

# St Peter's Church, Grandborough



## Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for 2021

### PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Rev Canon Barbara Clutton  
(During the period of Interregnum)

### BANK

CAF Bank  
23 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 4JQ

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Robinson  
School Street  
Churchover  
CV23 0EG

St Peter's PCC has a duty to work with their Incumbent in the Parish in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, ecumenical, evangelistic and social.

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND OFFICERS 2021

### **Ex Officio members**

**Priest-in-Charge whilst in Interregnum**

**Rev Canon Barbara Clutton**

**Churchwarden**

Pauline Stratton

**Deanery Synod Representative**

Pauline Stratton

**Elected members**

Tom Crane  
Charmaine Williams  
Kay Worrall  
Peter Johnson  
Dave Proctor

### **Officers appointed by the PCC**

**Secretary**

Tom Crane

**Minute Secretary**

Tom Crane

**Treasurer**

Dave Proctor

**Electoral Roll Officer**

Charmaine Williams

The PCC met 4 times during 2021. In view of the small number of members there are no sub-committees

**ELECTORAL ROLL** - The present total is 16

### **OCCASIONAL OFFICES**

During 2021 we held

<b>1 Wedding</b>	Alexander James Hawkes and Charlotte Amy Mercer
<b>2 Funerals</b>	Colin Whittaker Delia Anderson
<b>2 Memorials</b>	Barbara Fletcher Roderick Hastie

### **Church Attendance Figures**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Easter	No service	No service (Covid)
Christmas Carol Service	No service	No service (Covid)
Christmas Day	16	13A + 11C
Holy Communion ( 9.00 am)	10	10A
Benefice Communion	13	
WtW Service (11.00 am)	8	8A +7C
Evensong (6.00 pm)	8	No service (Covid)
Remembering Service	49	N/A
Remembrance Service	58A +6C	70A + 15C
Harvest Festival	32	29A + 6C-
Addington Advent service	59	-
Messy Church ( 4.30 pm)	No services	13A + 7C

## **Introduction**

2021 saw St Peter's evolve to reflect the particular challenges of the pandemic. We worshipped in different and new ways and, as the year went on, able to hold more in person services. Sadly, towards the end of the year the revival of the pandemic meant we could not hold our usual Christmas Carol service and the weather defeated our attempts to hold an outside service. We have continued to evolve our services to reflect these changing circumstances and my thanks to Pauline Stratton as Churchwarden for ensuring that all our services have continued.

There were major works undertaken to the tower floor, which had fallen into disrepair. Full details of these works are provided in the Fabric Report, but on behalf of the PCC, I would place on record our thanks to the bodies which helped fund these repairs, in particular the Warwickshire Churches Trust and the J&B Moore Trust. Their generosity was much appreciated. I would also express my gratitude to Peter Johnson for overseeing the works and our Architect, John Wright. This project marked the end of John Wright's long tenure as our Architect, and we are all grateful for the advice and support he has provided over the years.

The church in Grandborough is highly dependent on a broad range of individuals who selflessly give their time to participate in services, assist with cleaning and the flowers rota, serve teas and coffees, help raise funds and much else. I place on record my personal thanks to them for making the church what it is.

**Thomas Crane**  
Chairman

## **Churchwarden's Report**

The year was difficult, beginning with Lockdown – Churches closed from January to March, and low attendance at all services.

While we had our usual Christmas Day, Easter and Harvest Festival, we had no "Carols by Candlelight" and no Harvest supper in the Village Hall.

Once we were allowed to again worship in church, hygiene rules had to be closely monitored, the congregation was scattered and there was no music or singing.

**Pauline Stratton**  
Churchwarden

## **Electoral Roll Report**

The Electoral Roll has been maintained throughout 2021 in line with diocesan requirements. As at April 2022, a total of 16 individuals were on the Parish Electoral Roll.

**Charmaine Williams**  
Electoral Roll Officer

## **Fabric Report 2021**

There was considerable work in hand at the beginning of 2021. Much of the painting in the south aisle had been completed and it was agreed to delay the completion of any further painting until later in the year when the weather would be warmer.

On the 11/01/2021, the DAC gave their permission for the following work

1. To remove the plaster from the south wall of the chancel and replace using a traditional lime plaster then repaint using two full coats of earth borne white clay paint
2. To replace the rotten wooden floor in the west entrance to the church.

The plaster on the south wall of the chancel had been removed to investigate the cause of the staining and broken plaster. Our architect concluded that the staining and broken plaster had been caused by the application of an incompatible plaster at some time in the distant past. The assumption was always that the plaster would be replaced, but most visitors to the church preferred the exposed stonework which was now very similar to the original exposed stonework on the end wall. When archdeacon, Sue Field was asked if we could leave the stonework exposed, she confirmed that we would have to raise a new faculty to make such a significant change to a grade II\* listed building, and we may not get DAC approval because listed buildings must be preserved in line with the Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings regulations. It was agreed that this could be reviewed once the tower floor works were completed and an updated financial position understood.

The DAC and our architect do not agree with what we have done illegally to our church, and we may have to replace the plaster as originally intended.

The PCC agreed to leave the area exposed for 3-4 months, dig a trench similar to that on the north wall and if possible, obtain external grants for all the work proposed i.e. repointing and replastering and including replacing the tower floor, which should be the priority project. As a safety precaution two sheets of flooring grade timber were placed on top of the tower floor to spread the load and six Acro Props were positioned under the floor to support the joists.

The new floor plans were received before Christmas and the PCC agreed, after examining the three independent quotations, that the work should be given to Dave Sleight. It was also agreed that it would not be necessary to replace the Church alarm system given the CCTV coverage but, on reflection, having to retain the fire alarm system might now need further consideration.

It was disappointing to discover that while the church was not being used and the heating was off that there were two areas of damp showing in the top corners of the south aisle at the east and west ends. These areas were then repainted with mould resisting paint but the mould has reappeared and further action is required.

Building Control approval was obtained for the new floor and a Structural Engineer confirmed the new joist sizes required and eventually work began on the new floor on the 10th November 2021. This project was completed on 4th January 2022 at a total cost of £7,732. The new floorboards were varnished with dark wood stain, the same as had been used on the pew floors.

It was agreed that the electrics in the church should be given a full periodic inspection, but this is still outstanding. The last one was completed in 2016.

**Peter Johnson**

## **Church Rotas – Readings/Sidesperson/Cleaning/Flowers**

Due to Covid there is very little to report for this year.

This meant restrictions on church cleaning as well as our Mothers' Day and Easter services, so no need for Easter Festival flowers. The windows were decorated for our Harvest service. For our Remembering and Remembrance services we had poppies in the windows, together with a pedestal arrangement and a display with photographs of the Coling brothers.

Although we couldn't have our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service, we still decorated the church with poinsettias.

We are very grateful to everyone who helped with cleaning or flower duties during this difficult time.

## **Pennies from Heaven**

We raised the sum of £265 from our collection boxes, which covered almost 2 years. Considering people are not using as much cash nowadays, we have done very well.

## **Leam Valley Messenger**

The Messenger has been printed bi-monthly throughout the year, though at times there was not a lot of news.

## **Messy Church**

With all the restrictions, we felt it was unwise to restart Messy Church and decided to wait until early 2022. In December each child who was on our Messy Church register had a 'Selection Box' hand delivered to them, along with a Christmas card from Messy Church and they were very much appreciated.

## **Farmers' Market**

We started Farmers' Market again in September and are pleased to say we have had a steady response, although not as busy as we were before Covid. Hopefully 2022 will see it pick up again.

## **Christian Aid**

The recommendation by Christian Aid was to use on-line giving wherever possible. Therefore an 'e-envelope' page for St Peter's Church was set up on Christian Aid's website and advance information was sent out, via Leam Valley Messenger, Facebook and email, requesting donations to be made on-line on the official Christian Aid Site. We raised a total sum of £405. Added to this was Gift Aid of £70.25. This was down a lot compared to door-to-door collections, but very much easier than dropping off and collecting envelopes.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who help with any of the above duties, and to those who support us with their donations. On your behalf we would like to thank them all. We couldn't do it without them.

## **Easyfundraising**

We raised £258.95 through Easyfundraising this year, which is an increase of £145 from 2020. This is paid quarterly in arrears into our account, which shows the sum of £251.96.

## **Web Page/Facebook**

Our website, [www.stpetersgrandborough.co.uk](http://www.stpetersgrandborough.co.uk) is updated bi-monthly when the Leam Valley Messenger is printed and details of any forthcoming events shown on the appropriate pages.

Facebook is used to advertise services, Farmers' Market and Messy Church.

## **Dorothy Johnson**

### **Safeguarding Report**

Fortunately there have been no church safeguarding issues this year at all. However, due to Covid, one member of the PCC has not received training and we require online updating for our other PCC members.

### **Deanery Synod Report**

I attended 3 Deanery Synod meetings.

The first one dealt mainly with recovering from Covid – losing contact with people on the periphery. More training of the Laity, and better communication between parishes.

#### **Rural Communities must accept that they may not have a future.**

Separate mission from Churches into parishes, i.e. the responsibility of the Laity?

#### **More and more churches are “gathered.” People travelling to the church of their choice.**

Parish Finances and Parish Share. This was brought up at each meeting I attended.

In February there was an interesting “Rugby Mission Hub Discovery Event.” This dealt with “what are we doing?” are we Flourishing? Deanery priorities and courses – Training and equipping for mission.

The most relevant meeting was the emphasis on the proper welfare of the Clergy. This is the responsibility of the Laity.

Fortunately for the Leam and Draycote Benefice, Phil has set out “days off” per week for himself and Barbara. This is excellent news, and with sharing services throughout the Benefice, hopefully the strain on them will reduce.

I appreciate this is very shortened, but the main emphasis from the meetings seems to be the Laity must be more responsible for the spreading of the Gospel. This will be a challenge for us all.

## **Pauline Stratton**

Deanery Synod Representative  
and Safeguarding Officer

## Treasurer's Report - Financial position at 31 December 2021

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
CAF Bank	£23,208	£6,450	£16,758
Cash	£9		£9
Coventry Building Society	£4,824	£4,824	
CBF Investment	£9,234	£9,234	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,275</b>	<b>£20,508</b>	<b>£16,767</b>

These figures include the grants of £6,050 which have been received by 31 December 2021.

The accounts for 2021 are attached which have been subject to an independent review. The key points to bring to your attention are:

Although the accounts show that we have made a surplus of £9,387 for the year, this arises as a result of receiving the refund of VAT on electricity, grants and refund of VAT on building work. Without these we would have recorded a deficit of £1,320 over the year

Our income from collections continued to be impacted by the Pandemic but was offset by an increase in covenanted giving, gifts and donations. We are also grateful for the grants we have received which have covered the costs of the tower works which have been completed.

Parish Share – we underpaid this by £109 at the end of last year. Our share for 2022 is £8,802. With the merger of the two benefices, we will be looking at how, for future years, we can share this in the most equitable manner between the eight churches.

Gift Aid for the past two years of £3,452 has been received. A further claim for 2021 which totals just over £2,500 will be submitted later in the month.

Accounting adjustment – this relates to two payments in previous years totalling £175. The first is for £115 relating to a donation to Willoughby Cricket Club – the cheque for this was not presented. The second is for a payment at a wedding which was paid out of the collection, the net collection being recorded in the accounts and the payment was also recorded in the accounts as a separate payment.

The accounts do not include all the cost of the works which have recently been completed on the tower floor. We have now received and paid all the invoices for these works which are shown below:

	£
Architect fees	1,200.00
Structural engineer	300.00
Building works	6,232.80
Total cost	7,732.80
VAT refund claimed	1,288.80
Net Cost	6,444.00
Grants received	7,550.00
Surplus – restricted income	1,106.00

We have received a refund of VAT from the Listed Places of Worship totalling £1,188.80 so far. A further submission will be made later in the year for any other maintenance work which is undertaken, including the outstanding £100 above.

We are into the final year of our three year policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance for insuring the church. We will look at the most economical policy when this comes up for renewal at the end of April as, this along with the Parish Share and electricity, are our largest items of expenditure.

The Farmers' Market which started again in September raised £882 from the cafe, stall holders, Christmas stall and Christmas Raffle.

During the year, the Diocese offered us the services of Green Journey to review usage and the opportunity to review our energy supplier. With their assistance, we were able to claim a refund of VAT and Carbon Levy totalling £2,100 and along with careful management of our usage has resulted in a credit of £497 for the year. We have now changed supplier to SSE at the end of our contract with Opus. We have entered into a fixed price contract for the next three years. This was agreed in May 2021 at an increased cost of 13.5% over our previous contract. This is well below current market rates, but will still need careful management of our usage.

In 2020 the PCC took the decision to transfer our bank account from the Yorkshire Bank to an account with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Early in 2021, we closed the Yorkshire Bank Account and are now just operating the CAF account.

The CBF investment of 392 shares arose from the proceeds of sale of a playing field in 1954. The shares are a permanent endowment with the intention that the PCC should benefit from the income. It can be disposed of after consulting the Diocesan Trustees. The value of our investment has risen by £1,219 over the year

**Dave Proctor**  
Treasurer