Rocha Eco-Church scheme which would result in more communication in 2021.

In March 2021 it was announced that Fr Robert Mackley was to step down from the position of Rural Dean at the end of his customary term of office, 31.3.2021. the new Rural Dean was still to be announced.

Roger Lilley - Deanery Treasurer - April 2021



Activity Reports

2020 – 2021

1. Children, Youth and Families at St John's
2. Choir
3. Curate's Report
4. Deputy Churchwarden
5. Glebe House Group
6. Healing Prayer Group
7. Homerton College Choir and Homerton Singers
8. Mission Committee
9. Moveable Feasts
10. Parish Voice
11. Partnership for Missional Church
12. Part-time NSM Curate
13. Sacristans' Rota
14. St John's Knitting Group
15. The Gardens at St John's
16. Traidfair St John's
17. Tuesday Bible Study Group

Children, Youth and Families' Ministry at St John's

Developing our welcome of and ministry with children, young people and their families is at the heart of our mission and ministry at St John's. We believe that children and young people are as fully a part of the church today as the adults are; equal and valued. We want to grow as Christian disciples with them, learn from their experiences of God and minister together. At St John's we have much to celebrate and our worshipping community (those who are regular or semi-regular attendees of church) includes over 50 children and young people. Many of these attend on a Sunday morning, often taking part in Children's Church or Choir, but others belong to Youth Group, Messy Church and Toddle Along; each of which is church to those who attend.

As can be imagined, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our ministry with children, young people and their families, and though there has been much this year to celebrate, we also know that there are many things that we had planned, that weren't able to take place.

One of the saddest moments of 2020 for the team, was packing away our newly created children's area in church. Early in 2020, we celebrated that we had funding (from the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust, matched by our own PCC) to create a new children's area in the church. This space was particularly designed to enhance the spirituality of the youngest members of our congregation. As well as new resources to aid this (include a soft-play church, play materials relating to church, a wooden finger labyrinth and new books), the area was also moved from the back, into the body of the church – thus enabling the young people and their families to feel a greater connection with the service. The children's team joyfully put this area together during February half term, and it was blessed during the following service. But only a month later, we had to pack it away – knowing that covid- restrictions meant that shared resources such as these couldn't be used.

Being part of the family of God, is an amazing journey, which starts from birth and continues the rest of our lives. At St John's, our Children, Youth and Families team look to support those on every step of that journey, and different members of the team are involved in different aspects of that ministry. Chris Campbell oversees the team, which in 2020 included Sian Binley, Mel Boyle, Lyn Harrison, Jo Hart (as a parent rep), Lucy Holden, K C Lin, Sarah Philip, Anne Rigby, Sarah Talmage and Elizabeth Trenchard (representing the choir).

During the pandemic, the team have continued to meet together regularly on zoom – both to think about practical ways we can adapt our ministry, but also to support each other and to reflect on what God has been doing in the lives of children, young people and their families during this time.

Toddle Along

Toddle Along is our weekly group for the Under 5s, along with their parents/ carers. For many, Toddle Along is the first experience a baby, toddler and their parents have of St John's and it includes free play, a short gathering (with songs, a bible story and a time of thankfulness), a sit down snack, more free play and then another song time at the end. 2020 started well, and Toddle Along was really flourishing; with lots of regular families and a steady trickle of new attendees.

However, due to the pandemic, we have now had a full year of not being able to meet physically. During the first lockdown, we sent out regular messages of support and in May and June, Anne recorded two messages which went out on our Church website and were well received. In September we decided to take activity bags to the families for their toddlers. The first bags were to celebrate Harvest. They contained a book with a Bible story for very young children, a variety of crafts from Monica (our craft lady) and a sweet treat! These were very well received and in 2020, we then continued the idea for other celebrations including Remembrance Day and Christmas.

The bags have continued to be received with much enthusiasm and the feedback from the families has been really good with a number sending us pictures of the completed crafts. Each month we are giving out around 15 packs to local families.

Although 2021 has started with us continuing to send out 'toddle along at home' packs, we are hoping to plan a short outdoor meeting after Easter.

Messy Church

Messy Church Messy is a worldwide form of church, which involves creativity, celebration and hospitality and it continues to be the way that many local families engage with St John's. Pre-pandemic, we aimed to run Messy church bi-monthly, and it was usually attended by 20-25 children, many of whom don't otherwise attend St John's.

However, Messy Church had to be done very differently for most of this past year. We had our last 'normal' Messy Church on Saturday 8th Feb; which included scientists and engineers in the congregation sharing their skills and knowledge with the younger generation, after which we all celebrated God's wonderful creation. But after that everything had to change.

During the first period of full lockdown, we did trial one 'online' Messy church (with suggestions of activities, and a video service) – however this was not very well used, considering all the effort. As we began to emerge from lockdown, we returned to a gathered model. To comply with covid-safety, we had to move from an 'open-door' policy to a booking system for a maximum of 12 families. Our first Messy Church like this was at Harvest and was a great success. We had a full house with 12 families and the feedback was very positive and it was enjoyed by all. The Christmas Messy Church was again fully booked, and again the feedback was very positive. We had hoped that we might have been able to hold these events outdoors, but in the end the weather didn't make it possible. Instead, each family was well spaced out in the church, with their own little zone. They each were given a tray of activities (instead of going round the church to do them) and we started and finished the one hour session, with stories and prayers from the front. Although COVID-regulations meant we couldn't have our usual 'Messy Tea', Anne made sure that each family had some edible goodies to take home!

Messy Church still continues to be a great outreach event but also a great community event for the families of our church. We look forward to being able to offer an open door policy soon but in the meantime the booking system seems to be working really well.

During the year, Sian has become part of the Messy Church leadership team, and she took on responsibility for the Christmas event. Although Messy Church in this format requires less personnel, we are really grateful to members of the children's team for helping out, and ensuring it could happen safely.

Children's Church, All Age Services and Sunday provision for children and young people

Like everything else, there have been many changes to children's church over the past year.

We started 2020 with our usual Epiphany Party, which was a joint event with all the children's church groups. For the next 2.5 months, we ran two children's church groups; Waterfalls for the older children (ages 10+) and a joint Raindrops and Fountain group for the under 10s. However, sadly from mid-March, children's church has been unable to run in its usual format.

For the Waterfalls group, we were pleased to see several of the children joining the Youth Group Zoom meetings, along with some new faces.

For the raindrops and Fountains groups, the children's church team decided that Zoom meetings were unlikely to work well. Instead, these groups have been supported by the provision of Faith at Home resources. These have included ideas on our website, all age introductions on our Church at Home online services, and some wonderful 'at home' packs put together and delivered by Lyn at various points during the year. We have also endeavoured to keep in touch with children and their families by both emails and cards.

As the church emerged from the first lockdown, the decision was taken to hold a weekly All Age Service in the new 9:30 slot, instead of Children's Church. This was mainly due to the difficulties with to regard mixing bubbles, and the challenges and risks of keeping Children's Church COVID secure. These services have had pros and cons; some have worked really well, although we know they are not always as 'all age' as we might have hoped them to be. Likewise, although we have been pleased to see many families at these services, we know there are some families who have continued to shield, and others who have found that All Age services don't work so well for them. In 2021, the team hope to review and reflect more on the best pattern of Sunday provision for our children and young people.

Youth Group

At the start of 2020, the Youth Group continued to be a fun and supportive environment for our young people (aged 10 – 16+) to grow in faith and fellowship. In the spring we had a number of fantastic sessions, all of which focused on the theme of Generosity and Hospitality, including a 'poverty supper' and a pancake party.

After the first lockdown began, Youth Group (held jointly with Waterfalls) moved onto Zoom. During 2020 we had a number of zoom youth group sessions, which often included games and quizzes, alongside discussions and support. In the autumn we did manage a couple of 'in person' Youth Group meetings; outside church with a fire pit! We hope that in 2021 we might be able to do more of these.

Sadly, our 2020 Youth Group residential, to the Horstead Centre, had to be cancelled.

Confirmation Classes

In Lent 2020 we began confirmation classes with some of our Waterfalls/ Youth Group cohort. Sadly, halfway through these had to be put on hold. We are now hoping that they will all be confirmed in June 2021.

Chris Campbell
Curate

Choir

2020 was a very different year for St John's church choir as we attempted to sing through a pandemic!

Membership

Throughout the year the trebles have continued to follow the RSCM Voice for Life training scheme. Harriet and Nicole both achieved the Bishop's chorister award this year and were presented with their awards at St John's as the Diocesan choir festival at Ely was cancelled. Sophie has succeeded Adrienne as Head Chorister. We currently have fourteen children (under the age of 18) in the choir. Twelve of them make up the treble line and we are pleased to have two former trebles now singing tenor and bass. Two of our former head choristers Robert and Emilie left us in the autumn to go away to university and it was lovely to have them singing with us again at the carol service. It is a delight to see our children grow at St John's, developing their musical skills and deepening their faith.

The choir adults started the year with a fantastic shared meal but unfortunately all other social events have been cancelled. The adults have kept in touch with weekly zoom calls throughout lockdown when we have been unable to meet to rehearse together. The trebles have met occasionally on line.

Despite the restrictions, the choir have continued to lead the music at all the main services at St John's. During lockdown we have recorded our music at home and assembled it together for the online services. In the summer we were able to have a soloist leading the services in church and from September we were able to have a 'socially-distanced' choir singing together in church. Due to space

restrictions and the separate services held on a Sunday, for the first time we split the trebles away from the adults. The trebles rose to the challenge and impressed us all by leading the 9:30am service with no adult support. The adults led the I am service with a socially distanced choir spaced out throughout the chancel and sanctuary. We came together to record an act of remembrance ahead of Remembrance Day and sang together at the carol service.

Outreach

Due to the pandemic we have not sung outside of our parish and did not meet with our partnership churches or other choirs in the Diocese. We have, instead, been able to broadcast our services across the world! Our live streamed and pre-recorded carol services were both watched by over 300 viewers from across the UK and as far afield as Washington DC and California, USA. Our on line services have also been greatly appreciated by former choristers who no longer live in our parish and extended family members of current choristers. We are hugely grateful to the technical team who have made this all possible.

Finance

Unfortunately we have not managed any fund raising this year due to restrictions.

Future

We continue to enjoy leading the musical worship at St John's. We hope that our trebles will continue to work through the RSCM training scheme and some may achieve awards from Ely Diocese. We look forward to a time when it is safe for the whole choir to sing together and lead the congregation in worship.

I am extremely grateful to Roger Lilley for acting as Assistant Director of Music throughout the year.

Elizabeth Trenchard

Curate's Report

Well what a strange year to be writing a report about. A year which has been filled with so many challenges and frustrations, but which has also given opportunities to explore new ways of ministry.

2020 started as we expected, and I enjoyed a varied ministry of preaching, leading, teaching and pastoral support. We had bible study groups with lots of delicious cakes, youth group meetings with pancakes, we sang with gusto during our Sunday services. I felt settled in the usual bread and butter of life in our parish.

In January, it was a privilege to be involved in the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project again, and to team lead for some of the St John's evenings.

It was also great fun to run our Messy Science event in February, and to encourage some of the scientists and engineers in the congregation to share their knowledge with the families. Again, it showed the diversity of gifts at St John's, and it was a really good opportunity for us to make connections between our the church and the everyday faith of her members.

Another highlight of February was putting together our new Children's Area in the church; although, as discussed in the Children's and Families' report, this soon had to be packed away, due to covid-safety guidance.

At the beginning of the year, I also led our worship review; as we began to explore both the variety of the services we offer, and whether it was time to refresh our usual service booklets. Who was to know that only a couple of months later, we would have completely changed the way we worship!

But by mid-March everything had changed; the things we took for granted (like singing in church) were no longer possible and, from then on, the majority of 2020 became dominated by the pandemic. For me, as with all church leaders, it became a steep learning curve, as we discovered

new ways of running services and 'being church' together. Alongside this learning curve, was the mixed joy of many working parents - suddenly needing to home-school our children!

At St John's we soon decided to concentrate our online services in a weekly 'church at home' service of the word, and one of my main roles in 2020 became driving these online offerings. Looking back at the first few, it is amazing to see how much we all learnt about filming, editing and general online presentation. What has been a real joy for me, is how willing so many people were to try out this new technology and to join in with our online services; indeed we've had people read and lead prayers online, who hadn't previously done it in church. I have been really grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously to our online worship, and particularly to my family who have supported me; not just by giving up areas of our house to be a recording studio, but also by learning to film and record themselves!

Of course, we didn't stop at just our Sunday morning online service; and over the year we have developed a varied approach, which has included weekly bible studies, Sunday evening prayer and regular morning prayer online. These have been supplemented by an increased use of our website, to share both information and reflections. Indeed, fairly early in the pandemic, I asked a number of you to help review our current website, and then spent time giving it a fresh look, which helped with its usability. Alongside online worship, we've also kept up regular social events online; such as Sunday morning coffee and conversation and our very popular zoom quizzes (which I've loved devising and which have also helped to raise a small amount of money for church funds). To support those who weren't online, we've also worked hard to keep a telephone network alive, and have sent out printed materials to anyone who wanted them.

Like everyone, I really missed our fellowship of being gathered together, and this was particularly true during the strictest times of lockdown when, living a few miles away, I was unable to spend time physically in the parish. So it was a real joy in the summer when we could begin emerging from that first lockdown, and amongst other things, return to gathered worship, for those who felt able. From that point on, we have tried to retain a mixed economy of worship in church and online; moving fully online again in November, when again we were in a period of tighter restrictions. It was fantastic that we were able to have a range of services for Advent and Christmas; including two very special carol services (one online and one in church, which we also successfully livestreamed).

Another element of the year has been continuing to be involved in the Partnership for Mission Church process. One of the key PMC questions is 'what is God doing?' and that, for me, has been a really good question for 2020. In a year when many of us became increasingly tired and frustrated with the ever-changing restrictions and where we often felt out of control of the world around us, being able to stop and reflect on God's presence and action in the world, helped to keep me grounded and to realise that there were signs of hope and growth amongst all the difficulties. And talking about that question in our PMC reflections, in our bible and home groups and with our children and youth, has shown me that we have all, as a church, become more aware of God's provision in the wilderness of the pandemic.

One of the other things I have enjoyed in 2020 is continuing to be involved in education and training. In the Autumn I took on supervising two of our wonderful ordinands and during the year I also led some training at Westcott on ministry with children and young people in church. I also began an MA in Biblical Interpretation, which I'm really enjoying!

2020 was not the year any of us had been expecting, but despite its challenges there have been many positive things to look back on; perhaps most notably the care and support which we have shown each other as a church community during this difficult time. For that, I thank you all.

Chris Campbell
Curate

Deputy Churchwarden

The year 2020 has been dominated, as for everyone else, by COVID. As soon as we had an inkling that churches would be allowed to hold services again after the first lockdown, we began the preparations for once more opening our doors. This required a whole raft of measures to be introduced. First we had to remove every other row in the church so as to ensure a 2m gap between members of the congregation who were not in the same household. Signs went up reminding people of the need to keep their distance and to sanitise their hands on entry. Anyone who showed symptoms of COVID – a persistent cough or a fever (anosmia and ageusia came later) were asked not to enter. A new one-way entry/exit system was devised with floor arrows to guide the congregation. Hand sanitisers, spare face masks and cleaning materials were acquired, and a risk assessment was prepared by the churchwarden, Peter Tavner. NHS Track & Trace required us to keep a list of those attending services and this was added to the tasks of the duty warden. The capacity of the church was much reduced, and we decided as a result we would need two morning services, at 9.30am and 11am, the earlier service being more targeted at the younger congregation. Singing was stopped, initially of any sort, and then gradually opened up to a single cantor and subsequently to a reduced capacity choir. A programme of sanitisation of surfaces after services, carried out by duty warden and sidespersons, was implemented to reduce the risk of fomite transmission. All of this was carried out under the auspices of the PCC by a small committee set up to review the policies and their implementation.

The re-opening of the St John's Centre required similar preparations. The normal capacity of the Wilkinson Room of well over a hundred was reduced to 22. A one-way system was implemented and myriad signs put up advising the wearing of masks, the sanitising of hands and, most importantly, keeping the windows open at all times, even during the winter, to maximise ventilation. For much of 2020, use of the centre was restricted to certain sorts of groups, such as those providing children's services, and educational activities. The kitchen was closed, a substantial blow given what a wonderful facility it is, and coffee after services was suspended. In addition, the office was closed during much of 2020. By the end of 2020 we had been through various stages of opening and shutting, but the essential rules outlined above have barely changed. As I write in mid-April 2021, the church is open once again but the centre is still closed until mid-May.

Much of the usual church activity through the year was not possible in 2020, including holding fundraising and social activities, and this resulted in a substantial drop in our income. As a result we had to find ways to save money. When David Biggs retired after many years' employment as St John's caretaker, he was not replaced. Very sadly we had to commence the process of making Lyn Harrison redundant as we could no longer afford to fund a Parish Administrator. Both David and Lyn have made a valuable contribution to the church over very many years, and we were sorry to see them go. We implemented some other changes to save money, such as changing our contract for the alarm system to a local company, Briar Security, who are much more affordable than our previous supplier.

Necessity being the mother of invention, we have been introduced in 2020 to some new practices that may well continue after things return to some sort of normality. For many, 2020 was the first introduction to Zoom which has been used successfully for many services and meetings which otherwise could not be held. An excellent online provision has allowed those shielding to attend services, and has meant the continuation of church services throughout the lockdowns. This has been enhanced by the live streaming of certain services, which was enabled by our upgrading our Wi-Fi.

My thanks are due to all those who continue to volunteer on the duty warden and sidespersons' rota. This has been a heavier burden this year because of the longer Sunday morning and 11am very grateful to those who have continued to help out. My thanks also to those who are on the lawn cutting rota.

I have enjoyed very much working with James, Chris, Peter and Roger during 2020.

Michael Fincham

Glebe House Homegroup

This homegroup, led by Peter and Judith Heslam, continues to flourish. Recent bible-study courses have included the Environment, the Gospel of Matthew, and the Purpose-Driven Life. We also had a session in Advent focusing on theological themes in C.S. Lewis' children's novel *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

As the group has reached capacity at around sixteen members, it is sadly having to turn down new enquiries. But this is a positive sign and could act as a spur to the formation of additional homegroups.

The group meets on Wednesday evening for 75 minutes every fortnight. For more than a year it has been meeting on Zoom, which seems to have worked well.

The group sessions include a short time for prayer. This is supplemented by a 'Homegroup at Prayer' WhatsApp group, which allows group members to share prayer requests (and answers to prayer) between sessions.

Despite the wonders of modern technology, the group looks forward to the time it can meet in person again!

Peter Heslam

Healing Prayer Group

We have continued to pray for one another and for clergy and parishioners and any other requests using the medium of WhatsApp. This has happened on a regular basis and has we believe, felt to be a valuable source of support and comfort.

Chris Plunkett-West

Homerton College Charter Choir and Homerton Singers

Homerton College Charter Choir

The final term of the 2019-2020 academic year found the Choir not able to rehearse or to sing the planned Services, due to lockdown and the closure of the College. In spite of this, they prepared music for a celebratory 'virtual' Evensong to end the year

The academic year 2020 started in October with considerable uncertainty as to whether the Choir would be able to gather in St John's to sing Evensong. Fortunately, we were able to hold the first Service, appropriately socially distanced and fulfilling the other safety requirements. The second Evensong Service was said, with organ music accompaniment. Thereafter, although it was not possible to meet, the choir prepared the music for another virtual service of Readings and Carols to mark the end of the Michaelmas term and the beginning of Advent which was released on Tuesday 1st December 2020. Warm thanks to Rev James for his encouragement. Thanks, too, to Rev Chris for her guidance and for all her technical expertise in filming the spoken recordings in Church and for putting the service together for release on You Tube. The service has travelled far and wide and to date there have been more than 950 views.

In January 2021, Dr Douglas Coombes again took on the role of acting musical director for the choir, rehearsing throughout the term by Zoom to prepare music for the Festal Evensong for Easter April 2021. The text parts of the Service were recorded in St John's Church and the Choir having rehearsed by Zoom, submitted their individual recordings from home or from College for the few

students in residence. Much has been learnt about rehearsing, singing solo, without hearing other singers, which was for most a new experience.

Thanks and warm appreciation to Rev Chris Campbell for her assistance in undertaking the filming in Church and for her work with Dr Daniel Trocme-Latter in completing the production.

We are most grateful to Rev James Shakespeare for his support and encouragement throughout our absence from St John's and we look forward to returning next term.

Homerton Singers

The Homerton Singers have remained positive about the possibility of being able to rehearse, throughout the year. Our Director, Dr Douglas Coombes has kept in touch with encouraging emails. However, meeting together was not to be, and we now await the time when we will be able to resume our combined College and Community singing, with concerts in Church and in Homerton, to share our experience.

Plans for the future include a combined concert with a school choir and a day for conductors who will be able to work with the Singers under the guidance of Douglas and then in the evening, conduct the choir in concert conditions. Please look out for these and other plans, when we shall also be recruiting new members.

Homerton Singers is a non-auditioned choir for all those who enjoy singing and meets weekly during University terms.

Trish Maude

Mission Committee

The committee meets three times a year, usually in January, May and October. Members are James Shakespeare (Chair), Roger Lilley (Treasurer), Katie Knapton (Secretary), Dominic Barton, Jane Henry and Matthew Wolff.

Our Mission Partners

St Peter's Happiness Nursery, Arua, N Uganda

All schools have remained closed since March 2020 and the children do not have the luxury of home schooling. St Peter's Happiness Nursery has been allowed a rental holiday but the building has suffered the ravages of termites. The first of the 2021 grants enabled the teachers to repair chairs and desks and prepare the building for reopening, whenever that might be. It is unlikely that many parents will be in a position to pay a contribution for schooling because of the impact of the lockdown and because, as refugee families, their food ration has been reduced from 12 kilos to 8 kilos for 2 months.

During the first lockdown many hundreds of young teenage girls in Arua and Koboko were subjected to rape and now their babies are being born. Under the guidance of the school Head, Loice Kokany, the teachers have been ministering to the girls both materially and spiritually to avoid attempted suicides, abortions and abandoned babies. They are helping through the first weeks and months of motherhood for which the girls are ill-prepared. We sent a donation to help buy essentials.

The newest blow to the school is a one-year notice from St Peter's church to quit the buildings and land which is now required for the construction of the new Archdeacon's office. Land and property are very expensive and we pray that Loice succeeds in locating land for the school at an affordable price.

The Bethesda Project, Muyinga, Burundi

In Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world, the Bethesda Project continues to support young people struggling with disabilities. Provision of wheelchairs and crutches to several individuals

has made an unbelievable difference to their lives. Outdoor activities, so vital to their welfare, will resume as soon as the pandemic allows. The project has been struggling with lack of suitable transport since the 4 x 4, so vital for the work there, broke down beyond repair. However, the fundraising target of £20,000 is at last within sight. The Project is one of the charities nominated for the St Johns' Lenten giving and we hope our personal donations will have contributed greatly to the fundraising effort.

CMS Partners in N India

Having supported Kylie and Bhim in India for many years we are now collaborating with the Church Mission Society to identify a new mission partner whom we will help to fund with our donations.

Toilet Twinning

For those of us who take for granted the convenience of toilets in our homes and public places, the thought of not having access to them hardly bears thinking about. But this is the case for some two billion people around the world. A new proposal from the Mission Committee, which the PCC has agreed to fund, is Toilet Twinning, an initiative of Tear Fund. By donating £60 for each of the toilets at the St John's Centre we are helping to fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene. We are now signed up for our Twinning and have received two certificates, one to hang on the door of each of the two twinned toilets. These show a photograph of our overseas toilet twin and GPS coordinates so we can look up the location on Google Maps. It would be a great achievement if we could raise enough funds to twin the other four toilets in the church buildings. For more information see <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>

Katie Knapton, April 2021

Moveable Feasts

Movable Feasts have been continuing to meet weekly via zoom throughout lockdown and continuing. We have enjoyed following courses in books like 'Advent in Narnia' and Justin Welby and Hannah Steele's Lent book 'Living His Story'. Being able to meet via zoom was great for our group and was a good support through the lockdown. We are happy to be continuing as a home group.

Sian Binley

Parish Voice

The 'Parish Voice' has provided an important means of keeping the Church family together during the pandemic. While the regular content – reports, future events, etc – was to some extent curtailed during the periods of lockdown, the 'Parish Voice' was used to provide people with a series of reflections by the ministry team for people to use at home during these festive periods. These reflections were very well received and appreciated and we are grateful to everyone involved for taking the additional time to put these together.

The magazine is now available online and via email. We print only a few copies for those members of the congregation who are not able to access digital content. There is therefore no longer a charge for the magazine.

Looking to the future, we are in discussions about moving some of the 'news' content to the weekly online e-news, to the website and in print in the weekly pew slips (when we resume regular face-to-face worship). The 'Parish Voice' will become a bi-monthly publication tied to religious festivals in order that we can continue to include material for reflection at home.

We are grateful to all for your continued support.

Paula Wolff / Liz Radice

Partnership for Missional Church

[Steering Group: Kate Dove, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Sian Binley, Kate Aylmer, Rev Chris Campbell, Rev James Shakespeare]

During this particularly 'strange' year, the Partnership for Missional Church Steering group has been continuing to ask the questions...

- Where are we?
- What have we been doing?
- Where is God in all of this?
- Where might God be leading us now?

We have continued to consider these in the light of the 'adaptive challenge' which was discerned, during an 'away-day' earlier on in the project, by a varied group representing different areas of our church life.

Under the guidance of God's Spirit, how can we identify or make spaces where different ages and diverse groups come together, help each other and have fun?

The 'coming together' bit has been problematic, and activities such as the community lunches, that were seeking to respond to the challenge, have needed to be put on hold for some time. However, other get-togethers have been possible via Zoom, including home groups and the great quizzes that have been enjoyed by families and groups of friends.

In June, we asked the whole congregation to think about these questions so that we could 'Seek God's Way Together'. Many responded so helpfully by telling stories in the light of living in a pandemic. It was the opportunity stop and reflect, and discern how God is calling us onwards.

These are some of the recurring themes:

Nurturing own faith

- Spiritual renewal – gratitude for time and space
- Growing desire to pray for the world
- Renewal through prayer and Bible reading – provision of on-line daily reflections

Community experience

- Coming together to help others
- New encounters, meeting and greeting neighbours
- Awakened appreciation of those who serve us day by day.

Not being able to worship in church

- Missing gathered physicality, singing, Eucharist
- Sadness of fragmentation

But Online...

- Meeting new people / hearing a greater diversity of voices / ease of access (for some)

Natural world

- Wider awareness – senses awakened – greater appreciation and outdoor encounters
- Desire for healing of the natural world

Wellbeing

- A time of greater awareness of others' hardships
- Isolation – opportunity to reconnect – telephone network – making new friendships
- Slowing down – being more in-tune with nature and spiritual life. (Not so easy for those home-schooling)

Things that have prayerfully 'bubbled up to the surface':

- How to continue to nurture this growing relationship with God?
- How to support those not able to come to church or access it otherwise?
- Missing the children – (limitations for All-Age worship) – how to restore those relationships?
- Eco agenda – how can we protect and help to care for God's creation.
- How we can continue to engage with the community 'mindfully' - common concerns; where needed and where it makes a difference?

Through this project, we have been learning various practices which will help us in God's mission. This coming year we will continue 'Seeking God's way together', grow closer partnerships with our local community, and develop our gift of hospitality.

During the year we have been meeting (online) with partner churches in this project, and being resourced by the Diocesan Team. We are very grateful for their mentoring and encouragement. My thanks also goes to the Steering Group, for their contributions and prayerful discernment.

Kate Aylmer LLM (Chair of the Steering Group)

Part-time NSM Curate

It has been wonderful eight months now for me at St John's since I was ordained as Deacon in the Ely Cathedral in September 2020. Like many people, who have had quite challenging new beginnings during the current Covid-19 pandemic, have experienced, I too have had a slow beginning, and a feeling that I am still in the process of getting integrated into the life and ministry of St John's! However, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic, I (as well as Mahiba, Mona and Mano, whenever they were able to join St John's community for worship in the church or online or other activities), have had a very blessed time at St John's, thanks to James, Chris, St John's Ministry Team and the congregation members whom we have been able to briefly meet so far, as well as all who are praying for us.

The primary way I have participated in St John's community has been mainly in terms of preaching in worship Sunday services a few times now, and occasionally leading the worship, and joining a few Home Groups meetings online. In addition, it is always a joy to learn several things from James as my training incumbent. Particularly as someone new to the parish ministry context in this country, and coming from the Church of South India, I enjoy learning about ministry and mission in this country and in the Church of England. Also, my ministry at St John's contributes hugely to my regular job as the director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide (www.cccw.cam.ac.uk), and Project Manager for Theological Education for Mission in the Anglican Communion, in which I am involved in preparing three books for the forthcoming Lambeth Conference.

<https://www.lambethconference.org/resources/reading/>

And on the other hand, I can also feel the many ways my work with CCCW and ACO also shape my engagement with St John's and community.

It was also a wonderful experience to lead a study day on Global Anglicanism at St Bene't's Church Cambridge in February, and to participate in the Chrism eucharist service at the Ely Cathedral on the Maundy Thursday on 1st April.

I am really pleased to be part of St John's and enjoy especially its diversity and hospitality. As I am now preparing for my Ordination as Priest in the month of July, I request your continued prayers for my ministry.

Thank you very much.

Dr Muthuraj Swamy

Sacristans' Rota

Is a sacristan a 'key worker' providing an essential service?

Like so many questions, the answer depends on context. Certainly, we would all agree that celebrating Holy Communion is fundamental to our faith and Christian lives. In that sense of course, the sacristan is an essential member of a core team that makes it possible. But we would also all agree the foolhardiness of celebrating conventionally in the current circumstances. Indeed, restrictions apart, common sense dictates restraint. It is doubtful many would expect otherwise. And so it is that, with the exception of a couple of months last year and the gradual easing of restrictions this year (when muted celebrations reduced us to a partial service), the Sacristans' Rota has been barely essential.

Accordingly, for the past year we cannot reasonably claim 'key worker' status. It will change, of course! Of course, it will!!

Joseph Saunders

St John's Knitting Group

On Wednesday afternoons in the Wilkinson Room the invitation to [click here](#) has nothing to do with computer technology but everything to do with the rhythmic sound of needles clicking together to create the 24 six-inch woollen squares that are needed for each blanket that the St John's group produces not only for international charities but also for local community requests if there's a need (like Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group).

In 2020 amidst all the changes to many aspects of people's lives because of coronavirus restrictions things didn't really change for St John's knitters. Our happy little band has continued to knit for charity albeit individually at home rather than meeting together weekly for our two-hour knit and natter session. Our delight at being able to meet 'mask-to-mask' in the St John's Centre at the end of September when restrictions were lifted was short lived, however, with only three sessions in person before the second lockdown was imposed. But we have knitted on regardless! We have kept in touch virtually and by 'phone and as long as we could source wool supplies we've clicked away to build a small stock pile of knitted and crocheted baby blankets which we will donate to charity as soon as channels are re-opened, and as we have done since the group was established at St John's in 1984.

Tricia James, APCM 2021

The Gardens at St John's

During this last year the church gardens have been a place of calm for reflection and relaxation more than ever before. The newest addition (in place of the former courtyard which was tended for years by June, Joan S, Jane Bett and Erica L) has been the beautiful new cloister garden, created after the completion of the St John's Centre. With the help of David Waterhouse, Clare and June carried out most of the planting which flowered abundantly and colourfully during last summer and beyond, giving so much pleasure to many in this treasured enclosed space.

The borders are always admired by all who pass by, especially in the spring when the bulbs are at their best, with snowdrops taken over by yellow and purple crocuses then daffodils and narcissi in their various hues of yellows and creams, followed by the blues of muscari, scillas, ipheion and forget-me-nots. Then the roses come into their own and bloom throughout the summer. The bed under the window contains a wonderful display of hellebores in winter and spring and the lavender always attracts bees. Clare cares for this bed as well as the courtyard and has brought added interest to the outside borders by planting donated daffodils. The square bed near the car-park gate, known as Windy Corner, has been brought to life by Erica L and our neighbour Jane Bett.

The team of mowers, organised by Michael, has continued to keep the grass short and neat though they have been frustrated by the crows who dig up the grass in search of chafer grubs.

It is always a pleasure to see families playing in the garden, people taking a short cut through the garden to Blinco Grove and others sitting on the benches admiring the gardens and enjoying the sunshine. Thank you to all the gardeners.

A feature of late spring for many years, and a very successful fundraiser, has been the annual Plant Sale organised by Roger and Katie and held early in May in the church garden. Geraniums and Roger's vegetable seedlings fly off the shelves as do the many varieties of perennials and shrubs. An organisational rethink was necessary in 2020 when the pandemic made a plant sale at church out of the question. Instead, Roger took early orders for his seedlings which were later collected from his garden by arrangement while Katie used a private car parking space behind her house to sell her plants from tables spread over a wide area to enable social distancing. Despite the cold and wet weather, the overall sale was financially the most successful to date.

Katie Knapton

Traidfair St John's

Not long after we had hosted the 2020 Big Brew coffee morning we were all in lockdown, including the church. Fortunately there was time to move all the Traidcraft stock to my home and from there, once we had all settled down to this new life and learned its rules, a doorstep 'click and collect' service was offered. This proved to be very popular and successful and provided some distanced socialising as well as sales supporting Traidcraft.

In October it was deemed permissible to hold a stall in the Wilkinson Room with tables spread well apart, windows open, limited numbers and 'clean' change. There was a steady stream after both services and things began to look a little more normal again. Then came lockdown number two for a month but in December we were able to set up stall and meet the demand for Christmas items as well as the usual products.

Since January selling from home has been popular again and thanks go to all those who have been regular supporters of this service, ensuring a steady income stream for Traidcraft. The figures at the end of 2020 are, for obvious reasons, lower than for 2019, but we have still been able to donate £700 to Traidcraft Exchange, the linked charity which supports and trains people in developing countries, helping them to get a fair deal for the work they do.

Writing this report at the end of March it is difficult to know when we will be able to return to our regular 'first Sunday' stalls but we hope that will happen by the summer. Thank you to the Traidcraft Team of helpers for their flexibility and to them and our many customers for their support.

Katie Knapton, March 2021

Tuesday morning Bible Study Group

It has been lovely to have been joined by a number of new friends in our Bible Study group this year. However, not so lovely was that from March we were required to stop gathering in church. Zoom has become our alternative meeting place, but it does not make such good cakes and coffee as we were used to! From then on we have learned to enjoy one another's company and fellowship in different ways, for which we are grateful.

This is what we have been up to...

- ❖ **The Creeds** – part of the Church of England 'Pilgrim' Course
- ❖ **Isaiah** -
- ❖ **A Way through the Wilderness** (Isaiah) – Experiencing God's help in times of crisis
(Paula Gooder)
- ❖ **Being Church?**
- ❖ In parallel with other Home Groups, we took part in the Partnership for Missional Church - Corporate discernment process – '**Seeking God's way together**'.
- ❖ **'I am' sayings of Jesus**
- ❖ **Daniel** – Not an easy read, but a challenge we have relished.
- ❖ **'Advent in Narnia'** – by Heidi Haverkamp; including the appearance of the White Queen and the lion, Aslan. You'll have to ask one of the group for an explanation of this, but it shows we have fun as we learn!

What has been even more exciting / encouraging is seeing more people being willing to take responsibility for leading our studies occasionally. Thank you all.

10.30 – 11.30am on a Tuesday morning, whether at home on Zoom, or meeting in church together, God is teaching us and blessing us. Do join us.

Kate Aylmer (Licensed Lay Minister)



PCC Meetings 2021-22

APCM 30 May 2021

5 July 2021

14 September 2021

17 November 2021

17 January 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT															
To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge															
This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 st December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.															
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner															
As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.															
Basis of Independent Examiner's report															
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the 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															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have 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.															
Signed and dated															

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Statement of Financial Activities									
For the year ended 31 st December 2020									
	Notes	Unrestrict ed Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2019 £		
INCOMING RESOURCES:									
Income from regular donors	(2a)	79,102	0	79,102	73,355	0	73,355		
Other donated resources	(2b)	27,086	1,489	28,575	160,891	167,909	328,800		
Mission activities	(2c)	875	0	875	3,592	0	3,592		
St John's Centre	(2d)	2,803	0	2,803					
Other incoming resources	(2e,6a)	17,761	101	17,861	24,135	3,476	27,611		
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:		127,627	1,590	129,217	261,973	171,385	433,358		
RESOURCES EXPENDED:									
Ministers' expenses	(3a)	934	0	934	1,433	0	1,433		
Church maint., servs.,mission, admin.	(3b)	24,415	184	24,599	43,215	3,476	46,691		
St John's Centre maint & admin	(3b)	10,407	0	10,407					
Payments outside the Parish	(3c)	78,762	1,578	80,340	75,973	3,499	79,472		
Major Works	(3d)	16,497	0	16,497	110,328	299,017	409,345		
Costs of generating Traidcraft funds	(6b)	4,184	0	4,184	4,256	0	4,256		
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED:		135,199	1,762	136,961	235,204	305,992	541,196		
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-7,572	-172	-7,745	26,769	-134,606	-107,837		
BALANCES BROUGHT FORW. AT 1 JAN.		41,677	888	42,565	14,908	135,494	150,402		
BALANCES CARRIED FORW. AT 31 DEC.		34,105	716	34,820	41,677	888	42,565		

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2020									
	Notes				2020 Total £			2019 Total £	
CURRENT ASSETS:									
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					29,721			35,742	
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,146			1,143	
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					531			511	
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45			30	
Stock (Traidcraft)					400			503	
Debtors	7				5,186			7,912	
					37,030			45,840	
LIABILITIES:									
Amounts falling due within one year									
Creditors	8				2,210			3,275	
					2,210			3,275	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:									
					34,820			42,565	
FUNDS:									
				2020 £	2020 Total £		2019 £	2019 Total £	
Unrestricted									
General Fund Reserves					8,036			15,590	
Traidcraft					976			1,084	
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)									
Choir Fund (r)				3,808			3,891		
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)				22,000			22,000		
Total Restricted & Designated					25,808			25,891	
TOTAL FUNDS									
					34,820			42,565	

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory. No new inalienable property is known to have been acquired by the church in the last ten years.

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2020							
2 INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:							
2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS							
Parish Giving Scheme	28,545	0	28,545				
Other regular giving	32,590	0	32,590	58,973	0	58,973	
Tax recovered and recoverable	17,967	0	17,967	14,382	0	14,382	
Total	79,102	0	79,102	73,355	0	73,355	
2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES							
Service cash collections	3,166	0	3,166	8,666	0	8,666	
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	17,410	0	17,410	13,293	0	13,293	
Legacy and <i>gifts in memoriam</i>	500	0	500	9,724	0	9,724	
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	6,009	0	6,009	129,208	0	129,208	
EOT incl. Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	164,849	164,849	
Collections for charity	0	1,489	1,489	0	3,061	3,061	
Total	27,086	1,489	28,575	160,891	167,909	328,800	
2c MISSION ACTIVITIES							
Donations	0	0	0	409	0	409	
Magazine (subs & adv.)	449	0	449	1,183	0	1,183	
Other income incl. events	426	0	426	2,000	0	2,000	
Total	875	0	875	3,592	0	3,592	
2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME							
Letting income (prev. 2e)	2539	0	2539				
Church use of St John's Centre	264	0	264				
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0				
Total	2803	0	2803				
2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES							
PCC fees	813	0	813	944	0	944	
Service fees	940	0	940	429	0	429	
Letting income (church)	4,460	0	4,460	12,866	0	12,866	
Interest	50	0	50	170	0	170	
Fund raising events	930	0	930	5,044	0	5,044	
Choir Fund	0	101	101	0	411	411	
Sundry income	612	0	612	470	0	470	
Residentials	0	0	0	0	3,065	3,065	
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HMRC Furlough Scheme	5,892	0	5,892				

Total		13,697	101	13,797	19,923	3,476	23,229	
St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge								
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)								
For the year ended 31st December 2020								
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED								
		Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
3a THE MINISTRY:								
Clergy expenses incl. Travel		934	0	934	1,433	0	1,433	
Total		934	0	934	1,433	0	1,433	
3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:								
Property charges (Church)								
Gas (20%)		403	0	403	2,687	0	2,687	
Electricity (20%)		206	0	206	2,461	0	2,461	
Water (20%)		14	0	14	68	0	68	
Insurance (50%)		1,849	0	1,849	3,611	0	3,611	
Repairs & maintenance		4,772	0	4,772	4,499	0	4,499	
Total		7,245	0	7,245	13,326	0	13,326	
Property charges (St John's Centre)*								
Gas (80%)		1612	0	1612				
Electricity (80%)		826	0	826				
Water (80%)		58	0	58				
Insurance (50%)		1849	0	1849				
Repairs and maintenance		473	0	473				
Total		4818	0	4818				
Salaries and fees (Church)								
Salaries		10,527	0	10,527	18,436	0	18,436	
Choir		267	0	267	439	0	439	
Total		10,793	0	10,793	18,875	0	18,875	
Salaries (St John's Centre)*								
Salaries		5,257	0	5,257				
Total		5,257	0	5,257				
Service overheads								
Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)		664	0	664	1,111	0	1,111	
Youth work incl. Children's Church		507	0	507	223	0	223	
Service fees		204	0	204	525	0	525	
Organ & piano		260	0	260	529	0	529	
Choir Fund		0	184	184	0	472	472	
Total		1,635	184	1,635	2,388	472	2,388	
Mission overheads								
Youth work incl. Messy Church		141	0	141	420	0	420	
Events		423	0	423	492	0	492	
Other expenses incl. printing		419	0	419	1,054	0	1,054	
Total		982	0	982	1,966	0	1,966	

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31 st December 2020							
4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Combat Stress	0	0	0	0	322	322	
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)	0	0	0	0	322	322	
Wintercomfort	0	0	0	0	535	535	
The Children's Society	0	1,553	1,553	0	1,671	1,671	
Arocha	0	25	25	0	0	0	
Hands Up Foundation	0	0	0	0	179	179	
Shepreth Wildlife	0	0	0	0	90	90	
Lymphoma Action	0	0	0	0	100	100	
Christian Aid	0	0	0	0	140	140	
Bishop's Lent Appeal	0	0	0	0	140	140	
Total	0	1,578	1,578	0	3,499	3,499	
5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE							
					2020	2019	
Payments							
5c CMS: India					1,447	1,100	
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda					2,225	1,650	
5c Keppleway Burundi					979	912	
Total					4,651	3,662	

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2020

4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS

		Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Combat Stress		0	0	0	0	322	322
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)		0	0	0	0	322	322
Wintercomfort		0	0	0	0	535	535
The Children's Society		0	1,553	1,553	0	1,671	1,671
Arocha		0	25	25	0	0	0
Hands Up Foundation		0	0	0	0	179	179
Shepreth Wildlife		0	0	0	0	90	90
Lymphoma Action		0	0	0	0	100	100
Christian Aid		0	0	0	0	140	140
Bishop's Lent Appeal		0	0	0	0	140	140
Total		0	1,578	1,578	0	3,499	3,499

5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE

							2020	2019
Payments								
5c CMS: India							1,447	1,100
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda							2,225	1,650
5c Keppleway Burundi							979	912
Total							4,651	3,662

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2020

6 TRADFAR ST JOHN'S ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	2020	2020	2019	2019
	£	£	£	£
6a Income				
Sales		4,064		4,212
6b Cost of sales				
Opening stock at cost	503		467	
Purchases (net of donations)	3,351		3,502	
Total	3,854		3,969	
Less closing stock at cost	400		503	
		3,454		3,466
Gross Profit		610		746
Donations				
6b Summer & Xmas Fairs	0		70	
6b Gift Day	0		0	
6b Traidcraft projects	730		720	
		730		790
Retained Profit		-120		-44
Balance brought forward		1,084		1,128
Balance carried forward		964		1,084
Represented by				
Stock in hand		400		503
CBS account		531		551
Cash in hand		45		30
Total		976		1,084

Donations in kind to St John's of tea, instant coffee and sugar for Sunday mornings and church events & and chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday.

Traidfair accounts prepared by Katie Knapton

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road Cambridge									
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)									
For the year ended 31 st December 2020									
7 DEBTORS									
2020									
£									
2019									
£									
Income tax recoverable (estimated)									
5,186									
7,912									
Outstanding receipts									
0									
0									
Total									
5,186									
7,912									
8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR									
2020									
£									
2019									
£									
Outstanding payments									
2,210									
3,275									
Total									
2,210									
3,275									

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2020

7 DEBTORS

2020

2019

£

£

Income tax recoverable (estimated)

5,186

7,912

Outstanding receipts

0

0

Total

5,186

7,912

8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

2020

2019

£

£

Outstanding payments

2,210

3,275

Total

2,210

3,275

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the 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 accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have 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.

Signed and dated

 8 March 2021