

2020 APCM St. Helen's Church, Colne

1.Membership of the PCC

The members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. There are also co-opted members in the PCC. During the year the PCC's membership was as follows:

Ex-officio members of the PCC

Rector:	Revd Sheila Anthony
Churchwarden:	Mr Bob Major
Churchwarden:	Mrs Beverley Barlow
LLM:	Mr Tim Berry
Deanery Synod representatives:	Mr Tim Berry Mrs Janet Mehew

Elected and co-opted members

Elected Members:(term of office expressed as how many years of the term have been served)

Mrs Judith Jarvis 3/3
Mrs C Pomfret 3/3
Mrs Eleanor Brown 1/3
Mrs Ali Major 2/3
Mrs Roz Naderer 2/3
Mrs Zillah Limbert 1/3
Mr Ron Bradford 1/3
Mrs Jackie Sibson1/3

2.PCC meetings

The PCC has met five times in 2019: 04-02-19, 14-04-19,13-06-19, 15-10-19 and for an extraordinary meeting on 28-11-19.

Key points raised include:

- Role descriptions for all voluntary roles within the church were mandated, drawn up and signed by all volunteers.
- Light 2020, a mission scheduled to coincide with Pentecost in May 2020, was planned to involve all churches in the benefice, along with churches within a 10-mile radius around Bluntisham. Planning and organisation for this continued during the second half of the year.
- Financial pressures throughout the year meant that the church missed two parish share payments and were predicted to have a shortfall of circa £4500-5000 by the end of the financial year. An extraordinary meeting was convened where it was agreed to hold a gift day. Due to several generous donations by members of the congregation the situation was addressed, with sufficient funds to pay the parish share in full, along with a predicted surplus.

3.Electoral Roll Report

The electoral roll, after revision, currently stands at 43 members. A new roll was prepared last year and at that time the number of members was 44. The next preparation of a new electoral roll is due in 2025. 2 people were added to the roll in May 2019, after the last APCM. In both cases the forms were returned too late to be included at the APCM.

It is with regret that I have removed Robert George's name from the electoral roll. He died on 21st August 2020.

I have been in contact with Heidi Moat, who has moved out of the area and have removed her name with consent. Her husband, Nigel Moat will become a member of the clergy from 26th September and I have, therefore, removed his name from the roll.

Ros Naderer now worships at Wistow or Bury Church. I have removed her name, with her consent, from the roll.

I am delighted to welcome Florence Sharp back on to the electoral roll.

Jean Quilliam, Electoral Roll Officer, 12th September 2020

4. Attendance

- Usual Sunday attendance averages out at 23 adults and 4 children

- Worshipping community is 57

- Special Service attendance:

- Christmas 172

- Carol Service 50

- Easter 37

- Baptisms in 2019: 2

- Weddings in 2019: 0

- Funerals in 2019: 4

5. Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

General Account

Total income for 2019 of £31,195 was 25% up on the prior year – wholly due to a gift day, which raised £7,307 – without that, income would have been down -4.6%. The donations from regular giving by monthly standing orders remains almost static at 59% v 61% in 2018, despite a drop in the donors from 13 to 12. Other donations from service collections increased by 3.6%.

The expenses of £23,182 were £477 higher than last year – this is made up of £419 increase in Ministry share, £192 increase in maintenance and £43 increase in Insurance and £50 in utilities. The increases have been partially offset by the fact that no ministry expenses were claimed. The Parish share increased by 3.0%; once again a rate above inflation. We were able to pay our parish share in full, but only with the Gift day donations mentioned above. Without the Gift day donations, we would have recorded a deficit of £4,625 and have been overdrawn at the bank. Unless the current rates of donation increase, it is highly likely that we will again run short of funds in 2020.

Charitable donations of £4,971 were materially higher than last year, mainly down to collections of £1,597 for Janaki, £430 for Heal Nepal and £405 for Crisis. £2,280 relates to regular monthly giving to 5 charities – the same level as last year.

The total income for the year was higher than the total expenditure resulting in a surplus for the year of £3,042. Most costs continue to rise and particularly the Parish share which is our most significant expense, making up nearly 67% of our outgoings. In 2020 it is set to increase by 2.5%.

Investments

The fixed asset investments represent shares held in the investment funds of the Central Board of Finance (CBF) of the Church of England as follows:

Palmer bequest	151 shares at £19.1691 per share	£2,495
Chancel repair fund	379 shares at £19.1691 per share	£7,265
Colne church lands	502 units at £16.9287 per unit	£8,498

These funds, together with the deposit accounts, generate dividend and interest income which amounted to £585 in the year. The value of these investments increased by £2,890 (52.0%) compared to their value at the beginning of the year.

Zillah Limbert, Treasurer, 20th September 2020

6. Maintenance Report

D R Darnell Electrical Installations have carried out an inspection and sent us an Electrical Installation Conditional Report. They stated that some immediate remedial work (fuse/circuit breaker box and heater flex) is needed; and identified potentially dangerous items - no emergency light, no disabled alarm in the WC and also no fire alarm installed. They also suggested some improvements.

As we agreed, they have carried out the items that required immediate remedial work, so we now have an acceptable report. This has been forwarded to the insurance company (Ecclesiatical) and they are satisfied. We have paid Darnells the amount stated on the quotation for these jobs.

Bob Major arranged with Phil Marshall and carried out PAT testing on all of the equipment used in church, with the exception of the organ and roving microphones.

As we had not heard from Dave MacDonald, Bev requested quotes from three companies for re-pointing and minor repair work to the church tower and walls, as requested in the last Quinquennial report.

Stricklands (who are working on St Mary's Church) have quoted ca. £7300 and we are still awaiting quotes from the other two companies. We will need to arrange for this work to be done next year, once funding has been sorted.

The Fire Extinguishers in church have been checked and are satisfactory.

Regular safety checks have been carried out in the church. Gutters, downpipes and gullies continue to be checked and cleared as necessary, together with any other minor maintenance work.

We propose the laying of a paving slab path, from the vestry door to the shed directly onto the grass, so that tables, chairs, etc., can be carried safely into church. The grass is muddy, wet and slippery and is thus a health and safety hazard (especially since someone did recently slip).

Thank you to those who helped on the church clean day on 21 September, cleaning and tidying the church.

Thank you to Will Barlow for cutting the hedge at the east side of church and removing the old tree stump.

Thank you to all who do such a good job of caring for and looking after the church and grounds, in whatever capacity, including flower arranging and grass cutting.

Thank you to the 3C's group in the village, who have taken over providing and looking after flowers around the church, and to those who have volunteered to water the flowers. We have obtained, but still need to fit a water butt to collect rainwater.

Katie McAndrew continues to process an application for funding from HLF under the "our heritage" scheme, for work to be carried out on the porch in the old churchyard. We heard from her in October 2018 that she

had arranged for another architect, Fiona, who had agreed to help when she was able to do so, and they were drawing up plans but we have not heard anything since. The site is secured with Heras fence until further notice.

7. Safeguarding and Health and Safety

For St Helen's Church, Colne we have 17 people who had valid DBS Certificates in 2019 and we have a safeguarding policy in place. Most people who have DBS Certificates have completed safeguarding training courses and we are chasing up those who are still outstanding. There have been no reported safeguarding incidents this year.

We have a Health and Safety policy for the church and there have been no Health and Safety issues reported in 2019.

8. Mission and Ministry

Men's Group

The men's Group has continued to meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, throughout 2019, in each other's houses. We have eleven regular members and discuss everything from a passage in the bible to a topic that is in the news at the time. We had a trip to Kettering one evening to see a preview of the Bible Society Bible Course and then studied it in full over a number of weeks.

We are a supportive and encouraging group with a wide range of views on most subjects. We all respect the views of the others and often have robust discussions that could continue long into the night. At the end of the evening we all agree that we have learnt a lot and moved closer together as a group.

We also had social events ranging from a breakfast, a Christmas Dinner and a trip to Somersham Station, which had been relocated by Sir William McAlpine to Fawley Hill in Buckinghamshire. We joined in worship at Kingsgate Church in Peterborough one Sunday, where they have a congregation of over 1,000. We were very interested to see how their worship compared with our own.

We also had a trip to C3 Church in Cambridge one evening to hear presentations on, "The role of men," by Care for the Family.

Another week John Wilson, a retired vicar, came and spoke to us on the Holy Spirit and healing.

9. Deanery Synod 2019

There were four meetings of the Deanery Synod during 2019.

1) January 28th in Bury Parish Church

The meeting started with a celebration of Holy Communion.

We were informed by the treasurer that the Deanery Ministry Share had been paid in full for 2018 and we would be receiving the rebate for achieving this. He encouraged all parishes to pay their share by direct debit as this would attract a larger rebate.

There was a report of the Diocesan Synod given by Diana Lucas, and the Rural Dean reported on a meeting between Rural Deans and the Bishop.

Finally, members shared encouraging experiences from their Parishes.

2) April 9th in Upwood Parish Church

The treasurer reported that an increase of 3% in Ministry Share had been proposed by the Diocese. We had a talk by Geoffrey Hunter, Church buildings consultant about the use of Church buildings in the community. Simon Kershaw reported on the Diocesan Synod meeting. Members then shared good news stories from their parishes.

3) July 3rd in Holywell Parish Church

The treasurer reported that the draft Diocesan budget was showing a proposed 2.5% increase in Ministry Share for 2020. The Rural Dean addressed the meeting on Lay Ministry in the diocese and how it is being encouraged. Eight Lay Ministers then gave their testimonies and experiences of Lay Ministry.

4) October 31st in Colne Parish Church

Rev. Phil Marsh and Rev. Mark Rodel spoke to the meeting about Fresh Expressions of Church. They said that we need to be continually looking to see what God is doing around us and be ready to join in with Him. We need to be doing things WITH God, nor FOR God. Simon Kershaw gave a report on the Diocesan Synod meeting.

10. Rectors Report 2019

The highlights of this year, in no particular order:

Services

Four benefice services were held bringing the three parishes together.

We continue to have a Family Service, Holy Communion (BCP), Family Communion, Morning Worship and Creative Worship each month. We also have a dedicated monthly 11.11 prayer meeting.

I would like to thank Judith Jarvis and Sue Eddy for helping the children to engage with the services.

Communion services held on Thursdays continue with between six and twelve people attending. We are most grateful to Bob Major and Ann Lorman who have transported people to and from their homes.

When possible, I lead a monthly Communion service in Woodlands Residential Home. Members of St Mary's and St Helen's churches also lead an annual carol service for the residents.

Quite a few people joined in the Good Friday Walk of Witness, ending with a meditative service at BcE church hall. As usual, hot cross buns were enjoyed by all.

We held our joint Bible Sunday service with BcE and the Baptist Church at the Baptist Church.

The Colne Remembrance service was again very well attended.

Thank you to Bob Major and Tim Berry who lead Compline each Sunday at the Rector's Hall.

Schools

The Open the Book team continues to take weekly assemblies at Bluntisham and bi-weekly assemblies at Earith primary schools, which are very much enjoyed by the children. Both Bluntisham and Earith Primary schools have enjoyed Experience Christmas and Easter. The response by children and teachers has been encouraging.

Friday Lunches

Thank you to Wendy George and Roz Naderer who having been running this well attended event. Good friendships continue to be made.

Music Makers

It is absolute joy to see so many children and parents/carers attend on a monthly basis. Good connections are being made. Thank you to Wendy, Sally, Janet, Judith and Ann for all your help.

Harvest Supper

We had excellent entertainment at the annual Harvest Supper, which as usual attracted many in the community. Thank you to all those who work so hard at making this a special evening.

Herald

Thank you to John McAngus, and Eleanor Brown while John was away, who have produced the Herald this year. Thank you to all volunteers who deliver the Herald – we are very grateful.

Clusters

Groups meet weekdays to study the bible and becoming equipped for the Christian life. Everyone is welcome to come along. The Beta group continues to meet for lunch and bible study.

Courses

We are continuing to offer Alpha courses; please invite anyone you might think will be interested.

Parish Share

Thank God that we have paid the parish share this year. Every year costs rise and it is becoming increasingly difficult to support the ministry in the church. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider whether they could increase their giving.

Churchyard

This year 3Cs have been maintaining the churchyard so thank you to them and all those who are working so tirelessly to make the churchyard look so well cared for.

Old Churchyard

Efforts are still being made by Katie McAndrew to obtain finance to restore the porch.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Bob and Bev for continuing to work so hard as churchwardens. Thank you to PCC members for your continued support and enthusiasm. Thank you to those who lead worship and to all those who take care of the church building and churchyard making it look so beautiful. Thank you to all those who help with Music Makers and children's work in church. Thank you to everyone for this church family, your hospitality, energy, enthusiasm and tireless commitment continues to be inspirational.

I continue to pray for increase of numbers in this church family and pray that this church be known as a place of warm welcome and hospitality and where the presence of God is tangible.

Heavenly Father: Let your glory shine, your power fall and your kingdom come in these parishes.

Rev. Sheila Anthony, Rector, 19th September 2020