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ST. JOHN'S CHURCH LACEY GREEN, LOOSLEY ROW AND SPEEN

**Document Pack for the 2020
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
1st November 2020**

St. John's Church Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen
Document Pack for the 2020 APCM

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Agenda to the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 1st November

Parishioners' Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2019 Parishioners' Meeting.
3. Nominations and elections of Churchwardens for the coming year.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes from the APCM held on 28th April 2019.
2. Vicar's Remarks.
3. Presentation of the Annual Reports (Rev. Canon Tony Bundock).
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll for 2019.
5. Appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer.
6. Report on the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church (Churchwardens).
7. Presentation of the Annual Accounts (Caroline Gulliver).
8. Election of PCC members.
9. Election of Deanery Synod members.
10. Election of Sidespersons.
11. Appointment of the Independent Examiner.
12. Any Other Business.

Parochial Church Council Meeting

1. Election of officers for 2020.
2. Date of next Full PCC meeting: PCC 3rd November 2020.
3. Closing prayers.

MINUTES FOR 2019 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

**(Including the Parishioners'
Meeting and the Post-APCM PCC
Meeting)**

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**Minutes from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
St. John the Evangelist
Lacey Green, Loosely Row and Speen**

Sunday 28th April 2019

Thanks were given to all attendees for coming along despite the sunny weather.

Opening prayers were led by Rev. Canon Tony Bundock.

Meetings Opened at 11:20.

Minutes Taken by Mark Roberts, PCC Secretary

Thanks were given to all attendees for coming along.

Opening prayers were led by the Rev. Canon Tony Bundock.

Parishioners' Meeting

Chaired by the Rev. Canon Tony Bundock.

4. A total of 24 parishioners were present. Apologies were received from:

- June and Ken Brazier.
- Helen Davies.
- Roger Wilkes.
- Christine Rooney.
- Shirley Bilsborough.
- Dawne Glenister.
- Pat Bundock.

5. The Minutes of the last Parishioners' Meeting held on 22nd April 2018 were accepted as true records and signed by Canon Tony as Chair. This was proposed by Caroline Gulliver and Seconded by Rebecca London. There were no matters arising.

6. There were two nominations for Churchwarden:

- a. Pat Ann Rushmere – Proposer: Roger Wilkes, Seconder: Doreen Lett.
- b. Margaret Isobel Gray – Proposer: Mark Roberts Seconder: Colin Rushmere.

Signed:

Date:

Meeting Chair

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Chaired by Mrs Patricia Rushmere.

1. Minutes from the APCM held on 22nd April 2018 were accepted as a true record and signed by Pat Rushmere as Chair. This was proposed by Caroline Gulliver and Seconded by Rebecca London. There were no matters arising.
2. The Vicar's report was presented in the document pack starting at Page 8. To supplement his report, Canon Tony made the following remarks:
 - a. His 5-year license as Team Vicar is due to expire this autumn. He said he has already had a preliminary conversation about this with Bishop Alan. All Canon Tony wanted to say was in the PCC report.
 - b. Canon Tony thanked all who have helped at St. John's in any way over the last year and continue to do so. He said we are a happy church, but this should not be taken for granted.
3. The Annual Reports were presented in the document pack from Page 11 and were presented by Pat Rushmere. The following remarks were made:
 - a. Canon Tony made reference to the new "Church Mice" which has started meeting. This is a replacement for the former "Toddler Praise". It will be advertised during coming weeks with the aim of increasing attendance. The group will be promoted to the parents of children being baptised. Rebecca London suggested advertising the event through St. John's School, e.g. on the web site and Facebook page, if this is possible. Caroline Gulliver said it may be difficult on the school web site which is used to promote their own events.
 - b. Adoption of the reports was proposed by Vince Stothard and seconded by Graham King.
4. Presentation of the Electoral Roll for 2019. The Electoral Roll has been fully renewed this year and was presented by Pat Rushmere in the absence of the Electoral Roll Officer, Roger Wilkes. There are 73 on the new roll which will be posted on the notice board in the porch.
5. Appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer. Roger Wilkes was proposed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer by Jenny Stothard and seconded by Jenny King.
6. Report on the Fabric and Ornaments of the Church. The current status is as presented in the Churchwardens' Report included on Page 11 of the document pack.
7. Presentation of the Accounts. The Annual Accounts were presented by the PCC Treasurer, Caroline Gulliver. Her report is included on Page 15 and Appendix 1 of the document pack. The following points were made:
 - CG. We made a slight loss of around £700 during 2018. This was due to a combination of collections during services being down on 2017 and not all of the planned fundraising events being held due to various circumstances.
 - CG. There will be a drive on fundraising during 2019.

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- CG. The bank balance (General Funds) and the balance for the Organ Fund are both presented in Accounts and are £8,036 and £6,061, respectively.
- It should be noted that it costs over £900 a week to run this church.
- Jill White suggested holding the car washes again. This proposal was noted by the PCC.
- A Christmas Tree Festival is planned for early December 2019 as a new fundraising event. Many churches already hold such an event and there is a web site for Christmas Tree Festivals on which events can be advertised. Jenny Stothard said she is a fan of these events and noted they are popular during the week, by retired people who may visit festivals at multiple venues, as well as at weekends if volunteers can be found.
- CG. When the full accounts have been confirmed as being acceptable by the Independent Examiner, David Bedford, they will be posted so they can be viewed. A summary is included as Appendix 1 in the document pack (for the 2019 APCM).
- CG publicised using Easy Fundraising when shopping on line, which if St. John's Church is registered as your charity will allow retailers you use to donate a percentage of your bill to St. Johns at no cost to you. The percentage varies with retailer with some better than others. Any questions about this should be directed to CG.
- Adoption of the Treasurers Report and Accounts was proposed by Rebecca London and seconded by Graham King.

8. Election of PCC members. There were 4 nominations:

- a. Caroline Gulliver – proposed by Pat Rushmere, seconded by Mark Roberts.
- b. Rebecca London – proposed by Caroline Gulliver, seconded by Graham King.
- c. Ann Bartlett – proposed by Pat Rushmere, seconded by John Gabbitas.
- d. Roger Wilkes – proposed by Pat Rushmere, seconded by Dick Field.

Roger Wilkes will continue as Deputy Churchwarden which does not require election.

All approved by those present at the meeting.

9. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives. PR said there was no-one to elect representatives this year, with elections taking place next year. We continue to have a vacancy for a representative. Patricia Rushmere and Margaret Gray are the current Deanery Synod Representative.

10. Election of Sidespersons. : All current Sidespersons have agreed for re-election. They are:

- Mrs Margaret Gray.
- Mrs Pat Rushmere.
- Mrs Doreen Lett.
- Mr John Radford.
- Mr Dick Field.
- Mr David Lawrence.
- Mr Roger Hussey.
- Mrs Caroline Gulliver.
- Mrs Rebecca London.

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This was agreed by all present.

11. Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Caroline Gulliver said she believed the current Independent Examiner, Mr David Bedford, is happy to continue and his appointment was approved. Proposed by Caroline Gulliver and seconded by Patricia Rushmere.
12. Any Other Business (AOB):
 - No items received in advance of the meeting.
 - Jill White raised the issue of parking near the church. Options to provide church parking are very limited because the church does not own any suitable land. Ann Eden noted that the St. John's School car park can be available for use outside of school hours. It was also noted that for e.g. some funerals in good weather people have parked at the Village Hall and walked to the church.

Pat Rushmere closed the meeting at 11:46.

Signed:

Date:

Meeting Chair

2019 ANNUAL REPORTS

Vicar's Remarks

These thoughts and reflections form the basis of a report that, in normal circumstances, I would have been expecting to write around six months ago, in the Spring of this year rather than in the early Autumn. But, as we all know only too well the world-wide Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic has impacted hugely on the lives of all of us and, at the time of writing, it is hard to know if and when matters will return to something akin to the normality to which we had for so long been accustomed. Beginning in March of this year, we were instructed that we were unable to use our Church building for any kind of activity because of a perceived risk of the transmission of infection. And it was on the 31st May of this year, Pentecost Sunday, that we first launched our weekly online service of Sunday Morning Prayer using the Zoom app. This has proved to be very popular and we are of course, continuing with this much appreciated provision for the time being even though government guidance has enabled us to resume public worship in St. John's Church since July of this year. And so, with the lockdown easing, we began said services of Common Worship in Church on Tuesdays at 9.30am from 14th July onwards; and on Sundays at 10am from 19th July onwards. This re-opening of the Church for public services, of course, being subject to a strict regime of social distancing; careful hygiene precautions; the recording of details of those attending for "track and trace" purposes, which later became a legal obligation; and the requirement of the wearing of masks by members of the congregation (which had also initially been a recommendation rather than a requirement). And we are very grateful indeed to those who have been deep cleaning the Church each Monday since services resumed to enable the regular Sunday and Tuesday pattern of services to be sustained.

Until 19th July our Sunday Zoom services were at 10am but, with the re-opening of the Church building, these were moved to the later time of 11am. In regard to the Zoom online services, we have been especially delighted with the hymn music provided by our organist Cher and members of her family – Gavin, Tom, and Inêsh - from their home here in Lacey Green. And also, to have the involvement of some of the members of the congregation of our Link Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman in the Northern Cape of South Africa. In my annual report last year, I did refer to our Parochial Church Council (PCC) initiative to seek to respond to a request to supply bibles to Mamoratwa Middle School in the first language of the learners there which is Tsetsuana. I am very pleased to record that, due to a personal donation from a member of our congregation, this was achieved during the course of 2019 and we did receive a very positive message of gratitude from the Head Teacher of the School.

So these are indeed very significant positives, but I am sure that it remains for all of us to have been a great disappointment that, due to the Covid-19 lockdown, our programme for Lent, Holy Week and Easter this year had to be abandoned. The Lent study course was already underway when the full lockdown measures were introduced and going well up until that point of having to be abandoned. And, sadly, the series of services and events planned for Holy Week and Easter were required to be cancelled. Though it did prove to be possible to erect on Good Friday the large wooden outdoor cross on the corner of Church Lane and Main Road on Good Friday, and to say prayers at the foot of

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the cross at 3pm on that most solemn day. Also, it also proved possible for the outdoor cross to be decorated in customary fashion with daffodils for Easter Day and the first few weeks of the Easter season; with prayers being said at the foot of the decorated cross at 10am on Easter Day. The ancient ceremonies of marking and lighting the new Paschal Candle were inevitably deferred and eventually took place on 19th July, at the beginning of our first 10am Sunday service after public acts of worship were permitted to resume.

As members of the congregation will recall, my 5-year licence as Team Vicar at St. John's expired last Autumn. But, from the 1st August 2019, the Bishop of Buckingham granted me a new 3-year licence commencing on the day after my 70th birthday; with the approval of the Reverend David Williams as Team Rector and other Team clergy colleagues, as well as formal resolutions from all four PCC's of the Risborough Team Benefice, and a medical report from my GP. At the end of this 3-year period, my licence can then be further renewed on an annual basis; this again being subject to Team and PCC approval as well as an updated report from my GP.

As reported last year, my annual Ministerial Development Review in 2018 was conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham in September of that year. My three ministry-based MDR priorities agreed with the Bishop at that time were (a) to continue to promote and support our work with children and young people, (b) to further develop our ministry of hospitality and welcome, (c) to give due time to following up from our Kuruman Link Parish visit. And my three personal MDR priorities as agreed with Bishop Alan were (a) to continue to take up opportunities for training and development as a school governor especially in relation to my respective school roles in RE and Collective Worship, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, (b) to continue to work on keeping a sound balance of work / family / leisure, (c) to actively seek in 2019 an extension to my HFD Team Vicar Licence which, as I have said, was granted in the Summer of 2019. My Spring 2019 review was conducted by a lay person who is a churchwarden in Wendover Deanery. As only six months or so had elapsed since my Autumn 2018 review, we concurred that I should continue with the existing priorities agreed with Bishop Alan. The Diocese of Oxford undertook a full reappraisal of the Ministerial Development Review process in 2019 and I would have been due to have a conducted review under the new procedure in the Spring of this year. But, as with so many other things, this was been suspended for an indefinite period as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, the PCC of St. John's Church have been looking into the matter of repair and renovation of the Samuel Green pipe organ. There are organ conservation enthusiasts who would wish to see it restored to its original condition as a Georgian chamber organ but we are advised that a full restoration would significantly reduce the capacity of the organ for use in public Church worship. The organ builder who looks after our pipe organ is James Richardson-Jones. In February of this year he submitted a report and estimate to the PCC in which he states that his proposals "would constitute a good compromise between the historic aspect and the continuing use of the organ in a modern context". Also, that that the work he proposes "would ensure the future survival of the organ as a useful instrument". His estimate is in the sum of £26,400 plus VAT; though, as St. John's is a listed building, we would hope that the VAT can be re-claimed from the

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Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The PCC have now lodged a faculty application to the Diocese of Oxford for the proposed works which we hope will have a successful outcome. A significantly large proportion of last Autumn's Black-Tie Dinner and Dance was allocated to our organ fund. But it is clear that, once the restrictions of the present pandemic ease sufficiently, further local fund-raising is going to be needed, as well as successful applications for substantial grant assistance, if we are to meet the required financial target. My own personal view is that it is going to take us some considerable time to achieve the level of financial resources that will be needed.

In regard to our two Parish Schools, St. John's School is now part of the Oxford Diocesan Bucks School Trust, which Speen First School is also in the process of seeking to join. I have been pleased as a Governor of both Schools to note a closer working relationship between our two School over the past year or so. This is in my view to a large extent due to a warm working relationship between the two Head Teachers now in post, as well as the respective Chairs of the Governing bodies of the two Schools. I was glad that the easing of the lockdown meant that, in the closing days of the Summer term Speen School were able to hold their annual end of term service in Church, albeit with reduced numbers; and that St. John's School were able to hold their Year 6 Leavers presentation service in Church, again with much reduced numbers attending.

I am also glad to report a very positive working engagement with the RAF Chaplain at RAF Strike Command in Walters Ash, of which the main site does fall within our Parish boundary; both for myself on a personal ministerial level as well as in relation to our Schools.

Having at one time served as a Team Vicar in what is now the Elstree and the Borehamwood Team Ministry, then as Team Rector in the Seacroft Team Ministry, and then Team Rector in the Leeds City Team Ministry I am very glad indeed to have opportunities as House For Duty Team Vicar to share in the life of the Risborough Team Ministry. I am also pleased to be involved in the ongoing work of Churches Together in Risborough of which I have this year been appointed Vice Chair. I intend to resume as a volunteer at the Princes Centre once the present Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. And I continue to be Trustee and Chair of the Churches International Student Network Hardship Fund, a charity which in normal times meets in central London (rather than online as at present), and is under the auspices of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. I remain on the rota for Saga ocean-going cruises as ship's chaplain for one cruise a year; though the cruise I was due to serve on early in September of this year was of course cancelled due to the pandemic, as are all Saga Cruises at least until the end of the year. And I also continue to be a Trustee of the Princes Risborough Rotary Club which, as with others of the organisations in which I am involved, continues to meet by way of online gatherings.

I do take the opportunity in this report to thank Graham King for the contribution he makes to our Church life in so many ways; and not least through his preaching and teaching role as a licensed Reader as well as through his significant input through membership of the Parochial Church Council and the Parochial Church Council Standing Committee. I do thank our Churchwardens Pat and Margaret, and our Deputy Churchwarden Roger, for

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their continuing support and warm encouragement. I do also wish to thank our PCC Treasurer Caroline, our PCC Secretary Mark, all the key officers of the church and all members of the PCC, for their hard work and commitment. I also thank our organist Cher and all the members of St. John's choir; and I eagerly yearn for the resumption of our customary glorious pattern of Church music when government guidelines permit. I do thank those who, in normal times, lead our work with children and young people with such dedication and devotion. I am very grateful also to those who take care of the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard, including those who are members of the grass-cutting rota. And I do thank all of you, dearly beloved members of our St. John's family, for your dedication and your commitment to the ongoing life of our local Church for the villages of Lacey Green, Loosley Row and Speen; and for all your hard work over the past year.

As we well know, we are living in strange and perplexing times when it is hard to guess what the future will bring, and not at all easy at times to continue to remain hopeful and optimistic. I did at one time serve on the Management Committee of the Cirdan Trust which is a Christian sail training project under the auspices of the Diocese of Chelmsford. The Cirdan Trust was set up in 1983 as a sail training project primarily for young people, especially young people from inner city parishes in East London. One of the many lessons I did learn from my experiences of ocean-going sailing as a licensed "Third Hand" with the Cirdan Trust is that there will be times when the tide and the weather are really against you, sometimes very much so, but that a change for the better always comes in the end. As the Captain of the flagship of the Cirdan Trust once said to me when we were locked down for several days in the Dutch Port of Vlissingen due to a Force 7 gale at sea; "The wind will change sooner or later. It always does in the end!" So, with those reflections in mind, I am going to end this report with a quotation from Proverbs Chapter 3 Verses 5 & 6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths".

Reverend Canon A. F. Bundock, Vicar of St. John's

Churchwardens' Annual Report

We welcome you to St John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the year ending December 2019. Our APCM is taking place much later this year owing to the Coronavirus pandemic but by now you should have received all the relevant paperwork by email or other means.

We can report that the fabric of the Church is in reasonably good order but inevitably repairs need to be done from time to time.

Several people in the congregation have come forward to do jobs which has been very welcome but mostly they prefer not to be named. The churchyard has been well kept by a group of enthusiastic volunteers; the hedges and frontage have been kept in an immaculate order,

There are also a number of people who work, often in the background, who have offered help with ongoing jobs in the Church, and many, who have participated for lots of years' service, who

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also have continued their commitment. We have 4 teams of cleaners working on a weekly rota basis and we thank them for their support. Also, we have had a number of regular successful working parties in the Church yard. The support from all these willing volunteers is very much appreciated.

Similarly, we have been blessed with helpers for fundraising events and some new initiatives have been forthcoming. The choir organised an excellent Harvest Tea this year.

We would, as usual, like to give thanks to a number of people who do so much, often working in the background and without whom the Church would not function. Our thanks must go to:

- the ladies who wash the linen and set up the Communion.
- the Verger, servers, sidespersons, readers, intercessors and the PCC.
- the Junior Church teachers, the hosts for the House Groups.
- the flower ladies.
- the choir, their leaders and the organists.
- the people on the coffee rota.
- the people on the cleaning rota.
- all who assist with fundraising.
- the helpers who look after jobs inside and outside of the Church and those who keep the Churchyard tidy.

We apologise to any person(s) we have omitted to mention.

We are always looking for volunteers for the various rotas and most importantly leaders for Junior Church. Everyone has gifts, of one sort or another, to enrich the life of St John's and we do urge you to come forward with your time and talents to help us to upkeep our lovely Church.

Pat Rushmere & Margaret Gray, Churchwardens

Deanery Synod

There were three meetings held during the year which were held in different churches within the Deanery. Unfortunately, neither of the representatives was able to attend any of the meetings during the year.

Members of PCC / Congregation have attended Deanery Learning Communities initiative during 2019.

Pat Rushmere & Margaret Gray, Deanery Synod Representatives

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Pastoral Visiting Committee

The Pastoral Visiting Committee met on four occasions in 2019, three times in Lacey Green and once in Speen.

The committee discussed visiting families at home who were bringing their child/children for Baptism. The committee also discussed visiting parishioners thought to be in need of a home visit. Home visits were mainly made by individuals known well to the parishioner concerned and were generally well received.

Four visits were made prior to Baptism, shortly before the family's meeting with Canon Tony. The Pastoral visitors went in pairs to see families, showing the Order of Service, talking generally about significant practices, meanings and procedures and answering any questions e.g. about Godparents. Copies of Service Sheets and leaflets were given to each family. A fifth child was Baptised following a visit to see Canon Tony.

There were no further Baptisms or Weddings booked to take place between July and the end of the year.

Families whose children had been Baptised in recent years were invited to coffee and cake following the Mothering Sunday Service on 31st March.

Christine Rooney

St. John's Church Choir

(Covering the period April 2019 to September 2020)

The beginning of the period of this report starts with normality. The choir undertook its usual duties, including Mothering Sunday flowers and cakes, the Palm Sunday procession from the Vicarage, Easter Eggs, and the Harvest Festival Service and Supper. We also enjoyed all the lovely services associated with Advent and Christmas.

Choir numbers have remained stable, but we would still love some new recruits, especially children. However, life has changed dramatically since March this year. Who could have imagined that we would be banned from singing in church either for practices or services?

Our loyal band of choristers has continued to support church Sunday and Zoom services, and it is lovely to be able to see each other, even for a short time. Cher and her family have made every effort to provide two really singable hymns on-line each Sunday, and we can see that many of the congregation have joined in at home. How sad to have to plan for the next Christmas season with no singing.

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Worship for us is definitely lacking a very important element. Without music it is hard to feel that we are truly praising and thanking God. We are aware that the congregation is also missing this vital element. Over the months, we have made several plans of what to do after lockdown. Sadly, that time seems to be receding further and further into the future, but please be reassured that when the Coronavirus outbreak is over, we will have a very special celebration!

Cher Mole, Organist
Rosemary Mortham, Choir Director

Server's Report

During 2019 I have continued as Sacristan and main server at St. Johns. Roger Wilkes has provided cover for the few occasions where I have been absent for, which I am grateful.

Outside of my role as Sacristan and senior Server at St. John's, last April I was re-elected as Lay Chair of the local (St. Osyth) Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary for 2019. Like many organisations the Servers' Guild has in general cancelled its events during 2020, so I continue as Lay Chair as a result of our Chapter not being able to hold our AGM during earlier April. During 2019 the Chapter celebrated a High Mass and received Benediction at St. Martin's Fenny Stratford in January and sang Guild Offices at All Saints, Wing, St. James', Bierton (actually the church of the parish in which I live!), St. Dunstan's, Monks Risborough, and St. Laurence, Winslow. The Chapter has a programme of meetings scheduled for 2020 but most have been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions and many of our members being in the age bracket where they have been advised to Shield.

During 2019 a new, locally made Aumbry was installed in the niche in the Sanctuary. This is used to store the Holy Oils and can be used to hold the Reserved Sacrament (consecrated bread) which is often used to minister to the sick. Gordon Gray has made a wonderful job of building this bespoke item for the church. There is an old black and white photograph that suggests there may have been an Aumbry in the past located just above and behind the Main Altar, but this seems to have been removed at some point in the past. The Aumbry has been joined by a donated battery powered Sanctuary lamp which forms a "light of the eternal presence" in a safe way compared to a burning candle. The ceiling hung sanctuary lamp with its candle is still used during the Eucharist but on safety grounds is not left lit between services.

Mark Roberts, PCC Secretary, Sacristan and Senior Server

Junior Church

No report received.

Unfortunately, the Junior Church has only met on a few occasions during the year when children were present during the 10:00 services. Jenny King stepped in to lead activities using packs of material that have been prepared as standby.

Church Mice

Church Mice met at 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon during term- time, organised by myself and Sarah Cann, a local child minder. We always had great fun, but only had the children that Sarah child minded as regulars, with occasional visiting grandchildren.

The numbers therefore were usually two or three, and donations minimal.

We did a session during the Christmas Tree festival which was very popular, about 10 children and those parents left donations.

I also visited Speen Play group who really enjoyed it and said they would like a repeat.

We stopped meeting the week before the lock down.

I do not feel it is safe to run until the situation improves. When this happens, we can rethink times and sessions and perhaps concentrate more on outreach sessions if there are not enough local children to make it worthwhile.

I would like to thank Sarah Cann – it would not have worked without her. She also circulated news of our events to the parents of the younger age group.

Jenny Stothard

Treasurer's Report (Including Fundraising)

General Fund

For the year ended 31 December 2019 we recorded a surplus of £1,747.

Around 77% of our income was derived from church collections and covenants and the related gift aid. The other main contributors to income were one off donations, fees received for weddings and funerals and fundraising. A breakdown of income, including an analysis of our fundraising income, is included in the appendix.

As is the case every year, a large portion of our income is used in paying our parish share (62% for the year ended 31 December 2019). The Parish Share is the amount of money that each parish is asked to contribute to support the mission and ministry of the Church in the Diocese of Oxford and is spent on housing and stipend for our clergy, training and other ministerial support such as church schools, safeguarding and work with young people. The payment of the parish share is mandatory and so maximising our receipts and keeping all other costs in check is critical. We are fortunate that we have a number of dedicated volunteers whose help with cleaning, lawn mowing, hedge trimming and general maintenance means that we can save on these expenses. We are very grateful.

During the year, as a church and a congregation we donated £2,353 to various charities representing 6.4% of our total collections. These donations are detailed in the appendix. As is customary, Bibles were presented to the year 6 pupils leaving St John's school in July 2019 and we were also delighted to be able to purchase Bibles for a school in Kuruman. In addition to the

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amounts shown in the accounts, we also collected for the poppy appeal; made donations of non-perishable harvest produce to Saunderton Lodge; and donated a large number of toys to the Salvation Army for distribution at Christmas.

In addition to the reserves in the general fund of £9,783 at 31 December 2019 there was also £463 in the bank, restricted to payments for church repairs.

Although it is pleasing to have made a surplus for the year, this has only been possible due to the timing of reclaims made for gift aid. In order to bring our gift aid claims more up to date, 18 months of gift aid is included within this financial year for the period 1 April 2018 – 30 September 2019. Without the 'additional' six months then we would have recorded a deficit of £2,000. This would have been a deficit for the second year running.

Restoration Fund and Organ Fund

Planned giving to the restoration fund, together with tax reclaimed thereon, amounted to £658 and we received bank interest of £43. The balance on the restoration fund at the year-end stood at £14,781

During the year, the PCC began to investigate the options for the restoration of our Samuel Green organ. A concert was held during the year for the benefit of the organ fund and in addition, the immensely successful dinner dance held in October 2019 was, in part, to add to the organ restoration fund. In total, including gift aid, the organ fund was boosted by £7,542 during the year and stood at £13,603 at the year end.

Outlook for 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted on church funds for 2020. The suspension of services between March and August has meant that we have foregone collections from those who do not give by way of stewardship and visitors at popular services such as Mothering Sunday and Easter. In addition, all of our planned fundraising events since March have had to be cancelled and we do not yet know whether we be able to hold our Christmas fundraising events, although we continue to pray that they may go ahead and enable us to raise much needed funds. Alongside this we have still been required to pay our parish share in full, as well as insurance and maintenance costs. It is difficult to image a situation where we do not record a deficit for the year. I would urge you all to pray about your giving and consider an increase to your stewardship if you have not done so for some time - the vast majority of stewardship giving has remained unchanged, in many cases, for over a decade. We also encourage you to support any fundraising events which can take place for the remainder of the year with enthusiasm and generosity!

For anyone interested, the full annual accounts compiled to satisfy the requirements of the Charities Act and subject to Independent Examination, are displayed on the church notice board and will be available on the church website after this meeting.

If you have any questions or would like more detail on any of the above, then please do ask me and I would be happy to talk to you.

Caroline Gulliver, Treasurer

Appendix 1. Receipts Less Payments

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Income	£	£	£	£
Standing orders	17,811	16,231	16,396	16,091
Weekly Envelopes	2,465	2,585	2,917	2,629
Tax refund	9,701	7,657	7,051	6,279
Other collections	7,074	6,213	7,876	6,686
	<u>37,051</u>	<u>32,686</u>	<u>34,240</u>	<u>31,685</u>
PCC fees	1,305	1,526	2,297	1,087
Fundraising	6,921	4,701	5,217	4,686
Other	2,841	4,245	5,911	3,611
Total Income	<u>48,118</u>	<u>43,158</u>	<u>47,665</u>	<u>41,069</u>
Grants to charities	2,353	1,558	1,584	981
Diocesan Quota	28,792	27,889	28,791	27,547
Church running costs	5,828	5,360	5,257	4,886
Vicars expenses and telephone	2,788	3,054	3,021	2,828
Cost of services	4,697	4,392	4,755	4,604
Building & grounds maintenance	426	302	2,045	517
Other	1,487	1,371	1,787	1,713
Recruitment costs	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	<u>46,371</u>	<u>43,926</u>	<u>47,240</u>	<u>43,076</u>
Surplus /(Deficit)	<u>1,747</u>	<u>(768)</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>(2,007)</u>

Appendix 2. Fundraising Activities

	2019	2018	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£
Dinner dance	3,990*	-	-	-
Christmas fayre	1,223	1,086	1,428	1,162
Summer Fete	1,417	1,531	1,340	756
Sponsored Walk	1,067	-	-	-
Christmas Tree Festival	620	-	-	-
Ceilidh	419	-	-	485
Progressive supper	330	315	325	-
Pancake party	98	-	183	191
Easy Fundraising	60	107	389	431
Christmas cards	59	105	111	133
Plant sale	28	-	60	-
Quiz night	-	518	750	-
Harvest lunch	-	413	113	816
Choir concert	-	336	-	-
Bucks Ride & Stride	-	161	-	-
History Exhibition	-	130	-	-
Silent Auction	-	-	516	-
Open gardens	-	-	-	484
Junior church car washes	-	-	-	228
Total	£9,311	£4,702	£5,215	£4,686

*£2,390 from the dinner dance was allocated to the organ restoration fund, leaving £6,921 as fundraising income in the general fund.

Appendix 3. Grants to Charities

	2019
	£
Lighthouse	500
Bibles for Kuruman school	284
Bibles for St John's school leavers	255
Christian Aid	283
Children's Society	173
Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity	160
Thames Valley Air Ambulance	160
Cancer Research UK / Parkinsons	151
Churches Together in Risborough	150
Tanzania Charity	140
The Donna Louise	75
Royal British Legion	22
	<u>2,353</u>