

St Peter's Church, Grandborough



Annual Reports and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for 2020

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Rev Anne Hinks

BANK

Yorkshire Bank plc
7-11 High Street
Coventry
CV1 5YB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr A Robinson
School Street
Churchover
CV23 0EG

This was changed to:

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

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 2020

Ex Officio members

Priest-in-Charge

Rev Anne Hinks

Churchwarden

Peter Johnson

Deanery Synod Representative

Peter Johnson

Elected members

Angela Brooke

Tom Crane

Charmaine Williams

Kay Worrall

Officers appointed by the PCC

Secretary

Tom Crane

Minute Secretary

Tom Crane

Treasurer

Eddie Kirk/Dave Proctor

Electoral Roll Officer

Charmaine Williams

The PCC met several times remotely during 2020. In view of the small number of members there are no sub-committees

ELECTORAL ROLL - The present total is 16

OCCASIONAL OFFICES

During 2020 we held **No Baptisms**

No Weddings

2 Burial of Ashes

Arthur Edward Timms

Barbara Mary Fletcher

Church Attendance Figures

2020

2019

Easter	No service (Covid)	24
Christmas Carol Service	No service (Covid)	250A + 50C
Christmas Day	13A + 11C	11
Holy Communion (9.00 am)	10A	9
WtW Service (11.00 am)	8A + 7C	10A + 7C
Evensong (6.00 pm)	No service (Covid)	8
Messy Church (4.30 pm)	13A + 7C	15A + 15C
(All services were reduced because of Covid)		(average 10 months)

Churchwarden's Report

Worship

In March 2020 the Prime Minister announced the first lockdown in the UK, ordering people to stay at home. All shops selling non-essential goods were told to close, gatherings of more than two people in public were banned, events including weddings – but excluding funerals – were cancelled. In July these restrictions were eased slightly, but in September indoor and outdoor social gatherings above 6 were banned. A second national lockdown came into force in September and a third national lockdown was introduced in January 2021.

Since September 2020, the Church of England was given permission to hold regular Sunday worship, but the Bishop of Manchester has warned that, 'The pace of church closures could accelerate as a result of financial losses caused by the pandemic, with Victorian urban buildings most at risk. The closure of uneconomic church buildings, early retirement for clergy, and a restructuring of the Church of England's 42 dioceses could all be on the cards.'

Our church was opened in September for Sunday morning worship on the first and second Sundays of each month until the beginning of the third lockdown. We are grateful to our vicar the Revd Anne Hinks together with Revd Cannon Barbara Clutton and Mrs Karen Hatch, Lay Reader. Unfortunately, our Vicar announced at the end of September, that she wanted to retire after Christmas, two years sooner than she had anticipated, due to health problems. All the benefice Churchwardens continued to meet with Anne regularly via Zoom meetings on Friday mornings.

Eddie Kirk retired from being a Treasurer in February and Dave Proctor kindly took over the position.

At the APCM held in the church on 26 September, Angela Brooke advised that she wished to retire from the PCC. Dave Proctor was officially elected as Treasurer and a member of the PCC.

Also at this meeting, I announced that I would be standing down as Churchwarden after 2 terms of 6 years and a break of 2 years in between. Pauline Stratton was elected again as a Churchwarden.

As we were unable to have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service and to give everyone in Grandborough a feeling of love, hope and togetherness, I was asked to ring the church bells at 6.00 pm on Christmas Eve and it was suggested that it would be lovely if the villagers could all stand on their doorstep and ring their own hand bells for a couple of minutes, giving everyone a time to reflect on how much they had to be thankful for.

Fabric

The plaster at the east end of the south wall of the chancel has had an obvious defect for several years and the PCC agreed that it should be investigated and repaired. Our architect, John Wright, prepared a schedule of work which proposed removing most of the plaster on the south wall, like the exposed stonework on the adjacent east wall of the chancel. The intention was that Dave Sleight, our Conservation Builder who has worked with our architect for many years, was to examine / repair the defect and then replace the plaster and repaint the south wall. However, most visitors to the church including the members of the PCC, preferred the exposed stonework and did not want to replace the plaster on the south wall.

Our architect and the architect employed by the DAC have stated that they were not in favour of leaving the stonework exposed because the original builders in the 14th century had not intended the stonework to be exposed. The Archdeacon, Sue Field, will be invited to inspect both the walls and asked to make the final decision between replastering and repainting the south wall or just repointing the south wall and leaving the stonework exposed.

John Wright, our architect, also conducted a thorough inspection of the suspended timber floor on the ground floor of the tower which is now in an extremely poor condition and several Acro-props have been installed under the floor joists to provide additional support with flooring grade chipboard sheets to spread the load. He is quite happy with this extra support but recommends that it should all be replaced as soon as possible, and he has provided us with his recommended specification. Dave Sleight was prepared to replace the timber floor at the beginning of 2021, immediately after completion of the paintwork in the south aisle, but we insisted that he should stop painting until later in the spring/summer of 2021.

We were warned that this might not be convenient, but his job was stopped just before Christmas, and he has still not finished painting in the south aisle. He indicated that he might not be able to restart the work until later in 2021.

Peter Johnson Churchwarden

Church Rotas – Readings/Sidesperson/Cleaning/Flowers

Unfortunately due to Covid there is very little to report for this year. As you are all only too well aware, the Church of England/Government guidelines stated that the church should be closed from 23rd March.

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 a joint Harvest service which was shared with the Methodist Chapel, while being mindful of social distancing. We had poppies for our Remembrance service 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 in all the windows and font and they remained in church until the beginning of Lent.

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

At the APCM in October, I advised the meeting that I would like to pass on the task of the flower festivals, namely Easter, Harvest and Christmas to someone else, and Pauline agreed that she would do this. I will still decorate the windows throughout the year with the silk flowers that we have.

Pennies from Heaven

We raised the sum of £200 from our collection boxes this year. However, as people have not been using cash in the same way, it may well be that in future, we won't receive as many donations as we have done in the past. For 2021 it is my intention to only do one collection and if anyone anyone has a full box, they can always contact me and I can go and collect it from them, or they can drop it off.

Leam Valley Messenger

Due to lack of news, we only printed 2 paper copies of the Messenger in 2020, February/March and December/January 2021. During the lockdown, Rev Anne Hinks prepared a sermon, with the appropriate reading for the day together with prayers and this was sent out weekly. She passed this on to me and it was then emailed to everyone on our LVM circulation list.

Messy Church

We only managed two services in February and March, before lockdown. The numbers were small, averaging only 7. As Co-ordinator of Messy Church, I have spoken with Joy and Clare on a few occasions and when the time is right, I will call a meeting in order for us to plan ahead. 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

Again, with Farmers' Market we only managed to hold two events in February and March. In February the total raised was £220, with £149 from the Café. In March the total sum amounted to £180, with £119 coming from the Café. Some orders were taken for Christmas cakes and Mince pies and £100 was donated to the church.

Mothers' Day

The tradition on Mothers' Day is for the ladies attending church to be handed a posy of daffodils by one of the children attending the service.

This year that wasn't going to be possible, and Kay and I decided we would still go ahead and prepare the posies to be hand delivered round the village. Approximately 40 were prepared and although we couldn't give them to all the ladies in the village, we made sure that everyone who helped with any duties in the church, together with all the mums that attend Messy church and also some ladies who were on their own, got a posy. As this was early on in lockdown, it meant Mums couldn't meet up with their families and so they were all delighted to find a posy of flowers on their doorstep. We had a very positive response with a thank you from everyone, either by email or on Facebook.

Web Page/Facebook

Our website, www.stpetersgrandborough.co.uk is updated regularly and Anne's Sunday service was uploaded every week on to our webpage.

Facebook is used to remind people of our Sunday services, together with Messy Church and Farmers' Market. The two local groups this is sent out to are Grandborough News and Views and Grandborough Public Group. We have also joined the Southam Group, which will be used to advertise Farmers' Market. We also have an Instagram account.

Easyfundraising

We have raised £114.46 through Easyfundraising this year, which is a slight increase in last year. A few more people have signed up to this and I will be sending out a reminder in 2021 to encourage more people to use this. It is so easy, costs you nothing and the church benefits. Add an 'Easyfundraising App' to your phone or tablet. Find the retailer you want to buy from and start collecting. The most generous donations come from travel companies, car parking and gardening, but even although some companies don't give a big percentage, it all adds up, just like our 'Pennies from Heaven.'

Christian Aid

Unfortunately, we were unable to do door to door collections during the year, so as a parish we made no contribution. A big loss, as the Grandborough parish is always very generous with their donations. However, perhaps we will make up for it in 2021! This will be by e-envelope and I am hopeful we will get a good response.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers who help with any of the above duties, and also 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.

Dorothy Johnson

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll has been maintained throughout 2020 in line with diocesan requirements. As at April 2020, a total of 16 individuals were on the Parish Electoral Roll.

Charmaine Williams
Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Report

I'm glad to report that there have been no church safeguarding issues this year at all.

Pauline Stratton
Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report

This is my first Treasurer's Report to the PCC. I would like to start by thanking my predecessor, Eddie Kirk for all his assistance and support since I took on the role in February 2020.

Financially, we have been impacted by the closure of the Church and not being able to hold any events during the period of the Pandemic. Despite this we have met our commitments to pay the parish share, heating and insurance and will be able to meet these commitments in this year too.

We will claim Gift Aid for the financial year and for small donations for the 2019 and 2020 and it is estimated that this will be in excess of £3,400 which will assist us in managing our finances over the next year.

During the year we continued to receive covenanted donations and a number of donations which is gratefully appreciated by the PCC and has greatly contributed to us being able to meet our ongoing commitments.

During the year, the PCC took the decision to transfer our bank account from the Yorkshire Bank to an account with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). This has enabled us using the facilities to better manage the operation of our banking arrangements.

At the 31 December the PCC held £27,888 in the following accounts:

Yorkshire Bank £2757
Yorkshire Bank (HLF) £5.00
CAF £12,292
Coventry Building Society £4817
CBF Investment £8015
Cash £2

Dave Proctor
Treasurer