

2020 Annual Reports
presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of the
Parish of Widford
on
19th April 2021

## **WIDFORD PARISH PCC**

#### **AIM AND PURPOSES**

St Mary's Church and Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Stephanie Gillingham, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Widford Parish Centre, Forest Drive, Widford.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC is committed to encouraging people to worship with us at our different services and to become part of our parish church family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, Bible reading and teaching, music and the sacraments.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our wardens have led us in managing the fabric of our properties, for which we are very grateful.

## **OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT READS:**

We want to grow:

- · To be more like Jesus
- Knowing Christ together
- Loving one another
- Serving others
- · Being at the heart of our community

#### **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

#### TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS

This year started well with assemblies in schools, the Coffee Stop and all our groups meeting regularly but then, sadly, the whole world was impacted by Covid 19 which forced the PCC to make some of the toughest decisions it has ever had to make. For the first lockdown, the Archbishop asked for all churches to be closed and so began a steep learning curve with technology. Stephanie and Andy ran services and weekly prayers from their home and Jess continued with face to-face working with the youth and young people while we were allowed to. We delivered orders of service and copies of Churchtalk, (our weekly newssheet) to people's houses. Grateful thanks to Pam and Shirley for helping with this and then taking it on. There were special deliveries for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday to everyone in our church family. We accepted using spiritual communion once we were no longer allowed to share communion together and PCC meetings took place on Zoom, another medium we all had to learn how to use. Once we were allowed, we opened our doors for prayer at St. Mary's and Church of the Holy Spirit and then congregations met in small numbers for Sunday services at church as well. As we developed our skills according to our Face book page and using Zoom, all services were recorded and when able they went live. We have continued to produce a South West churches service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month and this has been well attended and appreciated. In December, services took place in our churches with those taking part. These were all shared online with the wider congregations. We are thankful to Jess who has kept all-age services going in a similar way and has increased the number of messy Churches to monthly.

We would like to record our grateful thanks to Andy for all his involvement, skills and expertise that he has shared with us over the last three years. We are delighted for him that he has accepted a position at the Church of our Saviour, Springfield, and we wish him every Gods' blessing on his future ministry there.

**Prayer:** We took the opportunity to open St. Marys and Church of the Holy Spirit for prayer twice a week, as soon as we were allowed. Tuesday morning prayers took place online led by Andy and Stephanie. More recently, Sunday prayers have been led by church family members which has been lovely. We used the 'Comfort and Joy' Church of England resource during the 12 days after Christmas. We took advantage of the Church of England prayer book which was produced to support people through the Covid pandemic. People either received the hard copy or were encouraged to download the app.

**Prophecy:** 2020 was a really hard year for us all but as I began looking at the prophecies received, I began to feel excited. Our wonderful God does hear our prayers and has good plans for the future.

I feel that God has been saying;

(12<sup>th</sup> Jan) Revival will come, moving in several areas but not in obvious ways.

Stand firm, keep seeking God, be encouraged because he is at work, do not doubt but keep praying and pressing in.

(27<sup>th</sup> Jan) Open your eyes to see what is happening in the parish, wait on me and I will bring people to you, receive them and speak my words to them. As a response to our faithfulness in listening to God, he has set good, solid foundations to build a house of prayer and love, a refuge to many, a safe place where people can feel accepted and loved and find meaning. God will bring in some fellow workers, but we will need to train some of our congregation.

#### (7<sup>th</sup> May) A storm is coming to the UK.

Stand firm in Jesus, wear armour he has given us, shields of faith linked together, move forward in Jesus' name so that the dark clouds over this nation can be driven away and harvest of souls, so many longing to be set free, can be gathered in. They will be eager to embrace Jesus. Welcome, love, nurture and disciple them.

Do not be overwhelmed by the numbers, God will provide for our needs and will guide us. Start making preparations for nurture.

In all this be alert to the Holy Spirit and obedient to him, keep eyes fixed on Jesus, respond in wonder and praise and be full of joy at what he will do!

(21<sup>st</sup> Sept, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct) Not an easy road so we need to be filled with Holy Spirit, immersed in God's Word and spend time in Father's presence. Revival is coming.

(9<sup>th</sup> Oct) Battle going on in heaven because enemy trying to delay revival, need to cry out to God in prayer for the nation for God is longing to bring healing, he will answer our prayers.

(Oct and 29<sup>th</sup> Nov) Difficult times are ahead but God is with us and will give us all we need.
Listen out for God, seek his will, wait for guidance of Holy Spirit then step out in faith.
God's work here will start as a trickle but will grow in size with time almost to a flood, spreading in different directions.

May our response to all this be; WE COME WITH EXPECTATION WAITING HERE FOR YOU (GOD)!

This is very much a resume of the prophecies received, if you would like full copies, do please contact me. Pat Brown

#### **KNOWING CHRIST TOGETHER**

We started the year as usual with communion service held in each church twice a month and through the month each church having an All-Age service and services of the Word. After the pandemic struck, we were asked to close our churches and then services were held online. Thanks to Andy and Jess for enabling that to happen. We were asked to change to a pattern of Spiritual Communion and then when our churches reopened, we took Communion in one kind (The Bread). Through December, Stephanie provided a series of online Taizé services which was enjoyed by many and also how to make a Jesse Tree which ran through advent. Andy reached us with some beautiful carols which he had recorded.

#### Within the Framework of the Services:

At St. Marys: Our worship pattern follows Holy Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month, Morning Prayer on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and All-Age worship on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. When there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we join with CHS or with our wider South West Churches group, comprising St. Michaels, Galleywood, St Johns, Moulsham and St. Luke's, Moulsham Lodge. Our music is provided by Rob Perry to whom we are very grateful. We use the combined Songs of Fellowship hymn book and sing both ancient & modern hymns. We have a number of lay members who are confident in leading intercessory prayers and other lay people who either lead services or assist Stephanie; everyone is encouraged to use their spiritual gifts. The needs of our small number of children are met by Pam Myall. At All-Age services Pam pro-actively involves any children present in the service. Within our Sunday morning services, we incorporate Baptisms and Blessings when the opportunity arises. Stephanie uses Funerals as an opportunity to reach out to people with the gospel. Other services take place at various times on Saturdays or Sundays. Carol services, a Christingle and Mid-night communion on Christmas Eve services all took place online.

At Church of the Holy Spirit: Our Worship pattern follows All-Age Worship on the 1st Sunday each month, Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and Morning Worship on the 3rd Sunday each month. We are fortunate to be led by a band of singers and musicians and so are grateful to Tracy who is the Worship Leader and to Sheila, Roger, Keith, Lisa and Barbara for playing and leading the worship. Tammy Squirrel shares the responsibility of teaching the children and leading on the sound desk with Alan, Elizabeth and Colin when they are able. Until the pandemic struck, Jess livened up the All-Age Service working with Stephanie which proved to be more successful. She continued to produce excellent All-Age videos for all to enjoy through the year. This has been done with the use of stories, crafts, quizzes, puppets and collages.

Average Attendance during Covid shutdown period		Baptisms	SM 0 CHS 0
St. Mary's	30	Weddings	2
Church of the Holy Spirit	22	Funerals Interment of Ashes	26 6
Online, with some homes having more than one viewer	50	Confirmations	0

#### LOVING ONE ANOTHER

We have a number of house groups which meet regularly, and we remember birthdays and special events. During the pandemic some of these have managed to continue to meet in gardens (when allowed) using a phone link and using Zoom online. We have a prayer chain which supports people as they need it. Thank you to Tracy for managing this. We have a team who have delivered to people's homes, service resources, Churchtalk and seasonal gifts to people in their homes

**Pastoral Group:** This group consists of Revd Stephanie Gillingham, Revd Andy Brown, Shirley Deering (our host), Sheila Schofield, Gill and Peter Wood, Tracy Davey, Lisa Quilter and Pam Myall.

In 2020, only two meetings were held, one of which was very small, because some members were sheltering. In view of the lockdowns, pastoral care was mostly telephone-based. Post funeral contacts were maintained by telephone and cards sent, usually a year after a bereavement.

Appreciation was expressed for the delivery of Churchtalk to those unable to receive it digitally. Also, for the Bereavement Coffee Morning, which was held in October, in carefully socially distanced format.

#### House Groups:

St. Mary's House Group: We have 9 members, and we meet monthly. Each household takes a turn at hosting and provides a hot meal. Everyone else contributes to the meal. We began the year with a study course by Jack Wellman, entitled '7 great topics for home bible study groups. We only managed 2 sessions when the pandemic struck. The majority of our group were required to shield. We have not met since. We all have adult children, here is a prayer which we used: Father God please help our children to stay connected with You and in the Word so that they might find protection that only you can offer and to help them avoid the places, people and temptations that might try to bring them back into the darkness. I pray this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rossendale House Group We began 2020 by following the Sunday Service Readings and enjoyed looking into them in more depth. Then the Pandemic struck, and we did not meet at all for a few weeks. Pam then had the brilliant idea of us contacting each other by telephone each week when we were able, to check up on each other, and to talk about the Book of Ruth. After Easter we continued in this way looking at Esther, Samson and the Ascension. In June, due to the wonderful weather and the fact that the lockdown was eased slightly, we were able to meet again in the garden of 10 Rossendale when we looked at John Lennox's book 'Where is God in a Coronavirus World'. We carried on meeting in this way in July, when we enjoyed reading Philippians and then moved on to reading John's Gospel which we finished just in time for Christmas. When the weather changed, we met at the back of CHS where it was possible to socially distance but enjoy being able to see each other.

<u>Friday Group:</u> Sadly, the group has not been able to meet for the past year owing to Coronavirus restrictions. Another sadness is that we lost a much loved and valued member, Beryl Clark. Beryl went into residential care soon after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in April and sadly died in November. She is much missed. There will need to be a review of the group's future when normal meetings are allowed again.

<u>Benedict Drive Group:</u> We were only able to meet together 1 or 2 times before lockdown happened. We look forward to meeting as soon as possible. The Group consists of Pat, Vicky, Alan and Joan.

## **SERVING ONE ANOTHER**

Widford Waddlers toddler group meets on Thursday mornings in Widford Village Hall from 10-12noon. We are a friendly caring group made up of a mixture of mums, grandparents and childminders. We have a regular 'core' of members who come along every week. Some of our mums can only come for a short time while they are on maternity leave from work.

We provide a selection of toys for babies and pre-school children as well as a play dough table and reading area. We also have a craft table which is very popular with the children and with Zoe's help they make something to take home based on the theme for the week. We have a refreshment break during the morning provided by Sheila and a singsong at the end of our session when we celebrate the children's birthdays.

Sadly, on the 12th March, we had to stop meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic. We were thankfully able to deliver our Mother's Day plants and card making craft as well as our Easter baskets and craft to as many of our mums as we could before the country went into full lockdown. We were unable to meet again during the Summer term and therefore not able to have our usual end of term party and say goodbye to the children leaving us to go to school in September.

We were able to start meeting again in late September in the Covid safe hall. Unfortunately, we were limited to 15 people which made it quite difficult and stressful as under-fives were at this time included in the 15. We also had a number of new mums wanting to join as other toddler groups had stayed shut. Lockdown 2 in November meant we had to close again, but we did manage to open for 3 sessions in December when we were able to do lots of Christmas craft.

Please pray for our group, the mums, children and leaders, that 2021 will be a better year and we can meet up again. Our very grateful thanks go to Stephanie for her encouragement and support.

Homework and Craft Club: Sadly, Homework and Craft club have not been able to meet since March 2020, though some of the families have started attending Messy Church both online and in person! At Easter, we delivered activity books to all the children and they were well received and enjoyed! Before the March lockdown, craft club was becoming very popular with both children (school years 2-6) and parents. Each week, Mums enjoyed joining in the craft with their children and it became very akin to Messy Church - so we could do with some extra helpers when we are able to open again!

I have stayed in regular contact with our Homework Club families (one welcomed a new arrival in October), and they miss our Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, looking forward to returning when able. Although the numbers at Homework Club are smaller, the ones that do come really appreciate this ministry. Bob was also helping one parent with an English Language course! Thank you to Bob (Known as Mr Bob at H/W club!), Zoe, Jane and Gill for your help. We look forward to getting back to normal.

**Youth group:** We continued our Christianity Explored course (studying the Gospel of Mark) over Zoom from March 2020 and met on Wednesdays and Saturdays alternating our course with online game nights. A particular favourite has been 'Skribbl', an online Pictionary game. We got inventive with our Bible readings and stories for the All-Age Services and were able to encourage each other through numerous lockdowns. We also planned a quiz night, each of us writing some questions (which the young people are excited to run when allowed!) to raise funds for another youth away day. On the brief occasions that we were allowed to meet in person, we enjoyed following some of the 'Rooted' course by Scripture Union and playing "9-square-in- theair" which was purchased with grant money received at the start of 2020. This game has proved very popular, and parents were eager to join in at pick up time! Later in the year, we were able to plan our first Youth Led Service - which was held at St Mary's. We had a lot of fun recording the scenes for our Virtual Nativity, both well received, and the young people enjoyed being a part of it. We are now using an App created by former Bradwell Youth Adviser, Mark Tiddy called 'LecDeck' which focusses on one of the Lectionary readings each week. Thank you to Stephanie for being the second leader and for our visiting helpers Andy, Pam and Barbara J.

**Supaclub:** Pam, Andy, and Stephanie, have continued to lead the after-school club at Westlands school on a Monday while we were allowed to. We use Bible stories, old and new, to inspire our session and then introduce crafts, colouring, games and drama.

We usually have about 10 children; a biscuit and drink set them up, and they keep their own registration card with a small sticker to mark the week they attend.

The children are usually lively and chatty, but they enjoy the stories, activities and games.

Grateful thanks to Pam and Andy for their commitment to the group, and for all the fun we have together. We remain grateful to Westlands Community Primary for allowing us to meet.

Sadly, we were not allowed to meet during the pandemic and even when schools reopened, after school clubs were not permitted. We look forward to restarting in the future.

Children's ministry: This year we have held another successful holiday club with a difference. Jess and a team led an online holiday club which families could enjoy from the safety of their homes. We released a video on our Youtube channel on Mondays (with a viewing session in CHS for those without the technology) and then had feedback session on Thursday Mornings (live or via Zoom). Each week, we prepared craft packs and a video focused on a different scientific topic, guided by Scripture Union such as light, robots, space and nature. The focus was our Wonderful World! The videos included an experiment, craft, Bible Story and reflection. In the live church sessions, we were able to try the experiments for ourselves and do some additional crafting and dancing-there was a wide age group represented. Thanks go to Jess and the team for enabling that to happen.

Stephanie, Andy and Jess continued to visit and provide assemblies at Beeches Pre-school and Stephanie provided online videos through the pandemic for Widford Lodge and Westland Community Primary School.

**Open the Book:** At the start of 2020, we were granted permission by Westlands Community Primary School to begin weekly assemblies based around stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible. We got an awesome team together from both churches including Shirley, Alan and Barbara, Joan, Jen, Lynette, Colin G, Linda, Stephanie, Andy and myself. Sadly, we were only able to go into the school once before the lockdown situation, but we performed the Calming of the storm which was quite apt for the months that followed! Later that day, one of the children came up to me in Tesco and told me how much they enjoyed it! If you haven't yet seen the boat skilfully made by Bob – it is currently awaiting its next outing at the back of CHS. We are also very grateful to Joan, who made some great costumes for us to use in future assemblies and productions!

Messy Church: From September 2020, we made the decision to start holding Messy Church on a monthly basis, beginning with the theme 'Jesus my Superhero'! In October, we held MC on Halloween and it doubled up as a light party, learning about how God saved Daniel's friends from the fiery furnace. Our November session was online – the visit of Angel Gabriel to Mary and had nearly 200 views. We prepared packs with crafts, snacks and other activities that were complimented by a video on our Facebook page to talk them through. Miraculously, in December we were able to meet in person to continue the Christmas story. We have enjoyed getting to know our regulars and they have enjoyed coming! Thank you to the Messy Church team for your commitment through the pandemic!

**Choir:** We were very upset to lose a treasured member of the choir, Barbara Oxford, in the summer. Prior to COVID we had been rehearsing a couple of songs for Easter 2020 and enjoying meeting together at St Mary's on Wednesday evenings. Carole King and Neil Diamond were also weekly favourites. We hope to be back singing together soon.

**Knit and Natter:** Knit and Natter is a mutual support group that meets on the first Thursday of each month from 7 -9pm. We very much miss Pat Deal who was a mainstay of the group and proved to be an expert in knitting and crochet. Naturally, due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic we only met a few times early in the year and then twice towards the end of 2020.

All are welcome, so do give it a try (even if you don't knit, you're welcome to come along and natter!). Once the Covid-19 restrictions ease we hope we will soon be able to get together again over a hot drink, relax with each other and share each other's news.

**Tithing**. In March 2020 we met and suggested that the parish gives to the following charities. This was agreed at the PCC.

We based our giving on 10% of the church's income for 2019. This was £97,833. We agreed to give a total of £9800, just over 10% of the above.

We gave the following specific amounts away as a church family.

1.	Edapal family (4 x £300)	£1,200
2.	CHESS	£1,075
3.	Made for More (formally SYM)	£1,075
4.	The Mary Wood Trust	£1,075
5.	BSL Bible Translation	£1,075
6.	The House for Street Boys in Kigali - Ubaka U Rwanda	£1,075
7.	Open doors	£1,075
8.	Daylight Christian Trust	£1,075
9.	Emergency Pot	£400 - Christian Aid
		£100 - Christian Aid Covid-19 appeal
		£100 - Hugh Pilcher
		<u> </u>

Total sent: £9,325

We have received many grateful letters of appreciation for the gifts that were sent, and the money has been put to good use.

**Lunch Club:** Our loyal band of cooks and helpers started the year providing lunches on Wednesdays. All was going well with good attendance each week when we had to close because of the virus and the lockdown which followed. After completing a risk assessment, we were able to start again in October. Due to social distancing, we restricted numbers to 10 diners, so attendance was on a rota basis. We managed 5 sessions in this way before the next lockdown intervened. In December we managed 2 dinners with a Christmas theme, but the imposition of tier 3 restrictions meant that the third we had planned had to be cancelled.

The regular main cooks are Sheila Schofield and Judith Large. The others helping with cooking and washing up are Janet Aldridge, Janet Bird, Alan Davey and Jeff Gilbert, Valerie Hayward, Lynette Hunwicks, Maureen McPhee, and Linda Stephens. We were also assisted by Zoe Myall and Jess Wiseman. Pam Myall organised the attendance when numbers were restricted, and she and Sandra Kyte lay the tables serve the food and clear away after every week. We are truly grateful to all the helpers without whom the lunches would not be possible.

We remember fondly 3 former helpers who passed away during the year – Del Fleming, Pat Deal and Beryl Clark.

We are grateful to Jude Deakin who recommended us for a grant from the Council for crackers and table decorations for the Christmas dinner.

**Wednesday Fellowship:** In those ten weeks before lockdown, the year got off to an enthusiastic start. After an 'Annual Review', Pat Deal led the Fellowship in a Beetle Drive; then we enjoyed a Hand Pamper session with Gill, accompanied by music from Derek; a Word Wheel with Vicky; Ministry Thoughts with Revd Janet Allwright; Flower Arrangements for St Valentine's Day, with Pat Jackson; Poems with Keith Taylor; an Ash Wednesday service with Stephanie and Andy; a visit by Chris Button with his guide dog, Todd; and, on 11th March, Elaine Doe showed us how to make attractive Easter Eggs out of old greeting cards.

As the country 'closed down' and less than a week after our final meeting, Pat Deal died. Pat had been a faithful member of Women's Fellowship for many years and had been joint Leader, with Pat Jackson, until the end of 2019. We truly value their wonderful contribution to the Fellowship.

In the months after March 2020, with no meetings, members kept in touch with one another individually. Shirley continued to send cards to greet members on their birthdays.

When we are again able to meet, we shall miss Pat Deal and Del Fleming (who died in January), and also Beryl Clark (who died in November). But thankfully, we can be assured that they are now safe with Our Lord.

#### BEING AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

We have tried to keep in mind our Mission Statement. With that in mind we held a few social events when we were able to. We do not usually make a charge for any of the events we provide for the community. We are able to do this through the generosity of our Church Family.

Pancake Parties were again held on Shrove Tuesday for All-Ages. We provided puzzle sheets and word searches for people to do and chat over while they ate their pancakes. 191 pancakes, with a variety of fillings and toppings, were readily consumed! Many families attended this year.

<u>Friends of Essex Churches Ride and Stride.</u> Ride and Stride was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. However, outside, socially distanced activities were allowed, so a Cream Tea was held at St Mary's, on the second Saturday in September, as usual. This had the added purpose of celebrating the completion of the church's interior decoration.

**Harvest**. We were fortunate to be able to meet at this time at both churches. We collected for the local food bank and received a generous number of gifts for which the food banks were very grateful.

**Stewardship.** Mike Power spoke to the PCC regarding the topic of Stewardship. He followed this up by preached for us in one of our online services in November. We were thankful to him for his encouragement and support

For Christmas. The church family decided to host a Christian Pantomime Company called '4front Theatre'. Because of the pandemic, they were unable to attend but they were able to produce an online pantomime which members were able to watch at home or at Church of the Holy Spirit. They brought us a fun Christmas message and brightened up a tough period in the year.

### **ELECTORAL ROLL**

There are currently 67 people on the Electoral Roll, of which 39 are resident in the parish and 28 are non-resident.

#### **DEANERY SYNOD**

The first, and only face-to-face meeting of 2020 was held on 19th February, at Meadgate Church. Informative talks were given on the Christian presence at the Boreham Boot Sale and on Youth Ministry Resources.

Members of Chelmsford South Deanery expressed willingness to merge with Chelmsford North. As a result, a joint Standing Committee meeting was held at Meadgate on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

By 16<sup>th</sup> July, it was necessary to hold meetings on Zoom. Members from both Deaneries shared experiences from Lockdown. Among lessons to be learned was the need for compassion and kindness; hope; connection and belonging. All features of the Church at its best. At this meeting, a formal 'Thank You' was expressed to Canon Christine Horton, who had been Lay Chair of Chelmsford South Deanery for many years and would not continue in a similar role in the merged Deaneries.

At the end of July, a draft of the Bishop's Pastoral Measure was presented for comment by our PCC. At our meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> August, we had no objections to the official joining of the North and South Deaneries.

During the course of the Widford APCM, on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020, the Triennial election for Deanery Synod took place. Once again, Bob Wiseman and Pam Myall were elected as lay representatives (Clergy are members ex officio).

The third Deanery Synod Meeting of 2020 took place, on Zoom, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Revd Tim Balls, our Area Dean, reminded us of the purpose of the Group, i.e., legal requirements – for election of higher synods (Diocesan and General) etc; to share best practice and to pray together. There was a discussion about "Our Church and the Environment", which tied in well with Widford PCC's determination to be an Eco Church.

#### **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT**

**St. Mary's:** Sylvia Skardon was the sole Warden at St. Mary's until the belated APCM took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September and Sylvia was re-elected and Bob Wiseman was elected to serve alongside her.

For a large part of the year the church was closed, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the month of May, Auravision Ltd, specialists in church windows removed 3 casements in the church and 1 in the organ loft, took them away, refurbished them and refitted them. Pharoah Fencing Ltd, erected 30 metres of new feather board fencing to the east boundary of the churchyard, which still looks as fresh now as when it was installed. All soft furnishings and valuable items were removed to the Parish Centre ahead of the long-awaited redecoration of the Chancel and Nave by Bakers of Danbury Ltd, (many of the fittings remain at the Parish Centre until such time in 2021 when it is felt right to return them to St. Mary's). The redecoration work took place during June/July. Following completion of this work, during those few summer months that we were able to return to Sunday Worship together, although limited to 30 attendees, everyone who wanted to, was able to see the church newly painted and looking glorious.

Also, in July, Revd Stephanie and Bob Wiseman, with the blessing of the PCC, met with Mr Martin Seager owner of the adjoining land. Mr Seager (having sold the large plot to Mr Adam Lowe of Ingatestone), agreed a price with us to sell us his remaining land. To give a full report here on the protracted events surrounding this purchase would be inappropriate, suffice to say on 18<sup>th</sup> December, Chelmsford City Council approved our planning application to extend our car park and create a Garden of Remembrance and we look forward to completing the purchase in 2021.

Mr Adam Lowe has proved to be a good neighbour, in November he had a new boundary fence erected between our properties and reduced the height of the tall leylandii trees, all at his expense.

As we prepared the church for Advent, lockdown restrictions were reintroduced, we were in tier 4, the highest level, so once again numbers attending services were restricted. We experienced an online Christingle Service on 29<sup>th</sup> November and 2 Carol Services on the same afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> December.

Many people need to be thanked for all the service they gave to God and His church throughout the year, despite the difficult circumstances. The Friday group continued to work tirelessly to keep the churchyard tidy and looking loved, cleared the church for redecorating, with others they decorated the church for Harvest and Christmas. You know who you are, 'thank you'.

Our Leadership team need to be congratulated on getting to grips with the technology of live streaming services and there has been amazing versatility shown with live services integrated with pre-recorded sections. Without which we may not have had any services during lengthy lockdown periods. Matthew 25:21a

Finally, we are pleased to be working alongside Barbara Jones and Keith Schofield, both serving at CHS.

**Church of the Holy Spirit:** Services at CHS have been a mixture of live, live-streamed and recorded since the APCM in September of last year due to the Government restrictions regarding the Covid 19 virus. The Diocese have been excellent in providing information as to when the churches had to close and were able to reopen.

Despite CHS being closed for public worship it continued to open for individual prayer on a weekly basis up until when Chelmsford entered Tier 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

At the APCM Keith Schofield was elected as the second Church Warden for CHS. Tamzin Squirrel stood down after many years of devoted service as Church Warden, for which on behalf of all the congregation express our profound thanks. Tammy continues in her role as Caretaker.

In October, a key audit was undertaken by Keith to ascertain who held sets of keys for CHS and St. Mary's, and should anyone regularly require keys, do contact him to see if any can be made available, and likewise if you hold keys that you no longer require, please pass them to a Warden or Tammy.

From the second week in October, the Government announced further restrictions as the second wave of the Covid 19 hit the UK.

At the end of October and following some heavy rain a leak was discovered in the roof of CHS and rainwater found its way through the ceiling of the Widford Lounge. Some broken tiles were seen when the roof was inspected from the carpark the next day. Luckily Tammy knew of the contact details of a roofer who had made repairs on the roof previously. He was swiftly contacted and was able to come to put a temporary covering on the affected area. He then returned a week or so later and replaced the broken tiles. Luckily on his previous job with our church roof he had managed to purchase a number of extra tiles specific to the ones used on our roof – they were not made any more apparently so we have plenty more should any more get damaged.

During November a Lone Worker risk assessment was performed on CHS and the Parish Centre. It highlighted the potential vulnerability of office staff and other people when they were alone in the church when it was open to the public. An intercom system was purchased and set up with the help of Alan Jones in the office at CHS so as lone staff working in the office or in the church building could identify and be notified of a visitor when the front door was locked. This action was taken to help protect staff and volunteers in the event that a threatening visitor attempted to gain entry without their permission, so if the door is locked when a staff member or volunteer is present, do feel free to use the intercom and let them know who you are to be welcomed in!

In early January, England experienced another Lockdown as Covid 19 virus numbers had risen to worryingly high numbers.

At the time of writing this report we are still in Lockdown. The church is closed to public worship and individual prayer. The office is also closed. Our church services continue to be live-streamed via Facebook.

At the end of 2020 the Media Desk PC stopped working and was due for repair or replacement (at the time of writing it has been repaired and upgraded at no cost to the Parish, making it ready for the resumption of use when we are back worshiping in Church of the Holy Spirit.

The year 2020 has turned out to be an unprecedented year in our Church life. Like all in the Church family, we look forward in 2021 to the step by step unlocking and full resumption of Parish life in 2021.

As Churchwardens we are your lay representatives supporting and serving our Clergy and congregation. Should you have any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to get in touch.

## LYNCHPIN'S REPORT

We met once at the beginning of the year and then met again before Christmas to catch up and share news of what we were doing in our parishes. We hope to get back together once the pandemic is behind us.

## **RECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Greetings from Stephanie**

My scripture verses for this year come from Colossians 1:9-12.

This has been a tough year, for all of us, and some people have known more hardship than others. I would like to think about the year in the light of Paul's letter to the Colossians, (Colossians 9 - 10):

'We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord, and please him in every way:' Prayer has been and continues to be vital. Thank you for praying. We received some lovely prayer resources from the Church of England in the first lock-down, which I was able to distribute. Jess encourages our youth in the right paths, they pray together every week they meet, and we have had our churches open as much as possible. Grateful thanks to everyone who served our Parish in this way, helping to keep the two buildings open.

Paul then writes: 'bearing fruit in every good work,' (Colossians 10b). Despite the virus we have managed to hold several messy church mornings live, and others online, wedding preparation goes ahead and three of the weddings took place. Online Alpha, and a Taizé quiet space, services online, making a Jesse Tree together, carols from Andy, and deliveries out to you all with grateful thanks to Pam and Shirley, have all taken place. A few people enjoyed a few weeks of lunch club as we were able to meet, and I know there have been phone calls, and occasional meetings – which gives us a chance to share Gods love for one another, which is wonderful.

Reverend Mike Power came to the Parish to preach for us and to work with the PCC on Stewardship. We were glad of his input and sharing his wisdom, but it has been difficult to implement much change in a pandemic. We can re-visit this as we return to our new normal, hopefully later in the year.

'growing in the knowledge of God,' (Colossians 1. 11), I know that many of you continued to read through Advent and enjoyed the Lent and Advent books sent out to all too. Some house groups have continued to meet using zoom, and phone links. Grateful thanks to Andy and Keith who coped quickly and easily to live and recorded video which we have streamed from our Facebook page. The flexibility has been amazing, enabling people to watch at the time it is streamed, or when they have time later in the day. This has kept us together as a church family, it is fun to see who is in the 'chat.'

'being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,' (Colossians 1: 11). I think that we have all learnt great endurance and patience. This virus has tested the best of us. I miss seeing people, but am also mindful, that we need to take great care for a while longer. The church has managed to provide some good courses and training online, which is tiring, but gratefully received. Our prayer meetings have continued live and online as we are able, and you are all upheld in our prayers regularly.

I continue to spend half a day a week with the Chaplaincy team, working with the Chelmsford College, and a day a week, working with the deaf ministry team. This is the way my post is funded, and I enjoy the variety and mix of people I meet along the way.

It is with gratitude I thank God for all of you. For the paid team: Andy and Jess, and for Tammy stepping back from being paid through the pandemic to support our finances.

'giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.' (Colossians 1: 12).

Keep going, grateful thanks to all, but particularly those serving on the PCC, our wardens, Jess and Andy,

God bless you all, Stephanie

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

This year was a very strange year in the life of the church, and the accounts have been no exception. I took over from Roger Bird, who retired from his role after 7 years. I want to thank him for all his hard work and effort in keeping the accounts in good shape.

When I took over just, the churches were just changing their way of working from regular in-church services to a mixture of online and in person gatherings. As a result, our in-person services were curtained for most of 2020, and our church hall hires, and lettings vanished from the end of March 2020.

Despite not meeting together in the usual way, the generosity of all our givers has continued, for which we give thanks to God.

#### **Income**

The total income for the parish 2020 was £96,657, whereas expenditure was £126,513. A "deficit" of £29,856.

This compares with a total income of £97,834 in 2019, and expenditure of £91,118.

However, this comparison does not reflect the true extent of what happened in the year.

Total income for the year was comparable, however part of this income were two grants with a total of £7,004 by Chelmsford City Council Community Development Fund, towards the soft play area and the deaf communications group. £341 of the deaf fund has been spent so we have a positive balance on our accounts of £6,663.

To truly reflect the income this balance should be removed and would leave a total general income of £89,653.

## Giving and Gift Aid

Our income from giving by parishioners fell by £6,142 (£57,383 in 2020 v £63,525 in 2019), largely as a result of the lack of receipts from the plate, however we managed to get more signed up to Gift Aid, and as a result managed to increase our Gift Aid Tax refund from £11,751 in 2019 to £15,477 in 2020, an increase of £3,726.

The table below shows the proportions of the total giving income made up by the various streams



You will note that 21% of the income is from Gift Aid which I think is at the limit of what we can expect. (Part of this related to 2019 income)

#### **Fund Raising Activities**

Our Parish income from fund raising activities (e.g., Car Park Donations and hall hires) fell by £5,190, the majority of this being loss of hall hires. (£9,877 in 2020 v £15,067 in 2019)

#### **Bank Interest**

Bank interest fell, mainly as a result of a reduced amount of money on deposit at CCLA. Also, some interest didn't get credited to the account until Jan 21.

Other receipts from Church activities overall were fairly similar to 2019.

#### **Expenditure**

Parish Share. This increased by £6,018 in 2020 over and above 2019. This in itself could be seen to be at the source of our overspend, however it is not as simple as that. We are pleased that this figure has been essentially frozen for 2021, which is a huge relief as the anticipated rise would have been hard to meet.

**Giving** We had committed in 2020 to give 10% of our 2019 income away as a tithe (£9,800). This is reported in the tithe committee report. We under gave by £475, but other gifts in addition to the tithe came to £1.130.

**Youth Worker Salary.** Our commitment to having our youth worker, Jess Wiseman, has continued with this costing us £6,725 in 2020.

**Church Running Expenses.** These were generally comparable with 2019, and Tammy offering to go on unpaid leave for 2020 from April saved us around £3,400.

Office Printer. This in the past has been a major cost and drain on the parish resources, however the purchase of a new much more efficient printer along with some reduction of printing volumes, has meant that even allowing for a new printer we have spent £2,076, which was only £600 more than last year, and anticipate that in 2021 we will spend less than £1,000 in total. In the last year of the lease, we paid over £8,000.

Church Repairs and Maintenance. We also spent £1,653 more on Maintenance at St. Marys and CHS (£5,960 in 2020 v £4,307 in 2019) apart from the painting and decorating at St. Marys. Some of this came out of the St. Marys Development fund.

#### **Major Projects**

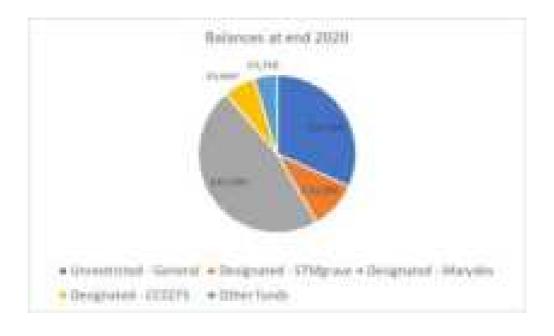
We embarked upon two major projects for which we had funds in hand.

These were:

- The Repainting of St. Marys Church £16,584
- The work associated with the purchase of the ground adjacent to St. Marys Church. £11,520 so far These two projects had a total cost of £28,104

Overall, the General Fund Total for 2020 was £3,924 less that at the end of 2019

The total cash balance at the end of the financial year was £101,002, which is seen in the attached report.



#### **Change of Bank Accounts**

It was agreed in early 2020 to change our bank. The church had banked with NatWest for many decades, and indeed for a good number of those charged us for the privilege. With the advent of online banking, it was agreed that we would transfer to the Co-operative bank, who pride themselves in being an ethical banker. Along with that they offered free online banking, which as it happened became extremely useful in the pandemic with regards to actioning payments. At the end of 2020 we had managed to transfer all but a few regular payments and donors to the Co-operative bank. We planned to close the remaining Nat West Accounts in early 2021.

#### Gift Aid

We have tried very hard to ensure that we claim all the Gift Aid that we can, getting all those who can to sign up for this, and have seen good results as a result. The claiming of Gift Aid is now done in three separate ways. 1. Sheila Schofield deals with the Envelopes and plates. 2. Peter Wood deals with deposits direct into the bank account. 3. The Parish Giving Scheme automatically do a Gift Aid claim for those who give this way.

#### **Appreciation**

Keeping on top of the church finances is a challenge in whatever state the country is in, however in the age of the Covid -19 pandemic, it has created a number of unique challenges. Whether it is encouraging people to consider changing the way that they give their regular gifts or working out how to facilitate people to be able to give, especially those using the envelope scheme, or cheques or cash.

I have been heartened at the uptake of the Parish Giving Scheme, which at the end of 2020 was seeing a similar level of cash throughput as the Envelope scheme, and not far behind the Regular Standing orders.

I would like to thank Bob and Pam who usually count the money ready for paying into the bank, and Barbara Oxlade and Pam who both get involved in banking cash and cheques for us. We are making use of the Local Post Office which has made life much easier, though when lockdown ends and more cash needs depositing, it may well need to be taken to the Cooperative bank directly.

I would also like to thank George Large, our Independent Examiner, for his patience and advice as we finalised the accounts.

#### **Finance Subcommittee**

Since the end of 2020, we have set up a finance subcommittee to enable us to look at the figures prior to the PCC meeting so as to enable reporting back to the PCC easier.

The Subcommittee consists of: Peter Wood (Treasurer), Sheila Schofield, (Stewardship Officer), Barbara Jones and Bob Wiseman (Church wardens). Thank you to them all for their time and commitment and constructive comments and support.

## <u>Budget 2021</u>

The finance sub-committee "met" and discussed this in October and November and made recommendations to the PCC. It was recognised, as the year was coming to an end, that we would end the year with an overall deficit. We also looked at the need for the Church to set a reserves policy. It was agreed that we should set this at approximately 3 months income, namely £25,000. As a PCC we looked at the costs that we were incurring, and expecting to incur in 2021, and saw that most of the potentially reducible costs were in fact "essential" to the running of the church. We agreed that we needed to employ a youth worker in order to be able to continue the level of youth work and engagement in that area. With some reluctance we agreed to provisionally reduce the amount that we would give as a tithe in 2021, down from 10% to 5% (of 2020 income), with a hope to be able to increase this as we saw the financial situation develop in 2021. As it turned out the deficit was not at the level forecast in September / October (£11,000) but just under £4,000) This will have a significantly positive impact on what we are able to do in 2021.

## <u>Summary</u>

2020 was a year like no other.

The income streams changed, our ways of giving changed, our expenditure was different, and so the report is hopefully able to paint a picture that will never be repeated.

In spite of this, and amazingly we have ended the year with a small deficit in the general fund of £3,796. For this we must give God thanks and praise.

#### Going forwards

Looking ahead is always a challenge, and fraught with danger, but we ended the year in a better position than we had anticipated and hope that 2021 will evolve into a year that we are more familiar with in terms of meeting together and seeing the vision of being church together refreshed and renewed.

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WIDFORD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out in this document.

## Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

As members of the PCG you do not consider that an audit is required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is resided.

#### It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directors given by the Charity Commissioner's section 145(5)(b) of the Aut, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was curried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination inclustes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a compension of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual terms or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

#### independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements.
  - to keep accounting records in accondance with section 100 of the Act;
  - and to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records, here not been met, or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature

Mr George Lurge.

166 Seeches Road, Charmston

Date: 15th March 2021

## Parish of St Mary Widford - 1128307 Receipts and Payments Account

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## Parish of St Mary Wildford - 1128367 Receipts and payments Selected period: 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

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Youth West. Total Church Run		265.4
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18 Heavy 2021 Property

## Partish of St Mary Widford

### **Blatement of Assets and Liebilities**

for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Casti Funds	Unmetricist	Designated	Restricted	Tetal 2020	Total 2016
Cash on Deposit	11,229,46	94,153.00	2,109.43	77,492,79	117.062.90
Costs at Blank	20,819.28	1,225.66	1,268.36	33,373.47	13,173.32
Cash in Hand		3	136.67	135.67	602.63
	32,588.72	65,379,71	3,833.00	101,002.00	130,869.01
Other Mometary Assets					
income tax recoverable	53.00	- 12		55.00	2,551.60

Approved by the Paroccal Church Council and eighed on its behalf by

Howard PETER WOOD DOWN TON MANY 2021
TREASURER

## Notes to the Financial Signaments

- The fruencial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accourance Regulations 2000 using the Recogns & Payments basis.
- Assets recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Lassities include Computer for office administration work.
   Audio and valual presentation equipment.
   Church inventory assets vested in the strundwardons on special trust.
- During the year the PCC employed a caretaker and a youth worker, neither of whom earned in excess of £40,000.
- 4. The expenses paid to clargy may include a small instrumental proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. Tarring Signified and Jessics Wisconen, who are also PCC members and are simplified as coretator and youth worker repectively were paid £2.362 in total (2019: £4.710), No other payments were made to PCC members.

15 March 2001

## **PCC Fees Account**

Mr George Large examined the trading records for this year, for which we thank him. He made a number of comments and 4 recommendations based on the transaction history, which have been actioned. This left a neutral trading balance on the year end (money in equals money out) which is our aim. Turnover for the year was £6,524.00 not including £200.00 in advance wedding deposits for 2021. From the above figure the PCC received £1,119.00 (17%)

Collectively during the course of the year Reverend. Stephanie and Reverend. Andy performed 2 Weddings under Covid restrictions and 31 funerals or associated services. 4 of those funerals were conducted during the first national lockdown and the Church of England waived all their charges to grieving families. Behind these figures is the human story of friends lost, sadly those funerals included, Michael Barker, David Brown, Beryl Clark, Andy Clifford, Pat Deal, Del Fleming, Barbara Oxford, Don Seager and Daphne Wickrema, all of whom were part of our church community in one way or another.

## **Parish Office**

As with all our activities, running of the office has been hit by the pandemic. Normal service was maintained until April when the nation went into lockdown. For the rest of the year the office was closed but ran behind the scenes keeping the administration ticking over. In June we took delivery of a new Xerox C.7020 printer from Printerland, as we were unhappy with the old Lexmark, which was collected by the Council for safe disposal. The new machine is very economical and comes with a lifetime guarantee, subject to terms & conditions.

Peter Wood installed Wi-Fi throughout CHS/Parish Centre which is very useful and will be an added incentive to hirers when the demand for hall bookings picks up again. Peter provides us with tech support, a vital role as the rest of us have limited skills.

Currently, the office is staffed by Bob Wiseman on Monday, Barbara Oxlade on Tuesday, Revd. Andy Brown on Wednesday, Shirley Deering on Thursday, Sylvia Skardon on Friday. Val Hayward is worthy of a mention as she also helps in the office as does Jess Wiseman when the need arises. The team are glad to be able to serve the parish and know their work is appreciated.

Following a recommendation by Barbara Jones who looked at lone working we plan to install an intercom at the front door in 2021 and opening hours will change to 10am-12noon with flexibility if and when hirers return.

## **Volunteers**

Our churchwardens now are Barbara Jones, Keith Schofield, Sylvia Skarden and Bob Wiseman. Peter Wood is now the church's Treasurer. We would also like to thank Keith Schofield for his role as Lay Chair.

## Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Widford St. Mary's and CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, churchwardens, the licensed lay minister and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New Members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met during January to March and then continued to meet online. Tammy generously stopped working for us in order that she was not paid during the lockdown when our lettings had ceased. She is back work for us now, (March 2021) getting us ready to reopen in April.

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority.

We had a PCC Away Day on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October at Church of the Holy Spirit. We met in person as we were allowed to meet in two groups of up to six people. We worked on our plans for the Christmas Services and conversations about a community café and soft play were the main focus.

## **Administrative information**

St. Mary's church is situated in London Road, and Church of the Holy Spirit in Forest Drive. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is "Widford Parish Office, Forest Drive, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 2TS". Registered charity number 1128307."

PCC members who have served at any time from January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Rector: Rev'd Stephanie Gillingham

Curate: Andrew (Andy) Brown (now Curate in Charge at Church of Our Saviour from March 2021)

Rector: Rev'd Stephanie Gillingham
Curate: Andrew (Andy) Brown (now Curate in Charge at Church of Our Saviour from March 2021)  Church Wardens:
Barbara Jones
Keith Schofield
Sylvia Skardon
Bob Wiseman
Deanery Synod Rep.
Robert (Bob) Wiseman
Pam Myall
Licenced Lay Minister: Roger Gillingham
Authorised Local Preacher: Tracy Davey
PCC Members:
Peter Wood (Treasurer - Previously Lay Chair)
Pamela (Pam) Myall – PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod Rep
Victoria (Vicky) Smith
Keith Schofield (Lay Chair)
Colin Groves
Jessica (Jess) Wiseman
Karen Cooney
Andrew (Andy) Brown
Tamzin (Tammy) Squirrell
Barbara Jones
Sylvia Skardon
Colin White and Tony Griffiths completed their service to the PCC in April 2020
Report approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by .....

## The Parish of Widford

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

## in Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford

### A. Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Churchwardens

## B. Annual Meeting Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Prayer
- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) Notification of Any Other Business items (to be taken at the end.)
- 3) Minutes of previous APCM held on Monday
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) Stephanie's Report (Rector to Widford Benefice)
- 6) Electoral Roll
- 7) Annual Reports
- 8) Finance
- 9) Wardens' Fabric Report
- 10) Deanery Synod Report
- 11) Election of second lay representative to Deanery Synod
- 12) Lynchpins Report
- 13) Election of a Lynchpin Member
- 14) Election of PCC Members
- 15) Appointment of Sides-people
- 16) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 17) Any items for discussion:
  - (i) Living in Love and Faith
  - (ii) Vision for Soft Play Community Hub and Cafe
- 19) Any Other Business
- 20) Date for the next APCM Monday 25th April 2022
- 22) Close with prayer

#### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

#### Of the Parish of Widford

## held on 21st September 2020, at the Church of the Holy Spirit

#### A. Meeting of Parishioners

Robert (Bob) Wiseman, as Lay Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer.

Reverend Stephanie read the nominations for the positions of Wardens: -

Sylvia Skardon was proposed by Pam Myall and seconded by Jackie Dickens.

Barbara Jones was proposed by Pam Myall and seconded by Vicky Smith.

Keith Schofield was proposed by Zoe Myall and seconded by Jane Wiseman.

Bob Wiseman was proposed by Daphne Blowers and seconded by Lionel Blanks.

All candidates were elected unanimously. Stephanie thanked them all for their willingness to serve in this role. She also expressed thanks for Sylvia, Barbara, and Tammy 's hard work as wardens in the past year. A round of applause showed appreciation, in particular, to Tammy, who had just ended six and a half years as warden.

This meeting closed at 7.53pm.

### **B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Present:** Revd Stephanie Gillingham; Revd Andy Brown; Bob Wiseman (Chair); Janet Bird; Roger Bird; Lionel Blanks; Pat Brown; Karen Cooney; Shirley Deering; Colin Groves; Barbara Jones; Keith Schofield; Sheila Schofield; Sylvia Skardon; Vicky Smith; Jane Wiseman; Jess Wiseman; Gill Wood; Peter Wood; Pam Myall.

On Zoom: Barbara Oxlade; Tammy Squirrell.

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Paula Groves and Zoe Myall.

- 1) Welcome and Prayer. Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting and led us in prayer that God would guide the proceedings.
- 2) Notification of Any Other Business. There was none.
- **3) Minutes of the previous APCM, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.** Having been accepted by the PCC, in their meeting of May 2019, were accepted as a true record.
- 4) Matters Arising. There were none.
- 5) Stephanie's Report. Referring to her printed report, Stephanie emphasised the theme, based on Psalm 118, of thankfulness to God, whose love endures forever. We have had much for which to be thankful, not least dear folk who have died. We can rejoice that they are safe with the Lord. Stephanie invited everyone to stand and remember, Joyce Lawrence, Kath Williams, Del Fleming, David Brown, Pat Deal, Barbara Oxford and Don Seager. Stephanie expressed particular gratefulness to Andy and Jess, who have done so much to keep things going. Thanks to their skills, much has happened through technology, online, when it was impossible to meet in person. Stephanie thanked, also, everyone who was able, and permitted, to help in any way —with deliveries to those without internet, keeping in touch by telephone etc.

Stephanie was thankful that, as a community, we had been kept safe, and invited us to pray for all those who were suffering.

- **6) Electoral Roll**. In view of the delay in holding our APCM, Shirley had updated the Electoral Roll again, in September 2020. There were 71 church members included, of whom 40 were resident and 31 not resident within the Parish.
- **7) Annual Reports.** Bob drew attention to the book of reports, which had been available since April 2020. There were no questions from the meeting.
- 8) Finance. Roger Bird had presented the accounts to the end of 2019. He made his closing report as Treasurer.

Although 2019 had seen a reduction in the income, as compared with 2018 (when there had been 3 exceptional donations) and an increase in expenditure (including the payment of the 2018 Tithe – which was based on the income of that year), we still closed the year with a favourable balance. So, over Roger's final three years as Treasurer, the total excess of income over expenditure was £75,000. This contrasted dramatically with the first six years of his tenure of the role, in three of which, the accounts had ended in deficit. This seemed a good place to hand over. Roger said he had enjoyed his time as Treasurer and thanked everyone who had helped him.

Family pressures and other circumstances had made it necessary to resign. Bob, on behalf of everyone in Widford Parish, expressed grateful thanks for all the work that Roger had done. He presented a cheque from us all. (Regretting that a Chelmsford City Football Club – related gift was inappropriate in the light of virus restrictions!)

#### 9. Wardens' Fabric Report

At St Mary's, the work outlined in the printed reports had been completed – i.e., new perimeter fence, three small (opening) windows replaced and decoration of the interior.

At CHS, the dilapidated car park fence had been removed (thanks to Tammy!) and its replacement was due to be erected on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Peter Wood expressed some concern that measures to ensure an empty car park on that day might be wise. Colin Groves and Bob would liaise about this.

- **10. Deanery Synod** Chelmsford North and South Deaneries were very nearly united. Stephanie and Andy were automatically member of the Synod. Pam had been a Widford representative for the past six years and Bob had been elected three years ago. He had been, (surprisingly), favourably impressed with meetings!
- **11. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives** From 2020, the maximum period to serve, as a lay representative, will be 6 years (but this does not apply to existing representatives). Hence, Bob and Pam were eligible to stand. They, being the only nominations, were elected unanimously.
- **12. and 13. Lynchpins** Each Parish in the Mission and Ministry Unit is entitled to three lay members. (It is recommended that one of these is a Warden.) There were three nominations: Shirley Deering, Tamzin Squirrell and Jessica Wiseman. Everyone present, in person and on Zoom endorsed their election.

#### 14. Election of Parochial Church Council Members.

Four members from 2019 were standing down – Lionel Blanks, Tony Griffiths, Barbara Oxlade and Colin White. Thanks were expressed to them for their service.

There were five nominations to take their places – Karen Cooney, Colin Groves, Keith Schofield, Tamzin Squirrell, and Jessica Wiseman. However, since Keith had already been elected church warden, his place on PCC was already secured.

The meeting voted unanimously that Karen, Colin, Tammy and Jess become Parochial Church Councillors for the next three years.

- 15. Appointment of Sidespersons. This responsibility has been devolved to PCCs.
- **16. Appointment of Independent Examiner.** George Large had expressed his willingness to continue in this role. Thanks were expressed for his careful work.

#### 17. Items for Discussion.

- i) Pastoral Principles. A booklet from the Diocese encouraged PCCs to look at sensitive issues, challenging prejudices so that churches are welcoming to all. Stephanie enabled PCC members to think around a few of these, but discussion became impossible with restrictions due to Covid-19. The plan is to resume and share consideration of the issues more widely, when we are able.
- **ii) Soft Play Plans.** Jess was invited to update the meeting. She reported that a small committee was seeking advice about suitable placing, conditions and sourcing of equipment for a Soft Play Area. A grant had been made towards equipment by Chelmsford City Council and it was hoped that the provision would make a positive contribution to the local area, make the church better known and more accessible to local families.

Jess also 'introduced' members of the meeting to the 9 Square Game – a gratifyingly socially distanced frame for a game, a bit like volleyball. The Young People's Group that had been meeting on Zoom, had re-started 'live' meetings on Saturday evenings – and were enjoying '9 Square'. (Jess had played the game at Camp in USA).

- **18. Any Other Business** Peter Wood (our new Treasurer) expressed his thanks to Roger. He was grateful to God for His provision especially for the good place our finances were in last year. At the time of the meeting, it seemed that Parish finances will have a £15,000 deficit this year. The pandemic was causing problems all round. Peter encouraged us to keep praying.
- **19. Future Meetings** Bob gave notice that the **PCC 'Awayday'** was due to take place at CHS, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020, starting at 10am, after refreshments from 9.30am. It was planned to order Fish and Chips for lunch and close around 3pm.

The next **PCC Meeting** would be, as usual, on the third Monday of the month i.e., 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, with prayers from 7pm and the meeting itself at 7.30pm.

- 20. Date for the next APCM Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- **21. Stephanie closed the meeting with Prayer,** at 8.45pm.

## **Leadership in Widford Parish**

We are developing teams – do let us know if you would like to join one.

Wardens: Sylvia Skardon, Barbara Jones, Keith Schofield and Robert (Bob) Wiseman

**Treasurer:** Dr Peter Wood

<u>Deanery Synod:</u> Pam Myall & Bob Wiseman

South West Chelmsford Lynchpins: Tammy Squirrell, Shirley Deering and Jessica (Jess) Wiseman

Assistant Curate: Rev. Andrew Brown (now Curate in Charge of Church of our Saviour, March 2021)

Licensed Lay Minister: Roger Gillingham

**Licensed Lay Preacher:** Tracy Davey

<u>Preachers:</u> Rob Perry, Pam Myall, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Keith Schofield, Jen Gaskin, Zoe Myall, Jessica Wiseman

All-Age Service Leaders: Pam Myall at St. Mary's and Stephanie Gillingham and Jess Wiseman at CHS

**Caretaker:** Tammy Squirrel

Community and Youth Worker: Jess Wiseman

Office Volunteers: Barbara Oxlade, Bob Wiseman Shirley Deering, Valerie Hayward, Sylvia Skardon and Jess Wiseman

Baptism / Thanksgiving home visiting team: Pam Myall and Jane Wiseman, Rosalynd Griffiths, Tracy Davey and Gill Wood

Children's work: Tammy Squirrel and Jess Wiseman, Pam Myall and Gill Wood

Choir: Jess Wiseman

Churchtalk: Barbara Oxlade Peter Wood, and Jess Wiseman

Craft Club: Jess Wiseman, Zoe Myall and Gill Wood

<u>Flower Arranging:</u> Reg & Daphne Blowers, Sylvia Skardon, Jane Wiseman, Shirley Deering, Janet Bird at St. Marys, Joan Barker and Barbara Jones at Church of the Holy Spirit

Friday Afternoon St. Marys Open Church Working Group Coordinator: Bob Wiseman

Gift Aid: Sheila Schofield

Home Communion Assistants: Pam Myall, Shirley Dearing, Gill Wood and Peter Wood

Home Groups Co-ordinator: Tammy Squirrell

Homework Club: Jess Wiseman and Bob Wiseman

Knit and Natter: Pam Myall

Men's Club coordinators: Alan Davey and Colin White

Messy Church Team: Jess Wiseman, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Pam Myall, Zoe Myall, Lynette Hunwicks, Roger Gillingham, Shirley Deering, Sheila Schofield, Jen Gaskin, Barbara Jones and Stephanie Gillingham

Mission and Evangelism Team: Stephanie Gillingham

<u>Music and Hymn Choice:</u> Dan Gullick and service leaders at St. Mary's. Tracy Davey, Keith Schofield, Sheila Schofield, Roger Gillingham, Lisa Quilter and Barbara Jones at CHS.

Open the Book Team: Jess Wiseman, Jen Gaskin, Colin Groves, Stephanie Gillingham, Joan Barker, Sheila Schofield, Lynette Hunwicks, Alan Jones & Shirley Deering

<u>Pastoral Team Coordinator/Pastoral Care Team:</u> Pam Myall & Stephanie, Shirley Deering, Lisa Quilter, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Tracy Davey and Sheila Schofield.

Prayer Chain: Barbara Jones

<u>Prayer Ministry Coordinator</u>: Stephanie Gillingham

**Prophecy**: Pat Brown

**Quiz Masters:** Bob Wiseman, Alan Davey and Alan Jones

Safeguarding: Vicky Smith

<u>Sidespersons:</u> Colin Groves, Barbara Oxlade, Linda Stephens, Sylvia Skardon, Reg & Daphne Blowers, Rosalynd and Tony Griffiths at St. Mary's

Sound and Visuals: Alan Davey, Tammy Squirrell, Colin White & Elizabeth Olatunji at CHS and Dan Gullick at St. Mary's.

Sunday Children's: Tammy Squirrell, Gill Wood and Joan Barker at CHS and Pam Myall at St. Mary's.

Website and Other Media: Jess Wiseman, Zoe Myall and Peter Wood

Wednesday Lunch Club: Sheila Schofield & Pam Myall

Wid-Wads Team: Jane Wiseman, Sheila Schofield, Zoe Myall and Stephanie Gillingham.

<u>Women's Fellowship Leadership Team:</u> Pat Jackson, Gill Wood, Pam Myall, Vicky Smith, Shirley Deering, Elaine Doe, Valerie Hayward and Stephanie Gillingham.

Youth group: Jess Wiseman and Stephanie Gillingham

<u>Refreshments Teams:</u> Valerie Hayward, Lisa Quilter and Barbara Jones at CHS. Sylvia Skardon, Daphne Blowers, Jackie Dickens, Linda Stephens, Shirley Deering, Janet Bird, at St. Mary's.

<u>Church Cleaning Teams:</u> Barbara Jones, Elizabeth Olatunji & Lynette Hunwicks at Church of the Holy Spirit and Shirley Deering, Janet Bird, Jackie Dickens, Jane Wiseman, Linda Stephens, Rosalynd Griffiths, Sylvia Skardon, & Paula Groves at St. Marys.

#### **Charity Information**

The Parish is registered with the Charity Commission under the name:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF WIDFORD

Charity number: 1128307

Widford Parish Parochial Church Councils is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation. These are:

- 1. The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. This defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church".
- 2. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended)

#### Induction of Trustees

Normally Stephanie meets with new trustees and talks to them about the role. This has not been done in the normal way this year due to all the disruption. Stephanie did contact new trustees by e-mail/phone and will ensure that we return to our normal format once lock-down is concluded.

Peter Wood (Treasurer) updates contact details on the Charity Commission website and sends the Annual Report to the Charity Commission on an annual basis.

Pam Myall (Secretary) creates a suitable contact and ensures paperwork and notification of dates are passed to all trustees and new trustees.

It would be useful to develop a file of our current policies and working practices which could be passed to new trustees as they are appointed.



Widford Parish Office.

Forest Drive,

Cheinsford.

Essex.

CM1 2TS

Tet: 01245 355 989

Web: www.widfordparish.com

Errait: widfordchurchtalk@gmail.com