

## Join today & get a free commemorative gift !

With the increasing cost of repairing and maintaining our historic churches and the 900th anniversary of the beautiful St. Nicholas' church fast approaching, the Guardians of the Village Churches has been established to ensure these beautiful buildings are preserved for the next generation. **We need to raise over £100K** to fund decoration, repairs and improvements to St Bartholomew's. If you'd like to help secure the future of our church buildings as multi-use resources at the heart of our community, then become a Guardian of the Village Churches today:



**Help us raise £100,000!**  
**Our Patron: Joanna Lumley**

"There is no doubt that modern life has had an impact on community spirit, and initiatives like this which help to preserve our social spaces are critical in fostering a sense of togetherness. Please get involved in the Guardians of the Village Churches if you can".

## Why become a Guardian?

- Help preserve the church buildings for future generations
- Meet with other members and share your views at the AGM
- Get advance notice of Guardians of the Village Churches events
- Gain discounts for future interest workshops and receive our newsletter

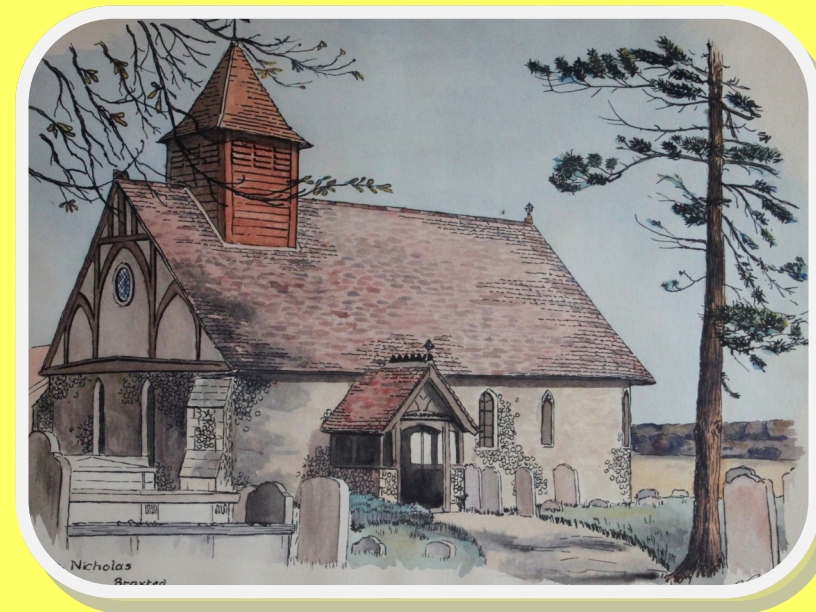
*A free commemorative gift of a re-usable "Keep-Cup"*

# ANNUAL REPORT & AGENDA 2021



**PARISH OF WICKHAM BISHOPS WITH  
LITTLE BRAXTED**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
SUNDAY 21st MARCH 2021 at 12 noon**





## Welcome to the Annual Report 2020

We are pleased to present our review of the church year. This was a challenging time and we hope you enjoy reading and reflecting on the various reports included. Many activities were unable to take place, but as you will see, committees and groups did a great job, in as far as possible, continuing to provide support to the church and the wider community.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this report.

You will find the Agenda for this year's Vestry Meeting and APCM meeting on pages 7 - 9.

Minutes of last year's APCM held in October 2020 are available as a separate document.



Our grateful thanks go to Bernie Rochester for the pen and ink drawings of our two churches on the cover of this report. Bernie is a local amateur artist whom we were very happy to ask to provide these pictures. The drawing of St. Bartholomew's he has produced specifically for this publication.

Looking forward for brighter times, we now have the added benefit of a very active Pub in the village , and we look forward to meeting once again.

In the meantime, if you would like to be kept advised of developments and put on the mail list please email me on

[lesterfirkins@mac.com](mailto:lesterfirkins@mac.com)

## ELECTIONS

### PCC Members

**For 3 years to 2024**

**3 posts**

### Deanery Synod Reps

**For 1 year to 2022**

**2 posts**

### Appointment of Deputy Wardens:

**Kath Adkins**

**Wendy Firkins**

**Ruth Johnson**

**Dorothy Kerr**

**Kate Dawson**

**Liz Hale**

**Lester Firkins**

**Elsie Rees (St. Nicholas)**

We said goodbye to the leavers and wished them every success in the future and they then opened their presents with us online (an Edward Bear and card) that we had delivered previously.

### **Future plans**

We hope we can open later in the year and we are currently seeking some funding towards cleaning supplies and PPE so that we can open in a safer manner. It would be good to get the group running again to help support the local families, which is probably needed more now than ever. This will also be my last year running Edward Bear because my youngest child will be starting school, so I will need to begin to recruit new volunteers to take over once we reopen.

**Ava Quilter**

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Men's Assembly**

Obviously we have been unable to meet over the past 12 months – but a “Whatsapp” group has continued where members share news, but more often “inspirational” messages and Videos.

From its inception, several years ago, there was no fixed Group structure or formality, but just the opportunity for men to meet every month and “put the world to rights” or reminisce about days gone by.

We continue to have a mail list of 50+ and the average monthly attendance before it was lapsed of about 15 - 20. Whilst it started from a very small number of men from the Church, being a wonderful idea by the late Ian Forward, this is far from an exclusive group and open to every man in the village ... and beyond.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish of St Bartholomew Wickham Bishops with St Nicholas Little Braxted is situated in the Witham Deanery, part of the Diocese of Chelmsford. It has responsibility for two principal places of worship - St Bartholomew's Church, the Parish Church, which is situated in Church Road, Wickham Bishops and St Nicholas Little Braxted now a Chapel of Ease, but licensed for weddings. St Nicholas is situated in Witham Road, Little Braxted.

The correspondence address for both churches is The Rectory, Church Road, Wickham Bishops CM8 3LA Tel. 01621 892867. Information about the churches in Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted is also available at [www.churchinwickhambishops.org.uk](http://www.churchinwickhambishops.org.uk).

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted is a Registered Charity No. 1159874.

### Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC. A number of Committees are responsible for helping to manage and organise different activities of church life, maintenance and worship.

### Objectives and Activities

St Bartholomew Wickham Bishops and St Nicholas Little Braxted Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical issues. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church centre complex of St Bartholomew's Church and Church Hall and St Nicholas Church, Little Braxted.

## Edward Bear Club

The Edward Bear group runs from 10.00 to 11.30 am on a Monday morning, term time only. The ages of the children range from 0-5 years. The group meets in the Church Rooms but we also use the Lady Chapel for our service and the church for certain activities. We update the Edward Bear Facebook page weekly to share upcoming events, crafts and themes with the parents. We currently have approx. 12 – 15 children attend every week.



### What is Edward Bear Club?

The Edward Bear Service is extremely popular and the children enjoy playing musical instruments, singing and finding Edward Bear! We then have story time while the children have their drink and snack; we try to link the story to our theme that week. We also have a craft table and offer different craft activities each week. This is generally focused around the church calendar and we receive great support from Reverend Hilary in incorporating a Christian focus in the group. The 'Open the Book' group also visit us quarterly for a dress rehearsal of their upcoming school performances.

### 2020 (Jan – March)

We unfortunately only had a brief start to the year when we were forced to close due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We decided not to reopen again once restrictions were lifted and the schools returned in September due to containing ourselves in bubbles. We did not want to run the risk of having to isolate ourselves or our families for something that wasn't really 'essential'. We did however run two zoom Ed Bear sessions, which did prove difficult for that age group of children. We did run another 3<sup>rd</sup> session at the end of the summer term to say goodbye to our school leavers and have an online party.

To celebrate this event and make it more interactive we delivered a goodie bag to each household with a cake and some bubbles. On the zoom event we sang, danced and blew our bubbles, and then ate our cake with a story.

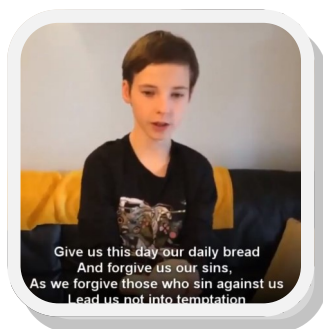
## FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

### Messy Church

We met twice in 2020 before the pandemic took hold, for two super fun times led by Jenny Stott. One involved teddies and sticking plasters, the other duplo bricks and experiments. Both had us singing, praying, laughing and sharing a meal together thanks to Barbara's generous and imaginative hosting.

By Holy Week of course things were different. Amazing Easter Gardens were created by Messy 'Churchers' and left on display outside their houses for passing walkers to enjoy. A couple of tea time chats in April and May and in October Rosie gave us the opportunity for sharing a craft and story time in our homes for Harvest with the vicar telling a story.

There was lovely engagement from households watching the Christingle service; however it was the Home Movie Nativity involving numerous Messy Church households that gave our creatives a moment to shine, telling the great story of Jesus' birth for broadcasting on Christmas Eve on Facebook Live. Such a gift for the wider community.



What has been moving to note is the way our parents and children have had to adjust to the realities of home schooling, working and managing life differently. There have been challenges but wonderful spirit too.

**Rev. Hilary Le Sève**

## PCC MEMBERS AND OTHER OFFICERS

**Priest in Charge:** Rev. Hilary Le Sève

**Associate Priest:** Rev. Derek Clark

**Churchwardens:** Graham Wingrove  
Barry Cousins

**Members of the PCC:** Members of the PCC are the Priest in Charge, Churchwardens, elected representatives, Deanery Synod representatives and any appointed ex-officio members.

### Elected Representatives (max 12) as at 18/10/2020:

Spencer Churchill (to 2022)	Lester Firkins (to 2022)
Ruth Johnson (to 2022)	Wendy Firkins (to 2021)
Dorothy Kerr (to 2021)	Lucy Traynor (to 2023)
Kate Dawson (to 2023)	Anne Keatley-Clarke (to 2023)
Graham Spearman (2022)	Ruth Keatley-Clarke (to 2023)
Allan Baker (to 2021)	John Baker (to 2023)

### Ex-Officio:

Geraldine Spearman, Secretary  
Rev. Derek Clark, Associate Priest

### Deanery Synod Reps:

John Gilbert (to 2021)  
Christine Bealer (to 2021)

### **Treasurer:**

Graham Spearman

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Norma Hayward

### **Electoral Roll Officer:**

Mary Brown

### **Organist:**

Paul Strong

### **Health and Safety:**

Allan Baker

### **Gift Aid Secretary:**

John Baker

### Deputy Churchwardens:

Kath Adkins, Ruth Johnson, Kate Dawson, Lester Firkins,  
Wendy Firkins, Dorothy Kerr, Liz Hale, Elsie Rees (St. Nicholas)

## Sidespersons:

Kath Adkins	Norma Hayward	Mary Rothero
Liz Hale	Anne Keatley-Clarke	Pam Fewell
Sue Clements	Kate Dawson	Lawrie Fewell
Lester Firkins	Dorothy Kerr	Stuart Parish
Wendy Firkins	Ruth Johnson	Rosie Woodgate
John Kerr	John Wratten	

## Vergers: for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Ruth Johnson	Lester Firkins	Wendy Firkins
Tamsyn Clark	Dorothy Kerr	Liz Hale
Kath Adkins	Christine Bealer	Kate Dawson
Francine Cope		

***If you're interested in becoming  
a Sidesperson Please speak to  
Dorothy Kerr***

***\*\*\****

***If you would like to become a  
Verger Please speak to  
Ruth Johnson***

## DISCIPLESHIP

### Evening Home Group

Clearly, the Evening Home Group has been unable to meet across the last 12 months. However, many of the “members” have been active participants in the “Zoom” morning prayer meetings on Mondays and Fridays.

We are certain that when circumstances allow, a review of who meets where and when will be undertaken – subject to demand.

For any further information please contact Lester and Wendy Firkins on [lesterfirkins@mac.com](mailto:lesterfirkins@mac.com)

### Women's Christian Fellowship

Sadly, due to Covid 19, we were only able to meet on two occasions in 2020. In January we had an inspirational talk by Mr. Lester Firkins entitled ‘Can you tell Stork from Butter?’ which gave us much food for thought and discussion about how we decide what we believe and the choices we make.

In February, following our annual Corporate Communion Service on Ash Wednesday, we served coffee and hot cross buns as usual, and as our meeting was scheduled for the same afternoon, we also served a soup and sandwich lunch to those not wishing to return home between the two.

Our speaker was Sarah Connelly from the Guide Dogs Association, who was accompanied by Chipper, a golden retriever cross in training, who endeared himself to everyone, going between the chairs enjoying lots of attention from the members! Sarah gave us a wonderful insight into all that has to be learned in order to become a guide dog – apparently about 20% don't make the grade!

Since then, life has been on hold, but with most of our members having had *their jabs and Lockdown 3 hopefully coming to an end (at the time of writing)* we look forward in thankful anticipation that we may be able to meet again later this year.

**Liz Hale**

## FUND RAISING

Owing to the global pandemic and the severe restrictions imposed by the government, 2020 was, inevitably, a very disappointing year for our committee. We started the year full of optimism and planned a full and varied programme of events. Sadly, however, we were only able to hold one of them, a quiz, at the beginning of February. Once again, this was compiled and delivered by Ken and Sue Matten and was a success both socially and financially, raising £560.

Our committee of eight benefits from the attendance of Rev. Hilary at most of our meetings and her support at all of our social and fundraising activities. We certainly hope that 2021 will be a better year than 2020 and we have already met to discuss a potential schedule of events, starting in April. However, it will depend very much on how successfully the virus can be controlled and what the government and the diocese allow us to do. We are cautiously optimistic!

**Kath Adkins**

### **Guardians of the Village Churches (GOTVC)**

Raising awareness about the two churches in our care and raising funds for them, has been seriously curtailed in 2020. Nevertheless, the GOTVC committee continued to meet, postponing the Ian Gallagher evening, and seeking to work with The King's Singers in the months ahead. The recent on-line Race Night brought together members and non-members socially raising £267.00 for funds. Of course we were glad to see the Chancel redecorated at St Bartholomew's at a cost of £41,186 excluding VAT which was paid from GOTVC funds. VAT £8.335 was paid, but has now been recovered.

New people on the committee have brought fresh diversity and ideas to add to those of existing members. This bodes well for the future.

**Rev. Hilary Le Sève**



## **Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens (Vestry Meeting)**

**21st March 2021 at 12 noon**

**The meeting to be by ZOOM**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting 18th October 2020**
- 4. Election of Churchwardens**
- 5. Any other business (notified to chairman in advance)**



## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 12 noon**

**The meeting to be by ZOOM**

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - held on Sunday 18th October 2020
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Report on the PCC
8. Annual Financial Statements (Separate sheets)
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner
10. Safeguarding Report
11. Report on Deanery Synod
12. Churchwarden's report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

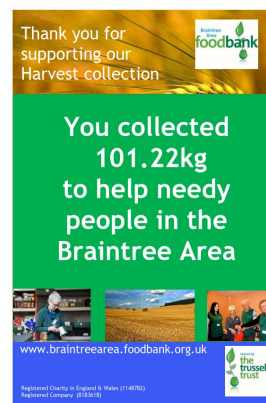
## Foodbank



The village has continued to support the work of the Trussell Trust Foodbank with generous donations of food during lockdown. We are very grateful to the One Stop Shop who agreed that we could move the food donations box from the church to the village shop, whilst the church was unable to remain open during the pandemic and the re-decoration. This has proved a successful move with many bags being donated each week.

The Harvest collection of food delivered both to the church and to One Stop was generously supported by Parishioners and as you will see from the poster below, meant that we were able to donate an amazing amount of food.

Foodbanks within the Trussell Trust network have seen an 89% increase across their network during the pandemic. By continuing to support them with your donations you are continuing to support those most in need. **Geraldine Spearman**



**Harvest collection boxes in the church porch**





However the magazine has continued, albeit sometimes on-line only, and we are very grateful to all deliverers for their support during the year.

Welcome Packs too continue to be delivered to welcome newcomers to the village.

Unfortunately we have been unable to visit Little Oaks for some time but have kept in touch and look forward to resuming services as soon as possible.

Visiting has been much curtailed this year but the committee has worked very hard, alongside members of the church, to keep in touch by phone with the elderly, isolated, sick and bereaved and anyone needing a little support in these difficult times. A big thank you goes to them all.

We were sorry to say farewell to Mary Rothero when she stepped down as chair of the committee this year. Mary has contributed immensely to the pastoral team over many years and we owe her a huge vote of thanks .

**Jayne Jennings**

### **Drop In**

The Drop In provides friendship with tea and cakes and someone who will listen if needed. There were 5 Drop In Sessions between January and March 2020 with attendances between 12 and 17. Since then 4 of our members have moved to care homes or similar, 1 to Witham and sadly 1 has died.

The Drop in is run with care and love by a number of people – Kath, Christine, Sue, Jayne, Geraldine and Gillian. The Pastoral Committee have provided support to members of The Drop In sessions and it is our hope is that in the future the Drop In will continue.

**Sue Clements**

13. **WORSHIP**  
St. Bartholomew's, St. Nicholas, Music
14. **PASTORAL**  
Including Foodbank
15. **FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL**  
FR&S committee, Guardians
16. **DISCIPLESHIP**  
Evening Home Group, Women's Christian Fellowship,
17. **FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**  
Edward Bear, Messy Church
18. **COMMUNITY**  
Men's Assembly
19. **ELECTIONS**  
See separate sheets for nominees
  - PCC members
  - Deanery Synod members
  - Appointment of Deputy Wardens
20. **AOB / Any matters of urgency**
21. **Next Meeting — APCM: Sunday 20th March 2022**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**“We have been unable to say farewell to old friends in the way we would like as they have been taken into care”**

It is in the context of the Covid 19 global pandemic that this Chairnan's report to the 2021 APCM is written and it cannot be overstated that, consequently, our church is in a new missionary situation and discovering where the shifting frontline of God's Kingdom is placing us.

Grieving and growing, hurting and hoping, tired yet trying – we find ourselves bruised and battered. Gathered worship, community groups, Edward Bear, the Youth Group and Messy Church have been suspended. Our children are home learning, missing gathered school and contact with friends. Our parents are juggling home working with home schooling and domestic roles. Many have faced or face employment challenges, finding themselves furloughed and redundant. Exclusion has come into intense focus as we have become increasingly aware of individuals unable to access society more fully because of poor/ no access to technologies on which society is dependent and the human problems of racism, poverty and climate change – all impacting on mental health and general well-being. Families and friends long for physical contact. We have been unable to say farewell to old friends in the way we would like as they have been taken into care. Many of us lament the enforced separation of hospitalisation and grieve the death of loved ones and opportunities to mourn collectively. Baptisms have been postponed, weddings likewise and some even cancelled.

And yet we read in the Scriptures *‘The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.’* (Lamentations 3:22-23) We find ourselves taken back to a new intimacy with God and a more determined dependence upon God.

To mark the occasion, Paul put together a programme of music and readings entitled “Christmas Cheer” performed by the Beacon Ensemble.

he varied programme was compered by Stewart Adkins and included a wide range of music with instrumental and vocal arrangements of well-known carols and popular classics. In addition to the music we were treated to Rev. Hilary's rendering of John Betjeman's poem, “Christmas”.

he following week saw “A Quiet Service” held in the Church, with musical contributions led by Paul, cellist Naomi Poole and the church choir reduced in number to meet the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Advent Candle wreath, lit by Rev. Hilary to the accompaniment of the choir's Silent Night, was followed by reflective music, a Bach solo cello beautifully played by Naomi. The service ended on an upbeat note with the choir singing “Joy to the World”

**Graham Cook**

## PASTORAL WORK

The committee supports the pastoral care in the church and local community. This includes visiting the sick, lonely and bereaved; Drop In sessions, Welcome Packs, Parish Magazine, Services at Little Oaks and Home Communion.

We began the year with a soup lunch followed by an excellent concert arranged by Paul, our organist. There was a very good turn out and everyone enjoyed the delicious homemade soup provided by the committee, before settling down to some wonderful entertainment.

Sadly that was our only social event for the year due to Lockdown. We had hoped to have a coffee morning for all magazine distributors and Welcome Pack deliverers in September but this had to be postponed.

## Extracts from Graham Cook's Parish Magazine articles

Over 8 weeks in July and August, live music provided a backdrop to the Wednesday afternoon individual private prayer sessions at St. Bartholomew's. The opportunity to just sit in the church and relax for an hour each week was a welcome change for so many people during the pandemic restrictions.

We were fortunate in having talented musicians to arrange and play the pieces for the Wednesday afternoons. Our church organist, Paul Strong, ably assisted by cellist Lucia Carnell and violinist Anne Bellett, put together an amazing range of music catering for all tastes across the 8 weeks.

In the early weeks Paul played reflective church organ music and piano pieces that perfectly fitted the church aim of providing the opportunity for private prayer. During August, the repertoire expanded from Bach to Lionel Bart, Ragtime and Blues, Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' and Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World'.

Ideally more people would have been able to come, but the inevitable Covid restrictions and other commitments no doubt limited the actual attendance. Everyone able to come appeared to have had an enjoyable experience and appreciated the opportunity for some personal thought and reflection with the bonus of music.

Thanks must go to everyone involved, Paul, Lucia and Anne together with Rev. Hilary and the church stewards. It was a big undertaking to organise the 8 hours of music and making sure that all the relevant social distancing and related requirements were met.

For many people December 2020 will not rank as one of their most enjoyable months, but we did have something to look forward to and that was the re-opening of the church following the redecoration of the Chancel.



From the first week of the first lockdown Zoom drew those with the gift and need for collective prayer to gather online three times a week

This provision has continued deepening fellowship and our collective relationship with God. Archdeacon Ruth Patten led a reflective Away Day in July on the theme of 'Abiding'. Sunday Services went online (FB Live and now YouTube – once loaded) with content provided from across the worshipping community. Mark Roberts and Graham Spearman have proved invaluable in ensuring our technology is up to speed (we await the connection of our WiFi cable to the telecoms network) and we reach over 160 people through this medium. Churchwarden Barry Cousins faithfully produces the weekly newsletter and orders of service also bringing our attention to opportunities to join in national prayer programmes such as Pause, Pray and Remember and Thy Kingdom Come.

Upskilling ourselves, we are growing in confidence and are currently offering The Bible Course online – a welcome weekly point of exploration using a handbook, group discussions and input through film footage.

Gathering in the churches for worship between July and December, volunteers ensured risk assessments were adhered to so we could gather safely.

We valued especially the poignant Quiet Service just before Christmas with the brief gathering of our much-missed choir and cello accompaniment. Musical provision for private individual prayer over the summer was sensitively curated by our organist Paul Strong and talented musicians.



**Rev. Hilary  
live-streaming the  
Christmas  
Midnight Service  
from  
St. Bartholomew's**

Networks, both informal and formal, have continued to evolve. Members on the Pastoral Committee volunteered for the local Covid 19 Support Network. Food has been and continues to be gathered for the Braintree Area Foodbank. Links with the local school have ensured that the challenges staff and families face are never far from our prayers. Doorstep gifts, socially distanced walks and telephone calls have reduced any tendency to isolation. Donations of over £4000 have been made to charities serving people in diverse contexts from a township in South Africa to families living with dementia locally. The parish magazine painstakingly edited by Peter Bates was suspended (going online only) in the first lockdown but it soon became apparent how important it is and so has been delivered since, thanks to Jayne Jennings and her team of volunteers.

With much of our church life taking place outside the buildings and Sunday Services, we nevertheless have responsibilities to ensure the fabric of the two historic buildings is maintained. Churchwarden Graham Wingrove and the Fabric Committee have ensured this is all done within the guidelines of the national church. A delightful concert in December enabled us to celebrate the long-awaited decorating of the Chancel at St Bartholomew's by Bakers of Danbury and we wonder how to take the rest of the re-decoration plan forward. Fundraising over the years built up the

resources to do the work along with generous donations.



With church fundraising curtailed we are seeking to be ready for when opportunities arise. The Scarecrow Festival in May, wonderfully coordinated by the Smiths and their team, is remembered for the creative

fun it brought and the sense of community cohesion. The Wickham Bishops Garden Festival Committee is now working towards Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to host this popular village wide event. The Guardians of the Village Churches (GOTVC) have plans in the pipeline for some rather special musical evenings. The Beacon Hill Ensemble likewise hope to offer their gifts at a lunch to raise funds for St. Nicholas' in what was to be its 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

## MUSIC

**"Music can play a big part in keeping us motivated during these difficult times"**

2020 was certainly a very different and difficult year for music at St Bartholomew's and St. Nicholas' compared to 2019! I am very grateful to the choir and other musicians, who, when circumstances allowed, performed music of the first order. The Choir sang some new Communion Services and frequently enhanced the worship by singing some beautiful Anthems during or after Communion.

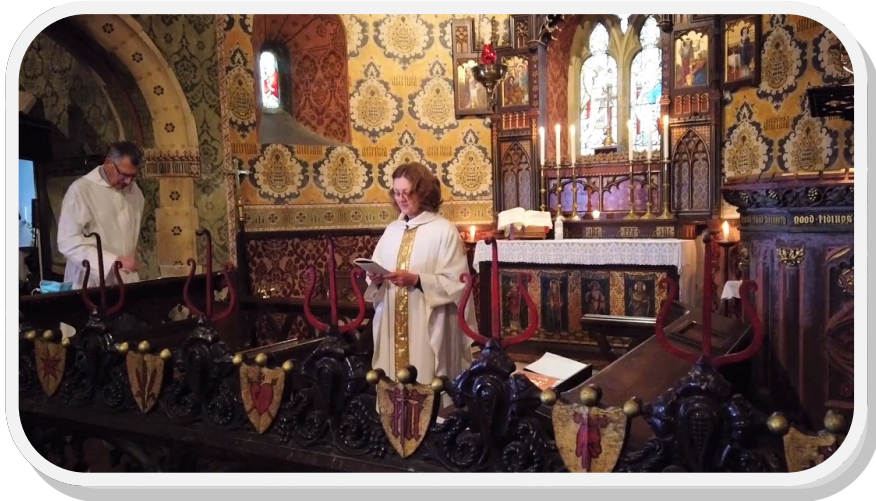
On the next page are extracts from Graham Cook's excellent reflections on the Wednesday afternoon music to accompany Private Prayer and in addition to thanking Lucia and Anne for excellent cello and violin playing and the Stewards who opened the church and ensured compliance with Covid regulations, I wish to thank Rev Hilary and the Church Wardens for giving me rein to take some musical risks! When Lester requested we play, 'Green Onions,' with Hammond Organ, Anne playing the guitar riff on the violin and Lucia playing the cello 'double bass' style to accompany prayer, we were certainly taking a risk. These opportunities to play mid-week during the Summer months will be a feature of 2021 as soon as restrictions allow.



Turning to the music at Christmas, I can only reiterate Graham's words by personally thanking the musicians involved in 'Christmas Cheer': Colin & Anne Bellett, Kath & Stewart Adkins and Lucia Carnell. The Quiet Christmas Service was a very moving and a very different Service and I wish to thank the reduced church choir, (to comply with Covid Regulations) and Naomi Poole.


Looking forward to 2021 it would be good to hear more from these excellent musicians in St. Bartholomew's. Music can play a big part in keeping us motivated during these difficult times. **Paul Strong**






In hope we look forward to 'staging' many of the postponed events including, The Musical Meal Deal, a Celebratory Eucharist with the Bishop, a Songs of Praise and much more. [The full list was in the February 2021 Magazine].

**Barry Cousins**

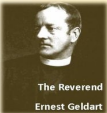


### 'A most Beautiful House'


Discover the history and the beauty of this unique Essex church in this short documentary




Dr James Bettley, architectural historian, talks to filmmaker Paul Desmond about the work of **The Reverend Ernest Geldart**, artist and architect whose intricate murals, showing scenes from the bible and church history, cover almost every surface inside the church of **St Nicholas' in Little Braxted**.



The Reverend Ernest Geldart



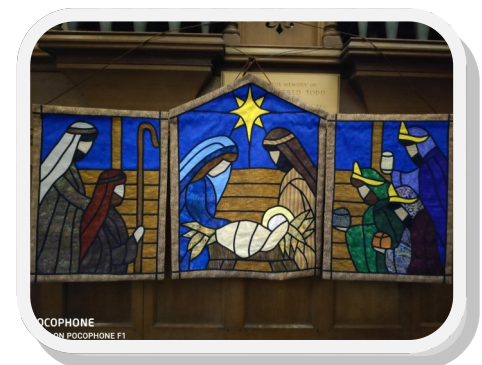
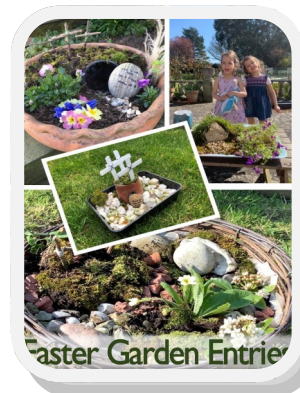
Part of the 900th Anniversary Celebration marking the founding of St Nicholas' Church, Little Braxted

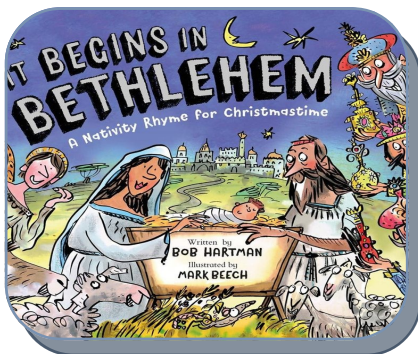


Guardians

Behind the scenes there is the immense input of church officers not least Graham and Geraldine Spearman in their roles as PCC Treasurer and Secretary for which we are hugely grateful. Graham took a lead in transferring many of us to The Parish Giving Scheme and contactless giving – timely given the suspension of gathered worship. They are the tip of the iceberg of volunteers coming in to clean, arrange flowers, maintain the churchyards and carpark, ensuring safeguarding is uppermost in our practice and so much more. If the Kingdom of God is a community of people seeking to grow in the fruits of the Spirit (ie 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' Galatians 5:22-23) and being agents of healing then our church is very much on the frontline and by God's grace will continue to be so.

**Rev. Hilary Le Sève**





Scenes from the Christmas  
Nativity video with some of  
the local 'stars'!



## ST NICHOLAS' LITTLE BRAXTED

All plans were in place for a year of celebration, to mark the 900th year of St. Nicholas. special services and events. Archdeacon Ruth set the scene at the first service of the year with a sermon based on "Come and see" [John 1:39]. The service was followed by breakfast; bacon butties, tea and coffee.

Special descriptive notes have been placed around the church explaining the decorative work of Rev. Ernest Geldart mostly in his own words.

By the March Service we were, in biblical fashion, washing hands on arrival just before the country was in 'lock-down' because of the Covid-19 pandemic. With the ease of restrictions, monthly services resumed in the late summer, socially distanced, mask wearing and booking a Pew in advance. Just before the second 'lock-down' the Patronal Festival Eucharist took place but with the on-going restrictions in place including restricted numbers!

Some good news is that some filming has taken place including the first service of the year and the Patronal Festival and this will in time provide us with a visual archive of the 900<sup>th</sup> Celebrations...now extended into 2021.

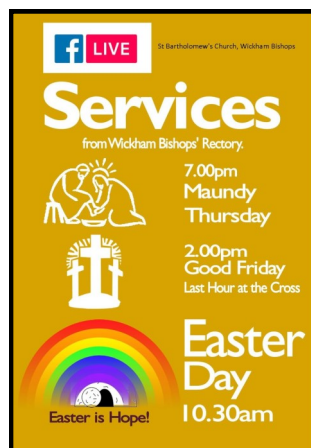
There is also a stand-alone film now available to see on-line. Called 'A most Beautiful House' this short film gives us a taste for the upcoming Talk by Dr James Bettley. Film-maker Paul Desmond and Dr James met socially distanced; and you can view the film at <https://vimeo.com/4738399>





using Facebook Live, captured using a smart phone, tablet or a newly acquired digital camera. Members of the extended Le Seve household have played active roles in reading the lessons and prayers and there is a downloadable Order of Service online (via the church website) to enable people to join in from their own homes. The service is hosted by Hilary as the face of the church to the community. The content continues to have lay contributions to services via intercessions and occasional reflections, so that the burden of preparation is not falling exclusively on the minister.

We had an all too brief opportunity in the summer and early autumn to return to using the church buildings, with face-to-face services and weekday private prayer for a social distanced and masked congregation. While it was good to be able to get together and see people in person, the masking, requirements to disperse immediately after the service and the inability to sing, or even have a choir for some of the time, made for a very unusual feel to our worship.



**The 3rd Sunday Morning Praise Team in action** →



## ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Church Electoral Roll was renewed in 2020 in line with the Church of England regulations, and last year's Roll had a total of 126 members.

Three members have sadly died since then.

There are 123 people on the 2021 Church Electoral Roll; of these 97 are parishioners who live in the Parish, and 26 non-resident parishioners.

**Mary Brown**  
Electoral Roll Officer

**The Electoral Roll is the register of those who worship regularly at our Churches.**

**If you would like more information and an application form, please**

**e-mail our Electoral Roll Officer**

**wblberoll@gmail.com**

## PCC REPORT

At the 2020 APCM we welcomed 4 new members to the PCC to serve for 3 years - John Baker, Lucy Traynor, Anne Keatley-Clarke and Ruth Keatley-Clarke. Our Electoral Roll membership entitles our Parish to 12 laity members. In addition the PCC consists of Chairman Rev. Hilary Le Sève, 2 Deanery Synod Representatives, 2 Churchwardens. The Secretary and Rev. Derek Clark both sit on the Council as ex-officio members. The Standing Committee who meet to discuss upcoming PCC agendas, is made up of the Chairman, Associate Priest, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Pastoral Assistant.

During 2020, the PCC met 6 times, the majority of those being via zoom with good attendance as members became used to this new way of meeting. Discussions were often centred around Covid-19 National Guidelines and how we could implement safety precautions within the church, and stream services to those at home in order to continue providing safe means of worship.

We updated Risk Assessments as new guidance came through and members met as a working party in the church to put signage, handgels and safe distance markers in place.

My thanks as always, to Rev. Hilary and the PCC for their continued support during what has been a challenging year for everyone. We have all learnt new skills in managing the technology!

**Geraldine Spearman**  
**PCC Secretary**

## **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

### **Safeguarding checks**

The new online system for carrying out safeguarding checks for children and adults, known as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and run by the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) was set up in March 2018. This organisation subsequently changed its name to 31:8 (from Proverbs – “Speak out on behalf of the voiceless and for the rights of all who are vulnerable”).

The diocese also requires an application form and confidential declaration to be completed, even if a DBS check is not possible.

Since last February, 2 checks have been carried out and one renewal – the Diocese requires the checks to be repeated every 5 years. Normally, for identification purposes, I have to see proof of identity documents in

## **PARISH WORSHIP**

**“.. while on-line delivery has attractions for many, it is not a complete replacement for congregating and celebrating in a physical environment.”**

The Worship Committee assists the minister in their role in deciding on and leading the services across the year. This is how the PCC discharges its function of “co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical” in public worship.

The Worship Committee, chaired by the minister, meets 3-4 times a year (now by Zoom!), to assist in planning the overall pattern of services, advising and supporting in bringing resources and ideas together. Our worship services contribute to our church being a place that is welcoming to all, where we are can come closer to God and one another. The last year has presented both challenges and opportunities as we try to be true to this through the pandemic.

The “normal” Sunday service pattern is a 8:00 a.m. Communion at St Bartholomew’s each Sunday, except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, when there is a 9:00 a.m. Communion service in traditional form at St Nicholas’. 10:30 a.m. Services at St Bartholomew’s are eucharistic (using Common Worship) on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, with a non-Eucharistic lay-led morning praise service in the hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. There is also a mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday mornings.

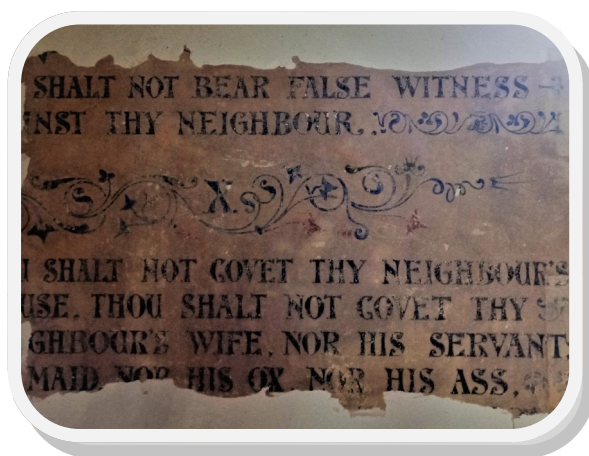
Under lock-down, with the church buildings closed, this has been replaced with a weekly 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning and Wednesday Communion from the Rectory or church delivered



The usual general maintenance and certifications to the Church and Hall were also carried out during the year.

Following our services being streamed on-line we took the decision to get a land line installed to provide a broadband connection and greatly improve the transmission quality. At the time of writing a faculty submission is pending, as is the return of Openreach to complete the connection. We hope all this work will be complete by the time you read this report. Thanks to Graham Spearman, our treasurer, for all his research and work to make this happen.

During the re-decoration, this script depicting two of the Ten Commandments was uncovered.



At St. Nicholas Little Braxted, the Quinquennial survey was carried out in July, and needless to say, following receipt of the report, there are a number of urgent jobs which need to be addressed within the first 12 months, and a list of other issues which will need addressing within the next 5 years. We are looking for someone from the St. Nicholas church family to join the fabric committee to coordinate this work. If you feel that this is something you are able to help with, then please get in touch. Meanwhile, both of the church gates have been refurbished, and our thanks go to Allan Baker for arranging for this work to be carried out.

Finally, thanks to all those on the committee who have continued to ensure that things were done, despite all of the Covid restrictions, and to Ruth Johnson for recording the details.

**Graham Wingrove**

person but since Covid 19, I am able to request that they are either scanned and emailed or photocopied and posted to me. Having taken details from the documents, they are shredded.

Since last February, 2 checks have been carried out and one renewal – the Diocese requires the checks to be repeated every 5 years. Normally, for identification purposes, I have to see proof of identity documents in person but since Covid 19, I am able to request that they are either scanned and emailed or photocopied and posted to me. Having taken details from the documents, they are shredded.

### Safeguarding Training

Normally both online and face to face training are carried out by the Diocese. Online training can be done by any member of the congregation, but their completion is a requirement of anyone with safeguarding responsibilities or who has contact with children, young people and / or adults, even if the role does not require a DBS check. It should also be repeated every three years.

People with Leadership roles are expected to do the face to face training. However, this is currently not available, except by zoom for those who hold a clergy role, including Readers, licensed lay Ministers and those with permission to officiate. The Diocese is looking to deliver training to those with other leadership roles, but does not currently have the capacity.

Please do let me know if anyone would like to do the online training

**Norma Hayward**

**jhaywa@globalnet.co.uk**

**A copy of our Safeguarding Policy can be found on the board in the Church Porch and the hall Noticeboard.**

**Further Safeguarding information is available on the Diocesan Website**

**<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org>**

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

**"...our Parish continues to be in a reasonably sound financial situation."**

Please see the separate document for the full accounts  
My report for 2019 stated that financially, 2019 was an interesting year.  
Little did I know what was going to hit us in 2020.

The impact of Coronavirus has, not surprisingly, had a significant impact on the Parish Finances. Collections are down, fee income for funerals and weddings is down and the Fund Raising and Social Committee were unable to hold any events other than the Quiz in February. My thanks to Paul Strong who organised a concert to celebrate the re-opening of the Church following the redecoration of the Chancel and this raised £147.00 for the Guardians fund.

Fortunately, some of our costs reduced with less electricity being used and the saving from not printing the magazine. There is however likely to be a knock-on effect as Advertisers will receive a free period in 2021 to compensate them for the months their adverts were not seen.

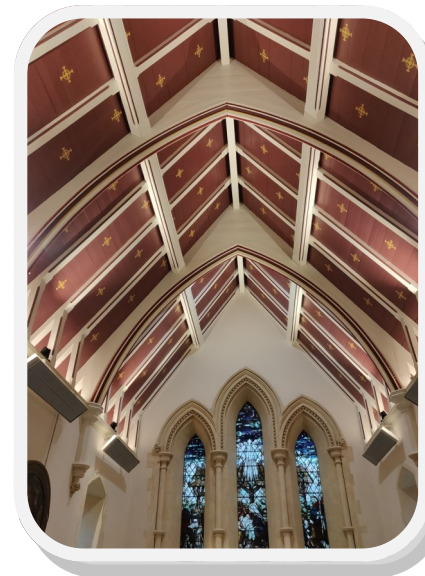
In my 2019 report I was able to advise that General Funds were some £12,000 higher than the previous year end. That stood us in good stead as this year our expenditure has exceeded income by £4,301. Despite that we stand in a reasonably sound position with £57,141 in General Funds.

Take up for the Parish Giving Scheme has been good and this eases mine and John Baker's administrative workload whilst giving us a regular and, in

Because of the first lockdown in March, tending of the churchyards did not get under way until those restrictions were lifted. However, thanks to all of our volunteers, the grounds were soon looking neat and tidy, and remained at their best for the rest of the summer. Thanks go again to Dick Yelland for coordinating all of this work and to all those involved for their time and energy. A special thanks is also due to our Sexton, John Popham, with his attention to the graves, inter alia, levelling and reseeding.

Two church yard tidy-ups were held in the year, which were both well supported. These were held with social distancing and being Covid compliant. Thanks to all those who gave up their Saturday mornings, it is very much appreciated.

**The motif used on the chancel ceiling was picked out from the East Window.**



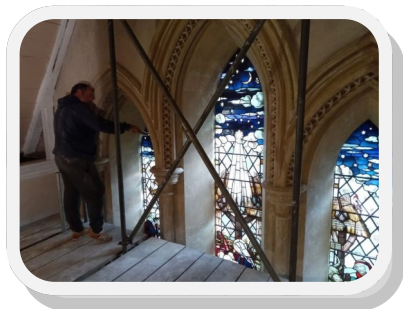
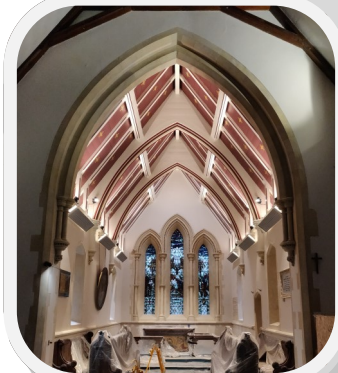
## FABRIC REPORT

**"Our ambition is now to raise further funds to complete the decoration of the remainder of the church."**

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, the Fabric Committee has not met either in person or virtually this ecclesiastical year. However, this has not prevented the usual inspections, certifications and maintenance carrying on in respect of both Churches.

The main headline of this year was the redecoration of the Chancel and Chancel Arch at St. Bartholomew's, which was contracted to Bakers of Danbury and overseen by our conservation architect, Hilary Brightman. After, the initial contract start date was put back as a result of Covid, the work commenced at the end of September, and was completed on the 11<sup>th</sup> December, except for a section between the floor and the dado rail in the sanctuary which is being left to dry out thoroughly before finishing off in the spring.

**The re-decoration in progress**



Following the above both the piano and the Organ were tuned by our go-to' professionals. Our ambition is now to raise further funds to complete the decoration of the remainder of the church. The other reordering wish list as

detailed in last years' report has also been deferred until sufficient funds become available.

the majority of cases, an increasing income. My thanks to John for his most efficient processing of Gift Aid.

We have met our parish Share in full. The 2021 share is increased by 1.13% to £3,695.01 per month.

The major project in 2020 was the redecoration of and installation of new lighting for the Chancel. This has been funded by The Guardians of the Village Churches. We have submitted a claim for a VAT refund of £8,335. This should result in a balance of £11,878 in The Guardians fund towards the second stage of the project.

I am pleased to report that The Guardians committee has expanded and a significant Fund Raising Event has been planned. Inevitably, in the circumstances, this has been deferred twice now and we can but wait for the situation to be resolved.

Our Charitable giving has been maintained. I should explain that the donations given at the end of each year are based on 10% of our giving income the previous year. So in 2020 the figures were based on 2019 income. It remains to be seen what we will be able to donate at the end of 2021.

In summary I am pleased to be able to report that our Parish continues to be in a reasonably sound financial situation.

**Graham Spearman**  
**Hon Treasurer**

**If anyone requires  
information about the  
Parish Giving Scheme,  
I'm happy to advise.  
grstreasurer@proton**

## APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

**To examine the 2020 accounts. The Examiner is appointed on a yearly basis.**

**They are required to be propoed and seconded and agreed by the meeting.**



**Don't forget to use [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) when shopping online with Amazon and register for your charity portion of all purchases to benefit our church. Our charity name is "The Parochial Church Council of Ecclesiastical Parish of Wickham Bishops & Little Braxted"**

## WITHAM DEANERY SYNOD

**Synod Representatives:** Rev. Hilary Le Seve (House of Clergy), Anne Keatley-Clarke, Christine Bealer, John Gilbert (House of Laity)

The Deanery Synod is part of the governance structure of the Church of England, linking to the Diocesan Synod and to General Synod through elected representatives. Meetings are chaired by the Rural Dean, in our case Simon Garwood as Rural Dean, and a Lay Chair, in our case Mike Robinson. Regular business includes updates on the Deanery's Parish Share payments, on Mission & Ministry Units, on events and activities in the Parishes and a session on a matter of interest.

It is a meeting that could be a great opportunity for sharing learning in our parishes. There are clearly a lot of smaller parishes that are struggling with the pandemic and do not appear to be blessed with the riches of skills and volunteering that we enjoy across the whole of our church family. We should remember them in our prayers.

The Synod has had 2 meetings in the last 12 months. The special sessions have been:

1. New Christian Communities, given by Dave Wade, Diocesan Head of New Christian Communities, Will Abbott, Pioneer Minister, Witham and Villages Team Ministry, Wendy Pagden, Pioneer Minister at Stanway and Lead for Mission-Shaped Ministry Course for Rural Areas (included in last year's APCM report)
2. "Future Direction of Travel" as Archdeacon Ruth Patten and Rev Canon Philip Ritchie (Diocesan Mission and Ministry Advisor) talked about the challenges of funding stipendiary ministry and what this meant for the Deanery Plan.

This year there were new elections for Synod representatives and John and Christine were re-elected as Lay members. Hilary and Derek continue as Clergy members.

**John Gilbert**



# **Wickham Bishops & Little Braxted PCC**

Registered Charity 1159874

## **End of Year Financial Statements**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**WICKHAM BISHOPS & LITTLE BRAXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 4 to 11.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**John Barnes FCA**  
Independent Examiner  
Handel House  
Roselawn Fields  
Broomfield  
Chelmsford  
CM1 7GB

## Treasurer's Report

My report for 2019 stated that financially, 2019 was an interesting year. Little did I know what was going to hit us in 2020.

The impact of Coronavirus has, not surprisingly, had a significant impact on the Parish Finances. Collections are down, fee income for funerals and weddings is down and the Fund Raising and Social Committee were unable to hold any events other than the Quiz in February. I would thank Paul Strong who organised a concert to celebrate the re-opening of the Church following the redecoration of the Chancel and this raised £147.00 for the Guardians fund.

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In my 2019 report I was able to advise that General Funds as at 30/12/2019 were some £12,000 higher than 30/12/2018. That stood us in good stead as this year our expenditure from General Funds has exceeded income by £4,280.

Despite that we stand in a reasonably sound position with £57,161 in General Funds.

Unfortunately in the Statement of Financial Activities the software does not differentiate between General and Designated funds. I can reassure you of the expenditure of £50,914 in Church Repairs £49,039 was funded from the Guardians account.

Take up for the Parish Giving Scheme has been good and this eases mine and John Baker's administrative workload whilst giving us a regular and, in the majority of cases, an increasing income. I would thank John for his most efficient processing of Gift Aid.

We have met our parish Share in full. The 2021 share is increased by 1.13% to £3,695.01 per month.

The major project in 2020 was the redecoration of and installation of new lighting for the Chancel. This has been funded by The Guardians of the Village Churches. We have submitted a claim for a VAT refund of £8,335. This should result in a balance of £11,878 in The Guardians fund towards the second stage of the project.

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In summary I am pleased to be able to report that our Parish continues to be in a reasonably sound financial situation.

Graham Spearman  
Hon Treasurer  
07/01/2021

## Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>					
Planned giving	34,799	—	—	34,799	31,196
Collections and other giving	2,557	—	—	2,557	8,914
Other voluntary receipts	8,179	45	—	8,224	26,792
Gift Aid recovered	10,961	132	—	11,094	14,410
Other receipts	830	—	—	830	4,926
Activities for generating funds	11,664	963	—	12,627	30,251
Investment Income	170	42	—	212	333
Receipts from church activities	4,636	—	—	4,636	6,386
<b>Total income</b>	<b>73,799</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>74,983</b>	<b>123,212</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Cost of generating funds	1,160	200	—	1,360	3,548
Missionary and Charitable Giving	4,000	—	—	4,000	5,496
Parish Share	43,845	—	—	43,845	42,492
Clergy and Staffing costs	4,143	—	—	4,143	5,670
Church Running Expenses	15,926	1,672	—	17,599	26,279
Youth Club	—	—	—	—	767
Hall Running Costs	1,684	—	—	1,684	1,232
Church Repairs & Maintenance	50,914	—	—	50,914	2,766
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	582	—	—	582	1,447
Governance Costs	110	—	—	110	110
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>122,367</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>124,240</b>	<b>89,812</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>(48,567)</b>	<b>(689)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(49,256)</b>	<b>33,400</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	65,531
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	(65,531)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(48,567)</b>	<b>(689)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(49,256)</b>	<b>33,400</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>109,271</b>	<b>10,094</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>119,366</b>	<b>85,965</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>60,704</b>	<b>9,405</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>
<b>Represented by</b>					
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General fund	57,161	—	—	57,161	61,442
<b>Designated</b>					
General	3,542	—	—	3,542	47,829
<b>Restricted</b>					
Little Braxted Fabric Fund	—	4,733	—	4,733	5,464
Wickham Bishops Church Restoration	—	4,671	—	4,671	4,629



## Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	70,109	119,366
	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
General fund	57,161	61,442
<b>Designated</b>		
Guardians	3,542	47,829
Wickham Bishops Deposit	—	—
<b>Restricted</b>		
Wickham Bishops Church Restoration	4,671	4,629
Little Braxted Fabric Fund	4,733	5,464
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>						
Bank current account -	(16,423)	8,350	8,857	—	783	1,717
CAF Cash Account 00022245 -	4,298	20,767	(15,347)	—	9,718	24,242
CAF Gold Account -	30,426	37,653	(57,061)	—	11,019	47,829
Guardians -	(218)	(49,039)	52,800	—	3,542	—
CCLA deposit account608143001D -	48,181	—	(12,550)	—	35,630	35,480
CCLA deposit account Church Restoration -	(9,106)	—	13,778	—	4,671	4,629
CCLA deposit St Nicholas Fabric -	(2,808)	(13,897)	21,439	—	4,733	5,464
Cash in hand -	9	—	—	—	9	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54,359</b>	<b>3,834</b>	<b>11,916</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>
<b>Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year</b>						
Loans received -	4,299	—	(4,299)	—	—	—
Accounts Payable -	(7,101)	291	6,810	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(2,802)</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>57,161</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>9,405</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,109</b>	<b>119,366</b>

## Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
<b>General - General fund</b>						
Unrestricted	61,442	66,691	70,972	—	—	57,161
<b>Sub-total for General</b>	<b>61,442</b>	<b>66,691</b>	<b>70,972</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>57,161</b>
<b>Guardians - General</b>						
Designated	47,829	7,108	51,394	—	—	3,542
<b>Sub-total for Guardians</b>	<b>47,829</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>51,394</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,542</b>
<b>CCLA001 - Wickham Bishops Depo</b>						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Sub-total for CCLA001</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>CCLA004 - Wickham Bishops Chur</b>						
Restricted	4,629	241	200	—	—	4,671
<b>Sub-total for CCLA004</b>	<b>4,629</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,671</b>
<b>CCIA005 - Little Braxted Fabri</b>						
Restricted	5,464	941	1,672	—	—	4,733
<b>Sub-total for CCIA005</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,733</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>119,366</b>	<b>74,983</b>	<b>124,240</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>70,109</b>

## Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Planned giving</b>						
Envelopes	3,681	—	—	—	3,681	10,456
planned giving	31,118	—	—	—	31,118	20,739
Total	34,799	—	—	—	34,799	31,196
<b>Collections and other giving</b>						
collections	2,327	—	—	—	2,327	8,183
Gift Aid Envelopes	230	—	—	—	230	731
Total	2,557	—	—	—	2,557	8,914
<b>Other voluntary receipts</b>						
Charity Collections	154	—	—	—	154	1,346
Other Giving	900	—	—	—	900	1,400
Donations	1,354	—	45	—	1,399	949
Flower Fund	—	—	—	—	—	150
Guardians	—	5,770	—	—	5,770	22,580
Alpha Donations	—	—	—	—	—	365
Total	2,409	5,770	45	—	8,224	26,792
<b>Gift Aid recovered</b>						
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	9,624	—	12	—	9,636	13,981
Tax Refund - Church Restoration Fund WB	—	—	12	—	12	—
Tax refund - LB Fabric	—	—	107	—	107	112
Tax Relief Guardians	—	1,337	—	—	1,337	316
Total	9,624	1,337	132	—	11,094	14,410
<b>Other receipts</b>						
Other funds generated	39	—	—	—	39	3,783
In/Out	791	—	—	—	791	1,143
Total	830	—	—	—	830	4,926
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>						
Fund Raising - Open Gardens Flower Festi	—	—	210	—	210	200
Fund Raising	550	—	—	—	550	7,989
Trading Income	15	—	—	—	15	10
Friends of Little Braxted	—	—	153	—	153	—
Fees to Diocese	2,739	—	—	—	2,739	1,883
Church hall lettings	1,376	—	—	—	1,376	5,392
Magazine income - advertising	6,984	—	—	—	6,984	10,290
Little Braxted Fabric	—	—	600	—	600	4,485
Total	11,664	—	963	—	12,627	30,251
<b>Investment Income</b>						
Interest - General Fund	136	—	—	—	136	267
Interest WB Church Restoration Fund	—	—	19	—	19	33

Interest LB Fabric Fund	—	—	23	—	23	21
Interest/Dividends	33	—	—	—	33	11
Total	170	—	42	—	212	333

### Receipts from church activities

Parochial Fees for weddings and funerals	3,246	—	—	—	3,246	4,578
Gravespoil	715	—	—	—	715	235
Memorial Book Income	50	—	—	—	50	10
Greeting Cards sales	230	—	—	—	230	848
Tea/Coffee	124	—	—	—	124	364
Drop In Donations	270	—	—	—	270	349
Total	4,636	—	—	—	4,636	6,386
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>66,691</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>74,983</b>	<b>123,212</b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Cost of generating funds

Costs of Fundraising	96	—	—	—	96	61
Costs of Fundraising- Open Gardens	—	—	200	—	200	—
Guardians expenses	—	825	—	—	825	2,449
Greetings Cards costs	238	—	—	—	238	619
Trading Goods	—	—	—	—	—	418
Total	334	825	200	—	1,360	3,548

### Missionary and Charitable Giving

Charity Donations	4,000	—	—	—	4,000	5,496
Total	4,000	—	—	—	4,000	5,496

### Parish Share

Parish Share	43,845	—	—	—	43,845	42,492
Total	43,845	—	—	—	43,845	42,492

### Clergy and Staffing costs

Fees to Diocese	2,742	—	—	—	2,742	1,962
Other Clergy Expenses	325	—	—	—	325	660
Wages Honoraria & Support	655	—	—	—	655	1,855
Clergy expenses of incumbent	420	—	—	—	420	882
Rectory expenses	—	—	—	—	—	310
Total	4,143	—	—	—	4,143	5,670

### Church Running Expenses

Insurance - Wickham Bishops	2,322	—	—	—	2,322	2,316
Insurance - Little Braxted	1,016	—	—	—	1,016	1,013
Church maintenance WB	975	—	—	—	975	804
Church Maintenance - LB	—	—	1,672	—	1,672	1,363
Pastoral Care	234	—	—	—	234	808
Children & Youth Work	—	—	—	—	—	363
General Costs	2,259	—	—	—	2,259	2,474
Flowers for Church	26	—	—	—	26	577
Upkeep	312	—	—	—	312	312
Music Fund	78	—	—	—	78	283

Upkeep of churchyard WB	503	—	—	—	503	1,086
Upkeep of Churchyard LB	781	—	—	—	781	425
Administration	625	—	—	—	625	751
Church running - Utilities WB	2,615	—	—	—	2,615	2,933
Church running - Utilities LB	226	—	—	—	226	372
Magazine expenses	3,377	—	—	—	3,377	8,215
Tea/Coffee Costs	—	—	—	—	—	218
Alpha Expenses	—	—	—	—	—	921
Journal Write Off	—	—	—	—	—	(22)
In/Out	572	—	—	—	572	1,060
Total	15,926	—	1,672	—	17,599	26,279

### Church Running Expenses - Youth Club

Youth Club	—	—	—	—	—	767
Total	—	—	—	—	—	767

### Hall Running Costs

Hall running costs	1,684	—	—	—	1,684	1,232
Total	1,684	—	—	—	1,684	1,232

### Church Repairs & Maintenance

Church Major Repairs - Structure St Nich	—	—	—	—	—	240
Guardians Costs	—	50,569	—	—	50,569	—
Capital Expenditure	345	—	—	—	345	2,526
Total	345	50,569	—	—	50,914	2,766

### Hall Repairs & Maintenance

Hall + major repairs - installation	582	—	—	—	582	1,447
Total	582	—	—	—	582	1,447

### Governance Costs

Governance costs examination/audit fee	110	—	—	—	110	110
Total	110	—	—	—	110	110

<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>70,972</b>	<b>51,394</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>124,240</b>	<b>89,812</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>(4,280)</b>	<b>(44,286)</b>	<b>(689)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(49,256)</b>	<b>33,400</b>



## Charitable Donations made 2020:

### **International**

CMS	£400
Embrace the Middle East	£200
Bansang Education	£400
Yomelelani Trust	£400

### **National**

National Churches Trust	£400
Remap	£400
Christians Aware	£400

### **Local**

Friends of Essex Churches	£300
CHESS	£400
Replenish UK	£400
Dementia Adventure	£300

## WICKHAM BISHOPS & LITTLE BRAXTED P.C.C. ASSETS

### ASSETS

General	£ 57,142
Guardians	£ 3,543
St Bartholomew's Church Restoration Fund	£ 4,669
St. Nicholas Fabric Fund	£ 4,731
Bookstall Stock	£ 708

### Estimated Values

Church Hall	£ 500,000
Tables & Chairs	£ 2,000
Kitchen Equipment, Storage Boxes, Urn, Cutlery, Microwave Etc.	£ 1,500
Crockery & Glasses	£ 500
Step Ladder	£ 109
Vacuum Cleaners	£ 200
Video/Television, Sound System/Heaters	£ 1,600
Choir Robes	£ 1,500
Lawnmowers	£ 1,250
Strimmer	£ 150
Hedge Trimmer	£ 150
Piano x 2	£ 2,700
Shed x 2	£ 1,500
Projector	£ 430
Floristry equipment	£ 2,000
Dishwasher	£ 1,500
Photocopier	£ 2,500
Mevo Camera	£ 350
WiFi Router	£ 90

This report dated: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**WICKHAM BISHOPS & LITTLE BRAXTED PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 4 to 11.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**John Barnes FCA**  
Independent Examiner  
Handel House  
Roselawn Fields  
Broomfield  
Chelmsford  
CM1 7GB