

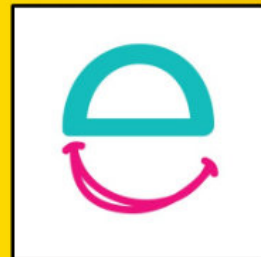
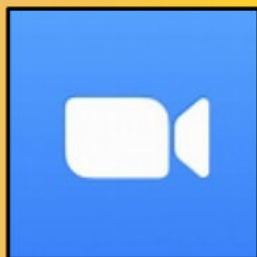
Annual Report and Yearbook 2020



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**



**What's
been
happening in
the Parish?**



Loving God, loving neighbours; sharing Jesus with you.

This year the Yearbook and the Annual Report, will be
formally presented at the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St. Mary,
Hawkshaw,
Bury
BL8 4JN
7.45pm for 8.00pm.

24th May 2021

The Meeting will also be available via Zoom

Email: info@holcombehawkshaw.org for link.

Vision Statement

“In our Parish:

- We will welcome others and serve the community through our love and care.
- We want to provide inspirational worship in various styles to meet the needs of all.
- Our teaching, based on the authority of the Bible, aims to connect faith to daily life, sustaining, encouraging and challenging everyone.
- We aim to have welcoming and warm buildings that enable us to worship, glorify God and aid mission.
- We seek to reach out through God’s love of all people, sharing the joy and wonder of the faith we have in our daily life with Jesus and growing his worldwide church in faith, hope and love.

The Parochial Church Council
Updated: 1st February, 2014

This booklet gives information about the activities of the various Parish Organisations and the Parish Annual Report.

Once again it is the product of teamwork by many people. Sincere thanks go to contributors who responded so promptly and made this Report possible.

We hope you will find the contents both interesting and informative.

Any errors are the responsibility of contributors/editor.



**Parish of
Holcombe &
Hawkshaw**

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Yearbook 2020

As a result of Covid 19 restrictions
many groups have not met this year.

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Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Minutes
Held at Hawkshaw Church
Monday 12th October 2020 and by Zoom

Present in the building:

Four clerks in holy orders: Revs P. Sumsion, R. Airey, I. Fleming, V. Fletcher and the following lay members of the parish:

S. Partridge, J. Burton, P. Hanley, J. Venn, M. Burton, C. Baggoley, S. Newhouse, S. Wilkinson, J. Houghton, D. Yardley, M. Booth, G. Booth, J. Fletcher, L. Fleming, L. Webber and T. Webber.

In attendance by Zoom:

L. Jackson, J. Sumsion, R. Sumsion, D. Lomax, R. Artley, S. Byrom, R. Byrom, B. Atkin, S. Nuttall, E. Slattery and R. Simpson.

PART A: Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer: led Rev. Paul Sumsion.

2. Chairman's Remarks: Rev. Paul Sumsion.

The proceedings were outlined. They consist of 2 parts, part A the Vestry meeting to elect Church Wardens where attendees do not have to be on the parish electoral roll, but otherwise need to be resident in the parish. Part B is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where attendees are only eligible to vote if on the parish electoral roll.

3. Election of two Church Wardens (one from each former parish).

The nominations for Church wardens were Michael Booth and Stephen Newhouse. There were no other nominations, and they were both duly elected. All agreed.

PART B: A.P.C.M.

4. Apologies for Absence received from:

B. Newhouse, H. Gaskell, C. Gaskell, G. Lomax, M. Lomax and Y. Taylor.

5. Minutes of last year's vestry meeting and A.P.C.M., were received and accepted by 13 in church and seven by Zoom - 20 in total. There were three abstentions with no votes against.

6. Presentation of the revised church electoral roll by Sheila Partridge.

Total of 188. 121 from Former Parish of (Hereafter F.P.O.) Holcombe and 61 from F.P.O. Hawkshaw. 13 people have been added, four removed - three sadly died and one moved away.

7. Presentation of Annual Reports and Accounts for Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2019

Accepted unanimously.

8. Election of Church Officers

A. Deputy Church Wardens for St Mary's Hawkshaw

Richard Byrom and Ray Houghton.

Elected unopposed.

Deputy Church Wardens for Emmanuel Church Centre

Jo. Venn and Gwen Barnes.

Elected unopposed.

Deputy Church Wardens for Emmanuel Holcombe

Susan Nuttall and Mike Burton.

Elected unopposed.

B. Parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod

from F.P.O. Holcombe: Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

from F.P.O. Hawkshaw: Jean Houghton and Geraldine Booth.

Agreed unanimously.

C. Representatives of the laity to the P.C.C.

F.P.O. Holcombe:

J. Burton, M. Burton, J. Venn and D. Lomax. (With three vacancies).

F.P.O. St Mary's:

E. Houghton, R. Byrom, R. Sumsion, J. Fletcher, P. Hanley,

S. Wilkinson and L. Webber.

All duly elected to P.C.C.

D. Sidespeople for Emmanuel Church Centre, Emmanuel Holcombe and St Mary's, Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Barbara Atkin, Linda Jackson, Jo Venn, Gwen Barnes,

Romey Simpson, Pauline Clare and Geoff Clare.

Emmanuel Holcombe:

Vera Green, Jennifer Burton, Janice Chisholm, Judith Oliver,

Pat Lainton, Wendy Fell, Susan Nuttall and Barbara Newhouse.

St Mary's Hawkshaw:

Dot Yardley, Judith Horrocks, Ray Houghton,

Edward Slattery, Robert Critchley, Peter Hardcastle, Jenny Hardcastle,

Eric Shortt, Jean Houghton, Ross Manning, Sheila Lofthouse,

Johnson and Andrew Hey.

All agreed unanimously.

The Rev. Paul Sumsion extended a big thank you to the Wardens, sidespeople, Deanery Synod representatives and the P.C.C.

9. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Stuart Moulton from St Anne's Church, Tottington was nominated as the Independent Examiner.

Agreed unanimously.

10. Rector's Report

2019

- The Rector commenced his report by reflecting that 2019 had been a very busy and good year for the parish.
- The '# do you know Him?' campaign that Ramsbottom Churches Together had put on included bible studies, sermons, outreach and various other events worked jointly across Ramsbottom.
- This was commissioned by the Bishop of Bolton just as the team from Capernwray Bible College arrived for their initial weekend at the end of January. Their visit for ten days of outreach took place at the end of February, which was a great boost to the start of the campaign. The #dykH? Campaign continued through until just after Easter, and although it was hard work, it included many events including services, a youth weekend, "blokes" and ladies nights and a series of outreach events including a notable visit from the Springs Dance Company to Hawkshaw Church.
- As the year progressed there were our schools' Sermons Services and a Garden Party at the Church Centre in June.
- A very enjoyable Scratch Messiah was held in Emmanuel Church in July and a Psalms weekend in September with Rev. Dr. Simon Stocks teaching on the psalms over the weekend.
- During this time we were also able to have conversations with the Diocese, which would result in the appointment of Ian Fleming as a full-time stipendiary curate from July 2020.
- The Rector also continued as chaplain to the Cadets and has helped with cub camps and various school events.

2020

- At the beginning of beginning of 2020 there were plans for the Capernwray team to come to the parish on 23rd March and we were looking forward to Easter with plans for Bible study, mission and worship. Covid 19 changed all of this and the church buildings were closed from 24th March 2020.
- In order to re-open safely, risk assessments of each building had to be undertaken.
- The Rector thanked Stephen Newhouse and Michael Booth for the painstaking work on these risk assessments, Stuart Wilkinson for developing the new website and producing the DVD's of the services that have been distributed to those in the parish unable to access the on line worship. Thanks also to Michael Burton and Robert Airey for the on-line Evensong and Compline services and to Stephen for recording and editing them.
- Thanks to all who have contributed by preaching, reading the lessons and leading the intercessions.

- Thanks to Jo, Ruth, Caleb and Isaac for the worship songs during the on-line services.
 - Thanks also to the “Stream Team”.
 - Thanks to Sheila Partridge and Stephen and all the Open the Book team for producing the Bible stories that went into our primary schools and to Penny for her work with the puppets.
 - Thanks to, Barbara, Linda, Romey, Jean, Jane, Susan and Hilda for their pastoral care work and to Ian and Layna, who are introducing innovative ways to engage with children.
 - The result was worship in a different way and Paul was proud of the quality that has been achieved.
 - Jo Venn thanked Paul for all his work.
-
- Going forward, one of the challenges facing the Parish Leadership Team and the P.C.C. will be to rebuild church communities.
 - Some parishioners have drifted away and there is a need to reach out to them.
-
- In terms of finances, Manchester Diocese has a £3 million deficit, although they have received £1.2 million extra from the Church Commissioners to help. The Rector emphasised that therefore there is a real need for us to pay the parish share if at all possible.

11. Matters of general parochial interest

There were no matters raised.

12. Notices and thanks from the chair

Paul extended a welcome to Ian and Layna Fleming and thanked the clergy and reader team.

A: Archdeacons Visitation: via Zoom for Church Wardens only this year.
Dates still to be confirmed.

B: Next P.C.C.: 7.30 pm by Zoom on Monday 9th November 2020.

12. Closing prayer and Blessing

Paul closed the meeting at 8.35pm with prayer and a blessing.

The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe.

and

Emmanuel Church Centre,

Longsight Road,

Holcombe Brook.

and

St. Mary, Hawkshaw.

In the Deanery of Bury, the Diocese of Manchester.

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December, 2020.

Rector:

The Rev'd. Paul H. Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury.
BL8 4JN.

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Honorary Treasurer: David Lomax.

Gift Aid Coordinator: Judith Horrocks.

Independent Examiner: Stuart Moulton.

Annual Report for 2020

Statement:

The P.C.C. of the Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibility for St. Mary, Hawkshaw, Emmanuel Church, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre and Canon Lewis Hall, Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook.

Membership of the P.C.C.:

Members of the P.C.C. are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the P.C.C.:

Incumbent: The Rev'd. Paul Sumsion, *Chairman & Rector*.

Associate Ministers: The Rev'd. Robert. W. Airey.

The Rev'd. Vic. Fletcher.

Curate: Rev'd. Ian Fleming.

Ex Officio Members:

Wardens: Mr. Michael Booth, *from May 2017, (also Reader)*.
Mr. Stephen Newhouse, *from May 2019, (Lay Vice-Chairman of P.C.C.)*.

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

From Emmanuel and Emmanuel Church Centre:

Claire Baggoley and Stephen Newhouse.

From St. Mary's, Hawkshaw: Geraldine Booth and Jean Houghton.

Elected Members:

Fourteen members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, (seven from the congregations of Emmanuel, Holcombe or Emmanuel Church Centre and seven from the congregation of Hawkshaw, St. Mary).

Those elected at the A.P.C.M in October 2020, (lateness due to Covid 19 restrictions) were:

from St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Eric Shortt to November 2020.

Richard Byrom, Jane Fletcher, Penny Hanley, Ethel Houghton, Ruth Sumsion, Stuart Wilkinson and Liz. Webber (from November 2020).

from Emmanuel, Holcombe and Emmanuel Church Centre were:

To November 2020: Heather Ainscough, Gwen Barnes and Linda Jackson.

Jennifer Burton, David Lomax, and Jo Venn.

From November 2020: Michael Burton, with Rosemary Artley and Sheila Partridge co-opted November 2020, (with one vacancy).

Readers and Deputy Wardens are not ex officio members of the P.C.C., but are able to stand for election at the A.P.C.M.

Readers:

Mr. Michael Booth, *(also Warden)*.
Mr. Michael Burton, *(also Deputy Warden and elected to P.C.C.)*.
Mr. Richard Byrom, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher, *(also elected to the P.C.C.)*.

Deputy Church Wardens

Emmanuel Church Holcombe:

Michael Burton and Susan Nuttall *from October 2020*,

Emmanuel Church Centre:

Gwen Barnes and Jo. Venn.

St. Mary's Hawkshaw:

Richard Byrom and Ray Houghton *from May 2019*.

Structure:

(1) Standing Committee/Leadership Teams:

We are required by law, not only to have a Parochial Church Council, duly elected to represent our parishioners, but also a Standing Committee, which can attend to urgent parish business between P.C.C. meetings, if necessary.

In between P.C.C. meetings the Parish Leadership Team, (of which the Standing Committee is part), Emmanuel, Holcombe Leadership Team, Emmanuel Church Centre Leadership Team and St. Mary, Hawkshaw Leadership Team meet.
Each Leadership Team organises working groups within their own church.

The Parish Leadership Team:

Rev. P. Sumsion, Rev. R. Airey, Barbara Atkin, Michael Booth, Michael Burton, Rev. Vic. Fletcher, Ethel Houghton, David Lomax, Stephen Newhouse, Jo Venn and Rev'd Ian Fletcher (from July 2020).

Emmanuel Holcombe Team Report 2020

As will no doubt be repeated elsewhere in the Annual Report and Yearbook . . . 2020 was a strange year!

The Emmanuel, Holcombe Team met in February, but were unable to meet again in person at all during the year. We did however, meet several times via Zoom.

Of course most of the planned activities and some minor building work did not take place.

Covid 19 Restrictions

- When the first lockdown was imposed the building did not hold any services after the 15th March until 12th July. We then held regular services each Sunday until 1st November when further restrictions meant services were again suspended. We were able to resume services from 6th December and managed to have two Carol Services, (socially distanced) and a Crib Service attended by 23 adults and 8 children, with Services taking place until 10th January 2021 when another lockdown resulted in the P.C.C. deciding to suspend services once more.
- Each time we re-opened there was much work done in preparation with Risk Assessments, one way systems, hand sanitising stations, signage and “socially distanced” seating.

- The choir were able to pre-record some items for the regular Choral Evensong and Compline services which we started online in June.

Building work

Our plans for building work were put to the DAC and eventually we got some feedback, (due to the DAC not meeting formally until quite late in the year).

The feedback generally supported our plans, but included suggestions and required clarification of some areas of the work, resulting in some changes to plan drawings. The updated plans will be submitted in 2021.

In October, a regular service to the clock identified a fault with the striking mechanism requiring urgent remedial work. We were fortunate to receive two generous donations which met the cost in full.

Our thanks go to the numerous people who offer their time, skills, advice and support to all of the work at Emmanuel, Holcombe. We are extremely grateful.

Stephen Newhouse

Membership:

*Rev. Paul Sumsion, Rev. Robert Airey,
Claire Baggoley, Jennifer Burton,
Michael Burton and Stephen Newhouse.*

Emanuel Church Centre Team Report 2020

The buildings might be closed, but the church is open. This has been true of us for the majority of the year. We have not managed to have any bookings or meetings and all groups and organisations that have met here have had to be suspended meetings or have met via Zoom.

We did open, when able to, during July and August and at odd weeks for private prayer, which was welcomed. We also had one Thursday Communion which was Covid safe and 13 people attended. In December we were open and even had our Carol Service whilst humming the traditional Carols in a decorated church with the usual Advent wreath and crib.

On the other hand, the Reflective Garden has come into its own and many people, of all ages, have found rest and solace here as well as using it as a place to meet in the open air with others. Barbara, Stephen, Christine and others have gone there independently to continue to maintain the garden and keep it looking nice for us all. The Dundee Lane Art group met there socially distanced to paint. In November there was an open air Remembering event which was a moving occasion.

Inside the improvements and maintenance have continued with the toilets and "PAIS" room being painted and work on the emergency lighting and alarms and doors taking place. Thanks to John Partridge for his ongoing work and to Tony Bliss for keeping it clean.

We hope that it will not be long before we are worshipping at the centre again.

Jo Venn

Membership: *Rev. Paul Sumsion, Gwen Barnes, Geoff Clare, Alan Goldsmith, Ann Milius, John Partridge, Alex Percy, Romey Simpson and Jo Venn,*

St. Mary, Hawkshaw Team Report 2020

No Report Received

Fabric Report 2020

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic much of the work planned for the buildings has been delayed. The general condition of all three buildings is however satisfactory and where there are defects and problems they are being noted and remedied. Much work has been done in making the buildings Covid safe, including the drawing up a comprehensive Risk Assessments, devising one way systems, spacing seating, provision of sanitiser etc.

Emmanuel Church, Holcombe

The plans for work within the building have developed further this year. Detailed plans have been drawn up by our architect and submitted to the D.A.C. However due to the pandemic the D.A.C. has not met very often. Feedback was eventually received generally supporting our plans, but requiring clarification of some areas of work, resulting in some changes to plan drawings and plans will be submitted in 2021. The yearly inspection of the tower clock identified a problem with the striking mechanism requiring urgent remedial work. We were fortunate to receive two generous donations which met the cost in full.

Emmanuel Church Centre

The building and surrounding gardens are in a generally good state of repair, due in no small part to the dedicated work of volunteers, which has continued, (socially distanced) during the pandemic. Unfortunately no working parties were possible this year.

Following a Fire Inspection and subsequent Risk Assessment quite a number of items were raised needing our attention. Some of the remedial work was undertaken by John Partridge and Stephen Newhouse, but work to the emergency lighting and alarm systems was undertaken professionally. We were fortunate to receive substantial donations which covered the full cost of the professional

work. During lockdown the toilets and “PAIS room” were re-painted. The fencing to the side the building had to be replaced, (work undertaken by Stephen and Barbara). The material costs were covered by monies in the Garden Fund. Thanks to all who work tirelessly on the building and garden.

St Mary's, Hawkshaw

The church and grounds are in good order, with no significant problems – just a loose slate or two to secure. During 2020 we were making good progress with plans for a new kitchen and toilets, before the first Covid lockdown enforced a halt. Instead we have done risk assessments to reopen the building for worship and worked on facilities for live streaming worship.

We are very grateful to Eric Shortt for his work in maintaining the grounds. As we approached Christmas we were able to join in with Hawkshaw village lights, erecting lights and silhouettes that told some of the Christmas story. Thanks to all who contributed to that project. Re-pointing the boundary wall, building a kitchen, replacing the heating system and upgrading the toilets are all plans that we need to work on for the future.

General Comments

We thank everyone who works quietly behind the scenes, (even during the three Lockdowns), cleaning, washing the linen, cleaning the brass and silver, flower arranging or sound, PA and streaming technicians, Deputy Wardens and last, but not least, the sidemen and women who play such an important role in welcoming people to our services.

The practical help and financial assistance of many people continues to play a major part in the care of the buildings, and our grateful thanks go to everyone who has contributed in any way.

*Michael Booth, Stephen Newhouse.
Churchwardens March 2021*

P.C.C. Review of the Year 2020

Unsurprisingly, 2020 turned out to be an unusual year for the P.C.C.

We met six times throughout the year, the first two 'in the flesh' and the remainder via Zoom, with an average of 16 members attending each meeting. Many of the plans made during the previous year had to be abandoned or put on hold, and new plans were devised, amended and occasionally superseded by yet newer plans. However, the mission and function of the P.C.C. remained unchanged, albeit subject to a new timescale.

Due to the uncertainty of the constantly changing picture, and the need to respond appropriately to new government regulations, the Parish Leadership Team met via Zoom on a 2-weekly basis from the end of March to take any urgent decisions on behalf of the P.C.C.

During the year the following matters were addressed:

FINANCE:

We were made aware by Manchester Diocese that, exacerbated by the pandemic, their financial position was grave and that they were looking to parishes to pay as much of their parish shares as possible. To this end, and despite the turmoil of the last year, the P.C.C. was able to meet our parish share commitment in full.

With people staying away from our church buildings there were very few cash

donations on the plates each week. There was therefore a drive to encourage parishioners to move from using envelopes and cash donations to paying their offering directly into the bank. We also introduced a "giving button" on the parish website. With income from hire charges vastly reduced, particularly at the E.C.C. and also continuing to pay the wages of our caretaker and Paul's admin assistant, we came through the year financially intact. There were of course savings on energy bills plus the reimbursement of Gift Aid, but the P.C.C. approved expenditure on technical equipment for streaming services and various amounts towards mission and outreach such as books for schools.

Stuart Moulton from St. Anne's Tottington was appointed as Independent Examiner for the parish accounts.

SERVICES:

At the end of March our church buildings were closed for the first lockdown. Worship moved online with the Sumsion family providing the music and members of the church contributing virtually and remotely. As restrictions relaxed in summer, so our churches were able to open again, incorporating a Covid-secure version of Holy Communion, while also retaining the online services.

Our priority as a P.C.C. was to protect the congregation, keeping our buildings safe and enabling social distancing. Whilst every effort was made to provide as fulfilling an experience as possible, the number of people attending worship in person was low. However, the online services would appear to have been

widely viewed with DVDs provided for those without internet access.

A survey was conducted to ascertain the views of church members, to gauge levels of confidence with regard to a return to church and to invite comments on the online provision etc.

In the Autumn the decision was made to live-stream morning worship from Hawkshaw church and to continue to retain this facility into the future with the hope that a wider cohort of people, for whom church attendance may be inconvenient or unfamiliar, would be drawn into God's kingdom.

Christmas Carol Services were held in all three centres using a booking system, with the congregation only able to listen to carols rather than sing. However, one service took place outside at Hawkshaw allowing for congregational singing.

MISSION:

We started the year providing meals to the night shelter at the Bethany Project in Bury, but fortunately (before the funding for the project came to an end), as a result of lockdown in March, accommodation was found for many of the homeless and our help was no longer needed. Light in the darkness!

The visit of four students from Capernwray Bible College in February was a great success and the confidence, maturity and faith they demonstrated, both as individuals and as a team, was inspiring.

However so many plans for mission during 2020 had to be cancelled or cut short. The plan for Experience Easter was

axed, as was the Sumsion family's mission with Tearfund in Malawi due to take place in August. Having signed up to TGL Make Lunch project, training for this was due to take place and it was our intention to provide lunches along with activities and bible stories at E.C.C. in place of our usual holiday club. Sadly this was unable to go ahead.

PASTORAL CARE:

The Covid pandemic left many of our more elderly members in a vulnerable position and great efforts were made, particularly by our pastoral care team, to keep in regular contact and give support where needed. For those unable to access online worship DVD's were distributed, as were hard copies of the magazine, and soup and cakes etc. were delivered to several people who were shielding. Pastoral cards were distributed throughout the parish and Wiltshire Farms Christmas dinners provided to those who would normally attend the CTR Christmas lunch at E.C.C.

CURATE:

During the year the P.C.C. welcomed Ian Fleming and his wife Layna to the parish. The property in Fernview Drive was not vacated in time for their arrival, but they were able to move into St. Paul's Vicarage in Ramsbottom. Ian's ordination took place in Bolton Parish Church in September.

SCHOOLS:

During February St. Mary's School celebrated its 150th anniversary and the parish presented staff, governors and dignitaries with commemorative mugs. Plans to create an Experience Easter mission at the three centres had to be

abandoned due to Covid restrictions. Maxine Lomax and Paul stepped down as joint chair of governors at St Mary's School. They were replaced by Ned Solanki, who was recommended by the Diocese. The P.C.C. approved various other appointments to the governing bodies at both St. Mary's and Holcombe schools, including Ian Fleming's appointment at Holcombe and Ian Smart, Methodist Minister, at St Mary's.

PATRONAGE:

During the year the patronage of St. Mary's Church, Hawkshaw was transferred from the Whowell family, following the death of Fred Whowell, to be shared between CPAS and the Rector of Bury.

READER MINISTRY:

In July the P.C.C. endorsed Jo Sumsion's application to undertake training for Reader Ministry.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Several events that had been planned at the beginning of 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Others were able to go ahead via Zoom such as the Tearfund quiz and Christmas Words and Music.

*Penny Hanley,
P.C.C. Secretary*

Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust

Offering help to those in need. Charity No. 504625

Report for the Bridge, Bentley and Ramsbottom Trust for 2020.

The work of the Trust has continued during the year with Trustees actively looking for ways to help those in need. Please read the promotional information below and if we can help anyone in need please let them know about the Trust.

- The Expenditure for the year was £4981. Grants were awarded in the following ways:
(-) 'One off' book grants to University students, (17) Welfare, (1) Educational.

The Bridge, Bentley, Ramsbottom Trust was created as an amalgamation of the John T. Bridge and three other smaller charitable trusts in 2002.

Small grants available for all ages

Do you, or anyone you know,
live within three miles of
Emmanuel Church, Holcombe
or live within the Bury Deanery?

Struggling to pay for a much
needed item, e.g. Stair lift,
walking frame, specially adapted
prams, etc.?

We have helped families
with school uniform costs.

We can help with the cost of
training courses.

We can help with Further
and Higher Educational one
off grants for:
books/equipment, field trips,
travel costs, etc.

Can we make life a little
easier? Let us know if you
are in need.

The Bridge Bentley Ramsbottom Trust has small grants available to those in need living within a three mile radius of Emmanuel, Holcombe Church, Holcombe or those living within the Bury Deanery as defined on 1st January 2020.

**The five Trustees treat each application in strictest confidence.
Applications are welcomed from people of any faith or none.**

All correspondence to:

The Secretary, Mrs. B .A. Newhouse, 21 Robert Street, Stubbins, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancs. BL0 0NQ

Email: banew@sky.com

Website www.bbrtrust.co.uk

The Rector's Report
will be given verbally at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on the 24th May

The Diocese of Manchester, the Deanery of Bury Synod Report 2020

The meetings of Synod gives representatives valuable opportunities to meet and discuss matters with members of other parishes across the deanery. Each parish is entitled to representation according to their size.

Our Electoral Roll number entitled us to four members..

The Deanery Synod met three times this year:

In January we met for a special meeting at All Saint's, Elton to discuss the proposed changes to the structure of the deaneries. The deaneries had been consulted on the proposed changes to the setup of the deaneries in 2019, (reported last year). Those plans are now going ahead, with the existing twenty deaneries being combined into seven new, larger deaneries. The Bury, Rossendale and Radcliffe and Prestwich deaneries will form ONE deanery with ONE Area Dean. Plans to implement the changes by January 2021 were held up due to the pandemic, but should now be in place by summer 2021, with Area Deans appointed by June 2021.

In February we met at St. John's with St. Marks with Gordon Clark, Bury Debt Centre Manager for Christians Against Poverty (CAP). He gave a clear and insightful presentation into the work,

processes and ethos of CAP, and the particular debt work currently being developed in Bury, with a mix of engaging video clips and a PowerPoint presentation. He encouraged churches to consider how our churches and parishes might work with CAP, in referrals, in supporting their work as partner churches, and through prayer. Above all, he emphasised the opportunities for Christian witness and ministry through the work of CAP, and the high regard with which it is held in the wider public consciousness, for example by the media financial expert Martin Lewis.

At the **Zoom meeting in November** the briefing document: "Transforming Manchester Diocese – Proposals for Mission Communities", was introduced and discussed and showed Parishes being grouped together in Mission Communities.

Each Mission Community would:

“ • have a missional leader • who is ministering and working with a diverse team with a range of skills • made up of a number of other stipendiary posts • and other named focal leaders, including lay leaders, readers and self-supporting ordained ministers • who are all supporting multiple congregations • and a variety of expressions and traditions of church • taking place at different times and in different venues and also virtually • which are attractive to a wide range of people of all ages – young children and their parents, and young adults, as well as older

people • all accountable to each other as well as their local congregations • all sharing resources • and all working to encourage and support our church members in deepening and sharing their faith • as well as engaging with key local partners – interfaith, ecumenical, schools and social action. • Priority will be given to collaborative working... • ...and multiple places, contexts, styles and traditions of worship”

Clergy, P.C.C.’s, Wardens and congregations will be consulted with implementation in the second half of 2021.

*Claire Baggoley, Geraldine Booth, Jean Houghton and Stephen Newhouse.
March 2021*

Safeguarding Report 2020

Since writing my report last year, the world around us has changed beyond belief. The church has been unable to run any of the children's groups that are usually offered, which means that the church has had much less contact with the children who are usually seen during the year. Unfortunately, abuse involving children and vulnerable adults will have continued, and at a much higher level than during 'normal' times. For many children, school and out of school clubs and activities are a safe environment for them to be in and sadly, many children much prefer these places to their own homes. However, these have been restricted or unavailable, which means that many signs of abuse will not have been picked up on. Cases of domestic abuse have also increased massively during this time, and children are often caught up in this too.

It will therefore be even more important, once we are able safely to run our groups again, that everyone involved is aware of what to look for and what must happen should a child choose to disclose to you. Where appropriate please take this time to review your training, look up online refresher courses and feel confident in the steps that you would take. Having a child disclose to you is a privilege as it shows that you are someone that the child feels safe with and able to help them. The steps that you take need to be the correct ones, so that the matter can be dealt with appropriately.

Please don't think that abuse doesn't happen here, because it can happen

anywhere, and any concerns, however minor they may seem, must be documented and reported to me. It could be a small part in a puzzle that adds significantly to the bigger picture.

A yearly reminder to all group leaders, please remember that any new volunteers must be DBS checked before commencing work on a regular basis, so please contact me to arrange this at elaine.allum@btinternet.com.

As always, thank you to all our volunteers that work around the parish with both children and adults, because your care and attention can and does help to make sure we are there to provide support where needed.

Elaine Allum
17th February 2021

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) meeting held on 15th March 2021 .

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (P.S.O.) to work with the incumbent and the P.C.C. to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (D.S.A.) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mrs. Elaine Allum as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: *Reverend Paul Sumsion.*

Churchwardens: *Mr. Michael Booth & Mr. Stephen Newhouse.*

Date: 15th March 2021

Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended
31st December, 2020.

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2020			
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	57,138.37		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	5,805.24		
One off Gift Aid	3,446.20		
Cash/Collections	5,388.50		
Income tax recovered	21,081.12		
Fund Raising Events	1,621.95		
Magazine	481.85		
Use of Church Buildings	1,874.50		
		<u>96,837.73</u>	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	53.36		
Fees to P.C.C.	9,192.00		
(includes £3,207.40 fees paid to Diocese)		9,245.36	106,083.09
			<u>114,897.73</u>
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	8,281.64		
Refunds	270.00		
Special Appeals	263.00		
		<u>8,814.64</u>	<u>114,897.73</u>
Total Income 2020			<u><u>114,897.73</u></u>
Income 2019			125,971.53

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	6,089.38		
Support & Education	1,566.60		
		7,655.98	
The Church and Services			
Energy	9,181.31		
Water	288.85		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,292.78		
Upkeep of Services	3,882.74		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	9,266.70		
Churchyard	1,234.20		
		31,146.58	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	9,682.56		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	0.00		
Verger/Organist	235.00		
		9,917.56	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	47,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	4,994.00		
		51,994.00	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	4,187.00		
		4,187.00	104,901.12
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Garden	315.43		
ECC	1,800.00		
Holcombe Church			
Hawkshaw			
Hawkshaw Heating			
Holcombe Organ			
		2,115.43	107,016.55
Total Cash Expenditure 2020			107,016.55
Expenditure 2019			137,140.57

YEAR END STATEMENT 2020

Bank Balances 31 December 2020	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	44,958.48
Direct Giving Accounts	13,797.28
Restricted Funds Account	820.53
Cash	-
	<hr/> 59,576.29
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> 59,576.29 <hr/>
 Restricted/Designated Funds	
Gardening (ECC)	147.37
ECC	-
Holcombe	29,472.99
Hawkshaw	-
Hawkshaw Heating	23,750.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<hr/> 55,302.00 <hr/>
 Working Balance	 4,274.29

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Balance 31/12/2019	Balance 31/12/2020
Santander	364.21	310.55
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	986.63	995.51
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	43,103.03	44,958.48
Direct Giving Acc	6,940.64	13,797.28
Restricted Acc	819.79	820.53
Cash Not banked	831.65	-
	53045.95	60882.35
Less Cheques unpresented	0.00	0.00
	53045.95	60882.35
TOTALS	53045.95	60882.35

Yearbook

2020

Social Liaison Group Report 2020

The Group only commits to organising **ONE** event at each centre of worship each year. However many other events are usually organised by others throughout the parish.

Plans for 2020 announced in last year's report were mostly postponed. This year, however a few "Virtual Social events" did take place :

Tearfund Big Quiz: Held on 1st November via Zoom . We had a great evening, enjoying each other's company and the quiz questions, as well as a video update on some of Tearfund's work.

Words and Music for Christmas: 12th December - A small band of volunteers managed to put together an enjoyable evening via Zoom. Most contributions were pre-recorded, (observing social distancing), in front of a green screen with appropriate backgrounds added later. Our thanks particularly go to Sheila Partridge for keeping us all in line and organising the "safe" recording schedule.

We hope to be able to start events sometime in 2021.

Membership:

*Gwen Barnes, Geraldine Booth,
Michael Booth, Jennifer Burton,
Stephen Newhouse, Sheila Partridge,
and Dot Yardley.*

Soup Company



Normally, we have eleven meetings of the Soup Company in a year, with the opportunity for over 20 people to meet to enjoy a variety of soups and cakes, as well as chance to chat. This year it has been different.

We have still managed to make soup and deliver to, on average, 16 people who normally come to Soup Company or who used to have it delivered or live on their own. Instead of being once a month it has been delivered every Tuesday apart from the month of August. The recipients have been given cake, a card with a message, as well as soup in a jar and news of each other exchanged.

Thank you to Romey, Jenny and Annette for their culinary skills.
If you know of anyone who would like to receive soup even after we start up again please contact Jo on 07921517063 or 01204 885653.

Jo. Venn.

A year of three parts.

It has been a year of three parts. Initial lockdown, full reopening, and more recently the partial closure of school. It has been the most challenging and uncertain year for pupils, families and staff.

We have managed to respond to the ever changing national guidance keeping our whole community safe. We have needed to excel at being adaptable and flexible. We have worked together as a school family team feeling totally supported by our new Chair of Governors Ned Solanki MBE.

The task of delivering high quality face to face teaching alongside remote teaching for 2 year groups has been extremely demanding for the teachers. This has been needed when children were off school during the Autumn Term and during the Spring Term partial closure. During the first lockdown we provided childcare for ten children per day. Since January we have been teaching 50 pupils in school as children of critical workers or identified vulnerable children.

So many school events were adapted. We had a memorable outdoor leavers' service and a pre-recorded Nativity. As we couldn't offer a totally safe Open Day we created a virtual tour for the website. Mr. Butt received an Oscar for his exceptional directing skills! Please take a look on our school website

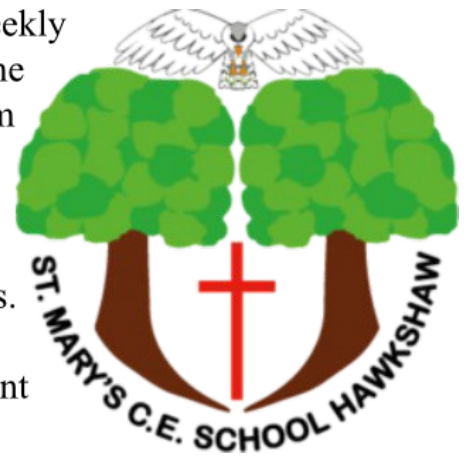
www.stmaryshawkshaw.com.

We had to think creatively during the Autumn Term to ensure we still shared fun and celebrated key events in the religious calendar. The four Advent services were led by each class and then shared on ClassDojo. Celebration assemblies

happened weekly throughout the Autumn Term with the public presentation of certificates.

We became quite confident in delivering whole school Zoom assemblies which became the highlight of my week!

As Father Christmas was unavailable for visits he sent a personalised video. Later that day his two cheeky elves appeared with gifts for everyone.



Over this difficult 12 months we have got to know parents more intimately, strengthening our relationship with families. The ClassDojo allowed parents and teachers to exchange messages and photos directly throughout everyday. We will continue to build on these positive relationships as we look forward to more predictable times ahead.

*Geraldine Woodward
Head Teacher.*

2020

An unusual year

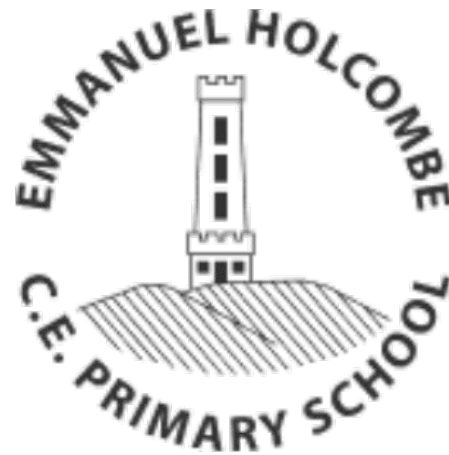
This has been a very unusual year for us all. When we first closed our doors to all but key workers and vulnerable children back in March 2020, we thought it would be for a few weeks. We didn't expect to still be offering remote education almost a year later.

From September 2019, staff were beginning to look at the benefits of using an online learning programme called Seesaw to share and record learning at school and at home. However it was still a very steep learning curve when all learning went online in March. Thankfully, Mrs. Clough is an ambassador for Seesaw and was able to deliver regular training to up skill all staff. Due to this, we were able to offer direct teaching on a daily basis with children able to send work back to their teacher. It enabled us to maintain a good relationship with children and families over the first lockdown.

Staff's willingness to open over the Easter holidays and the half term created a great team feeling and it is a pleasure to work with such caring and dedicated staff.

We were also able to complete a significant amount of work on the land at the back of school which has created three learning areas, a mud kitchen, a water kitchen, sandpits and a fairy garden. The children love exploring and playing in these new areas.

As we welcomed more and more children back to school over the summer term, we made full use of our amazing



local area with the children enjoying daily walks to see the llamas, climb up to Peel Tower and some classes even managed to make it to Pilgrims Cross.

On the last day of the summer term, we enjoyed a socially distanced afternoon tea in the playground with gazebos, bunting and fresh flowers to say farewell to Mrs. Clark after 17 years of service at Emmanuel Holcombe. It was lovely to see so many parents, governors and members of the community celebrate with us and clap Mrs. Clark out of school.

Our return to school in September saw us embrace our recovery curriculum for the first two weeks. We enjoyed walks on the moors and to the woods, focused on sharing feelings and emotions and held class birthday parties to celebrate all those who had had a birthday in lockdown. This allowed all to rebuild relationships, promote wellbeing, celebrate being back together and enjoy each other's company.

Although it was lovely to have school reopen to all children, school life was very different from normal. Words that were not normally used became part of normal conversation such as bubbles, furlough, self-isolate and quarantine. We would 'lose bubbles' for two weeks at a time with staff, children and parents switching back to online learning. Strict timetables of playtimes, moving in the corridors and even staff room seating were implemented

and we continued to miss our regular visitors in school to work with the children as only allowed essential staff were allowed in school.

We were able to adapt many of our Christmas celebrations with our youngest children – Acorn class- producing the nativity story and Willow, (year 1 and 2 children) entertaining us with a different version of the nativity- ‘No Room’. These were recorded and sent out to families to enjoy. We shared our handmade Christmas cards with members of the local community and received many lovely messages of thanks. Our Christmas dinner, class parties and a virtual visit from Father Christmas all helped to put us in the festive mood.

We said farewell to Mrs. Jude and Miss Green at Christmas and welcomed Mrs. Hannah Bulmer and Mrs. Hughes to the team. Despite having only one day, (4th January) with all the children, both staff are settling in well.

Another lockdown has seen us returning to online learning whilst caring for children in school although it has enabled us to dedicate time to sorting and organising different areas and allowed Mrs. Dearden time to finish off the amazing paintings she had started during the last lockdown and create new art work in the library.

We are really looking forward to being able to welcome everyone back into school soon and if you would like to become more involved in the life of the school, please do get in touch.

Catherine Bennett
Head teacher

Porch project



Despite the pandemic, we have still managed to donate bags of food each week to the Porch Project who have needed our donations more than ever this year.

Thank you to the children from Emmanuel School who brought in goods as part of their Harvest Thanksgiving and all who have donated money for this worthy cause, either on line or to buy food each week. It is delivered to Greenheys Crescent where there is a “Covid secure” plastic box to receive it all.

Jo Venn

Mothers' UNION

Like most of our Church organisations our Branch of the Mother's Union started off the year with high hopes and a full programme of events and visits planned for the year. Then in March, we all came to a halt after our Annual General Meeting.

During the year members have been in regular contact with each other by telephone, card, letter and "through the window" visits, although sadly, we lost two of our "Indoor" members, Stella Slater and Betty Forrest.

Some of our members were involved in knitting and sewing for various charities and Norma Blackshaw's skills were highlighted in our Diocesan Newsletter during the year. We also managed to send donations to the, "Make a Mothers Day" and the, "Away from it all" charities organised by the national and diocesan Mother's Union. The diocesan office also supported us by organising events online for members who were able to access them.

Our Christmas Eve "Crib Service" had a very different feel with Ian, our Curate, organising several "volunteers" to be interviewed as characters from the Christmas story with family members coming dressed as their favourite character, but not, unfortunately, able to gather around the Crib as we have done in previous years.

Hopefully as we move through Spring into Summer, we will be able to meet again and resume our meetings in perhaps a different form.

Robert Airey.

Drop In

This report will be brief; like so many other organisations our meetings were curtailed a year ago and, as yet, we cannot offer a date when we might resume.



Many have missed the regular Monday morning get-togethers, but safety must be our priority.

Hopefully the efficiency of the vaccine and the steady numbers receiving its protection will afford all of us more freedom before long.

Meantime best wishes to all our members – keep in touch with one another!

When we are permitted we will be open throughout the year each Monday and all are welcome for friendship, fellowship and of course tea, coffee and biscuits between 10.00am and 12 noon at Canon Lewis Hall.

God Bless,

Gloria.

Afternoon Fellowship Report 2020

Only five meetings this year:

January 12th -

Members Day
and sales table.

January 27th -

The Kellingtons
film show on
Andorra.

February 10th -

The Pinders film
show USA part 2.

February 24th -

Capenwray students, an
interesting afternoon telling us all
about themselves and their work.

March 9th -

Birthday Celebrations (39 years)
Holcombe Brook Choir came to
entertain us. A lovely afternoon
ending with tea and cake.

Then of course lockdown started.

When we start having meetings again the
group meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays
of the month at 2 o'clock and we are
always pleased to welcome new members.

Please come and join us. If you need more
details contact :---

Mrs. Alex Percy

Tel 01204 888603

Mrs. Pauline Keighley

Tel 01204 884476

Mrs. Ann Milius

Tel 01204 880677



Sizzling Seniors Report.

It has been a very different year for our Sizzlers from what it might have been. Firstly, we lost one of our faithful and much loved members.

Marjorie Worrall died in March 2020, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is greatly missed. She loved her coffee and cake, along with a good chatter with her friends and enjoyed having a go at the crossword.

So with the Pandemic we have not met at all this year, but we have kept in touch with all our regulars. As well as keeping in touch on the phone, along with the rest of the congregation, we have carried out drop off's, to bring a bit of cheer, encouragement and a reminder of God's abiding presence through the difficult time that it has been.

We have dropped off seasonal goody bags for Easter and Christmas with crosswords, Christmas cake or Easter buns, a 'Pause for thought', reflections for Advent and Lent and a new mask expertly made by Paula. They have had chocolate treats, eggs, hearts for Valentine's Day, Afternoon tea in a box in the summer. soup in the winter and various other little goodies all delivered by us the team and keeping safe distancing.

The team has been meeting via Zoom and outside to distribute the goody bags.

Everyone is looking forward to meeting up again as we are too.

Sizzling Seniors Team

Jane, Paula, Ethel, Jen., Paula and Jean.

Emmanuel Holcombe Choir

When I wrote my last report exactly a year ago I was looking forward to returning to church and choir practices after an enforced absence. In fact, I was looking forward to returning to normal life! How ironic!

Church services and choir practices ceased last March, and some members of the choir have been unable to attend either since then, though we have tried to keep in touch with one another.

It was encouraging when services were again permitted last summer, and in the autumn we started to plan recordings of Choral Evensong to be streamed on YouTube. This led to a few socially distanced choir practices combined with recording sessions, and those involved were delighted to be singing in church again. We were even able to provide a small group of robed singers for Stella

Slater's funeral. Our activities were again suspended in November, but we had already begun to plan the Carol Service, so that we could record the remaining items in early December, and two Carol Services took place on December 20th.

Not only that, but the congregation joined in with the singing of the final carol outside the building.

We were ready to record more items for Choral Evensong in January when the next lockdown began, and the P.C.C. decided, with regret, that services should again be discontinued.

By this time, however, several choir members had some experience of Zoom, and a couple of on-line rehearsals had taken place before the Carol Service.



Recording a Hymn



When it became clear that attending services and singing together would be impossible for some time, I decided to restart our weekly practices on Zoom.

This seems to be worthwhile. Our numbers have grown in response to my invitation to others to join us, and we are now practising for longer each week. After warming up our voices we sing some of the hymns suggested for the following Sunday, and we work on the Good Friday music from 'The Cross of Christ'. We hope that our Good Friday service will take place this year, and it is likely to be on Zoom. All being well, there will even be a recording of Naomi's solo. I am also thinking about Easter music.

We are sad that some of our older members are unable to participate in our activities at present, as a result of health

problems, and we send our best wishes to Gwyneth, Richard Carr, Beryl, Doris, Pat, Colin and Hilda. We hope that some of those who are currently absent, may eventually be able to return.

When services resume, I hope that we will fairly soon be able to provide more music for recordings. We are looking forward to meeting again in person. But until we can hold choir practices regularly in church, I shall continue to offer Zoom rehearsals.

My hope is that in six months' time, life will be more normal, and we can plan for more inclusive traditional Christmas services.

Rosemary Artley
3.3.2021

Music at Hawkshaw

2020 has been a year like no other for music at Hawkshaw. On Friday 20th March, we recorded music in church for the first online service to be broadcast on the following Sunday. On Monday 23rd it was announced that church buildings would be closed and we prepared to start recording from home. Despite our combined backgrounds in music and physics, neither of us have trained in sound engineering and the early weeks were a steep learning curve. Paul worked wonders with the new technology, producing sound and video recordings to enable the church community to continue to worship. For the next four months we transformed our lounge into a recording studio on a weekly basis. Ruth, Caleb and Isaac committed many hours to make the recordings for the Sunday 'Web Worship'. We recorded almost 50 songs over the spring and summer.

In September we were allowed to have live music for worship in the church building. It was a very emotional moment

to be able to lead God's people in worship in person for the first time in six months, even if most of the congregation couldn't join in. Again, we benefited from having a family band as we were able to lead the

music without social distancing from each other. We are very grateful to Tim Webber for his participation too, sometimes solo, and other times together with us in a COVID secure way.

Live streaming presented yet more new challenges – creating a balanced sound that was good in the building, but also recorded well for the online congregation. Thanks go to the AV and streaming team – Michael, David, Stuart and Rob – who continue to work behind the scenes each week.



First "On-line" service Mothering Sunday 22 March



Moving towards Christmas, we were able to contribute towards the parish online carol service. Ruth, Isaac, Caleb and Eddie Slattery formed a brass quartet which, along with Tim, recorded the backings for the carols. Our wonderful group of singers were then able to come and sing, socially distanced, along to our pre-recorded tracks. Many thanks to Tim for the music editing and Paul for the video editing.

It was with great delight that we received the news just before Christmas that singing would be allowed outdoors. On a cold Sunday evening, we gathered outside church and in the school playground for a service telling the story of Christmas through carols. Thanks again to Ruth, Caleb and Isaac for accompanying the carols.

During the week before Christmas, we were also able to bless the neighbourhood with some socially distanced carol singing. Thank you to everyone who took part.

We don't know what 2021 will bring for music in church, or when we will be able to worship together without restrictions, but my prayer for us all, in the words of Psalm 96, is that we will:

- '1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all
peoples'.

Amen!

*Jo Sumsion
February 2021*

2020 started off in the usual way, with the team going into Holcombe Brook Primary School presenting assemblies by acting out Bible stories each Tuesday morning.

In mid-March we were advised not to go into schools to protect ourselves. Then the week after, the schools had to close and we were in lockdown!

Nothing happened then until during the summer holidays when Stephen and Barbara experimented, recording a Bible Story (Noah), using a green screen, so that different backgrounds could be inserted and only using a Narrator and a Storyteller.

It worked very well, so we decided to record the stories using any members who were happy to go to the Church Centre, socially distanced of course! We drew up a timetable for the various volunteers, so that a minimum number of people were involved at any one time. Over two mornings, we were able to cover enough stories to take us up to Christmas.

Stephen took the recordings away and found some wonderful illustrations to use as backgrounds. They were then circulated, weekly, to Holcombe Brook, Holcombe and Hawkshaw Schools. He also included them on the weekly Parish Update.

Stephen and Barbara experimented again before Christmas, with the pair of them acting out different characters in a story. Stephen used his technical wizardry to mix and match the clips to produce a



wonderful performance of the “Angel’s visit to Mary and Joseph”. This was sent to the schools and was included in the “Words and Music” evening.

All of the children in our three schools received a copy of “It Begins in Bethlehem” a Nativity Rhyme for Christmastime produced by the Bible Society.

We have had some super feedback from the schools showing that our assemblies really are appreciated. We have also had requests from Wigan Authority and Blackburn Diocese and they are also sharing our stories, our message is spreading!!

Many thanks to Stephen for all the time and expertise he has used producing the stories and circulating them.

We are looking forward to the time when we can have our weekly meetings- we have all been missing the good fellowship and fun!

Sheila Partridge

19th Ramsbottom Brownies



The very weekend, back in March, when we were about to start a series of six organised weekend rambles, everything came to a full stop! The Brownies have not met in person since.

However, there is hope - we are really enjoying Zoom virtual meetings. We have laughed, learnt and enjoyed jokes and activities. There are positive firsts for us as well!

- First online meeting
- First virtual Christmas party.
- First 'Zoom' sock puppet show.
- The most wonderful First is that two new Brownies made their promises online.

It is really wonderful news that we are still recruiting. Sadly, however, during lockdown several of our girls moved on to Guides, without us being able to see them in person to wish them well.

Positivity, that is what we are keeping in mind and we shall be back sometime in 2021, offering our normal face to face Brownie activities and enjoying each others company.

Brown Owl: Julie Smith

Tawny Owl: Barbara Newhouse

Snowy Owl: Janet Halliwell



Cellar and Youth at Hawkshaw

Early in 2020 we were blessed with a visit by a small team from Capernwray Bible College. They did school assemblies, lunch clubs and RE lessons at St Mary's and Emmanuel, they led Sunday School and Pathfinders. They helped at Cellar and took our Sunday services. They spent the Friday evening with the older youth, joining in with our Bible study, completing an 'Escape Room' and eating pizza and ice-cream at the Vicarage.

Cellar, Pathfinders and the youth Bible study met as usual until the Government's 'stay at home' message on 16th March. Youth groups have not been permitted to meet face to face at any point since then under the various local restrictions we have been under.

Over Easter we signposted parents to various resources from Youth for Christ and Scripture Union.



In July we met virtually with the Year 6's for a Question and Answer session about moving up to secondary school. Thanks to Ruth, Caleb and Isaac for fielding the many and various questions raised.

We do hope that 2021 will see a return to youth groups meeting in person. Until then, we have begun to meet on Zoom.

As always, a big thank you to all our leaders – we couldn't do it without you. A special thank you to Mandi Tomkinson who, after 6 years of leading Pathfinders, is moving on to serve the church in new ways.

*Jo Sumsion
February 2021*

Children's Work 2020

Our Sunday School at Hawkshaw Church ran as usual until the end of

March, when churches across the UK closed. At this point there wasn't much we could do to engage with our little ones and no-one would have known at that time just how long it would be before we would see them again!

When it became clear that Holiday Club would not be taking place either, Paul, Jo and I got together to hatch a new plan. We decided to put together some puppet shows and crafts, all accessed via YouTube. In order to comply with social distancing measures the Sumsion family made an excellent team of puppeteers with me keeping back behind the camera. Over four weeks at the end of July / beginning of August we reprised the story of Daniel. This was backed up with crafts, (mostly centred around lions!), which were made up into craft packs and delivered each week. Ian and Layna helped me make some YouTube videos demonstrating how to make each craft. Considering we hadn't seen any children

for months, the take up was very healthy with about 35 packs requested each week. After that, we filmed a few more puppet shows to use in morning services, including a set of four Christmas stories.

Even once we were able to open the churches up again for Sunday worship, Sunday School was still not permitted. There was also little scope for making worship family-friendly with an



imperative to sit still and keep 2 metres apart. So we introduced activity packs at Hawkshaw church with colouring, puzzles, word searches, stories etc., to help children participate in the services. These have proved popular with the

few families who have ventured back into the building.

Please pray for our families during this difficult time. We look forward to rebuilding relationships and beginning new ones, helping our precious children come to know and love Jesus.

Penny Hanley.

Hall Things Bright and Beautiful 2020.

Nature never stops!

Even though we have been restricted, the garden has not.

The bulbs still delighted us, flowers still bloomed, trees grew their leaves, grass needed cutting etc., etc.,

It has been good to have somewhere to go as part of daily exercise, to sit or to work, to be quiet or to let off steam – so glad the garden is there for everyone – so many people have used it.

Waiting for the cycle to start again now! No stopping nature.

Thank you to everyone for your continued donations in any shape or form towards the maintenance and enhancement of the garden. We are very grateful.

*Barbara Newhouse,
For the Hall Things Bright
and Beautiful Team*





11th Ramsbottom (Holcombe) Guides Annual Report 2020

We finished last year's report saying: "we are all now looking forward to the challenges and activities that lie ahead this year". Little did we know that shortly after the report was written, all face-to-face Guide meetings would be suspended by Girlguiding UK due to COVID-19.

Initially, we kept in touch with the Guides via their parents with weekly texts. Then we moved onto our "Holcombe Guides WhatsApp Group". Again, weekly messages were sent along with badge work, and "Adventures at Home" activities from Girlguiding UK. We also sent photographs from previous years asking the Guides "do you remember this"?

In September, thanks to a partnership agreement between Girlguiding and Zoom we applied for and were awarded a Zoom Pro Account. So, on the 2nd October, 2020 we held our very first virtual Guide meeting via Zoom. It was strange at first and a very steep learning curve for the

leaders!!! Our weekly Zoom meetings have been very varied, including scavenger hunts, quizzes, bingo, craft activities, BBC Children in Need Theme Night, Halloween Theme evening, we all made a cake in a mug, compass points drawings, Charades, Pictionary, exercise session and much more!! Parents even joined us briefly one evening, to present badges to their daughters gained prior to the lockdown.

We have tried to maintain some normality by holding our virtual meetings on Friday evenings' starting at the same time and the girls wear their uniform. We all know it's such a difficult time. The girls are enthusiastic and are enjoying seeing each other, (originally, we had planned for the meetings to last between 30 – 40 minutes, but now they regularly go on for an hour!!). The Zoom Meetings are scheduled to continue until the 21st May, 2021 and we do know that a few of the older guides are planning to move on. With numbers quite low already, we will just have to wait and see what happens next!!

*Kathryn Fry
Janet Howarth
(Guiders).*

Traveller's (Adult and Toddler Group)

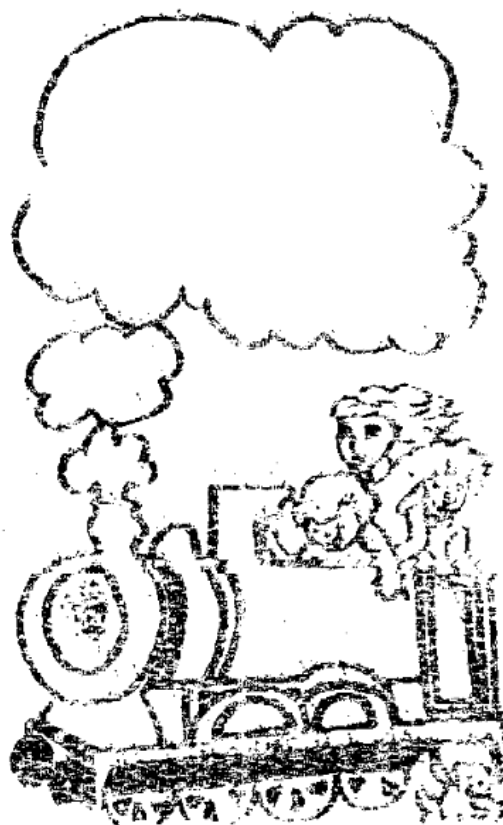
Annual Report (March 2020 – February 2021)

Usually we have so much to tell you about our previous year at “Traveller’s”, though this has now changed because of COVID 19.

We thought we were well prepared for the virus because weeks before we were asking people to wash their hands on arrival. We reviewed the refreshments and which toys were put out. Then at the end of the afternoon we wiped down all the toys along with door handles etc. Sadly, at that time no one could have possibly realised the true extent of the virus. The National lockdown followed and we were forced to close our doors on Wednesday 18th March, 2020.

Like many other playgroups we have been unable to re-open since then. We have managed to keep in touch each term via text with the parents, grandparents and childminders who used to come along each week. So, we have received updates on how everyone is keeping. Young children grow and develop so quickly. In fact one little boy has even started to walk when the last time we saw him he couldn't sit up on his own!

We always like to make a fuss of the children leaving us to start school. Sadly, all we could do this year was to send a



“good luck text”. But what a nice surprise to receive a photograph of one little boy standing very proudly in his new school uniform.

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-open again and continue to run a happy, safe and welcoming Adult and Toddler Group. When this happens please remember to come along and join us on Wednesdays (term time only) from 1.30pm to 3.00pm.

*Kathryn Fry, Julia Grant
& Doris Lockett*

Rector: Rev. Paul Sumsion,
The Vicarage,
Bolton Road,
Hawkshaw,
Bury,
BL8 4JN
01204 888060.



Associate Ministers:

Rev. Robert Airey 01706 224743
Rev. Vic. Fletcher 01204 882750
Curate: Rev. Ian Fleming. 07543213743

Readers: Mr. Michael Burton, 01706 822664.
Mr. Richard Byrom, 01204 883110.
Mr. Michael Booth, 01204 884648.
Mrs. Ethel Houghton 01254 704758.
Mrs. Jane Fletcher 01204 882750.

Church Wardens:

Mr. Stephen Newhouse (Lay Chair P.C.C.).
01706 412657.
Mr. Michael Booth (Reader)
01204 884648.

Why not visit our website: www.holcombehawkshaw.org

During these strange times and whilst some will still be self isolating our Pastoral Team have been maintaining contact by phone, if you would like to talk, ask a question or pass on information please give us a call.

Each Sunday There is a service at each worship centre and the 10.45am service at St. Mary, Hawkshaw is “streamed live” on YouTube and is available all week, so you can watch it at any time. Just visit our website www.holcombehawkshaw.org.

Facebook: search for the [Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw](https://www.facebook.com/ParishofHolcombeandHawkshaw)

Twitter: [@holchawckofe](https://twitter.com/holchawckofe) or just search for The Parish of Holcombe and Hawkshaw

Instagram: [Holcombe and Hawkshaw](https://www.instagram.com/HolcombeandHawkshaw)

We have also been sending out regular e-mails with news updates, so if you haven't received those please email a request to stephen.newhouse@sky.com

Annual Report and Yearbook 2020



Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Holcombe and Hawkshaw 2020		
	£	£	£
Voluntary Income			
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	57,138.37		
Planned Giving - Un-gifted	5,805.24		
One off Gift Aid	3,446.20		
Cash/Collections	5,388.50		
Income tax recovered	21,081.12		
Fund Raising Events	1,621.95		
Magazine	481.85		
Use of Church Buildings	1,874.50		
		96,837.73	
Other Ordinary Income			
Dividends and Interest	53.36		
Fees to PCC	9,192.00		(includes £
		9,245.36	106,083.09
Extraordinary Income			
Restricted Donations	8,281.64		
Refunds	270.00		
Special Appeals	263.00		
		8,814.64	114,897.73
Total Income 2020			###
Income 2019			###

3,207.40 fees paid to Diocese)

Holcombe and Hawkshaw Parochial Church Council

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020		
	£	£	£
The Ministry			
Ministry Expenses	6,089.38		
Support & Education	1,566.60		
		7,655.98	
The Church and Services			
Energy	9,181.31		
Water	288.85		
Cleaning	0.00		
Insurance	7,292.78		
Upkeep of Services	3,882.74		
Minor Repairs, Fire Inspection	9,266.70		
Churchyard	1,234.20		
		31,146.58	
Other Ordinary Expenditure			
Wages	9,682.56		
Magazine	0.00		
Fund Raising costs	0.00		
Verger/Organist	235.00		
		9,917.56	
The Diocese			
Parish Share	47,000.00		
Other Diocese costs	4,994.00		
		51,994.00	
Payments to Missions/Charities			
Mission/Charities	4,187.00		
		4,187.00	104,901.12
Extraordinary Expenditure			
ECC Garden	315.43		
ECC	1,800.00		
Holcombe Church			
Hawkshaw			
Hawkshaw Heating			
Holcombe Organ			
		2,115.43	107,016.55
Total Cash Expenditure 2020			###
Expenditure 2019			###

YEAR END STATEMENT 2019

Bank Balances 31 December 2019

	Total
Current Account	-
Deposit Account	44,958.48
Direct Giving Accounts	13,797.28
Restricted Funds Account	820.53
Cash	-
	<hr/> 59,576.29
Less Unpresented cheques	
Year End Total	<hr/> ### <hr/>

Restricted/Designated Funds

Gardening (ECC)	147.37
ECC	-
Holcombe	29,472.99
Hawkshaw	-
Hawkshaw Heating	23,750.00
Malawi	1,931.64
	<hr/> ### <hr/>

Working Balance	4,274.29
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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Balance 12/31/2019	Balance 12/31/2020
Santander	364.21	310.55
CCLA - Restricted Holcombe Endowments	986.63	995.51
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Acc	-	-
Deposit Acc	43,103.03	44,958.48
Direct Giving Acc	6,940.64	13,797.28
Restricted Acc	819.79	820.53
Cash Not banked	831.65	-
	53045.95	60882.35
Less Cheques unpresented	0.00	0.00
	53045.95	60882.35
TOTALS	53045.95	60882.35



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Parish of Holcombe & Hawkshaw, Lancashire		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2020	Charity no (if any)	
Set out on pages	1,2 and Trace July21 A1, Trace July21 B1, Summary of Traceability		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2020**

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  Date: 1/7/2021

Name: Stuart Moulton

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AAT membership number: 20269328

Address: 9 Hunstanton Drive, Bury. BL8 1EG

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

I have carried out the independent examination and although minor I wish to highlight that were four occasions in the Cheque book I examined where no date is recorded.

I have noted an increase in Direct On-Line banking payment and have followed some transactions but not selected – all found to be accurate and tracable.

I have cross referenced financial statements with links back to accounting records: - Bank statements, Receipts, Bank Details & Summary (held by Treasurer), Invoices.

I have selected various sample receipts & payments and traced back through all accounting sheets including Bank Statements. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Jul21 B1'**.

I have selected various sample payments on Bank Statements and traced back through all accounting sheets Receipts. Details of one sample – see **'Trace Jul21 A1'**.

I have selected various Incomes and follow back 'Direct Giving' money transfers and 'Weekly Giving' and am satisfied that these accounts give no cause for concern.

See **'Summary of Traceability'**

I have reviewed the minutes of the PCC and I have obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organised. The parish includes St. Mary's Hawkshaw & Emmanuel Holcombe and within the Parish there are 3 churches - St. Mary's (Hawkshaw), Emmanuel Church (Holcombe Village) & Emmanuel Church Centre (Holcombe).

Three sheets attached: -

Trace Jul21 A1

Trace Jul21 B1

Summary of Traceability