

ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT
REPORTS AND PAPERS FOR
2022 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

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ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, SIBBERTOFT
ANNUAL ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS, APCM and PCC MEETING
25th May, 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

in St. Helen's Church

AGENDA

1. Parishioners' Meeting

- i. Apologies
- ii. Election of Churchwardens

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(all reports circulated in advance and available on benefice website)

- i. Apologies
- ii. Minutes of last meeting
- iii. Electoral Roll report
- iv. Treasurer's report/Financial statements
- v. Churchwarden's Fabric and Inventory report
- vi. Children's, Youth, & Families ministry report
- vii. Deanery Synod Report
- viii. Safeguarding report
- ix. Rector's APCM Benefice report and Churchwarden's local summary

Elections

- x. Election of PCC members
- xi. Election of Deanery Synod representative
- xii. Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen
- xiii. Election of Treasurer
- xiv. Election of Secretary
- xv. Election of Vice Chairman
- xvi. Election of Safeguarding Officer (*no candidate*)
- xvii. Appointment of Independent Examiner
- xviii. Any other business of parochial or church interest

3. PCC meeting following the APCM

- i. Apologies
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Any other business
- iv. Date of next PCC meeting

MINUTES OF THE PARISHIONERS' AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
21st April, 2021

PRESENT: Rev. Miranda Hayes in the chair, Toby Jackson, Caroline Jackson, Kairen Ball, Lesley Hartshorne, Cynthia Bailey, Sue Clarke, Vivienne Arrowsmith, Jo Elliot, Fr. Kris Seward

APOLOGIES: PCC: Peter Kraftl, Juliet Kraftl
Non-PCC: Miles Lloyd, Jenny Lloyd

PARISHIONERS' MEETING

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDEN

Toby Jackson was proposed by Jo Elliot and seconded by Lesley Hartshorne. Toby was declared duly elected. A vote of thanks was given by Miranda for all Toby's hard work over the past 12 months.

The meeting closed at 6.05 p.m.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The reports and nomination forms referred to in these minutes had been circulated in advance.

Reports were taken as read unless there were any queries

1. **APOLOGIES (AS ABOVE)**
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (2019)** were signed as a true record by Rev. Miranda Hayes.
3. **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT:** Caroline Jackson reported no change at 19.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** The accounts were signed by Rev. Miranda, who proposed a vote of thanks to Lesley for all her hard work and dedication over the past 12 months
5. **CHURCHWARDEN'S FABRIC AND INVENTORY REPORT:** Toby expressed concern about access to the bell tower at the top of the ladder and whether some renovation work will need to be carried out in the future. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.
6. **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT:**
7. **SAFEGUARDING REPORT:** Rev. Miranda proposed a vote of thanks to Kairen for all her hard work over the past 12 months.
8. **RECTOR'S BENEFICE REPORT:** Rev. Miranda proposed a vote of thanks to Lesley and Cynthia for all their hard work with the Pop up Shops and fund raising events.
CHURCHWARDEN'S LOCAL REPORT: Toby welcomed Fr. Kris and thanked the Readers for their support during the year
9. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** PCC members were elected as per the attached nomination form.
10. **ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE:** Caroline Jackson was duly elected.
11. **ELECTION OF DIOCESAN SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE:** Toby Jackson was duly elected.
12. **APPOINTMENT OF SIDESMEN AND SIDESWOMEN:** Viv Arrowsmith, Caroline Jackson and Miles Lloyd were duly appointed.
13. **ELECTION OF TREASURER:** Lesley Hartshorne was duly elected
14. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY:** Viv Arrowsmith was duly elected. Rev. Miranda thanked her for her work.
15. **ELECTION OF PCC VICE-CHAIRMAN** Toby Jackson was duly elected.
16. **ELECTION OF SAFEGUARDING OFFICER.** Kairen Ball was duly elected.
17. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** Janet Roberts was appointed, taking over from Don Wing who has retired after many years.
18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF PAROCHIAL OR CHURCH INTEREST.** There was no other business.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 6.30 p.m.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

There are 18 names on the Roll - one fewer than last year.

Caroline Jackson
Electoral Roll Officer

TREASURER'S APCM REPORT 2022

Combined accounts and statement

2021 was the second successive year we remained in the grip of the Covid 19 pandemic. We were in lockdown from January to early April followed by restrictions in one format or another until the end of the year. This obviously had a severe impact on our abilities to fund raise and we were forced to dig into our reserves to meet our financial commitments for another year.

Once again we paid our Parish Share in full, as well as insurance, alarm maintenance/monitoring, grass cutting, electricity, fees and basic running and fabric costs.

In April Cynthia and I re-opened the Pop-up shops selling plants, produce etc. which helped with both community morale and provided a modest fund-raising opportunity until we resumed Sunday Teas for a shortened season of 9 weeks between September and October. In late November, Christmas wreath-making was well supported by the village and beyond. Fee income started again as we were able to host weddings, funerals etc. in the latter half of the year together with modest plate collections. These remain very low due to a much-reduced regular service pattern. Other significant income is derived from VAT/Gift aid reclaim, PC grass cutting grant and regular monthly giving.

Total income from all sources for 2021 £17,520.87. Total expenditure £21,114.76 (note these figures allow for the donation of £4,750 to the reading room for their portion of NOR/Pop up shop fundraising 2020/21) earned in 2020 but paid over in 2021

Our closing balance going forward is £23,186.59 (higher than predicted in April 2021). Please refer to accounts for details and break-down of income and expenditure.

Going forward into 2022 and beyond

During the last 10 years we have depleted our reserves by almost £10,000. Some of this can be attributed to the pandemic which we are still feeling the effects of. Our income from plate collections is now significantly reduced due to fewer or short notice cancelled services. Also regular monthly giving has been declining for a number of years. Sibbertoft has a reputation for successful fund raising - Sunday Teas being our flagship event for almost 30 years, raising tens of thousands. Fêtes, garden parties, hog roasts, NOR/Pop up shops, wreath making etc have all provided wonderful community events and vital income streams. However, I feel as a PCC we must start facing the inevitable concerns that lie ahead, noting that the majority of the population involved in these fund-raising projects are now in their 'retirement years'.

Teas are going ahead for 2022 but after careful consideration Cynthia and Lesley have decided this is to be our last year in undertaking full management. We have thoroughly enjoyed our involvement and are proud of what has been achieved. If the PCC and or the village can find replacement volunteers we would happily assist with handing over. We realise this will be sad news to convey to our loyal visitors. 'All good things come to an end'.

In truth almost all of our PCC are well into their retirement years and the effects of covid have taken their toll on us all. Like other parishes in the benefice and beyond we are likely to be struggling to fill essential posts in the near future. I do not have the answers to the points raised but as treasurer for 26 years I feel very strongly we should be making practical steps to future-proof the security of our church, assuming there is a continued need for its existence in the heart of Sibbertoft. I pray to the Lord to show us the way forward.

I would like to thank all PCC members and the wider village community for their support during the past 12 months.

On behalf of Saint Helen's PCC our thanks are recorded to Mrs Janet Roberts who has kindly given her professional time and expertise in auditing our 2021 accounts.

I confirm I am willing to continue as Treasurer for one more year. This post like many others has become a more complex and time-consuming job than the one I took over back in 1996. If someone would be happy to share some of the tasks I would be most grateful to discuss possibilities.

Lesley Hartshorne

Treasurer

April 2022

Sibbertoft Parochial Church Council
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Income Received.				
Plate Collection		1,150.08		567.35
Donations received (Gift Aid)	649.88		264.00	
Donations received (Not Gift Aid)	252.94		1,346.66	
Regular donations to the restoration account (Gift Aid)	2,100.00		2,330.00	
Other donations to the restoration account			293.90	
		<u>3,002.82</u>		<u>4,234.56</u>
Fees Received		3,700.00		951.00
<i>Special Events</i>				
Pancake Party			336.50	
			<u>-</u>	
		-		336.50
<i>Fundraising</i>				
Wreaths	859.00			
Sunday Teas, Pop up shops, cakes and plants	6,209.58		8,370.70	
Nan on the Run	1,510.02		5,990.62	
Donation to the Reading Room	(1,754.69)		(2,995.31)	
		<u>6,823.91</u>		<u>11,366.01</u>
Gift Aid refund received from HMRC		2,492.87		-
VAT reclaimed from HMRC				397.71
Grant from Sibbertoft PC - (re grass cutting)		350.00		350.00
Interest Received		1.19		43.16
Sundry Income		-		10.00
		<u>17,520.87</u>		<u>18,256.29</u>
Expenditure				
Parish Share	10,797.00		10,797.00	
Electricity	188.08		292.21	
Insurance	1,424.86		1,420.98	
Vicar and lay preacher expenses	563.72		528.90	
Organist Fees	200.00		-	
Grass cutting	3,310.00		3,290.00	
Printing and stationery	287.60		217.45	
Fees paid	1,807.00		434.00	
Repairs	691.82		2,652.76	
Annual alarm fee	1,077.60		1,054.29	
Costs re events	-		24.00	
Costs re teas	174.08		18.00	
Donations made	467.00		117.00	
Wedding flowers	49.00			
Sundry costs	77.00		11.99	
		<u>21,114.76</u>		<u>20,858.58</u>
Excess of Expenditure over income		<u>(3,593.89)</u>		<u>(2,602.29)</u>

Sibbertoft Parochial Church Council
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash at Bank and in Hand		
Barclays Bank General Current Account	3,450.23	5,543.27
Barclays Bank Restoration Current Account	7,869.44	12,366.79
Barclays Bank Deposit Account	10.22	10.22
Santander Deposit Account	11,856.70	11,855.51
	<u>23,186.59</u>	<u>29,775.79</u>
Provision for 50% of the proceeds from Nan on the Run to be paid to The Reading Room	-	(2,995.31)
Funds Available at the year end	<u>23,186.59</u>	<u>26,780.48</u>
General Funds		
Balance at 1st January 2021 / (2020)	26,780.48	29,382.77
Excess of expenditure over income for the year	- 3,593.89	(2,602.29)
Balance at 31st December 2021 / (2020)	<u>23,186.59</u>	<u>26,780.48</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of Sibbertoft Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise an income and expenditure account for the year together with a balance sheet as at 31 December 2021 as set out on pages 1 and 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Janet Roberts FCA

Wheler Lodge, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth

ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT
COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CURRENT & RESTORATION ACCOUNTS)

INCOME	2020	2021	
Giving			
Standing orders/Regular donations	£2,330 <u>£2,330</u>	£2,100 <u>£2,100</u>	-9.87%
Gift Aid/Blue envelope (one-off) *	£264	£650	+102.70%
Plate (G/A reclaimable)	£567	£1,150	
Donations (non G/A)	£1,641 <u>£2,208</u>	£253 <u>£1,403</u>	-8.48%
Total Giving	<u>£4,538</u>	<u>£4,153</u>	
Gift Aid reclaim	£0 *	£2,493	* claim in 2021
Total giving + Gift Aid	<u>£4,802</u>	<u>£6,646</u>	
VAT Reclaim	£398	£0	
Fees †	£951	£3,700	
Reclaimed interregnum fees			
Fund Raising			
Sunday Teas/Pop-up shops	£8,371 } **	£6,090	-27.25%
Special events	+/- £4,500 due to RR		
Nan on the run	£5,991 } **	£1,630 *** £160 due to RR	RR reopening/ NoR finale £682
Fête			
Vintage Garden Party			
Pancake party	£337	£0	-100.00%
Harvest supper			
Wreaths		£859	
Hog Roast/Raffle	<u>£6,327</u>	<u>£2,489</u>	
Sundries	£10	£0	
Total Fund Raising income	<u>£14,708</u>	<u>£8,579</u>	-41.67%
Ecclesiastical Insurance (Roof)			
Parish Council Grass cutting	£350	£350	
Interest	£43	£1	
Electricity refund	£86	£0	
Grant			
Bank refund re error	£18	£0	
Quinquennial report grant	£0	£0	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£21,356</u>	<u>£19,276</u>	-9.74%

ACCOUNT BALANCES (Reconciled)	2020	2021
Current Account		
Barclays	£5,543.27	£3,690.19
Restoration Fund		
Barclays High Interest	£12,366.79	£7,869.44
Community Account	£10.22	£10.22
Santander	£11,855.51 <u>£24,232.52</u>	£11,856.70 <u>£19,736.36</u>
	<u>£29,775.79</u>	<u>£23,426.55</u>
Less:		
Cash banking error	£18.00	£0.00
Unpresented cheques	<u>£57.27</u>	<u>£294.96</u>
TOTAL CASH AT BANK	<u>£29,718.52</u>	<u>£23,131.59</u>

NET FUND RAISING INCOME	2020	2021	
Teas/Pop-up shops	£8,353	£5,916	-29.17%
Craft Fair			
Hog Roast/Raffle	£0	£0	
Vintage Garden Party	£0	£0	
Pancake party	£313	£0	
Wreaths	£0	£859	
Other fund raising (Nan on the Run)	<u>£5,991</u>	<u>£1,630</u>	
Total Net Fund Raising income	<u>£8,665</u>	<u>£8,405</u>	-3.00%

Income notes

Fees	2020
When we receives fees, we pay part to the Diocese. Net Fees rec. =	£1,893 <u>£517</u>

TOBY JACKSON

ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT

COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (CURRENT & RESTORATION ACCOUNTS)

EXPENDITURE	2020		2021		
Parish Share	£10,795		£10,797		+0.02%
Fees PDBF †	£434		£1,807		
Running Costs					
Electricity	£378		£188		
Insurance	£1,421		£1,425		
Printing/Stationery	£217	£1,638	£288	£1,713	
Altar Expenses	£0		£0		
Vicars/Lay exp	£529 **		£564		
Organist's fees	£0	<u>£2,546</u>	£200	<u>£2,665</u>	+4.69%
Regular Maintenance					
General repairs/Maintenance	£415		£210		
Sundries	£12		£49		
Cousans (Organ Maintenance)	£108		£204		
SS Systems (service/monitoring fee)	£1,054		£1,078		
S. Bailey (trees)	£850		£0		
Grasscutting	£3,290	<u>£5,729</u>	£3,310	<u>£4,851</u>	-15.33%
Repairs/Other works					
GSS Architects (Quinquennial)					
The Leadworks (Quinquennial roof)					
Clockwise Restoration - repair	£374		£0		
Dave Sleight (nave damp)	£696		£0		
SS Systems (call out)	£210		£0		
Ladder for clock chamber			£278		
		<u>£1,280</u>		<u>£278</u>	-78.28%
		<u>£7,009</u>		<u>£5,129</u>	
Gifts to Clergy/Lay Readers	£0		£77		
Teas/Pop-up shops Expenses	£0		£174		
Reading room hire (Teas/Pop-up)	£18	<u>£18</u>		<u>£174</u>	
Events expenses					
Wreaths	£0		£0		
Hog Roast					
Fête					
Vintage Garden Party	£0		£0		
Tea and Toast					
Harvest supper					
Pancake party	£24	<u>£24</u>	£0	<u>£0</u>	
Total Fund Raising Exp.		<u>£42</u>		<u>£174</u>	
Charitable Giving					
Childrens Society					
Christian Aid	£0		£50		
FCN	£0		£200		
Water Aid					
Reading Room craft fair					
Peterborough Bellringers Guild	£0		£0		
P'borough Mothers' Union					
Royal British Legion *	£17 *		£217		* paid to village rep
Reading Room	£100	<u>£117</u>	£4,750	<u>£5,217</u>	RR share of N on Run/Pop-up

	£20,942	£25,866	
Balancing figure	<u>-£1.00</u>	<u>+£0.12</u>	
TOTALS	<u>£20,941</u>	<u>£25,866</u>	
Surplus/Loss	<u>+£414</u>	<u>-£6,590</u>	
Adjusted Surplus/Loss	<u>-£3,333</u>	<u>+£3,343</u>	
	-£2,919	-£3,247	

2020 ADJUSTMENTS

Fundraising payable to Reading Room -£4,590

50% GA claim (made in 2020) +£1,257

-£3,333

2021 ADJUSTMENTS

Due to RR in 2020 +£4,590

2020 share of 2021 GA claim -£1,247

+£3,343

CHURCHWARDEN'S FABRIC AND INVENTORY REPORT

1) Repairs and Maintenance of the Building

- a. No major works carried out.
- b. A quinquennial inspection is due and will take place in June 2022.

2) Other Works:

a. Pews

The pews at the back of the north aisle were removed as part of a re-plastering exercise and it was decided, given the poor state of a number of them, not to replace them, to give us some additional space. After numerous attempts to find buyers for them, we advertised them in the village and all were taken at the end of 2021, with donations given to St. Helen's.

b. Organ:

- i. The organ was serviced, as usual.

c. Clock:

The charger for the automatic winders failed and was replaced

d. Access to clock chamber:

A new extending ladder was acquired to address the awkward ascent from the ringing chamber into the clock chamber and grab handles installed.

e. Priest's door: The insulation around the priest's door in the chancel still needs to be finished.

3) Fittings, Furnishings, Plate and Register

- a. All fixtures and fittings are in good order.
- b. All church plate is in good order
- c. All church registers are in good order and in accordance with the inventory.
- d. All church linen, vestments and altar frontals are in good order.

4) Churchyard

a. Wilding project

The PCC agreed to trial a wilding project, mowing some areas only monthly rather than fortnightly and leaving others wild, to be cut only once a year, with paths through them cut monthly. It will take a few years to see how this works, both practically and financially, and in the meantime it is a learning process for us all.

b. A successful working party was organised in March with much-appreciated help from many, to clear/cut graves and hedges.

c. The Market Harborough Canine Society planted a rowan tree by the pollarded ash in memory of John Landale, a stalwart of the society and a long-time Sibbertoft resident.

Toby Jackson
Churchwarden

15th March, 2022

CHILDREN'S, YOUTH, & FAMILIES MINISTRY REPORT

After a year of Forest Church taking place online during COVID-19 lockdowns, we were finally able to start meeting in person at the Midshire Covert in May 2021. Led by Father Kris, we have enjoyed Fellowship and a range of activities - including a walk through the Kelmars Tunnels, craft activities, quizzes/hunts, games, stories and prayer around the fire. We have been focusing on the wonder of God's creation, particularly following this through the seasons. Over the past year, we have been pleased to welcome an increasing number of families as word has gradually spread about Forest Church.

Sadly Father Kris has now left the Benefice, leading to a period of reflection about how to continue with Forest Church. Currently, Peter Kraftl, Alun Davies and Bob Finch are jointly leading some less structured activities (for instance walks starting in each of our Parishes) as we plan next steps.

Peter Kraftl
15th May, 2022

BRIXWORTH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS 2022

Rural Dean: The Revd Canon Miranda Hayes, rector of the Naseby group.

Lay Chair of the Deanery: Chris Banks, Long Buckby

Brixworth Deanery Synod Meetings May 2021- April 2022

DATE	VENUE	THEME	SPEAKER	PRESENT
18 th May 2021	Zoom	The Church of England report 'Living in Love and Faith'.	The Revd Kathryn Evans Curate in the Spencer benefice	24
26 th Oct 2021	Lilbourne	the effect of the last 18 months on our churches and communities.	The Revd Charlie Nobbs Director of Mission	18
13 th Jan 2022	Zoom	Challenges as we move forward	The Revd Charlie Nobbs	33

Average attendance 23

Themes of meetings 2021-2022:

'Living in Love and Faith': a major Church of England initiative to promote consideration of aspects of human sexuality. Views would be reported and the Bishop would need to know, at the start of 2022, how the Deanery intended to move forward on this.

The effect of the pandemic on our churches and communities: group discussion led to the facts that we had lost things; that we faced a challenge to re-establish some of them; but that some beneficial changes had emerged such as worshipping as a benefice and community engagement. We would need to build on them, and to help each other with the challenges.

Challenges and our response as we move into 2022 and beyond: attracting children & families, lack of money, and retaining/recruiting volunteers were identified as 3 main problems. We would try to address them together, possibly with help from Diocesan advisors.

Leading Your Church Into Growth (LyCiG): an online course for the diocese was held in February 2022, and a residential course in late March. The Revd Helen Bent is closely involved with the course, and she and those who had already been on LyCiG led discussions about it. 'It is inspiring, enabling, encouraging, equipping; it promotes being intentional about growth; it *will* help.'

The business section of the meetings included:

- Welcome to the Revd Graeme Anderson as interim Rector of the Crick benefice, and the Revds Caroline Burnett as assistant priest and Clare Glover as curate, Uplands benefice.
- We were sad to say goodbye to Sheila and Neil Robertson, who as Lay Chair and Treasurer respectively had been such an important part of the Brixworth Deanery synod. We are most grateful for their dedicated service.
- Decision to hold the winter Deanery Synod meeting by Zoom so that representatives did not have to travel in adverse weather conditions.
- Christian Aid week 2021: the Deanery raised £5351.33. 15 parishes took part.
- Repeated requests for someone to take on the role of Treasurer: it involves attending and reporting on finance meetings, much more than accounts-handling.
- Parish Share: this would not go up in 2022
- Encouragement for parishes to join the Parish Giving scheme
- Chris and Miranda would like the parishes of the Deanery to find ways of working together more effectively for mutual benefit and support, to encourage each other and increase capabilities in the parishes – networking in a very broad sense - with the Deanery Synod as a catalyst. A database of experience and knowledge could be created.

Meetings arranged for later in 2022:

<u>Standing Committee</u>		<u>Deanery Synod</u>	
10/05/22	Zoom	17/05/22	Hollowell Village Hall
October dates to be arranged.			

General information

Deanery Synod: The deanery comprises 43 parishes (about 30,000 people in total) forming 9 benefices and is the organisational tier between PCCs and the Diocesan Synod. It is led by the Rural Dean and the Lay Chair. All Deanery clergy are automatically members. Each parish is entitled to elect one or more official lay representatives to the Deanery Synod triennially (number dependent on size). Reps feedback to their parishes following meetings and report any parish concerns

to the Deanery as required by their PCC. Guests are very welcome at meetings but if there is a vote, only the official representatives can take part. The Deanery Synod can ask parishes for a very small subscription every few years.

The three Deanery Synod officers (Lay Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) are also elected for a three-year period. 2020 should have been an election year, but because of the pandemic elections were held at the May 2021 meeting, by Zoom.

Election results:

Lay Chair: Mr Chris Banks **Secretary:** Mrs Jan Alexander **Treasurer:** no volunteers so the post remains vacant

Diocesan Synod Representatives: our Deanery may elect four clergy and three laity members.

Clergy: the Reverends Graeme Anderson, Graham Collingridge (chapter clerk); Miranda Hayes; David Reith

Laity: Chris Banks, Alan Chantler, Lyn Johnson

Standing Committee: this meets in the weeks before a Deanery Synod meeting to plan the agenda and discuss Deanery business. Items suggested by PCCs for discussion at a Deanery Synod meeting should be sent to the secretary before the preceding Standing Committee meeting. (The secretary should also be notified of changes of parish representatives, as contact details are needed for correspondence.) The Standing Committee comprises the Rural Dean, Chapter Clerk, Lay Chair, Deanery Treasurer, Deanery Secretary, and Diocesan Synod representatives. Others may join by invitation.

Deanery Synod Meetings: Usually three in the year, and occasionally a social occasion may be added in the summer. Efforts are made to hold the meetings in different parishes; the church, church hall or village hall used should have wheelchair access, facilities and, ideally, adequate parking nearby. It saves funds if a venue that doesn't have to be paid for can be used.

After an opportunity to chat over coffee and biscuits from 7.00 p.m., meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. with a short period of worship. The main part of the meeting has a speaker or a discussion/activity on a relevant topic. The business section covers minutes, updates on Deanery appointments or activities, and financial issues such as the Parish Share. There may be a retiring collection, if it seems relevant to the evening's topic, and a Fair Trade stall is often available. Meetings close 9.00-9.30 p.m.

Please contact Chris (bankschris00@gmail.com, 07968 075465) or Jan (jkalexander51@gmail.com) or speak to your parish Deanery Synod representative if you want more information.

*J. Alexander
Deanery Secretary
March 2022*

**SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR APCMs IN NASEBY GROUP BENEFICE
2021-TO CURRENT**

Worshipping communities

Within the Naseby benefice I would like to begin by thanking those of you who have been proactive in the various Parishes when Safeguarding has been mentioned as a topic, or indeed when you have been asked to complete the initial training C0 Basics and C1 Foundation, which have been statutory for all members of a PCC for some years. More recently Churchwardens have also had to complete the higher level of training of C2 (Leadership Virtual Safeguarding training – now being delivered face to face); after a short time it was decided that this only needed to be completed when there is an interregnum, although if the interregnum is less than about 8 months there isn't the capacity for that training to happen as courses are booked up so far in advance.

More recently there has been the necessity for all PCC members to complete a module of training in Domestic Abuse. To date I have only been advised that one or two members from all the PCCs have completed the training. So despite this being mandatory for PCC members, four of our Parishes do not have anyone trained in recognising nor talking to someone who needs help in this area. Likewise 3-4 of our Parishes have made no effort to complete the training requirements for the Safeguarding of children and Vulnerable Adults. So as a benefice when an ordained person is not always present it should be fundamental that someone, or many someones, should understand the culture of a Church to provide safeguarding for all concerned. As a minimum, I believe that all Churchwardens should be trained and have that training refreshed every 3 years, so if you become legally responsible for reporting and assisting in any Safeguarding enquiries you are able to do so from a position of knowledge and understanding. No one wants to be in a position where they either miss the signs of abuse (of any sort); nor should you want to obstruct a police enquiry nor be the cause of a case collapsing against an abused child or adult, all very easy to cause if you have not received the adequate training.

PCC members should also have a current DBS which is now required to be renewed every 3 years rather than the original 5 years.

So after a decade of serving first as a Parish Safeguarding officer for Welford, Sibbertoft and Marston Trussell, then as Benefice officer for those three Parishes and for the last 3+ years as Safeguarding Officer for the Naseby Group, I have decided that I need to relinquish this post to allow someone fresh to try and push our Parishes to accept their legal responsibilities for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults as well as being in a position to pastorally care for anyone who walks through the doors of the Church and asks for our help.

I will continue to keep my finger on the pulse of Safeguarding matters because I have seen and been in a church in which I was a youth leader of 3 groups of over 70 young people on a weekly basis, that was wandering in a wilderness for many years after an incident of Child abuse within the church which overnight caused the decimation of the church family itself and has taken over 25 years to regroup. The hurt and the damage done to that Parish was unquantifiable, many lost their faith altogether, parents asked for their children to be re-Baptised and for many years, when it needed the guidance of a priest and superb pastoral care it was unable to recruit or provide. I wouldn't wish this scenario on any Parish, let alone these that I am licensed to serve as a Lay Minister. Please give these words some thought and ask yourselves if your PCC need this to be an urgent item for ACTION on your new PCC members.

Thank you once again to those of you who might have moaned about the stringent rules of training, but knew the value and necessity for this process and got on and completed the modules. I don't think this would be necessary if organisations, that sadly includes the Church of England along with other faith groups as well, had not protected those within the church who had/have a preponderance towards the abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and moved them sideways to let them continue to abuse other vulnerable people. Abuse including bullying should never be a measure within our Church families, as we are called to love one another as Jesus loves us.

Kairen Ball
Benefice Safeguarding Officer, Naseby Group
April 2022

RECTOR'S APCM BENEFICE REPORT 2022

2021 was the second year to be ravaged by Covid, and so much of what happened in our Benefice reflected the constraints, fears and uncertainty that afflicted most, if not all, of the world.

As I said last year, "...where does that leave us? Well, despite all that has taken place, God's vision remains unclouded, his plans eternal, and his call rings out across and within a hurting world. His mission is unchanging and so, too, is ours. And in that missionary role, what wonderful work has been undertaken in our local communities to provide support, comfort and hope. How effectively challenges have been met; how much creativity and resourcefulness has been deployed; how successfully local networks have been utilised, sustained or built."

These truths remain, and so we continue in our efforts to weave the life of the church into that of our communities so that all may know the love of God. What a privilege it is for us to know and to share the Gospel! How we missed coming together to give thanks for God's unfailing love, his unfailing mercy, and his unfailing commitment to us, his children. Now, though, we are free to worship and to live our lives without the restrictions and limitations we have experienced. However, we have, I believe, learnt a lot from those experiences. We have, perhaps, learnt not to take too much for granted, to cherish our families and friends, to slow down and appreciate 'now' rather than racing on all too quickly to the next thing

As we learn to live with a different reality and, as I write this, witness the ongoing horror and tragedy in Ukraine, we recall Simon Peter's words to Jesus, *"You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."* [John 6:68^b-69] So, yes, all will be well, and all manner of things will be well, (as Julian of Norwich put it), but eternal life is not about the future but about now - that same "now" we have learnt to appreciate. Eternal life is not only a promise of what we will enjoy after death but a gift already given: Jesus gave his life that we might fully and freely live not at some future date beyond the grave, but today and every day. Every day is precious, every day a day to treasure, every day a day to share the knowledge and experience of God's infinite love. Sadly, and in devastating fashion across creation, we are seeing what the opposite looks like. In Ukraine and in so many others places, we see not love, but hate, not justice but injustice, not peace but conflict.

It was, though, in the face of hate and injustice, that Jesus won eternal life for us. It was not, though, by doing nothing but by doing everything. Whilst we certainly can't do everything, we can and should do something – and I believe we are and will do more.

As a Benefice, as parishes, as individuals, we have sought to make a difference, to be a blessing to our communities. There have been some wonderful initiatives which have certainly achieved this, and we are looking at fresh ideas and proposals to build on them, to grow our community links and relationships.

Alongside all of you, Fr. Kris, our Readers, organists, Wardens and PCCs have done sterling work initiating and supporting groups and projects. I am profoundly grateful to them all, and everyone who has worked so hard to uphold and support the church family and the mission we are all called to undertake.

We have benefited greatly from the commitment, enthusiasm and faith of our assistant curate, Fr. Kris, but his time with us has come to an end, and he has moved on to pastures new to continue his training. Like each of us, he is pursuing his calling to further God's mission to the world.

If we flinch at that word "mission", and fear what it means for us, it is, in fact, profoundly simple: to share God's love. That was and remains Christ's mission – as his disciples, it is ours, too.

May 2022 be a year of faith, hope and, above all things, love.

Miranda

ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT - CHURCHWARDEN'S SUMMARY

The issues that we have faced together over the last year(s) have already been mentioned and I should like to add my thanks to all those who help to keep St. Helen's open and available to worshippers and visitors, and the clergy and readers who lead our services, as well as the continuing services and ministry for Sibbertoft Manor, which are hugely appreciated by the Manor residents; a special mention of the readers is due as they rose to the challenge of covering services over Holy Week and Easter Day. Our challenge is to continue that work in a future uncertain on a number of fronts.

I should also like to add my thanks to Father Kris for his contribution to the parish and benefice while he was with us. We were all disappointed both to lose him and that the suddenness and short notice of his departure did not allow us to offer him our usual St. Helen's farewell and thanks for the enthusiasm, care and good humour that he brought with him. In spite of starting his curacy as lockdown was imposed, he was a familiar sight in the parishes, making a point of getting out and about and being seen and known, and has left a wonderful legacy in Forest Church, which, as we have heard, continues, from strength to strength we hope. We wish him and Karen well as he completes his training in Crick and we look forward to celebrating his licensing when he moves to a parish of his own.

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2022 ELECTION TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. HELEN, SIBBERTOFT

Name/Address	PROPOSER		SECONDER	
	Name	Signature	Name	Signature
Viv Arrowsmith 5 Beeches Close Sibbertoft LE16 9UQ	L Hartshorne		e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON
Cynthia Bailey Beam House 44 Welland Rise Sibbertoft LE16 9UD	V. Arrowsmith	V. Arrowsmith	e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON
Sue Clarke The Stables, Coombes Yard Welland Rise Sibbertoft, LE16 9UJ	L Hartshorne		e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON
Jo Elliott 28 Welland Rise, Sibbertoft LE16 9UD	V. ARROWSMITH	V. Arrowsmith	e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON
Lesley Hartshorne Roserie Cottage Westhorpe, Sibbertoft LE16 9UL	S J Clarke	S J CLARKE	e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON
Juliet Kraftl 30 Welland Rise Sibbertoft, E16 9UD	Cerdie Jackson	CAROLINE JACKSON	e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON
Peter Kraftl 30 Welland Rise Sibbertoft LE16 9UD	Cynthia Bailey	Cynthia Bailey	e. Robinson	e. ROBINSON

ST. HELEN'S, SIBBERTOFT 2022 APCM - NOMINEES FOR POSTS

	PROPOSER	SECONDER
CHURCHWARDEN Toby Jackson Wry Furlong, Welford Road, Sibbertoft LE16 9UJ	Toby Jackson Cynthia Bailey	S. J. Clark
DEANERY SYNOD Caroline Jackson Wry Furlong, Welford Road, Sibbertoft LE16 9UJ	L Hartshorne.	V. Arrowsmith
SIDESMEN/WOMEN Viv Arrowsmith 5 Beeches Close, Sibbertoft LE16 9UQ	M. LLOYD	Carole Jackson
Caroline Jackson Wry Furlong, Welford Road, Sibbertoft LE16 9UJ	Cynthia Bailey	Toby Jackson
Miles Lloyd 11 Welland Rise, Sibbertoft LE16 9UD	V. Arrowsmith	Uti
TREASURER Lesley Hartshorne Roserie Cottage, Westhorpe, Sibbertoft LE16 9UL	S. J. Clark	Carole Jackson
SECRETARY Viv Arrowsmith 5 Beeches Close, Sibbertoft LE16 9UQ	Carole Jackson	S. J. Clark
PCC VICE-CHAIRMAN Toby Jackson Wry Furlong, Welford Road, Sibbertoft LE16 9UJ	Carole Jackson	Uti
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER ???		
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER (ACCOUNTS) Janet Roberts Wheeler Lodge, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire LE17 6UL	Lesley Hartshorne	Toby Jackson