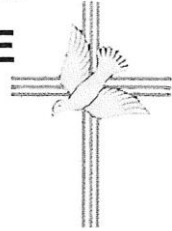
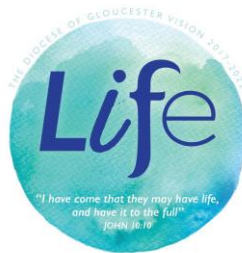


THE EWELME BENEFICE
Dursley, Uley, Owlpen
and Nympsfield



**2019 Annual Report and
Financial Statement
of the
Parochial Church Council of
St Giles Uley, Holy Cross Owlpen, St. Bartholomew Nympsfield**



Our vision:
As members of the Ewelme Benefice, we will work together to share
in the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE Vision

The Revd Canon Michael Cozens
Email: mgcozens86@btinternet.com

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**The Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield
in the Ewelme Benefice
Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)
at St Giles Church, Uley on Sunday 7th April 2019 at 11.30am**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) took place on Sunday 7th April 2019 in the St Giles Church at 11.30am. Canon Michael Cozens was in the chair and 18 parishioners attended.

1. Canon Michael welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the prayer for the Diocesan Vision.
2. Mrs Prue Vernon was appointed clerk to the meeting.
3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th April 2018 was proposed by Mrs Pat Jones and seconded by Mrs Ann Hardy. Approved. Canon Michael signed the minutes.
4. Election of Churchwardens: Canon Michael reported that Mrs Jo Rymer wished to stand down as churchwarden and that there was a card for her being circulated and a presentation is proposed at Easter if she is able to come.
Two nominations had been received Mrs Ann Hardy (proposed by Mrs Jo Rymer) and Mrs Pauline Thomas (proposed by Mrs Ann Hardy, seconded by Mrs Jo Rymer). As there were no other nominations Mrs Hardy and Mrs Thomas were duly elected.
5. Election of Assistant churchwardens: Two nominations had been received, Mrs Pat Jones (proposed by Mrs Moya Wallis) and Mr John Wood (proposed by Mrs Dee Lewis Jones and Mrs Pauline Thomas). There being no other nominations Mrs Jones and Mr Wood were duly elected.

Canon Michael thanked the churchwardens and assistant churchwardens for their help and support during the year.

**The Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield
in the Ewelme Benefice
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
at St Giles Church, Uley on Sunday 7th April 2019 at 11.45am**

Canon Michael opened the Parochial Church Meeting as the first with the new Electoral Roll.

Apologies: Mrs Jo Rymer, Mrs Marion Mills, Mrs Karen Randall
In Attendance: Mrs Janet Bannister

1. Mrs Prue Vernon was appointed clerk to the meeting.
2. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th April 2018 was proposed by Mrs Pat Jones and Mrs Janet Wood. Approved. Canon Michael signed the minutes.
3. Electoral Roll Report: Mrs Pauline Thomas reported that there were 109 names on the new electoral roll, in 2018 there were 121. Canon Michael said this often happened with a new electoral roll and names can be added after this meeting. He stressed the electoral roll had nothing to do with the parish share which is based on average annual attendance figures at Sunday services and expressed a wish that the average annual attendance figure was more closely related to the electoral roll. An electoral roll of 109 entitles the parish to retain 3 representatives on the Deanery Synod.

The electoral roll is kept in the parish office and can be viewed there.

Electoral Roll Officer – Mrs Thomas would like to stand down but is prepared to do this for one more year. Mr Charles Drewett

expressed interest in taking on the role next year. The election of Mrs Thomas was proposed by Mrs Shearer and seconded by Mrs Moya Wallis. This was accepted unanimously.

4. Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2018. Mrs Vernon reported an income of £49,902 and expenses of £50,946 for the General Funds which after application of investment income for St Giles Church left an over all loss of £1,660. Income is heavily reliant on fees from weddings and funerals (£12,168) which take a lot of clergy time. Fund raising net of expenses raised £7,461 after a donation of £1,000 to Play Group made at the request of the Hidden Gardens. The garden owners, caterers and plant sellers were thanked for their hard work as were those who set up and ran the Nympsfield Sheep Races. St Josephs School, Friends of Uley School and Nympsfield Village Hall also benefitted from the Sheep Races. Funds from Owlpen Coffee Morning went to the Owlpen Organ Restoration Fund. St Bartholomew's and St Giles churches received substantial donations from the St Bartholomew's Nympsfield Mills Bequest and from the St Giles Bowmer Settlement 29 February 1996. These also contributed to the cost of the organist.

There are three large projects ongoing, the repair of the organ at Holy Cross, the repair of the churchyard wall beside the road at St Giles and the reordering at St Giles using the Rosemary Bowmer bequests.

It will be necessary to have a general appeal for regular funds to maintain the church buildings and meet our Parish Share obligations.

Mr Peter Randall said that the Owlpen organ fund had now raised £23,000 and asked that there be a minute thanking the Mercers for their donation of £10,000. Canon Michael said had written to thank them. Mrs Karen Randall was thanked for her fundraising efforts as were Mr and Mrs Wathen and Mr Hart-Davis. There are applications out for £13,000 in grants and several fund raising events planned.

Mr Randall also said that the PCC should hold a fund raising event(s) for the reordering at St Giles so that people in the village felt involved.

Canon Michael thanked Mrs Vernon for driving the parish fundraising and for the work of fundraising teams.

5. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the parish

Canon Michael now chairs the Fabric Committee and John Wood writes the reports. Canon Michael reported that there is a heavy load of fabric matters and he is grateful to the fabric committee members who deal with the contractors. The second lead theft at St Giles was a blow. We have a faculty to change from lead to stainless steel but Stroud District Council has not processed our application yet. He thanked everyone for their support with the reordering exhibition in St Giles. The display will remain up with opportunity to comment on them. The PCC will reflect on the comments at the next PCC meeting and the plans will then go for a faculty application. Ball park cost is £140,000. Mrs Shearer wondered if the screen could be delayed and Canon Michael said professional advice was that any savings from not having the screen would rapidly be used up in extra heating costs and insulation of the tower. Canon Michael said that the church deserved something visible like the screen that is nice and good lighting. He agreed that we must run a fundraising event or two for the reordering so that everyone takes ownership and feels they have contributed to making it a church for the community, able and disabled, with the new screen and lighting. He had discussed how the school uses the building and they welcomed the prospect of more space at the front and a level area at the back for buggies.

Mr Penley wondered whether wedding congregations at Owlpen could be asked to make donations for the organ. Possibly a leaflet could be left explaining the appeal. Canon Michael was keen that the church does not seem grasping as couples have already paid significant fees for

the service. People are surprised that there are no charges for Baptism services, and in consequence there are more donations.

The damp at Holy Cross will also need addressing.

The lead at St Bartholomew's tower has been replaced.

Mrs Shearer said that Mr Shearer will do a revised guide to the church once the reordering has taken place.

6. Deanery Synod. Mr David Thomas said it was as in his report. Canon Michael explained that the bulk of Parish Share is made up of clergy stipends, pensions and housing costs. The Diocese is currently £5M in debt and our Deanery was unable to meet its 2019 parish share allocation by 4.2%. The Diocese is projected to be running at a £0.5M loss for each of the next 5 years.

7. Other Reports:

Canon Michael thanked the churchwardens, Mrs Rymer and Mrs Hardy, for their detailed report and support during the year.

PCC Secretary's report – Canon Michael thanked Mrs Janet Banister for her report, her work as secretary and support in the parish and in the Deanery as she is retiring to France. We were all delighted that she was made a member of the order of St Kyneburga. She said she had been on the PCC since the 1980s and had been PCC Secretary from 1993. She will be thanked properly on Easter Sunday.

Young People - Canon Michael thanked Miss Liz Rymer and her team for their work with Open The Book which was much appreciated by the school. He also thanked her for organising the holiday club which is an important connection between young people and the church. This year there will be an afternoon service on the first Sunday in August with tea to celebrate holiday club. Canon Michael is hoping to introduce Messy Church. Sundays are not great for families and the services on Sundays do not engage with families. Messy church is part of church in an unconventional way and we have a good connection with the local school to build on. Susan Staniforth, one of the school's foundation governors, has done a report.

Safeguarding – Mrs Pat Jones was thanked for report. At the 12th March PCC meeting the PCC adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy. Safeguarding is a regular item on the PCC agenda.

8. Rector's Report:

Canon Michael covered the main highlights of his year beginning with the inauguration of the benefice by Bishop Rachel. He was delighted by the wide number of local organisations from the benefice which were represented at the service. He mentioned the Open Gardens, the Sheep Racing, the Harvest Service at St Bartholomew's with lunch at St Joseph's school and the carol service at Holy Cross. There are lots of ways to engage with people using the buildings entrusted to us to draw them to worship God. We can get bogged down in Fabric matters, but we have to be clear that we are responsible for making them welcoming places to share life in all its fullness.

Both PCCs met for a very cold but productive morning to agree how the Ewelme Benefice could share the Life Vision, leadership and other matters. Actions under consideration are the pattern of PCC meetings and oversight of the benefice. Possibly by meeting together and sharing some PCC meetings. His team is looking at a pattern of meetings and services. The change to 10am on the first Sunday at Nympsfield is working well but there is more work to be done at Nympsfield.

Another consideration is a survey to understand better what communities want from their churches – we may assume incorrectly that we think know what they want. The survey would probably need different questions in Dursley, Uley and Nympsfield.

The Deanery is looking for a Digital Champion to handle social media, twitter and facebook. Another idea is to install wifi in the churches (would allow us to do contactless donations)

A point was made we should do things together and have fun. A benefice walk round the churches is planned for October.

9. Proposal for restructuring the PCC

The current structure of the PCC is 10 elected members plus the ex officio posts with PCC members to be elected each year. Last year only 7 places were filled.

Most parishes now rotate PCC members by electing 3 different blocks of members to serve for 3 years, a different block retiring each year, which allows others to join the PCC, with retiring members able to rejoin after a year.

It is proposed:

- The ex-officio members would remain the same: Rector, associate priest (if in post), assistant curate (if in post), any other clergy licensed to the Ewelme Benefice, two churchwardens, Deanery Synod members (currently 3).
- There be 9 lay members of the PCC to serve a term of 3 years. After the first APCM lots will be drawn to decide the rotation of retirements. The PCC agreed that a lay member may serve for 2 terms (total 6 years) before resting for one year and being eligible for re-election.
- Officers of the PCC, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and if required a Minute Secretary, shall be appointed by the new PCC from amongst its members. Alternatively these posts can be filled by co-option.
- Assistant Churchwardens shall be appointed at the first PCC meeting following the APCM. Those appointed do not need to be PCC members.

This measure was proposed by Mrs Pat Jones, seconded by Mrs Ann Hardy and agreed unanimously. It will come into effect after the APCM in 2020.

10. Elections to Deanery

Mrs Janet Bannister is retiring. Mrs Moya Wallis and Mr David Thomas have another year. No-one volunteered so there is one vacancy.

11. Elections to the PCC

Canon Michael thanked everyone who had served this year. The following are retiring: Mr Jonathan Pape, Mr David Valentin, Mrs Lorna Tutton. Canon Michael thanked them for their work.

Names already proposed:

Mrs Prue Vernon,

Mrs Jo Rymer,

Mr Charles Drewett.

The following were proposed from the floor:

Mr Toby Falconer (Mary Shearer - proposed, Janet Wood seconded)

Mr Peter Randall (Ann Hardy - proposed, Janet Wood - seconded)

Mr John Penley (Pat Jones - proposed, Liz Rymer - seconded) - offered to serve as Secretary but not minutes secretary.

Mrs Jennifer Rogers (Pat Jones - proposed, Peter Randall - seconded)

Miss Liz Rymer (Peter Randall - proposed, Ann Hardy - seconded)

The eight nominees were declared duly elected. There remain two vacant places which could be filled during the year as appropriate. The first meeting would be held on Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7pm. It will be preceded at 6.30pm by a short service of Holy Communion.

12. Sides People

Canon Michael recorded his thanks to all the Sidespeople for their help and support. A total of 12 were elected en-bloc proposed by Mrs Marion Kee seconded Mr John Wood. Approved.

The team will comprise:

Mrs Sue Rushton, Mrs Rosemary Burne, Mrs Shirley Dewey, Mrs Moya Wallis, Mrs Joan Heaney, Mrs Marion Mills, Mr Duff Hart-Davis, Mrs Janet Wood, Miss Liz Rymer, Miss Margie Rymer, Mrs Marion Kee and Mrs Dee Lewis Jones

13. Appointment of independent examiner

Mrs Vernon proposed that Baldwins be reappointed, Mrs Janet Wood seconded. Approved.

14. Matters of Parochial Interest.

Canon Michael recorded a vote of thanks to Mr David Walker, our organist, who is very conscientious and happy to play in different churches.

The St Giles Church Fete will be on 13th July in The Rectory garden.

Mrs Vernon raised the idea of a Community Marquee to replace the one owned by Mr and Mrs Denbrey which is falling to pieces. An inflatable one had been inspected at Attwoolls and cheaper, larger version is available on the internet. Approx cost £500. The Parish Council will give £100 toward this. The Community Store is being asked for a donation. Mrs Vernon is proposing to place an advertisement in the Village News asking for donations towards the balance. The tent could be stored at Sheephouse Farm. It comes in a bag which can be lifted by 2 people and will fit in an estate car. It would have to be the property of the PCC and borrowers would have to pay a deposit to guarantee its return in good dry condition. We could also ask for donations towards a fund for its replacement in due course. The meeting considered this a good idea.

Mr Penley felt the river element of the benefice logo needed a little attention. Canon Michael agreed.

Mrs Hardy proposed that Clive Orchard be thanked for his work in the Parish Office. Agreed.

Mrs Pat Jones proposed a vote of thanks to Canon Michael for his work in our parish. This was endorsed by Mr David Thomas who said that Canon Michael had allayed our initial fears of being a junior member of the benefice partnership but we have found we share a lot but are recognised as separate communities with separate needs. All Agreed.

Churchwardens' report

First some thanks:

to all in our lovely Church “team” for all the many jobs involved in making our churches welcoming places – cleaning, coffee, altar team, welcome and offertory, children’s work, music, church maintenance, Experience Easter, meeting with contractors, and so many more.

A special thanks to Jo who has continued in her “retirement” to support us so enormously in our churchwarden roles especially in Holy Cross and at the many weddings this year! And to John Wood, David Valentin and John Penley for all their support.

A big thank you too to Clive Orchard and the Benefice Office team, who do so much week by week to make things run smoothly.

Our grateful thanks to Michael for his wise and generous leadership and our hope that his Sabbatical will refresh and re-inspire him personally and in his Ministry. We feel much blessed by Ian, Jane and Peter in all they do for us. It has also been good to welcome Tony King, Revd Bob Callaghan and Revd Canon Richard Morgan.

In our Churches:

There have been 3 baptisms this year, which have been very enjoyable occasions and appreciated by the young families – They are often thrilled to see themselves and their children and other family members recorded in our wedding and baptism registers.

It has been a privilege to support the large number of weddings, in all 3 churches, this year each one different in size and style, and each one unique and special to the couple.

The funerals and interment of ashes have all been different and personal too, and we hope that the families involved have felt loved and supported by the church community.

In the Benefice:

The Benefice Away Day in September in St James with Bishop Rachel was a wonderful occasion, and gave an opportunity to develop relationships across the Benefice. We are always delighted to welcome Dursley congregation worshippers to our services and events, and have

felt welcomed in return at St James. The joint PCC meeting was a good opportunity for meeting, and we have also been able to meet twice as a churchwarden team.

In the Diocese:

We attended an evening of churchwarden training in Gloucester, hosted by both Archdeacons, and heard presentations from Senior Officers on fabric matters, safeguarding, and mission and outreach. An excellent evening combining practical support and advice with encouragement and vision.

In the community:

Nympsfield Soup Kitchen continues to thrive, and it is clearly an event which gives so much more than good food to those who come! During its October to Easter season each year this event raises a great deal of money for charities chosen in memory of loved ones, for St Barts Church, and for Christian Aid (as our contribution to the Churches Together Soup Lunches programme for Christian Aid Week)

The Home communion team led by Pat Jones continue to visit the sick and housebound and their regular visits, dedication and pastoral and spiritual care are very much appreciated. There have been a wonderful total of 91 home communion visits during the year.

Fund raising events too, such as the summer fete, Big Breakfast and Christmas Crumble are a source of pleasure and fun in the community, as well as keeping us afloat financially and gaining us a reputation for good food and hospitality!

In our Church buildings:

Members of the Fabric Committee has continued to work hard both in the ongoing maintenance of our 3 churches, and in pursuing the Faculty application to enable the long-awaited re-ordering to happen.

Quinquennial Inspections (QIs) have been carried out in all 3 Churches in the last few months, and the reports are almost complete. The recommendations in these reports form the basis of the priorities for planned maintenance of our buildings over the next five years.

The organ at Holy Cross is now in fine voice again, hopefully for many years to come, thanks to the wonderful fundraising campaign, led by Karen and Peter Randall and Simon and Julia Wathen. Enormous gratitude to them. We look forward to much wonderful music in the future, in our worship and in concerts and recitals.

You will be pleased to see the Della Robbia Madonna & Child back in its rightful place in St Giles. Following its unexplained breakage it has been most beautifully restored, under insurance, by a Birmingham specialist company.

The future:

The future is exciting – and a little daunting! There will be much to do in planning for and carrying through the Re-ordering at St Giles. All help and encouragement offered will be most welcome and we pray that all that we do together is underpinned by the vision of a place which is safe, welcoming, inclusive and diverse, allowing those who come to each of our churches – young and old - to experience the love of God.

Pauline & Ann, Churchwardens, February 2020

Finance Report

The General Fund shows a surplus for the year of £877 excluding movement on value of investments. General Fund Income includes £11,182.40 from fees for weddings and funerals, fundraising of £5,816.48. Without these two lines of income we would be showing a loss of £16,121.

Fund Raising £5,816 less costs £857 = £4,959 Raised (*£7,461 in 2018*). We are most grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make these events successful and to everyone who supported them. The Summer Fete held in the Rectory Garden went very well and featured the new inflatable tent. The Nympsfield cream teas did really well too. The Big Breakfast and Christmas Crumble were also well attended. The Owlpen Coffee morning supported the Organ Repair appeal.

During 2019 The St Giles Uley Settlement 29 February 1996 has donated to St Giles Church, Uley £14,449.76. This shows in the Restricted Funds column of the accounts

The St Bartholomew's Nympsfield Mills Bequest donated £4,799.65 during 2019 to St Bartholomew's Church, Nympsfield. This shows in the Restricted Funds column of the accounts.

Funding for the refurbishment of the organ at Holy Cross church started in 2018 and has been achieved after a lot of work by Owlpen people. These totals are included in the 'Restricted' column of the 'Giving Income' line in the summary accounts. The organ has been repaired and sounds marvellous. Huge thanks to all involved. £15,57.80 was raised in 2018 and £24,098.99 during 2019. The organ cost £43,007 to repair which leaves £1,899.79 in hand to help pay for the cost of reducing the damp coming through the north wall of Holy Cross church.

The treasurer always has a 'but' – we are facing a very tough year financially in 2020 as it looks likely that most of our fund- raising events will have to be cancelled due to virus containment restrictions. This may also affect our income from fees received for weddings and donations given at church services. We shall know more in a couple of months' time but I suspect I shall be making an appeal to compensate for the lack of income from fundraising events.

Prue Vernon

PCC Secretary's Report for 2019

I have been most fortunate in having benefitted from supportive handovers from Janet Bannister as Secretary and Lorna Tutton as Minutes Secretary following my election at the 2019 APCM.

During the year the PCC has met six times and in September we had two important “Firsts”, a Benefice joint Away Day at Home in Dursley, when we were most fortunate to have the benefit of Bishop Rachel for the whole day and then later that month having a Benefice Joint PCC meeting with Dursley. Both were hugely successful and demonstrated just how much the two parishes in the Benefice have in common.

When looking through the filing cabinet in the Benefice Office, I noticed that there were Minute Books going back to 1957 and I have now arranged for the books for the period from then to 2011 to be deposited at Gloucestershire Archives for safe keeping along with all the minutes of earlier PCC meetings going back over many many years.

Finally, as a result of a fascinating introduction to bell ringing as part of the Away Day, I felt inspired start ringing the bells in our three churches before the Sunday morning service, partly on the basis that if the bells are there we need to use them to spread the message that we are here actively proclaiming the Christian Message, but also because it is a quite pleasing thing to do. I remember that when dear Muriel Paish used to have pram services in Uley, my children were encouraged to help ring the bell. Church bells are either hung from a pivoted beam or “headstock” in which case they a rung, or are in a fixed position in which case they are rather depressingly referred to as being “hung dead” and are chimed. The latter term applies to St Giles and St Bartholomews and it is relatively easy to chime out a welcoming call to worship. The Holy Cross bell seems to be a bit more challenging but is due an inspection shortly when maybe more will be revealed.

John Penley February 2020

Safeguarding Report

The PCC and Canon Michael have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in our Church community.

At the PCC meeting held on Tuesday 12th March, the meeting agreed after a discussion to adopt The House of Bishop’s Safeguarding Policy as required by the Diocese.

On the 22nd May 4 PCC members completed the C1/C2 Safeguard Training.

We had 5 people who help in Church with children's activities complete the online DBS check. All certificates came through swiftly.

Our PCC members are invited to attend the two and a half hour safeguard training or to complete the online training.

On the 18th September Canon Michael, Rachel Brown, Ann Hardy and myself attended a Deanery Safeguarding information meeting.

On the 24th September 2019 it was agreed by the PCC to submit our Parish Safeguarding Checklist as required of us by the Diocese.

Safeguarding – Past case review 2.

On the 21st January it was agreed by the PCC to complete and send in the Declaration and Table 1A with 'Nothing to declare, No safeguarding issues'.

A major change for Safeguarding in 2019 for our churches and worshipping communities was the implementation of the Church of England Safeguarding Handbook.

We consider our awareness of Safeguarding issues in our Parish to be good but we would always encourage our congregation to come forward and talk to Canon Michael or myself if they have any concerns.

Safeguarding is a regular item on our PCC agenda,

Pat Jones

Fabric report for the period March 2019 to February 2020

General relating to all three churches

The Fabric Sub-Committee has met 9 times in the period. The members of the Committee are Michael Cozens (Chairman), John Dauncey, Ann Hardy, David Thomas, David Valentin (Acting Chairman) and John Wood. Our architectural advisor, David Newton, has attended 4 of these meetings.

This report lists the major items of work carried out in the period by the Committee. However a number of additional smaller jobs have been carried out which are not included for the sake of brevity.

All three churches were due for their Quinquennial Inspections (QI) in 2018. The report for Holy Cross has been issued. Inspection work has been carried out at St Giles and St Bartholomew's and the reports are awaited. The delay of the reports are due to the extra work caused by the lead theft at St Giles and the damp problem detected at Holy Cross. The notice board at St Giles has been replaced and those at the other churches updated.

The fire extinguishers at all three churches have been serviced.

Extensive tree work has been carried out in churchyards at all three churches.

Three baptismal registers have been beautifully rebound by Sue Colquhoun.

On behalf of the PCC, the Acting Chairman would like to thank the members of the Fabric Committee for all the work they have carried out during this year.

St Giles' Church

1 Replacement of lead.

Following the second theft of lead from the St Giles room roof, the Fabric Sub-committee recommended to the PCC that the repair should use stainless steel. The PCC agreed this and David Newton issued a specification for the work to 3 contractors. The change of material required a Faculty from the Diocese and Planning Permission from Stroud District Council. Robin Coates and George White did valiant work to protect the underlying structure from rain. Repair work is expected to begin in the next two weeks.

2 Re-ordering

At the time of writing, notices describing the work have been displayed and two stages of public consultations carried out. Prior to the issue of

the Faculty, we are required to issue to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) a full specification for the work.

3 Bulge in the wall opposite the bus shelter.

Ruxtons, a surveying company, have been asked to install a laser system to monitor the stability of the wall.

4 Lighting

David Thomas has discussed our needs with two organisations, one a contractor with previous experience of church work and the other a firm of consultants. After a third organisation has been consulted, we should be in a position to discuss our proposal with Michael Cozens.

5 St Giles Room Security

A lock has been fitted to the St Giles Room door to allow belongings to be left there during services.

6 “Della Robbia”

Following vandal damage, this has been beautifully restored. The work was covered by insurance.

St Bartholomew’s Church

1 Wall Safe.

Ben Prothero has carried out refurbishment work.

2 Roof tiles

A number of roof tiles have been replaced following wind damage.

Holy Cross Church

1 Organ

The restoration work on the organ is now complete. Thanks are due to those involved in fundraising for this project.

2 Damp penetration

In the course of carrying out the QI, David Newton has investigated the problem of damp penetration into the nave and vestry. He proposes that we carry out a 2 stage project. The first stage involves dealing with the worst problem around the vestry walls. The second stage involves

excavating the earth bank behind the north wall of the chancel to remove the water source and inserting a drainage system.

To protect the rebuilt organ from damp, we have begun the first stage as a matter of priority. Robin Coates has dug a trench around the vestry, exposing an area of wall to the north needing pointing and a revetment wall to the west requiring replacement. We are awaiting permission from the DAC to allow the latter work to be carried out.

David Valentin, Acting Chairman of the Fabric Sub-Committee

‘Open the Book’ Assemblies – Report for 2019/2020

We have enjoyed another very successful year of presenting our ‘Open the Book’ assemblies at Uley School. They continue to be very popular with the children.

‘Open the Book’ is a national project which offers primary school children an opportunity to hear all the major stories of the Bible, presented chronologically or thematically, over a period of three years. Any primary school can take part in the project providing there is a team of volunteers from the parish who are willing to go into the school on a regular weekly basis to take the assemblies. It is not intended to be run by school staff. Each assembly is set out in detail with an introduction, a story, a thought and a prayer.

At Uley the sessions are run by a team of four volunteers: Liz Rymer, Angela Pendlebury, Dee Lewis-Jones and Lorna Tutton. They take place on a Thursday morning in the School Worship period. This year the team are delivering stories from year two of the three-year rota. The session begins with a hymn, followed by a brief introduction and then the story which is performed by the children (guided by the adults). There is then a brief conclusion followed by a thought and moment for reflection. The session closes with a short prayer. The children dress up in appropriate costumes and the team has an ever-growing collection of costumes and props kindly created by Liz Rymer. The dramatization of the story is unrehearsed, but the children respond to the challenge and enjoy performing. All the children from years two to six are offered the

opportunity to take part on a half termly rotational basis and occasionally the entire school is involved for a crowd scene! The team receives very positive feedback from these assemblies. The children look forward to the sessions and especially to their turn to perform.

The team are especially grateful to Liz Rymer who plans and coordinates all the sessions, arranges the appropriate hymn (sometimes playing the piano) and creates all the costumes and props. New volunteers are always welcome. To find out more contact Liz Rymer via St Giles Church.

Liz Rymer

Holiday Club Report 2019

Once again, we had a very successful holiday club with about the same number of children as in previous years i.e. during the week about 50 children attended, a significant number of which came for all five days. Our theme was 'Jungle Jamboree'- another one written by John Hardwick. Our bible stories were based on some of the parables Jesus told, and the children enjoyed lots of games, crafts and a range of other activities, many of which had an animal theme.

But the main focus of the holiday club was a special project to create a mosaic for our church. We were helped by an outside company who designed a lovely picture of 'The Good Shepherd' for us and then worked with the children for two days during week to make it. We were all very thrilled with the result which now stands behind the Lady Chapel altar in St. Giles' Church. We are very grateful to Matt Summers who made a stand on which to display it and to Uley Community Stores for sponsoring the project.

It was a pleasure to have Michael with us for most of the week and also visits from Ian Gardner and Jane Wood, and we were grateful to Michael for leading our 'Jungle Jamboree Family Service' at the end of the week. As always, I must add my thanks to all my loyal helpers, without whom it would never have happened. This year's holiday will run from July 27th – 31st, and if anyone else would like to come and join our team,

please get in touch with me. I can't deny it's hard work, but great fun and very rewarding!

Liz Rymer

Messy Church Report

Our first 'Messy Church', which was held in October 2019, was a great success. We had about 50 people there, including 22 children and 14 helpers. Our theme was 'The Good Shepherd' and we were very grateful to Ann Hardy for bringing a very well-behaved ram for the children to enjoy stroking, and to Rosie and Billie Higgins from Berkeley who brought their spinning wheel to demonstrate how wool is spun. There were craft activities, games and lots of lovely cakes to eat.

Following the success of the first session, we have planned bi-monthly sessions for the current year. The first was held at the beginning of February when we had approximately the same number of people, including 25 children. Our focus was the story of Gideon and, as before, there were craft activities, games and lots of lovely cakes to eat.

I am fortunate to have a very enthusiastic team of helpers and would like to express my grateful thanks to them all.

Liz Rymer

Foundation Governor and Uley VC Primary School Report

This has been a good year at the school with progress continuing to be made in all aspects.

The religious issues raised at the October 2017 SIAMS inspection included the following:

1. Strengthen systems for governor monitoring of RE, collective worship and Christian distinctiveness
2. Improve pupils' involvement in regular planning, leading and evaluation of acts of worship
3. Develop pupils' understanding of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith

Since then the Headteacher, Zoe Mandeville and the Ethos team have worked to improve in all these areas as follows:

1. – the group meets three times a year to focus on the Christian aspects of the school. They provide a useful opportunity to discuss issues and prepare for the next SIAMS inspection
2. - pupils regularly plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship. Each class is responsible for one Collective Worship for pupils and parents each year. I attended the Year 1 worship on 22nd May, the Year 2 worship on 3rd July, the Year 4 worship on 11th December and will be attending the Year 3 worship on 11th March
3. to address the issue of Christianity as a multi-cultural world faith an Islam week was held in June and there are plans to hold a induism week this coming summer.

End of term services are held each old term at St Giles. It is always heartening to see so many friends and family come along to these services to support their children but it is also good to see the links between the school, the church and the local community being strengthened. In addition to these on 2nd April the children experienced Easter at the church by moving round six interactive stations set up around the church. There was also a Harvest Festival service at the church that the children attended on 24th October in addition to the end of term Carol concert on 20th December. In addition to these, the Year 6 children attended a leavers' service at Gloucester Cathedral on 6th June. Collective Worship takes place once a week in school and on these occasions all the children and staff come into worship together. There is definitely a different atmosphere as children enter the hall for these occasions and they understand the significance of everyone coming together. These are now referred to as worship rather than assembly denoting the difference for these occasions. Apart from Collective Worship there is also Class Worship with each class having part of their room set aside for Christianity.

In addition to Collective and Class Worship, Open the Book visit the school weekly to act out a Bible story for the children and I attended one of these as part of my Governor role.

The holiday club continues to flourish each year and a new initiative has been started; in October the first Messy Church was held at St Giles and

a second one was held this month. In each case between 20 and 30 children and their parents came along to the various activities on offer including crafts, games, singing and enacting a Bible story. As these are proving popular with local families more are planned led by Liz Rymer and a team of helpers. They provide a valuable link between the church, the school and the local community and another way of introducing children and their families to Christianity and the church.

Susan Staniforth

Report from Wotton Deanery

Wotton Deanery comprises 37 parishes in the area extending from Uley with Owlpen & Nympsfield in the north-east and Sharpness in the west to Thornbury and Chipping Sodbury in the south. The Area Dean is Revd David Russell, Rector of the Wickwar benefice and the Assistant Area Dean is Canon Michael Cozens.

The life of the Deanery is overseen by Deanery Synod, a body comprising all clergy serving in the Deanery together with elected lay representatives from each parish. Lay members are elected by parishes to serve for a term of three years.

Synod meets typically three - four times each year. The format of meetings varies to accommodate particular requirements at the date of each meeting but, as well as opening refreshments and an act of worship, typically includes a talk from a visiting speaker, a discussion session and a Deanery business section. Brief summaries of meetings are produced for circulation in the parishes – please talk to one of the Synod representatives if you are interested in seeing these summary reports.

The speakers and topics during 2019 were:

- Arthur Champion on “Caring for Creation”
- Jonathan Kear on “Prayer Spaces in Schools”
- Mike Smith on “The Giving Toolbox”

A major concern of Deanery Synod is the timely and full payment of parish share by the parishes within the Deanery. The method of calculating Parish Share was unchanged in 2019, with the Diocese again asking each parish to offer a ‘generous but affordable’ contribution towards the Deanery total. A meeting of Synod was held in November, to which Treasurers (or their representatives) from all parishes were invited. The purpose was to review offers made to date and to seek increased bids from parishes which felt they could afford to do so in an attempt to make up the Deanery shortfall. This meeting did result in increased offers from several parishes.

In 2019 the total parish share promised by the parishes in Wotton Deanery fell 5% short of the Diocesan allocation but, including some payments of amounts outstanding from previous years, payments amounted to 99% of that promised total. The total allocation for the Deanery in 2020 is 1% higher than the 2019 figure, but the total promised by parishes is 6.3% lower than the allocation.

Deanery Synod members elected to represent Uley with Owlpen & Nympsfield Parish for the three year period to summer 2020 are David Thomas, Moya Wallis. Following Janet Bannister’s departure from the parish last year, Ann Hardy was nominated to fill the vacancy thus created.

David Thomas