

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF  
EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Independent Examiner's Report**  
**To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the**  
**Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett**  
**On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**  
**set out on pages 2 to 8**

**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 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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

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

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

Signed.......... Dated.....14/05/21.....

Name: EMMA MILBOURN

Qualification: MEMBER OF INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF SCOTLAND

Address: LITTLE GABLES, BATTLE LANE, CHEW MAGNA, BSWO PPX.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis</b>					
<u>Voluntary receipts</u>					
Planned giving	21,095	-	-	21,095	20,115
Collections at services	1,047	-	-	1,047	3,614
All other giving	941	8,691	-	9,632	11,669
Grants	-	250	34,108	34,358	43,243
Gift Aid recovered	6,245	188	-	6,433	9,813
	29,328	9,129	34,108	72,565	88,454
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>	1,948	3,102	-	5,050	18,326
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>	4,846	-	-	4,846	4,978
<u>Investment Income</u>	1,795	-	-	1,795	2,418
<u>Other Receipts</u>	-	-	100	100	100
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>37,917</b>	<b>12,231</b>	<b>34,208</b>	<b>84,356</b>	<b>114,276</b>

PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis

Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	35,163	-	-	35,163	35,260
Clergy, organists and administration	3,586	-	-	3,586	6,466
Church running expenses	4,405	13,767	22,885	41,057	71,621
Outward giving	123	-	-	123	8,169
Costs of generating funds	-	829	-	829	3,200
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>43,277</b>	<b>14,596</b>	<b>22,885</b>	<b>80,758</b>	<b>124,716</b>
Net receipts / (payments)	( 5,360)	( 2,365)	11,323	3,598	( 10,440)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	8,581	3,337	-	11,918	22,481
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>11,323</b>	<b>15,516</b>	<b>12,041</b>
Fund balances at 1 January	91,745	115,203	5,879	212,827	200,786
Transfers between funds	( 3,684)	3,684	-	-	-
<b>FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<b>91,282</b>	<b>119,859</b>	<b>17,202</b>	<b>228,343</b>	<b>212,827</b>

Approved online by the PCC

PCC Chair: *Mary R. Cookson*

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett**

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis</b>					
<u>Voluntary receipts</u>					
Planned giving	21,095	-	-	21,095	20,115
Collections at services	1,047	-	-	1,047	3,614
All other giving	941	8,691	-	9,632	11,669
Grants	-	250	34,108	34,358	43,243
Gift Aid recovered	6,245	188	-	6,433	9,813
	<u>29,328</u>	<u>9,129</u>	<u>34,108</u>	<u>72,565</u>	<u>88,454</u>
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>	1,948	3,102	-	5,050	18,326
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>	4,846	-	-	4,846	4,978
<u>Investment Income</u>	1,795	-	-	1,795	2,418
<u>Other Receipts</u>	-	-	100	100	100
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u><b>37,917</b></u>	<u><b>12,231</b></u>	<u><b>34,208</b></u>	<u><b>84,356</b></u>	<u><b>114,276</b></u>
<b>PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis</b>					
<u>Church activities:</u>					
Diocesan parish contribution	35,163	-	-	35,163	35,260
Clergy, organists and administration	3,586	-	-	3,586	6,466
Church running expenses	4,405	13,767	22,885	41,057	71,621
Outward giving	123	-	-	123	8,169
<u>Costs of generating funds</u>	-	829	-	829	3,200
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u><b>43,277</b></u>	<u><b>14,596</b></u>	<u><b>22,885</b></u>	<u><b>80,758</b></u>	<u><b>124,716</b></u>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<u><b>( 5,360)</b></u>	<u><b>( 2,365)</b></u>	<u><b>11,323</b></u>	<u><b>3,598</b></u>	<u><b>( 10,440)</b></u>
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	8,581	3,337	-	11,918	22,481
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><b>3,221</b></u>	<u><b>972</b></u>	<u><b>11,323</b></u>	<u><b>15,516</b></u>	<u><b>12,041</b></u>
Fund balances at 1 January	91,745	115,203	5,879	212,827	200,786
Transfers between funds	( 3,684)	3,684	-	-	-
<b>FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER</b>	<u><b>91,282</b></u>	<u><b>119,859</b></u>	<u><b>17,202</b></u>	<u><b>228,343</b></u>	<u><b>212,827</b></u>

Approved online by the PCC

PCC Chair:



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>Investment Assets</b>						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	92,701	13,910	-	-	106,611	96,767
Income units	-	-	-	32,419	32,419	30,345
	<b>92,701</b>	<b>13,910</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,419</b>	<b>139,030</b>	<b>127,112</b>
<b>Cash Funds</b>						
Cash at bank and in hand	14,861	6,156	2,961	4,456	28,434	34,434
CBF Deposit Fund	-	44,522	4,087	12,270	60,879	51,281
	<b>14,861</b>	<b>50,678</b>	<b>7,048</b>	<b>16,726</b>	<b>89,313</b>	<b>85,715</b>
<b>Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>						
Loans to PCC from churches	( 15,000)	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>92,562</b>	<b>69,588</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>54,145</b>	<b>228,343</b>	<b>212,827</b>
<b>Reserves - see notes 2 &amp; 3 to the Financial Statements</b>						
<u>Opening balances</u>						
Restricted	1,221	4,658	-	-	5,879	3,709
Designated	-	50,123	11,352	53,728	115,203	113,201
Unrestricted	91,745	-	-	-	91,745	83,876
	<b>92,966</b>	<b>54,781</b>	<b>11,352</b>	<b>53,728</b>	<b>212,827</b>	<b>200,786</b>
Result for the year	( 5,301)	12,747	( 1,576)	( 2,272)	3,598	( 10,440)
Investment gains/(losses)	8,581	1,263	-	2,074	11,918	22,481
Net transfers from PCC	( 3,684)	797	2,272	615	-	-
	<b>92,562</b>	<b>69,588</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>54,145</b>	<b>228,343</b>	<b>212,827</b>
<u>Closing balances</u>						
Restricted	1,150	16,252	-	-	17,402	5,879
Designated	1,405	53,336	12,048	54,145	120,934	115,203
Unrestricted	90,007	-	-	-	90,007	91,745
	<b>92,562</b>	<b>69,588</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>54,145</b>	<b>228,343</b>	<b>212,827</b>
<b>Movements in Investments</b>						
Market values 1 January	84,120	12,647	-	30,345	127,112	118,747
Investments sold	-	-	-	-	-	( 14,116)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	8,581	1,263	-	2,074	11,918	22,481
Market values 31 December	<b>92,701</b>	<b>13,910</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,419</b>	<b>139,030</b>	<b>127,112</b>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<u>Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted</u>						
Planned givings - STOs	21,095	-	-	-	21,095	20,085
Envelope scheme	-	-	-	-	-	30
Collections at services	1,047	-	-	-	1,047	3,614
Other donations	941	-	-	-	941	2,005
Gift Aid recovered	6,245	-	-	-	6,245	9,188
	<u>29,328</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,328</u>	<u>34,922</u>
<u>Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated</u>						
Other donations	3,705	4,732	254	-	8,691	9,664
Gift Aid recovered	-	-	188	-	188	625
Grants	-	34,108	-	250	34,358	43,243
	<u>3,705</u>	<u>38,840</u>	<u>442</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>43,237</u>	<u>53,532</u>
<u>Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted</u>						
Magazine advertising	1,668	-	-	-	1,668	1,910
Fund raising	280	-	-	-	280	1,850
	<u>1,948</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,948</u>	<u>3,760</u>
<u>Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Fund raising	-	1,647	1,209	246	3,102	14,566
<u>Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted</u>						
Fees	2,564	-	25	-	2,589	2,956
Magazine sales	2,257	-	-	-	2,257	2,022
	<u>4,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,846</u>	<u>4,978</u>
<u>Investment income - Unrestricted</u>						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	884
Interest & dividends	41	196	31	1,527	1,795	1,534
	<u>41</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1,527</u>	<u>1,795</u>	<u>2,418</u>
<u>Other income - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Hall rental	-	-	-	100	100	100
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>39,843</u></b>	<b><u>40,683</u></b>	<b><u>1,707</u></b>	<b><u>2,123</u></b>	<b><u>84,356</u></b>	<b><u>114,276</u></b>

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett**

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS**

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<u>Church Activities - Unrestricted</u>						
Diocesan parish share	35,163	-	-	-	35,163	35,260
<u>Clergy, organists &amp; administration</u>						
Administrator	1,566	-	-	-	1,566	2,106
Organists	2,020	-	-	-	2,020	2,890
Rector's expenses	-	-	-	-	-	1,470
	3,586	-	-	-	3,586	6,466
<u>Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted</u>						
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-	2,186
Magazine printing	3,192	-	-	-	3,192	3,229
Phone, copier, stationery etc	320	-	-	-	320	679
Other church running costs	893	-	-	-	893	1,207
	4,405	-	-	-	4,405	7,301
<u>Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Heat, light, water, insurance	80	2,237	1,581	1,044	4,942	5,035
Equipment purchases	-	148	124	223	495	11,704
Maintenance	20	1,401	978	2,986	5,385	8,314
Other church running costs	371	828	549	142	1,890	174
E Harptree - Newton project	-	22,514	-	-	22,514	-
Professional fees	1,396	-	30	-	1,426	39,093
	1,867	27,128	3,262	4,395	36,652	64,320
<u>Outward giving - Unrestricted</u>						
Charitable donations	123	-	-	-	123	368
<u>Outward giving - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Charitable donations	-	-	-	-	-	7,801
<u>Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted</u>						
Fund raising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	1,194
<u>Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Fund raising expenses	-	808	21	-	829	2,006
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>45,144</b>	<b>27,936</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>80,758</b>	<b>124,716</b>
<b>Receipts from page 4</b>	<b>39,843</b>	<b>40,683</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>84,356</b>	<b>114,276</b>
<b>Net Result for the year</b>	<b>( 5,301)</b>	<b>12,747</b>	<b>( 1,576)</b>	<b>( 2,272)</b>	<b>3,598</b>	<b>( 10,440)</b>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

**1. Basis of preparation**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This method of preparing the accounts means that income and expenses fall into the accounts for the year when the cash movements take place. This can lead to unexpected fluctuations if receipts or payments are delayed around the time of the year end, which may require additional explanations to ensure an understanding of the figures.

**2. Fund accounting - unrestricted / designated funds**

Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church. Other unrestricted funds are split into two: a designated Music Fund, consisting of Gift Aid amounting to £1,575 recovered on the donation for 3 pianos bought in 2019, and general unrestricted reserves to ensure that funds are available to manage shortfalls and cash flow issues during the year.

**3. Fund accounting - restricted funds**

Restricted funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor.

There are specific restricted funds managed by East Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Graham Veitch Bell Fund at East Harptree

This fund was set up in 2016 with donations in memory of the late Graham Veitch, for the purpose of maintaining the church bells and bell equipment at East Harptree. The balance of £1,279 remains unchanged this year.

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

During 2019 the first grant funding was obtained from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to cover consultancy and set up costs for this project which will involve major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and the project will also involve a number of Activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group. A balance of £ 3,379 remained at the start of 2020. During 2020 further funding was received totalling £ 34,108. The balance unspent at the end of the year was £ 14,973.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses, and started 2020 with a balance of £1,221.

During the year £ 371 was spent on new anthem books offset by donations of £300 leaving a balance at the end of the year totalling £ 1,150.

	B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	C/fwd
Choir Fund	1,221	300	( 371)	1,150
Graham Veitch Bell Fund	1,279			1,279
Newton Project Fund	3,379	34,108	( 22,514)	14,973
	<u>£ 5,879</u>	<u>£ 34,408</u>	<u>( £ 22,885)</u>	<u>£ 17,402</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)

4. Outward giving	2020	2019
TearFund	-	630
Crisis Centre Ministries	-	250
International Nepal Fellowship	-	500
Royal British Legion	50	230
East Harptree fete proceeds to the family of Max Sewart	-	7,309
Meserete Kristos Church	-	( 750)
	<u>£ 8,169</u>	<u>£ 8,169</u>

The donation to Meserete Kristos Church was unable to be processed in 2019, due to the collapse of the banking system in Ethiopia. The PCC was unable to make the intended donation, which had been outstanding at the end of 2018.

#### 5. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

**Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2020**

**Results**

For the overall United Benefice, receipts exceeded payments, with an overall surplus of £3,598 (for 2019 there was a deficit of £10,440), and unrealised gains on investments amounting to £8,581 as at the year end further improved the situation to a net surplus for the year of £15,516.

However, excluding investment gains, the PCC alone showed a net deficit of £5,301 (2019 – £6,000), East Harptree showed a net surplus of £12,747, but largely due to receiving a further grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund in respect of Project Newton, West Harptree's deficit was £1,576 and Hinton Blewett's was £2,272.

**Receipts**

Combined receipts amounted to £84,356 (2019 - £114,276). Both 2019 and 2020 were distorted by significant grants received from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (a better comparison is 2018 (£58,228) which predated Project Newton). Receipts in 2020 included a grant of £34,108 received for Project Newton. Planned giving showed a slight increase, but unsurprisingly in the light of the COVID pandemic church collections and other donations were down considerably. In 2019 the figure for Gift Aid recovered reflected an additional claim during the year relating to extra one off donations received, so this figure is unsurprisingly lower in 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic Fund raising was down considerably.

**Payments**

Combined payments amounted to £80,758 (2019 - £124,716), with £22,514K of this relating to Project Newton fees paid. Equipment purchases were down significantly as 2019 was an exceptional year with the acquisition of 3 new pianos. The COVID pandemic, and a vacancy starting in September 2020 also affected costs.

**Reserves, and looking forward to 2021**

Despite the modest surplus, investment gains led to an increase in overall reserves to £228,343 from £212,827 in 2019. Cash deposits make up over £89K of this figure, so around 39% of net assets will be unaffected by volatility in stock markets. It is also worth noting that the reserves of the PCC itself have been supported by the loans of £15k from the individual churches which has meant that the PCC has not had to sell any of the investments held by it. No decision has been taken yet to repay those loans and that will depend on how regular giving holds up and on the overall cash flow position of the PCC.

As I write this review, our lives continue to be turned upside down by the COVID 19 virus, and it is difficult to make any sort of firm predictions about the impact of this worldwide crisis. All I can say for certainty is that there will be a huge financial impact, not only on our own church income, but probably on the Church of England overall. Many challenges lie in store for us all, particularly as we are again in a vacancy, and we will need to work together in our communities to support and pray for one another and for those in positions of authority. As your treasurer, once more I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all.

Guy Stobart

March 2021

# **THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2020**

## **Aims and Purpose**

The PCC and the Vicar have the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the United Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett and the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC is a charity and was registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. The main activities undertaken by the PCC are those reflected in this report which the PCC consider furthered the PCC's aims for the public benefit. The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, where relevant.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC membership consists of the Vicar, the Churchwardens of the three churches and other members (who are on the Parish Electoral Roll) elected by the PCC and proposed by the Friends of East Harptree, and the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. There are 53 people on the Parish Electoral Roll at the date of this report (last year it was also 53).

Specific responsibilities of members of the PCC during 2020 are set out in the section below entitled "Administrative Information". That section also sets out the responsibilities of others, not on the PCC, for particular areas. There is only one other (apart from the VCCs and Friends referred to above and below) subcommittee of the PCC - the Worship Committee. All business of the PCC is conducted at its meetings referred to below. There is no separate standing committee.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our Parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and considers how our services can involve the different groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus and by the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work it is also important that the PCC maintain the fabric of the three churches in our Parish. The PCC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the three churches in the Parish although for all practical purposes the activities involved have been delegated to the Friends of St Laurence and to the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. They report to the PCC, who deal with Faculty and Grant applications and all formal matters, and the PCC generally oversee and ensure that the PCC's obligations are satisfactorily discharged by the Friends and VCCs.

The PCC meets 5 times a year with an extraordinary meeting after the APCM to elect officers. There is an agreed and set list of issues which are dealt with at particular PCCs throughout the year to ensure that the key issues for the PCC are not overlooked and this is managed by the PCC secretary. In addition there are reports at each PCC meeting from the Friends and VCCs.

### **Administrative Information**

The correspondence address for the Parish is West Harptree Memorial Hall, Compton Martin Road, West Harptree, Bristol BS40 6EG.

#### **Membership of the PCC in 2020**

<b>Chairman</b>	Mary Cookson
<b>Vicar</b>	None – We are in a vacancy since October 2020 when Rev Karen Spray retired
<b>Secretary</b>	Elaine Avery (Elected representative from West Harptree)
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	None
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Judith Hutchins (Churchwarden Hinton Blewett),
<b>Finance officer</b>	Guy Stobart (Churchwarden East Harptree)
<b>Worship Advisory Group</b>	Mary Cookson (Churchwarden East Harptree), Hazel Rider (Elected Representative from East Harptree), Cassie Thomas (co-opted member).
<b>Other Members</b>	Graham Sage (Point of contact at Hinton Blewett), Margaret Brain (Elected Representative from West Harptree).

#### **Others Supporting the PCC**

<b>Treasurer</b>	Claire Pearson until October 2020 then Guy Stobart
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Gill Stobart
<b>Parish News Editor</b>	Gill Stobart



**Parish Administrator**

Joanna Brown

**House Group**

Richard Martin

**Open the Book**

Murray Bennett

## **Overview from Mary Cookson and Guy Stobart**

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. **Isaiah 41:10**

This verse has been so appropriate during 2020 which has been particularly tumultuous.

We could not have imagined at the beginning of the year that our churches would be closed for much of the year and none of us had at that point heard of a Coronavirus.

Added to which Rev Karen Spray retired in October, which was not entirely unexpected but sad and meant we have started yet another vacancy. There have been so many vacancies since we last had a full time incumbent in 1998. We do however want to formally express our thanks for Karen Spray’s ministry with us since 2017.

Like the Curate’s egg there were some wonderful aspects to 2020 but also issues of concern and sadness.

Highlights of 2020 include the launching and continuation of wonderful recorded broadcasts of Sunday and other services. These attracted much larger attendance than our pre COVID services including an overseas audience. Many thanks to Adrian Moore and Tricia Rees Jones for making this happen and for Trevor Stubbs who “took” the majority of these online services.

We are also very grateful to Tony Wilds who with Trevor Stubbs has shouldered the burden of most of our “live” services during our vacancy. It has been both a pleasure and blessing to have them minister to us. We have also been very grateful to our former Priest Catherine Llewellyn Evans who has stepped in on several occasions to take services.

2020 also saw Chris Billingham and Graham and others from the East Harptree Environment Group start to reimagine the churchyard at St Laurence and we are grateful for the work they have all put into this.

Project Newton will be reported on elsewhere but was particularly busy during 2020.

We are very grateful for the continued involvement of Elaine Avery and Maggie Brain at West Harptree who are keeping St Mary’s Church alive there, and to Graham Sage and Judith Hutchins who are doing the same in Hinton Blewitt. We are conscious however of the dwindling numbers actively involved in the church in the Parish which is why shaping the future of our Parish referred to below is so important.

In the summer of 2020 when we knew of Karen Spray’s impending departure we started discussions with Archdeacon Adrian about the future of the Parish. We are aware of the strains on the resources of the Diocese both monetary and people and the shortage of

Priests and the concept of working collaboratively is not new to us. Indeed we had previously been supportive of the possible concept of a Mendip Group of Churches. We had some tentative discussions with the neighbouring Parish of Litton, Chewton Mendip and Ston Easton but they have decided they will take their chances with remaining if they can with St Thomas in Wells. Potentially more fruitful have been some early discussions with another neighbouring parish of Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley. It is too early to say how this might develop and it will be essential that we engage with our own congregation before things develop but we do believe it could be a viable way of giving us the stability we have sought for so many years and enable us to start rebuilding the church in our Parish and to grow a strong Christian presence in all the villages concerned, adopting the Focal Ministry model favoured by the Diocese.

## **Activities**

### *Worship Advisory Group*

Mary Cookson has during 2020 shouldered the burden of organizing services and arranging for Trevor, Tony and Catherine to take services both real and online working with Jo Brown our Parish Administrator, Adrian Moore and Tricia Rees Jones.

Where possible and from March 2021 live services have been available at St Laurence on Sunday mornings, led by Reverend Tony Wilds and occasionally members of the congregation.

More recently services have recommenced at St Margaret's West Harptree and we are now looking forward to some services in Hinton Blewett.

Online worship is continuing as we recognize the value of this initiative and how it has reached a wider audience.

During Lent we were able to join a Zoom course arranged by Reverend Simon Lewis from the neighbouring Benefice of Blagdon, Ubley and Compton Martin , which has been very helpful. Further opportunities for shared worship may also be possible.

### *House Group Report*

Although we managed to meet out of doors during the end of Summer 2020 and later in St Laurence Church, there were no meetings during the winter lockdown. One of our members has been circulating their thoughts on Luke's Gospel which we have found helpful and it has kept us in touch.

Richard Martin

### *Open the Book*

Open the Book sessions have been paused since the start of the Covid pandemic but it is hoped to start again in September with the agreement of the new Head Teacher.

Murray Bennett

## *Adventurers*

Like most other activities Adventurers was affected by COVID restrictions. The Autumn term had to stop in mid-October and did not restart until May 2021.

We had a dozen or so enthusiastic members and hope the new term will bring more.

Hazel Rider

## *St Laurence, East Harptree*

Lockdowns and COVID notwithstanding the most significant activity in 2020 in relation to St Laurence has been Project Newton. The highlights of the year have been obtaining our faculties and planning permission for the project and the commencement of our fund raising campaign for the £750k cost. The other activities during the year are detailed at the project website at <https://eharptreechurch.co.uk>. The project is another manifestation of the growth of our links with EH School. But it also pleasing that the project is helping us strengthen our links with the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group.

St Laurence remained open for private prayer throughout lockdown.

A successful Exhibition representing Christmas Carols was hosted at the Pavilion just before Christmas.

The annual risk assessment and associated checking of all safety certifications took place in March.

There have been 2 funerals in 2020: Mike and Carolyn Walker.

A footnote – we continue to operate The School House Trust, whose trustees are all the churchwardens and the incumbent and which continues to support EH School financially.

Guy Stobart and Mary Cookson

## *St Mary's West Harptree*

Church life has been seriously disrupted by the Covid pandemic.

There have been a limited number of services held at St Mary's. Before her departure Rev. Karen Spray celebrated Holy Communion on her own and the service was recorded for the parish. There were several Thursday Holy Communion and Morning Prayer services during the latter part of the year which were attended by a small number. On Christmas Eve there was a well attended, within the allowed regulations, Holy Communion Service. There has been one wedding and two funerals.

The church has been open for private prayer by appointment and for the recording of hymns and readings for the online services. As we couldn't hold the much-loved Crib & Candle Service on Christmas Eve this year the church was open on 21 December, following Covid 19 safety guidelines, to allow visitors to spend a few minutes of quiet in the run-up to Christmas and to see the cribs and Christmas decorations.

The boiler has been serviced and 5 yearly electrical testing carried out, along with PAT testing. The Quinquennial Inspection took place in November and the report is expected

shortly. Repairs to the guttering are in hand.

Our usual pattern of fundraising has not been possible. However some monies have been raised through the continued sale of plants, donations and a Christmas Hamper Raffle.

During the year Sara and John Hall moved to Devon. The VCC would like to thank them for the major contribution they made to St Mary's over the years. Sara was not replaced as churchwarden and so the day to day running of the church is shared between members of the VCC.

We would like to thank all who have supported us this year.

Maggie Brain & Elaine Avery on behalf of St Mary's VCC.

*St Margaret's Hinton Blewett*

**Church Building and Churchyard matters:** The remainder of the maintenance tasks highlighted by our church architect, Alan Thomas, in his quinquennial inspection have now been completed. The corroded ironwork has been painted and the minor repairs to the roof have also been carried out. At the same time the roof had a fresh application of Smartwater.

**Funerals and baptism:** There were two outdoor funerals and one wedding in the church, all in accordance with Covid guidelines.

**Health and Safety:** Following the inspection by Firemark in March 2020, which alerted us to our non-compliance as a result of not having two fire extinguishers on the mezzanine (this had never been mentioned before) two new extinguishers have been purchased, so we are now compliant.

**Fundraising:** No fundraising took place during the pandemic.

**Worship:** An outdoor Harvest Festival service in September 2020 led by Rev Karen Spray was very well attended. It was the last service to be held at St Margaret's owing to the Covid 19 restrictions. Graham and Caroline Sage recorded a Crib and Candle Christmas service which was available to view on YouTube and much appreciated by the village. St Margaret's is currently without a churchwarden. Graham Sage is the named contact.

Judith Hutchins  
Former Churchwarden

### *Music*

To say that 2020 was challenging for music in the parish is an understatement. In January 2020 regular visitors Davd Heyes and Sarah Poole gave a concert of 'Bach and Beyond' and our lunchtime concert series included the talented Alex Heather (double bass) and Bruce Fang (piano) giving our new piano at St Mary's a serious workout in February. Young violinists took to the stage in March at St Margaret's but there our programme of concerts came to a sudden end. The annual Harptree Festival was cancelled and there have been no live music performances from 14 March 2020 to the time of writing in August 2021.

At the start of the year the choir continued to support weekly worship with hymns and anthems both for Sunday morning services and at Choral Evensong in February and March but on 15 March 2020 we sang live at our last service. The final hymn, chosen long before the prospect of lockdown, was 'God be with us till we meet again'; a more appropriate choice it is difficult to imagine. We then plunged into the unfamiliar world of Zoom choir rehearsals and remote recording and I should like to record my enormous gratitude to the members of the Parish Choir for their willingness to embrace new technology to ensure that we have not only continued to sing during 2020 but have come out on the other side intact and singing as well, if not better, than ever. We produced anthems for Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest, All Saints, Advent Sunday, a farewell to Sara and John Hall plus préces and responses for evensong and the Lamb of God from the Chew Valley Service. The biggest challenge saw the production of an online Six Lessons and Carols for Christmas which involved the choir, members of the congregation and friends of the parish plus a fantastic carol from the children of East Harptree Primary School among others.

We all look forward to the day when we can sing again as a choir in a service but if nothing else, 2020 has shown all of us the importance of music and the sense of community which a choir creates.

#### Psalm 150

Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Tricia Rees-Jones

#### *Safeguarding*

There is now a safeguarding report to the PCC each year and the parish safeguarding policy is reviewed once a year in July. Safeguarding materials (the parish policy, contact details etc) are displayed on our all our church noticeboards, on the relevant village website and on the website of "A Church Near You".

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are up to date.

Most of those in the Parish who are asked to do some safeguarding basic awareness training have done so. I was on the cusp of arranging some more in-depth training for those who work with our children and young people when the pandemic struck. The National Church has now issued a revised Learning and Development Framework, to be implemented from January 2022. The PCC has agreed that further training will be stayed until then, when we

will have more information as to how the new framework is going to be implemented and what the Diocesan training offer looks like.

Gill Stobart

### *Parish News*

I took over as editor early in 2020 just as the pandemic hit – filling the job which Barry and Hazel had done for well over over 30 years (a BIG thank you to them). Although one of the mainstays of the magazine had disappeared (the advertising of community and other events) Parish News has continued in a very similar format and remains one of the Church's main means of outreach with the wider community, especially so during the last year or so when public worship and other more public ramifications of church life were put on hold. Thanks go to our many community contributors who keep some excellent articles coming. I have also signed up for "Parish Pump" an online resource for parish mag editors. I took the opportunity of the time which lockdowns have afforded to get together and record details of all the households to whom we deliver Parish News, together with details of payments. The magazine is now only being delivered to those who wish to pay for it (nearly 20% of mags were not being paid for). This has led to a reduction in the print run, and a reduction in our costs. We still have advertising revenue, which is good, considering the economic situation in which many businesses find themselves. I do now need to bend my mind as to how we can increase our circulation. Any ideas welcome!

Thanks go to all those who distribute the magazine in our three villages, to Jenny Cruse and others in the Parish who do a brilliant job in welcoming new residents into our community, ensuring that everyone gets their first magazine delivery and to Jo Brown who does a splendid job in proofreading the magazine each month – usually with a very short turnaround!

Gill Stobart

### *Health and Safety*

Despite the Covid pandemic and changes in personnel in two of our churches it is pleasing to report that all inspections, safety checks and Health & Safety Risk Assessment reviews have been carried out or there is a planned date for this to happen in each of the three churches. Covid Risk Assessments were carried out for St Mary's and St Laurence as live services have taken place. Still outstanding is the Health & Safety Review for the Parish Office.

Maggie Brain

### **Financial Review**

This is covered in the separate financial statements