

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Parochial Church Council of
The Parish of St Leonard's
Stanton Fitzwarren

Reports and Accounts
For the Year Ended 31st December
2020

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Churchwardens Annual Report 2020 St Leonard Stanton Fitzwarren;

On the condition of the church building and grounds and the life of the Church;

The Triennial Archdeacons inspection of the building, grounds, records and church life and activities due in March 2019 was planned for 2020 but postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic

THE BUILDING:-

The quinquennial report by Ms. Annie Page on behalf of Andrew Townsend Architects was carried out in May 2016. No Urgent problems were identified.. The next is therefore due in May 2021. The lighting/rewiring project is progressing slowly further delayed by the pandemic restrictions and a misunderstanding with Swindon planning department. The faculty has been granted by the Chancellor. The PCC has agreed to commission the work to be done as soon as possible. The Electrical safety inspection is overdue, this was postponed in the expectation that the lighting rewiring would have been replaced by now as part of the lighting project. Our insurer were consulted in January 2020 and agreed that was reasonable at that time. The clock now works well but the volunteer who continues to wind is moving and will not be able to so for much longer.

EXTERIOR:-

Roofs- Satisfactory- the moss removal from the North Slope of the nave has been postponed. The moss removal on all slopes of the Chancel and Vestry roofs and the investigation and repair of north- west corner of vestry roof, including some repair to the roof timbers and tiles was done by Mr Hawkins in early 2019.

Stonework-good condition since the masonry repairs identified as part of the 'tower project 2013-16' have been done. There is some damage from masonry bees on the walls of the chancel and vestry. Some exposure of ancient loamy mortar on the north wall of the nave is being monitored. This does not seem to be any worse than at the 2016 inspection. The PCC has decided to defer any action until after the next inspection.

Tower-This is safe and waterproof. Urgent masonry repairs were completed in October 2015.

The P.C.C. has undertaken to continue with the regular maintenance programme and to open the church building for 40 days a year until December 2024. This year, to keep everyone safe, the building was only open for private prayer by arrangement.

The Tower clock has had extensive servicing and repair in 2018 and remains in full working order.

Water Disposal- good- particularly the new water shoots from tower roof. Some roof gutters need to be redecorated especially on the north side of the nave. This is planned to be included in a future maintenance plus programme.

Windows and Doors- Satisfactory. The lock and handle to the tower door have been worked on by a volunteer.

Boundary walls- the low wall to the west boundary with the Hotel Gardens is in poor repair-it remains in need of proper rebuilding.

The capping stones on the high wall in the north east corner have been repaired and remain firm.

INTERIOR:-

1. Roof-Satisfactory-
2. Walls- Satisfactory IT is likely that a further lime wash will be needed when the work to the lighting has been done.
3. Woodwork- Satisfactory –only one pew has no central support
4. Doors- Satisfactory
5. Windows- Safe and secure- one small broken pane in west window.
6. Flooring-Satisfactory-one small mosaic tile loose by foot of Altar and a loose tile near the front right hand pew.
7. Furniture- Satisfactory – A wooden panel in poor condition identified as a royal armorial dating from reign of Elizabeth 1st may be original or a Victorian copy. A PCC member has applied to the TV repair shop for possible restoration-no reply has been received.

MAINTENANCE:-

- Annual Maintenance by Mr Hawkins was not done this year due to Covid 19 but is planned for late April 2021
- Organ- tuned
- Fire extinguishers- inspected and serviced
- Electrics-The five yearly check done in 2015 found the wiring to be unsatisfactory (but safe). The PCC is aware that this is due to the very low insulation resistance readings from the MI cables (installed in 1949). The scheme for removing the MI cables and replacing the existing lights with LED lighting has been approved by the DAC ,considered by Swindon Borough, SPAB and English Heritage .A faculty has been granted. David Thomas is commissioning the work on behalf of the PCC. We await the contractors being able to overcome the delays due to the pandemic and proceed as soon as possible.

- Annual Clean-up. This year on various occasions, a few socially distanced volunteers oiled wood, treated floors and doors, vacuumed, mopped, dusted and polished. The gate painted, the path was edged and the churchyard kept tidy
- Routine graveyard maintenance carried out by Mr M Dyball.
- Gravestones- Satisfactory- some are leaning but safe.

CHURCH LANE:-

Concern about the state of Church Lane was shared in 2019 with the management of the Hotel, which owns the lane (a private drive). People using the church have the right of access on foot and in vehicles but the PCC has an obligation to contribute 'a fair share' of the cost of repair and maintenance. Representatives from the PCC met with the hotel management and house holders who use the lane for access to their properties. No agreement was able to be reached and a group of residents effected temporary repairs with concrete. The lane safe to use for now but its condition is a concern.

LIFE of the CHURCH

1. This has been the First year of the Covid 19 outbreak which has had an enormous impact. Few services could take place safely in our beautiful building. The building has remained accessible for private prayer by arrangement. The clergy, helped by skilled computer literate volunteers, have provided a rich program of Sunday and daily on-line services for the team. These are filmed in each of the parish churches. Volunteers cleaned and sterilised. removed books and furniture, blocked off pews and set up sanitising stations to enable some worship inside the church building but many services had to be on-line only
2. Rev Elveen Mead was appointed as our Vicar and Priest-in Charge of the Benefice. It has been a joy to help to welcome her and her family. The pandemic restrictions have meant that it has been much harder for her We enjoy being one of the parishes in the Stratton Team ministry and support monthly team services and other events, this year mostly on-line or covid secure and socially distanced.
3. Family Services continue to be a success either on Zoom (thanks to Robert Breakspeare) or outdoors in the churchyard with activities to involve children. The informal music group encourage children to join in and continue to bless us with the quality of the singing and playing. In December the Family Service Christingle was enjoyed on-line and raised monies for the Children's Society. The outdoor Christmas Eve Nativity was organised involving village families and attracted a large socially distanced congregation.
4. Lent – a group of us met on Monday afternoons but had to complete the study individually due to the spring lockdown
5. Child Protection- PCC members continue to hold DBS certificates.

6. Safety- Mr M Curtis our volunteer safety officer has worked with his colleagues in the other parishes and the PCC has accepted his recommendations. It is planned to fix the protective barrier for the person winding the turret clock in April 2021 (delayed due to the pandemic).
7. Rogation Sunday- we thanked God for our farmers and everyone involved in producing and distributing our food
8. People work quietly behind the scenes-by keeping the church building clean and tidy; preparing for Covid-safe services, taking part in services and praying for the life of the church.
9. This year many time small jobs were done these involved volunteers who do not regularly attend services as well as many that do.
10. Wedding Ministry-This year, due to Covid 19 we have been unable to encourage couples wanting to marry here. We look forward to being again able to welcome and get to know couples and their families who join our worship as they prepare for marriage.
11. The congregation has supported the hotel we are grateful for the use of their toilets and car park.
12. Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride gave us another chance to raise money. £670 was received- half to the Trust and half to St Leonard - thanks to those who rode
13. Harvest Festival- Many people gave tins and non-perishable food to go to the Swindon food bank---the money collection was given to the 'Farmers in Crisis' charity.
14. The torch lit Carols in the Barn at Stanton Park did not take place.
15. Christmas Eve- It was not safe to have a Crib Service, nor Carols by Candlelight (telling the Christmas story through traditional readings and well known hymns) - The outdoor Nativity seemed to be valued by those who came.
16. Supporting others-food is still collected for the Swindon Food Bank the contributions can be left in the porch, Collections made for the Children's Society, Farmers in Crisis, Crisis at Christmas As a church we support Emmaus homeless charity and Swindon Youth for Christ. As individuals we support many other charities.
17. Joining in with our Community:-As individuals we visit and support fellow villagers; join in with village events like the evening clap for carers; serve on the Village Hall committees and support other activities as we try to be good neighbours. The 'Year of Blessing' continued to be a worthwhile focus in 2020.

Liz Bannister & Liz Hillman

Health & Safety Report

There were no reported accidents or incidents at our church last year. With everyone's help we aim to keep that record going, so all church users are asked to act safely and report any concerns to a member of the PCC.

In a year dominated by the Coronavirus epidemic we have carried out a number of Risk Assessments to make sure that all church activities are carried out safely, and the necessary steps continue to be followed.

Mike Curtis,
Health & Safety Officer

Safeguarding Report for the APCM April 2021

It has been a difficult year for everyone but safeguarding continues.

Since the last report in October 2020, Mary and Mike Boshier, Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs), have been keeping a close eye on all aspects of safeguarding for the Parishes of St Margaret's Stratton, St Leonards Stanton, St Mary Magdalene South Marston and Coleview. Ably assisting us are the 'eyes and ears' in the parishes, Chris and Anne Pope for Stanton and Mary Crichton for South Marston. The 'eyes and ears' are the close personal local contact in the churches who can pass safeguarding concerns onto us. We thank them for their vigilance.

We have been keeping all members of the two PCCs current with their DBS certificates. There are a number that need renewal during this year. It is a diocesan requirement that all members of a PCC have a current and valid DBS certificate and has undertaken Safeguarding training at C0 and Foundation Level training

A Safeguarding Report is presented to every PCC meeting for both the Stratton and South Marston PCC and the Stanton Fitzwarren PCC to keep all members up to date with safeguarding developments and information.

Safeguarding training has been undertaken by Zoom in the Ministry this year. A very successful Safer Recruiting course was held in January for 17 members of the Stratton

Team Ministry and it will be used by the Diocese as a template for training further afield in the Diocese of Bristol.

Zoom training at C0 and Foundation level has also been undertaken by 40 people in the parishes. These are two interesting courses which are quite challenging but well within the capabilities of everyone. They are presented in an interesting and innovative way and are open to anyone in the parishes who would like to be further informed about Safeguarding. Please contact Mike or Mary for access to them.

The thrust of our work continues to ensure that all members of all the churches are safe to worship and go about their church business without risk. To that end, Mike and Mary would ask every member of every church, both leaders and congregation, to recognise their personal responsibility in making Safeguarding their concern. There is no option to leave a concern to someone else. If there is an identified issue, it must be passed on to the PSOs to be investigated and acted upon as a matter of urgency. "If you see something, say something" should be a point of action for everybody.

Mary and I would ask all of you to observe and exercise an attitude of informed vigilance. In that way, everyone will be as safe as possible. If you have a cause for concern no matter how trivial you think it might be, please talk to the 'eyes and ears' in your church or contact the PSOs Mike or Mary via the parish web site email address or call on 07799835437.

Mike and Mary Boshier

Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) April 2021

PCC Secretary's Annual Report for 2020

Things have been very different this year due to the covid virus we have had no weddings, no funerals & no baptism & no Fellowship Tea. Sadly we have not had as many services in the flesh but our clergy rose to the challenge with Zoom services. The family worship services were held in the churchyard in the summer & a Nativity service was held in December. The autumn & winter family worship has been held by Zoom all these services have included participation by the children.

The summer saw the arrival of the Reverend Elveen Mead & her family.

The PCC met physically in January & March. We then had Zoom meetings in July, September & November. The APCM was held in October in the church followed by a short PCC meeting.

Liz Bannister

Coffee Morning report 2020

This year we were celebrating 35 years of the coffee morning a programme filled with lots of very interesting talks from people ready to share their story with us from

"Behind the scenes in the Convent" to "Where's Home?", "Scouting for boys", "Tales from the departure lounge" to our Christmas carols readings poems and mince pies together

We started the year hearing about Christians against Poverty from Andrew Wilson Andrew's talk was followed by our usual bring and share lunch .A lovely way to start the New Year, a time of sharing and fellowship

February we spent a "Morning with Eric Barnes" as Eric took us down lots of memory lanes from Farming, Church and Village Life

Sadly did we know that that would be the last talk of the year due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Hopefully one day we can look forward to the time when we can be together again listening to inspiring speakers who share something of their Christian journey with us

Till then

Take care keep safe and God bless

Liz Hillman

Stanton St Leonard's Family Service

The monthly Family Service at St Leonard's, led by the Family Service Worship Group, has continued to thrive through 2021.

We have been able to use the restrictions imposed by lockdown to explore new ways of worshipping, and as a result have probably evolved and grown to extent that wouldn't have happened in a normal year.

After a few evening Zoom fellowship sessions within the Worship Group (and a few others) to gain familiarity with the technology, we held our first Zoom Family service on in May, celebrating Pentecost. The stress levels beforehand were higher than normal, but the excitement of seeing the Zoom screen fill with familiar faces as the start time approached will live long in the memory.

In addition to the Zoom services, we held two services outside in the church grounds in glorious sunshine in the summer. The Zoom format has enabled us to get the families that are part of the congregation much more involved in leading parts of the service - either by recording material beforehand, or live on the day. We have had songs written, songs recorded, prayers written and pre-recorded or shared live, readings, creeds, blessings, artwork, pictures of hands, pictures of Christmas cards and probably more besides, all done by both by children and adults from outside the leadership team. The team has become much more of a planning and enabling team rather than a "doing everything" team, which is fantastic. And it's not just about the children - the participation has included a number of contributions from our dear friend Eric Barnes - being housebound doesn't stop him recording for us over the phone!

The highlight of the year was probably the Nativity Play in the Village on Christmas Eve. The Family Service Group had started a crib service a couple of years earlier, but meeting inside wasn't going to be possible this year, and so we told the Christmas story in the open air at various points along Church Road. This involved not just the usual church attendees, but a much wider group from the village as well. I'm sure that this was something that we wouldn't have done if it hadn't been for lockdown (church buildings are so much safer!), but I think we all came away thinking that it was so much better than being inside. Hopefully this outdoor Nativity will become an annual feature that will grow in the coming years.

Finally, a huge thank you to Elveen and Mark, both for trusting us to plan and run this monthly service with a completely free hand, and for all their support. Beyond the obvious end result of the monthly service, the opportunity to share and explore our beliefs and questions in our planning meetings has been a source of deep growth for all of us.

Robert Breakspear

Treasurers Report for 2020 for St Leonards Church.

The Year 2020 started off normally enough with the normal range of services up to and including 8 March. However, things rapidly changed with the announcement of the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Services resumed in church on the 26 July with reduced capacity due to social distancing. Also many of our congregation were shielding or cautious about returning to church due to the virus. This reduction in services and the loss of other social gatherings and fund-raising has led to a £4,500 reduction in our funds. Due to the very generous donations in the previous year this has not had the disastrous effect that it could have had, However, the subsequent problems in the global economy has meant there are now delays in some of the projects that the PCC are progressing. Hopefully, with the future return of something near normality these projects can be completed.

I hope that 2021 will be a far better year and we can return to a full church programme and return some of our more memorable events to the calendar.

David Thomas
Hon Treasurer

Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 2020

Parochial Church Council of St. Leonards, Stanton Fitzwarren

Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2020

General Receipts and Payments Account

		<u>2020</u>			<u>2019</u>
		<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts					
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>	Planned Giving	10,142		10,142	9,841
	Collections and other giving	1,081		1,081	3,407
	Income tax recovered			0	0
	VAT Recovered			0	0
	Donations	467	90	557	740
		<u>11,690</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>11,780</u>	<u>13,988</u>
<u>Receipts from activities for generating funds</u>	Other Fund Raising	355		355	532
		<u>355</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>532</u>
<u>Receipts from Church Activities</u>	Fees	0		0	1,756
	Wedding & Baptism Collections		0	0	709
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,465</u>
<u>Other income</u>	Fabric Fund (Restricted Funds)			0	0
	Bank Interest Received	212	111	323	611
		<u>212</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>611</u>
Total Receipts		<u>12,257</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>12,458</u>	<u>17,596</u>
Payments					
<u>Grants</u>	Mission & Charities	1,405		1,405	1,617
<u>Church Activities</u>	Diocesan Parish Share	10,168		10,168	9,930
	Team Expenses	900		900	900
	Church Running Expenses	2,473		2,473	3,314
	Church Maintenance	575	12	587	12,143
	Chuchyard Maintenance	455		455	580
	Cost of Services	200		200	592
	Administration	35		35	312
Total Payments		<u>16,211</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16,223</u>	<u>29,388</u>
Total Net Payments		-3954	189	-3765	-11,792
Balance Brought Forward		55,980	31,399	87,379	99,171
Balance Carried Forward		<u>52,026</u>	<u>31,588</u>	<u>83,614</u>	<u>87,379</u>
Monetary Assets					
	Current Account			7,162	11,250
	CCLA Deposit Account			76,452	76,129
Total				<u>83,614</u>	<u>87,379</u>
Debtors	Income Tax Claim			7,499	4,729
Creditors	Electricity			100	100
	Team Expenses			225	225

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 March 2021

Rev Elveen Mead

David Thomas - Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, STANTON FITZWARREN
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act ; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this respect in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P J Crowley FCA

18 March 2021

Derrick Newman Limited

29 Bath Road