



APCM Report 2020
Wednesday 26th May 2021
The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall

We are here to worship, praise and thank God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
In the power of the Holy Spirit to take Christ's love and peace into our community.

Incumbent:

The Rev. Martin Harrison. The Vicarage, 10 York Road, Strensall, York YO32 5UN

Assistant Curate:

The Rev. Katharine McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York. YO32 5XA

Assistant Curate (Permanent Deacon):

The Rev. Dot Hicks. 111 Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO32 5UG

Additional Minister with PTO:

The Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer. 6 Portisham Place, Strensall, York YO32 5AZ

Lay Chair:

Dr. Penny Parish. 29 Heath Ride. Strensall, York YO32 5YW

Treasurer:

Mr. Phil McBride. The Barn, 72 The Village, Strensall, York. YO32 5XA

Independent Examiner:

Mr. Doug Meikle. 37 Rowntree Wharf, Navigation Road, York. YO1 9XA

Church Architect:

Mr. Andrew Wiles. Wiles and Maguire Ltd. The Danesmead Wing, York. YO10 4PB

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Mrs. Judy Smith. White Cottage, Cropton, Pickering. YO18 8HH

Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Victoria Haworth. 5 Orchard Way, Strensall, York YO32 5UF

Bank:

Santander UK plc. Account Number 95929403

The following served as PCC members as from the APCM 2020:

(For a list of those who served before the 2020 APCM, see the APCM Report for 2019)

Rev. Martin Harrison	Vicar and Chair	(Appointed Sept 2001)
Rev. Katharine McBride	Assistant Curate	(From July 2019)
Rev. Dot Hicks	Permanent Deacon	(From January 2019)
Rev. Dr. Judith Palmer	Additional Minister with PTO	(Co-opted 2020 for 1 year)
Jean Cooper	Churchwarden	(Re-elected at APCM 2020)
Margaret Berg	Churchwarden	(Re-elected at APCM 2020)
Janet Irish	Deanery Synod	(Elected 2020)
(There are also 2 vacancies for the deanery synod)		
Penny Parish	Lay Chair	(Elected 2018 for 3 yrs)
Pauline Chambers	Deputy Treasurer	(Elected 2018 for 3 yrs)
Terry Atkinson		(Elected 2018 for 3 yrs)
Andrew Alexander	Electoral Roll Officer	(Elected 2019 for 3 yrs)
Phil McBride	Treasurer	(Elected 2019 for 3 yrs)**
Philippa Cawthorne		(Elected 2019 for 3 yrs)
Janet Mountain	PCC Secretary	(Elected 2020 for 3 yrs)
Sue Nunn		(Elected 2020 for 3 yrs)
Shirley Bamford		(Elected 2020 for 3 yrs)
Eileen Connolly		(Co-opted 2020 for 1 year)

Those elected to the PCC at the APCM are on a rolling 3 year term.

Three councilors are to be elected each year with a total of 9 elected members.

Any ex-officio and co-opted members will be in addition to this figure.

Members **ARE** eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office.

Those for re-election in 2021

Penny Parish
Terry Atkinson
Pauline Chambers

Those for re-election in 2022

Andrew Alexander
Philippa Cawthorne
Philip McBride **

Those for re-election in 2023

Janet Mountain
Shirley Bamford
Sue Nunn

** Elected as a Casual Vacancy on 13/11/19

It has been agreed that Victoria Haworth, our Parish Administrator, should act as a minute secretary for the PCC. Victoria does not have any right to vote at a PCC meeting.

Deanery Mission Partnership

In 2017, the Deanery Mission Partnership was entered into and means that all clergy in the deanery are issued with licences enabling them to officially minister in all parishes of the deanery. This legally means that each PCC in the deanery acquired new clerical members.

It was agreed that these additional clerical members will not attend any PCC meetings other than those in the parishes which they are directly responsible. These clerical members also agree to forfeit any voting rights.

All future clergy licensed in the deanery will be appointed on the same basis of cross licensing. Names of these clergy will not be recorded in APCM Reports.

PCC Meetings in 2020

The full PCC met six (6) times in the 2020. This includes the first meeting of the PCC which was held immediately after the APCM. Five (5) of the PCC meetings were undertaken either by email or Zoom, which is was allowed under the guidance of the new Church Representation Rules and the direction of diocese.

The Standing Committee met virtually on several occasions so that it could respond responsibly to the many changes that were forced upon us throughout the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PCC Mission Development Groups (MDG) did not meet regularly due to the pandemic, but, when they did manage to meet, they reported to the full PCC. Non-PCC members may be asked to attend these groups and contribute to discussions but would not have any voting powers.

Background

The PCC at St Mary's Church Strensall has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, The Rev. Martin Harrison, in promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe. This responsibility includes financial management of the church and the care and maintenance of church buildings and fabric and the wider mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The PCC (The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Registration Number 1162095. (First registered 10th June 2015.). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Incumbent, Assistant Curates (if any), Readers (if any) and Church Warden(s) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It is agreed that no more than 9 members be elected to the PCC on a proportional three year rotating basis. Any members of St Mary's Strensall who are elected as members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods are automatically members of the PCC for the duration of the Synod.

The PCC may appoint co-opted members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee comprises of the Incumbent, Churchwarden(s), Secretary, Treasurer, and Lay-Chair. This committee of the PCC is required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any direction given by the council.

Safeguarding Statement

St Mary's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Development Groups

Ministry Development Group
Outreach Development Group
Facilities Development Group
Finance Development Group
PCC Development Group

Other Groups that meet linked to the PCC

Safeguarding

Fundraising is the responsibility of the full PCC.

Electoral Roll and Church attendance

Membership of the electoral roll is open to all lay people who are baptised, over the age of 16 and have signed a declaration that they are either a member of the Church of England or of a church in communion therewith and:

Resident in the parish **OR**

Not being resident, has habitually attended public worship in the parish during a period of six months prior to enrolment, **OR**

Is a member in good standing of a church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity (not being a church in communion with the Church of England) and also prepared to declare themselves to be a member of the Church of England having habitually worshipped in the Parish Church for a period of six months prior to enrolment.

Electoral Roll Information. Report from Mr. Andrew Alexander, Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll prepared for the APCM in 2020 was at **127** members.

Since the APCM, the following members of the Electoral Roll have died: June Scott

In 2019, we were required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll as governed by the Church Representation Rules. The renewal of the roll happens every 6 years. During all other years the roll is only reviewed in preparation for the APCM

Numbers on the Electoral Roll for the year is as follows:

At start of year	127
Number leaving the roll during the year	1
Deaths	1
Number added to the roll during the year	1
Number on roll	126

The following reports are presented to the APCM:

Statutory Reports

- Vicar
- Treasurer *(There is also a separate 6-page document and the Budget 2021, sent in addition to report)*
- Independent Examiner *(Separate document)*
- Church Wardens
- PCC Secretary
- Deanery Synod

Non Statutory Reports

- Safeguarding
- Parish Administrator
- Bell Tower
- Soup Social
- Junior Church
- Young People Film Night
- Little Fishes

**Vicar's Report
APCM 2020
St. Mary's Church Strensall**

The beginning of 2020 started positively with plans for developing our Café Church and reviewing the worship we offer at our 11am Sunday Service. We were also being greatly encouraged by the continued success of the Wednesday morning café, especially with the involvement of the wider community. The café was raising regular funds for various charitable causes and we had monthly visits from organisations with information about their work.

We took part in the bishops' 'Mission to the North' in March. This was a mission to the whole diocese and our deanery was visited by a team led by the Bishop of Lancaster, The Rt Rev Jill Duff. Her team visited Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy and also provided speakers for our well attended Men's breakfast. There were other events throughout the deanery, and we had guest speakers for our Sunday morning service which included a baptism. The whole event was very encouraging but overshadowed by the spread of Covid-19.

In fact, the weekend of the mission was the last 'normal' weekend of 2020 as, by that time, Covid-19 had reached the UK. On 23rd March, the Prime Minister announced the first national 'lockdown' in England and we began to learn how to live lives in the midst of a pandemic. All church activities had to stop and we have been in a totally different environment since then. I thank the church wardens, Victoria, PCC members and clergy for all their support through a very difficult and trying year. I also thank Paul Bulmer and Terry Atkinson for helping with the various Risk Assessments that have been required as the pandemic ebbed and flowed over the last 12 months.

Covid-19 meant that we had to learn how to 'do church' differently, and many innovative and new ventures were undertaken. We had to learn how to use Zoom, how to upload videos to YouTube and how to work with Microsoft Teams. All this was new to many of us and posed lots of challenges, and I thank Gordon Moore for his patience in helping us. We also took the opportunity of 'lockdown' to update our website and again thanks to Gordon for the many hours he spent building the new site.

Eventually, our Sunday services were recorded and went live on a Sunday morning getting many positive reviews. Hard copies of service sheets and prayers were sent to those with no internet access and it has remained a cause for great concern that we haven't been able to meet with many due to the lack of access via the internet. We have tried to contact people by phone however, and managed to visit many whilst maintaining social distancing.

During the first 'lockdown', Dot also worked alongside Strensall Helpers to contact isolated people in the village to ensure they could get their shopping done, or prescriptions collected from the pharmacy. Many church volunteers also worked with Strensall Helpers to deliver soup and cakes to isolated/shielding people throughout that period, and their work was greatly appreciated. They all did a great job and we are very grateful to them.

Unfortunately, our monthly parish newsletter, 'Outreach', had to stop during the first 'lockdown'. We felt we had to do this as we were dependent on elderly people to fold and deliver the publication at a time when they were being asked to live in isolation. 'Outreach' has been missed by many, especially those with no internet access, and we are sorry that we felt we had to take this course of action. At the same time, we endeavoured to improve our online presence with the updated church website. This didn't answer many questions with the demise of 'Outreach' but did make our online communication clearer and user-friendly.

During this time, we also said 'Goodbye' to Archbishop Sentamu who retired after a long and distinguished ministry in our diocese. We welcomed Archbishop Stephen Cottrell who has come to York from Chelmsford.

As the year progressed, we had to learn to live with the many changes as they came along. Restrictions meant that we had no services in church for Easter. When regulations were relaxed, we managed to resume some limited Sunday services using both the church and the hall, but had to restrict the size of congregations as well as refrain from singing which has been a particular upset for many people.

We had outside activities for Halloween, Advent and Christmas which were well attended. We also continued to put recorded services onto our YouTube channel so that people, who felt they could not attend services in the church buildings, could still join us virtually.

We also managed to have a limited stewardship campaign which we called 'In My Gift'. We were aided and supported by the diocesan Stewardship Team who also helped with the production of printed materials. Since then we have been taking part in the Parish Giving Scheme.

One highlight of note towards the end on 2020, was the ordination of Katharine as priest at St Mary's by the bishop of Selby. Attendance was limited but the day was still very special.

The uncertainty of 2020 has continued into 2021, and that give us continued challenges as well as opportunities. Because of that I ask for your prayers and support for all that we do at St Mary's.

I would like to finish by remembering all those who have been affected by Covid-19 over the past year. Many lives have been cut short and families have been coping with bereavement in very trying circumstances. Our love and prayers go out to them.

We also remember with gratitude our carers, nurses and doctors, many of whom have put their own lives at risk to continue to care for us. The work they have done should be applauded by all, and perhaps the best way we can show our appreciation of what they have done, is by continuing to be patient and caring at this time, respectful of the rules that are there so that we can best protect each other.

With all my prayers and best wishes,
The Reverend Martin Harrison. Vicar, St Mary's Church, Strensall.

*Report prepared by The Reverend Martin Harrison. Vicar, St Mary's Church, Strensall.
April 2021*

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe

St Mary's Church, Strensall, York

For the Period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Planned giving	46,443		796	47,239	48,066
Collections and Other giving				-	9,836
Other Voluntary Receipts	19,651		10,000	29,651	1,079
Gift Aid Recovered	23,055		2,500	25,555	10,508
Other Receipts	400			400	12,355
Activities for generating funds	1,015		302	1,317	2,709
Investment income	119			119	179
Receipts from church activities	4,923		550	5,473	5,842
Total Receipts	95,606	-	14,148	109,754	90,574
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	5,899		119	6,018	132
Missionary and charitable giving	732			732	4,242
Parish Share	56,500			56,500	60,970
Clergy and staffing costs	6,685			6,685	9,031
Church running expenses	6,612			6,612	15,996
Hall running costs	972			972	1,975
Church repairs & maintenance	3,934			3,934	414
Hall repairs & maintenance				-	996
New building work				-	4,528
Total Payments	81,334	-	119	81,453	98,284
Excess of Payments over receipts before	14,272	-	14,029	28,301	(7,710)

Transfers					
Gross Transfers between funds - in	31		14	45	-
Gross Transfers between funds - out	- 14	-	31	45	-
Excess of receipts over funds	14,258	-	13,998	28,301	(7,710)
Net Movements in Funds	14,272	-	14,029	28,301	(7,710)

Reconciliation of Funds					
All Assets at 01 January 2020	41,114	13,003	9,269	63,386	71,096
All Assets at 31 December 2020	55,386	13,003	23,298	91,687	63,386

Represented by	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds	2019
Unrestricted General Fund	55,386			55,386	41,115
Designated		3,226		3,226	3,226
KidzKlub		1,081	2,247	3,328	3,341
Operation Reserve		8,696		8,696	8,696
Youth and Childrens Work			13,598	13,598	-
Building fund			5,205	5,205	5,205
Collection for Nepal Childrens Home			555	555	5
Holiday Club			-	-	14
Little Fishes (Restricted in Gen Account)			724	724	843
Maintenance Fund			969	969	969
	55,386	13,003	23,298	91,687	63,386

Treasurer Report

APCM 2021, 26th May 2021

St Mary's Church Strensall

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2020

The annual figures show that we had a surplus on unrestricted (general) funds for the whole year equating to £14 300. This is mainly due to a decrease in our FWO and Church running expenses and a large rise in "other gifts". It should be noted that this was during lockdown due to Covid19, and so the "other gifts" is made of approx. the £9 000 plates donations that were unable to be made in person, (but given by other means) plus the transfer of £10 000 out of the building reserved fund (with the donor's permission) into unrestricted funds.

We also made a large Gift Aid claim for previous years as well as 2020.

Coupled with a reduction in our FWO and a large reduction in church running expenses (again due to covid19) the bank account has grown to £55 400 compared to £41 100 last year. The CCLA reserved accounts still holding £18 000 which covers three months contingency.

We have been blessed financially this year through the pandemic

Reserved accounts are also healthy with a large donation to the Youth and Children's work of £10 000. We continue to hold approximately £1 000 of Kidz Club money in unres but also £2 200 in restricted due to the fact they could not operate for 2020.

We paid our FWO in full again this year – this constituted £56 500 (or 69% of our total unrestricted income). It is extremely important that we continue to pay our FWO in full and aim to increase it again to pre-pandemic levels to support the ministry of other churches in the diocese, not just our own.

P McBride

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Strensall with Towthorpe Charity Number 1162095

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (*the Charities Act*) and that an independent examination is needed.

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

Name: Mrs Ruth Prins, FCPFA

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Address: 21 Chaucer Lane, Strensall, York, YO32 5PE

Date: Friday, 15 July 2022

**Church Wardens Report
APCM 2021
Wednesday 26th May 2021**

The annual service of the boiler has been carried out with no problems identified.

Due to the pandemic and various restrictions that have been in place the annual PAT testing was not carried out. This has now been booked.

Although the community cafe closed in March several helpers were able to support a team of volunteers with soup and cakes which were delivered to those housebound people in the village.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this.

Thank you to the maintenance team for keeping the churchyard in pristine condition.

Following the repair to the outer door of the Lady Chapel, a locksmith visited and advised that the bolts on the door were upgraded. Gordon Moore has replaced these with coach bolts. Thank you to Gordon for carrying out this work.

Due to the pandemic St Crux was cancelled last year.

Thank you to the ministry team who have continued to support parishioners and the local community.

As I step down after 7 years as churchwarden I would like to thank everyone who has supported me. Please will you support Margaret as she continues in the role.

I would like to thank Jean for her excellent service as Church Warden over the last 7 years and also for the support she has given me since I became Church Warden.

*Report prepared by Jean Cooper and Margaret Berg (Churchwardens)
April 2021*

1. PCC Meetings

The main PCC meeting was held six times in 2020 with two Face to Face meetings and four by Zoom or email. Standing Committee meetings were undertaken by email as required.

2. PCC Organisation

The PCC chose to adopt the Growing Church principles as their guidance for the development of the MAP (Mission Action Plan) which has formed the basis of the work of the Development Groups.

The Development Groups are:

- Worship Development Group
- Outreach Development Group
- Facilities Development Group

In addition, the following areas are covered by the PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Data Protection
- Fundraising
- Finance

The PCC has also agreed to consider and develop where possible the principles of the Multiply project which has mission at its heart.

3. Key achievements in 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic has naturally affected much of the ongoing work of the PCC in terms of the achievements of face-to-face fundraising events and the work of the Spearehead Café. The major decision making has been invested in following the government guidelines and ensuring that the church has functioned in accordance with these. This has meant reduced, or no services have been held and a Booking System implemented. Fundamental to this has been the oversight of the cleaning system for the church and hall. Other notable achievements are:

- The church has been involved in working alongside the Foodbank and Strensall Helpers to support the community during the pandemic.
- The Electoral Roll has been updated.
- Support to the Deanery has carried on through Zoom meetings.
- Progression has been made to achieving Eco Church status.

4. Future Challenges

There is no doubt that the last year has been a difficult and unprecedented one and has brought with it great suffering, sadness and challenge such as the church has never encountered. However, with this has come great opportunities for change and reflection and the PCC will need to take the lead in what will be a challenging time. The major challenges facing the PCC in 2021 are around considering the future shape of the church in terms of how services are provided and the support to the local community. The pandemic has required a variety of diverse methods of meeting and ministering to the members of the church alongside the community we serve. Using the lessons learnt, the PCC will need to consider the best way forward for future provision of services.

In addition, the PCC will need to work with the Deanery and Diocese in considering the following which will mean changes in the shape of the way the church moves forward:

- Living Christ's Story – a document written by Archbishop Stephen

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/living-christs-story/lcs-edited-vision/>

There is no doubt that this is a pivotal year in the life of the wider church and at St. Mary's, it is vital that the clergy are fully supported in their decision making by members of the church. Please, therefore, consider stepping into one of the many roles which need to be filled. To progress we must be active in our support so please prayerfully consider your personal contribution.

Report prepared by Janet Mountain (PCC Secretary), April 2021

**Deanery Synod
APCM 2021
Wednesday 26th May 2021**

Not an easy year for administration within the Deanery with all meetings and many services done through zoom. However, Carol, our co-ordinator has done an excellent job providing information on a weekly basis.

Many churches, including St. Mary's, sent links directly to Carol so that people had a range of online services/ talks/ prayer sessions to choose from. We were also provided with details of Diocesan and National services.

At the January meeting, we spent time going over how the Deanery works and relevant responsibilities that people held.

Major themes have been:- Living Christ's Story, Environmental issues addressed by our new Green Champion Jan Noble and the launch outreach to children and young people.

In some ways the Deanery feels as though it is knitted more tightly together and people are trying to help each other across the churches.

The next Deanery Synod is on June 21st 2021.

*Report prepared by Janet Irish, Deanery Synod Rep
April 2021*
