

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

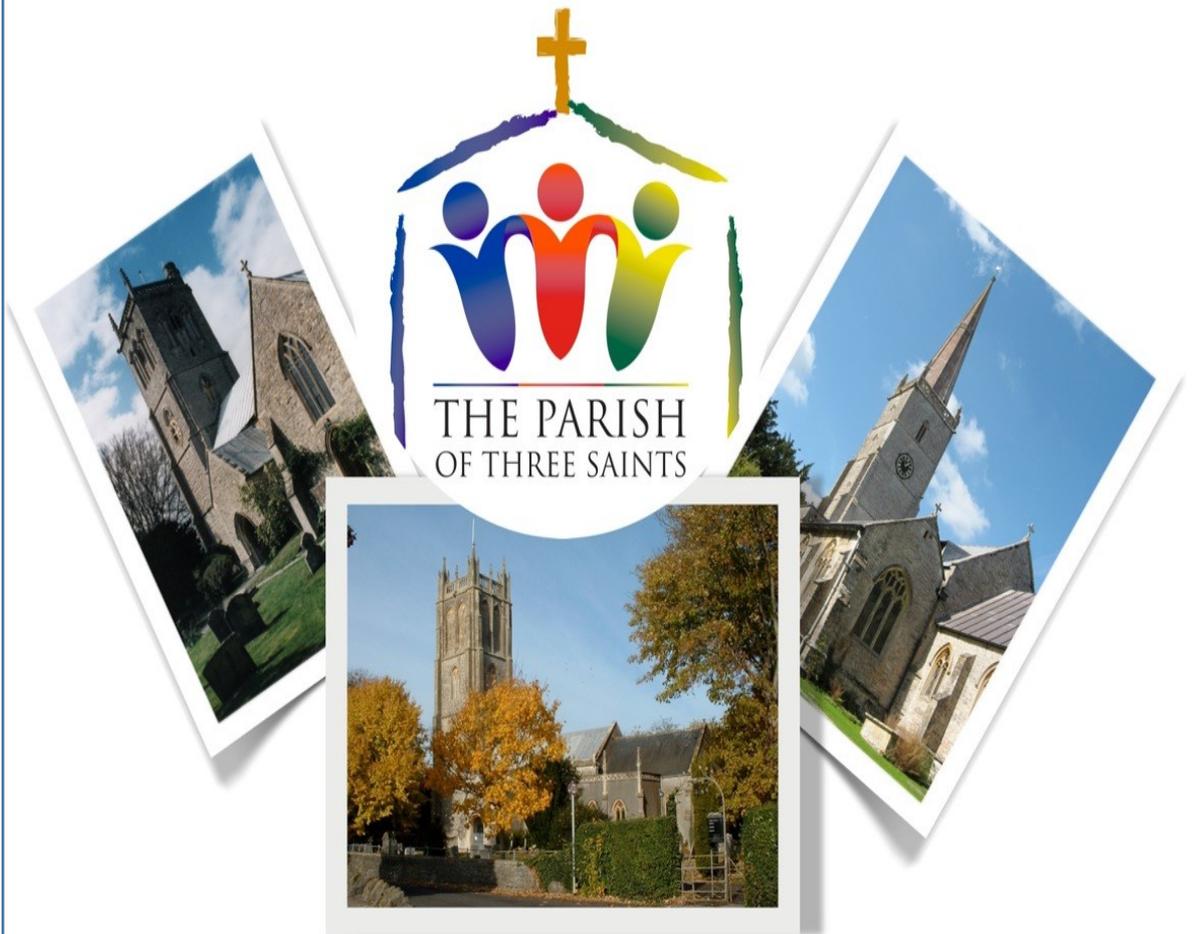
ANNUAL REPORT for 2020

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This report has been printed in monochrome to save valuable parish funds. A colour copy will be on our website.

Once again, from all of us at The Parish of Three Saints, we wish to say a very huge, warm 'thank you' to you all for giving of your time and talents, especially during this difficult year.

These include;-

Churchwardens

PCC Members

Worship Leaders

Stewards/Welcomers

Readers

Musicians

Chalice Assistants

Scripture Readers

Intercessors

Refreshment Providers

Finance Team

Fundraisers

Bell Ringers

Group Helpers

Flower Arrangers

Church openers/closers

Cleaners

Brass Cleaners

Clock Winders

Churchyard Grounds supporters

Coffee Morning helpers



We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful people that we cannot name you all, but together you combine to keep our three churches, office and grounds ship-shape and make our sacred spaces welcoming, friendly and inspiring.

If you feel that you can give some of your time, however small, or talents and you wish to be a part of the Church Family, please contact any of the Church Wardens or Church Office.



One Parish One Benefice

The Parish of Three Saints



Reopening the Churches after Lockdown 1

Rector's reflections on 2020

There is no denying the fact that 2020 will go down in history as a unique year. Little did we know in January that we would be unable to worship in the churches for many weeks and our face-to-face fellowship and events would be curtailed so abruptly.

On a positive note, early in the year the suspension of the parish was lifted, so in all respects we are finally one parish, one benefice and I was licensed as Rector in the Archdeacon's study (as opposed to the Priest-in-Charge). This gives a slightly more secure future for this parish to remain as it is for ministry as the diocese inevitably reorganises stipendiary posts.

That said, there is a strong Church Family here, which has been able to withstand the ravages of the virus in more ways than one. While not perhaps enjoying the journey, the fellowship has continued to be strong and learnt how to be "church" in different ways. When not in the buildings we have had weekly recorded services online, mainly Eucharistic, with laity involved in reading, interceding and sometimes other activities such as choosing hymns or being interviewed. Nikki Burns, our Reader, contributed sermons. We have also had less formal worship, other reflections and continued Café Church in recorded form using ZOOM and a small group sharing informally over tea and cake led by our LWAs, Chris Wright and Kate Wilford. In all during 2020 alone we made approaching 40 recordings. It was a challenge and a joy to learn new technical skills, not only for me, but for many who readily adapted to using ZOOM for meetings and to record readings and prayers for services. There was some investment by me personally in equipment, which I am happy to bear, but, if we wish to maintain a long-term online presence, the church may have to consider what is needed for the parish and a team of volunteers will have to learn the skills necessary to commit to this.

Early on for Easter Sunday 2020 many people stood out in their gardens or on their drives and sang along with the national church – it was a very emotional time. We also collected photos and made a video of people's Easter Gardens. We had begun a very popular Lent Group at The Rectory based on the film 'Chocolat', but it was unable to continue after lockdown. However, the Advent Course, 'Living in Hope', was successful using ZOOM – a timely topic.

After the first period of lockdown, we celebrated a return to the buildings with a parish pilgrimage. Chris and I walked from home calling at the three village churches symbolically unlocking the doors and saying prayers. We were joined by dozens of people for different parts of the route. Again, we did not know it would all happen again and in November we were not allowed in again. In the interim we did manage a harvest celebration; with no singing allowed, recorded folk songs were used instead bringing a fresh approach. There was also an outdoor Evening Prayer in St Mary's Churchyard. Even while we were able to use the church buildings for a main Eucharist or Morning Prayer, we continued recorded reflections and prayers online for those who felt unable to attend.

Christmas was unplannable much in advance, as it was clear that further restrictions were inevitable. But we were able at the end of the year to have a Carol Service live on ZOOM (with technical help from my daughter, Joanna) and a Eucharist (Midnight, Christmas morning and Sunday after Christmas) in person in each of the churches. We even managed to sing a few carols in the open air and made a video of photos of domestic crib sets.

It's all been very creative and, in some ways, an exciting learning experience. However, I took very little leave during the year, it was busy for me, and have become increasingly tired during this New Year. I will be ensuring my full compliment of days off and leave during 2021 and I thank you for your support in this.

I am indebted to the worship leadership team, Reader Nikki Burns and LWAs, Kate Wilford and Chris Wright, for their commitment, and especially to the Wardens and Assistants, for facilitating the necessary safe practices in the churches and supporting me as decisions were made about services, often at short notice. I must also mention Pauline Chadwick, who has continued to play the organs, even when we are not there and often in cold churches, to keep them in a good state. There are also the teams who have kept an eye on often-empty churches, cleaning, winding clocks and simply "doing" as necessary.

I have emphasised all the time the irony that by socially distancing, minimising our social interactions, and sanitising we show our love for each other. A lesson perhaps to think about for the future. Thank God no one seems to have contracted the virus through church at the time of writing, although members of the church community have had it. We praise God for their recovery and pray about the continuing long-term effects for some.

The pastoral care team were actively supporting people at home during the lockdown and while people felt unable to attend church. Leaflets were distributed offering help, and a number of the team were involved in delivering papers, groceries, prescriptions and checking people were well. A phone network was set up to make sure that particularly people on their own would receive a phone call at intervals. This was greatly appreciated. My thanks especially go to them, as I found making many personal telephone calls was enjoyable, but very time consuming. (See separate Pastoral Team report). Other members of the church family also provided help in different ways.

Of course, the finances are a critical part of maintaining our ministry here. Firstly, Jim Hanmer has been a tremendous support and excellent Treasurer for many years and, as he hands over to Victoria Daintree the essential tasks, we all, and The Finance Team for the most part, must consider how to cover the various other roles he has developed and fulfilled. A matter for your prayers and perhaps for your skills. Our sincere heartfelt thanks go to Jim for all he has done.

One of Jim's targets while Treasurer was for the regular giving to fulfil our obligation to the diocese for the Common Fund. This has been achieved and, despite the unprecedented dire situation for many churches across the country which have relied on collections and/or fundraising to pay their parish share, our Church Life Fund has remained solvent. We are blessed in this respect with a very generous committed congregation for which I am deeply thankful, and so as long as regular committed giving keeps pace with increasing costs, the ministry here is secure for the foreseeable future.

However, the same cannot be said of the Heritage Funds. Even before this crisis, these funds were running at a loss. It is essential in my view, that a good level of regular giving to pay the bills is called for from people who may not attend church often, but would like the church buildings to remain open. It seems that many villagers are still of the impression that the central church or some government fund pays for the buildings. We need to address this misconception during 2021 as, although very grateful for all that people give in time, talents and money, we must not rely on fundraising that is unpredictable. It is a responsibility of all of us to talk about this with friends and neighbours – they can only help if they know the facts.

In addition, there are the maintenance and repair costs for three buildings, which are considerable, and the possibilities of developing the buildings for wider uses, which makes them more viable. I am again grateful to Ged Keele, particularly, and the local Brent Knoll team for all they have done to ensure the repair work on St Michael's is being completed, while redecorating and some minor works are in hand. St Christopher's is being imaginatively reordered, thanks again to a local team led by Robin Leveridge. At the end of 2020 the major essential repair work at St Mary's is looking more imminent, thanks to Tim Hannah investigating grants and working closely with Carole Carter and a small team to get applications in. A project team is forming for this major work, but a local buildings team for St Mary's also needs to be convened to oversee what needs doing day-to-day. (See separate reports).

Of course, the relationship with the schools has been harder to maintain, but Chris Wright and I have produced some recorded Collective Worship sessions, which have been well-received, and I have been in regular touch with the school Heads to offer our prayers and support. It has been great that, through seeing us on video, they have still recognised us in the street and said hello.

Mission, in the sense of drawing people into the faith of the church, has been of a more practical nature, supporting people as mentioned above. But there has also been an initiative of delivering welcome booklets to all newcomers to the villages. This is the responsibility of us all, as we see 'SOLD' signs going up. The booklets are available from Carole in the Church Office.

Ride and Stride was a highlight as a couple of groups of intrepid cyclists set off around the area visiting churches and soliciting sponsorship money. 50% of the proceeds go to The Somerset Churches Trust and 50% to us – in total £624 was raised. At the beginning of September 2021, let's see more folk out and about walking and riding.

At the time of writing, 2021 remains a year with some uncertainty, which prevents even mid-term plans being in place. This means we must learn from our experience this last year and live by faith. Living by faith is not irresponsible - sensible pragmatic decisions need to be taken regarding funding and maintenance - but often we can wait a while on the Lord and solutions do appear. It is part of faith to recognise that and exercise patience with watchfulness. I like to imagine sitting in the boat with Jesus after he calmed the storm (Matthew 4:35-41). We do have a Curate coming, who will be in-training and develop his skills, but in time he will be able to contribute to the ministry of the parish. We pray that others, maybe from our existing numbers, maybe someone moving here (into new housing?), will be able to offer their gifts to the mission of the churches here.

Please join this prayer and seek God's guidance for yourself and the parish.

Bless you all and thank you for your love and support for Chris and me.

The Revd. Kevin Wright (Rector)



The Revd. Stanley Price

During my first year here, I was delighted to get to know Stanley and Eva.

Stanley's very essence spoke of a deep love of Our Lord and his life reflected Jesus' love. I have heard many stories about his gentle ministry, out of retirement, both pastoral and liturgical. He clearly loved and was greatly loved by many.

Just as the pandemic started, it was a privilege to be able to go to the hospital and bless him and anoint him with holy oil only moments before he died and say final prayers with him, Eva and his wonderful faithful family.

His grave near St Christopher's Church door is, as he was, very modest. I have no doubt that this humble man was quite simply a gift to us for a while and that Stanley now resides in peace, joy and love with the God he served.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory, Amen.

Kevin

Celebrating the year:

A summary of what the church has achieved as a whole throughout the year

Support Groups for Our Parish

All groups have had to adapt during 2020 & we are hoping that they will resume during the coming months of 2021

Pastoral Care Support Groups will normally meet monthly.

The Bereavement Group meet in an informal environment with lovely homemade cakes and a welcome cup of tea. This gives people the opportunity to chat and share their experiences in a safe non-threatening way, in as much or as little as they feel comfortable.

The Alzheimers and Dementia Carers Group meet at the home of one of the leaders. The village agent, Kim Wilcox, attends when she can. Her welcome input provides very useful and helpful information about the support available for carers in the area.

The group is usually very well attended and provides carers with much needed emotional and practical support.

The COM-For-Tea is available for those with a long term and /or life- threatening illness. The members of the group provide commitment and dedication in trusting God to provide for people to meet in a supportive way. This continues to be the group's focus.

The Prayer Group continues to meet. As a Healthy Church we aim for prayer to be central to our Christian life. In confidence, the group pray for those who are sick and in need.

The Toddler Group is a joint venture between The Parish of Three Saints and the Brent Knoll Methodist Church. The group has been running for over 20 years and is well supported.

Unfortunately as the Methodist Church has not yet reopened this is not able to resume. See separate report on page 12.



Information Leaflets

There are leaflets which give information about the different pastoral care groups, activities and of the work the teams are involved in to support those in need.

These can be obtained in any church building or on our website & also at the church office in East Brent.

They will be updated with the latest information in due course.

01278 769082

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

Follow us on :-

Facebook: TPOTS

or

Twitter: @TPOTS6



Pastoral Care Team

What a year! This time last year the team was planning to reach out to people locally by delivering a Pastoral Care leaflet to every home in the parish. The leaflets had been printed and willing volunteers were standing by to deliver them, together with an Easter Card. But, sadly, all this had to be shelved as the whole country went into lockdown at the end of March 2020.

Pastoral care is, by its nature, often “up close and personal”; social contact, visiting people, meeting up, hugs, inviting people into our homes for a coffee. All this was suddenly not possible due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

So we have kept in contact by phone, email, WhatsApp and over garden fences. We have offered to shop, pick up prescriptions, deliver newspapers and run errands. We have delivered cards to those we know who are ill, have suffered bereavement or are recovering from operations. Lately we have dropped off daffodils on doorsteps, to bring people a little taste of Spring and let our neighbours know we have not forgotten about them.

At the start of the first lockdown we identified a number of people on the Church Electoral Roll, who lived on their own. There was a lot of fear and uncertainty around then, especially in the media and we felt people might value a little regular contact by phone if they were on their own, confined to their house and unable to go out. Each member of the PCT was responsible for 2 or 3 people who they rang or emailed once a week, or more or less often by mutual agreement. A couple of people said they were “fine thank you” and didn’t need contacting again, but many others have said how they really appreciated the calls.

All members of the Pastoral Care team started looking out for people in their neighbourhoods. Jane kept in contact with all the Toddler mums and Margaret had a long list of people she looked out for. Gwen continued to forward prayer requests, Dot rang her Comfort Group people and Carla kept in touch with all the members of the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Carers Group and has more recently been hosting Zoom meetings once a month.

We set up the East Brent, Rooksbridge and Edingworth TPOTS Support Group, similar to Brent Knoll and Lympsham’s Helping Hands groups, so people had somewhere to turn to locally if they needed help and hopefully no one would fall through the cracks. Thanks to some very kind volunteers, every house received a Coronavirus Prayer card, downloaded from the Diocese website, with the added offer of shopping and prescription collection to those who were self isolating. Kim Wilcox was very good at referring people needing help.

As things slowly start to open up over the coming months we hope to be able to meet up again in person and resume our support groups. But for the time being we continue to stay in touch with people by phone and email, seeking to be Jesus' hands and feet, His ears and eyes as we reach out to those in our parish.

If you would like to know more about the team, feel God is calling you to this ministry, or are in need and would like us to visit, please contact us by e-mail or telephone:

lpacare@tpots.gmail.com **07701 081077**

office.tpots@gmail.com **01278 769082**

We continue to praise God for the blessings He bestows on us as a Parish and are so thankful to all the Pastoral Care Team who contribute their time and energy so readily and with such enthusiasm.

A big 'thank you' to Carole who helps us administratively and to all those who support the team in prayer.

Anthony Barkle	Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator.		
Ginnie Soffe	Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator and Baptism Co-ordinator		
Tim and Jane Hannah	LPA (Lay Pastoral Assistants)		
Gwen Hatton	LPA		
Carla Searle	LPA		
Dot Cole	LPA	Kevin Wright	Rector
Margaret Smith	LPA		
Sarah McClean	LPA		
Sarah Cole	LPA		

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

Toddlers

This report has been kindly submitted by the Teddies on behalf of Toddlers:

2020 started off quite normally in January with us welcoming some new members to the group including a baby who was only a few days old. In February we talked about Pancake Day and the start of Lent. The children coloured pancake themed pictures, we all thought about the different fillings we liked and lots of the teddies chose honey.

March is always full of fun things to do at Toddlers with World Book Day, Mothering Sunday and the start of spring. For World Book Day the children were all given special Book Day vouchers and had the opportunity to dress up as one of their favourite book characters including William from Just William, Snow White, the Gruffalo, a Flower Fairy, Captain America and even a reindeer from the poem The Night before Christmas. For Mothering Sunday we all made pretty cards which we filled with colourful kisses. We also talked about God's Creation that can be seen in the signs of spring. Our wall display showed daffodils, bees and butterflies as well as a teddy rowing his boat on the river.

We started to think about Easter and were looking forward to seeing our vicar Kevin and the Methodist Minister Steve, on their Easter visit. However, that was not to be as Coronavirus dictated otherwise and the decision was made to suspend Toddler gatherings with our last meeting taking place on 10th March 2020.

But we have found all sorts of ways to keep in touch with the families from Toddlers. Phone calls have been made to every family; birthday cards are sent to all the children (and helpers); cards were also sent to those due to leave last summer as well as to those starting school in the September and of course Christmas cards went to all the children.

We, the Teddies (with a little adult help), write an article every month for The Brent Knoll News. We talk about ways to keep fit, we tell the toddlers about our daily walks and suggest things to look out for in the beautiful countryside around us. In December we reminded our readers about the Christmas Story and that we were practising 'Away in a Manger' to greet the baby Jesus on Christmas Day. We keep them informed about the wellbeing of the toys and how important it is to show care for each other. We always put in birthdays of the month and let the members of the group know how much we are missing them.

Back in March we had twenty-one families on the register with twenty-nine children coming from the surrounding villages of Brent Knoll and East Brent as well as from Burnham-on-Sea, Highbridge, West Huntspill and Weston-super-Mare. We would usually meet every Tuesday during term time but since March 2020 our meeting place, the Methodist Church, has remained closed.

We would like to thank everyone who helps and supports Toddlers and one day, when it is safe to do so, we will be together again; there will be painting and playdough, songs and story time, fun and friendship.

We know that the toddlers and their families are in our thoughts and prayed for.

The Teddies.





Bellringers

The ringing of church bells is one of those quintessential British sounds that we often take for granted. The unique English style of ringing evolved over 400 years ago and has been part of our heritage.

All three towers in The Parish of Three Saints have six bells, though their tone and characteristics are very different.

St Michael's bells at Brent Knoll are heavy and majestic (tenor 21cwt) and ringers come from all over the country to ring them.

St Mary's at East Brent are lighter (tenor 16cwt) and can be rung more quickly which makes them sound bright.

St Christopher's at Lympham are lighter still (tenor 11cwt) and produce a higher pitched merry sound.

You are welcome to visit us during our normal Tuesday practice between 7.30 and 9pm. When this is able to resume.

For more information please contact our

Tower Captain

Mr Melvyn Freeman 01278 641214



Carols in the churchyard



***Fireside
Carol
Service***



4pm Sunday 20th December
open from 3.45pm

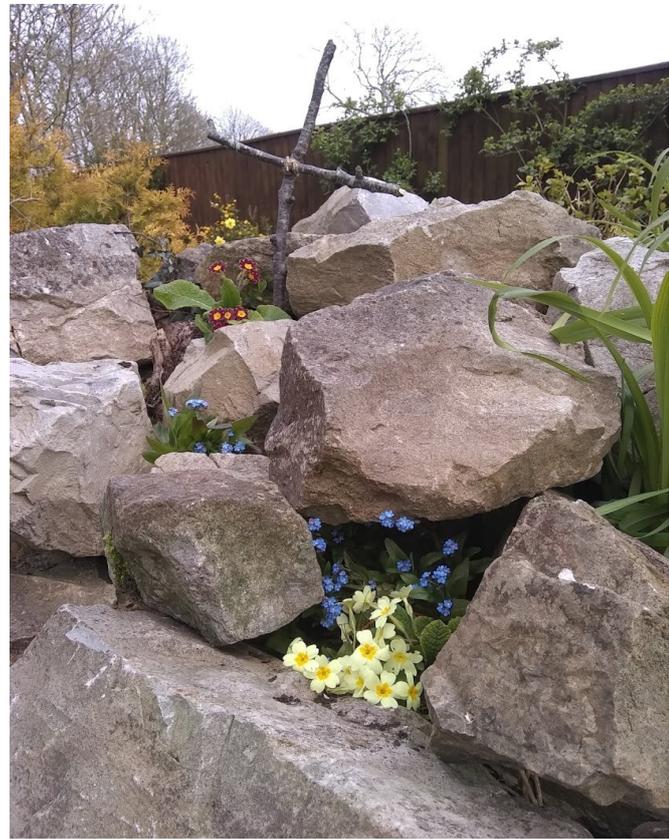
LIVE on ZOOM only
(sing to your heart's content in your own home)

go to www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk
for a link – all welcome

**Congregational carol singing in church buildings
is not permitted at the current time**

For more details please contact: Revd Kevin Wright
☎01278 760844 or ✉revdkjwright@btinternet.com

Easter Gardens 2020



Axbridge Deanery Synod Review 2020

Our first meeting of 2020 was on Saturday 25th January at Blackford Village Hall where Revd Kevin led the opening worship session. The Area Dean, Lay Dean and members of the DMPG (Deanery Mission & Pastoral Group) presented suggestions for updating each section of the Deanery Mission Plan. This was duly updated and circulated to all. Further meetings were planned for May - the Churchwardens' Supper, June - on Tourism, to be held at Warren Farm, Brean & October - on Education.

Sadly, Deanery Synod gatherings were then hit by the Covid pandemic.

On 7th October our meeting was held via Zoom. Key topics at this meeting were on Ministry in Schools – some thoughts from the Deanery 'Schools Champion' Revd Kevin. There followed a series of small breakout groups on Thanksgiving, Lament & Growth.

We reflected in small groups on what we have learned about our church and local communities over the past months. What were the Red Letter Days - what stood out during the last months that had been good and for which we would give thanks. Blue Days – what in our context did we lament. Finally, the Green Shoots – where had we noticed God at work in our context bringing some green shoots of growth.

The first meeting of 2021 was planned for 9th February, again via Zoom to hear from our MP and ask questions and focus on the great challenge of tackling climate change.

Deanery Synod meetings are open to all so please come along, or “zoom in” to future gatherings. The Parish of Three Saints Deanery Synod representatives are currently Maxine Bashford & Dot Coles. Revd Kevin is an elected member of the DMPG & Chris Wright is the elected lay representative for our Deanery at the Diocesan Synod.

Maxine Bashford
Deanery Synod Representative

St Christopher's Annual Church Wardens' Report

2020 was a very challenging year for us all due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid 19). As a result St. Christopher's Church was closed during the National Lockdown. There followed a gradual easing and we were able to open the church for private prayer for an hour a week. Thanks must go to the volunteers who opened the church on those occasions. Although there was a good response from passing pedestrians, very few visited the church. During this time services were broadcast online, with many members of the congregation contributing from their own homes. Kevin, our rector, did an amazing job of coordinating this and produced some excellent YouTube videos for us to join in and enjoy.

In the summer the situation improved and we were able to open the church again for socially distanced services. Thanks go to everyone who made this possible. However, as winter approached the virus took its hold again and once more the church building had to be closed and worship reverted to online again.

Despite everything, 2020 saw the start of a very exciting time for St Christopher's. After much discussion, work began to start the reordering process. Thanks go to Robin Leveridge who is taking a lead. The plans are to create a more informal worship space, fit a kitchen and a toilet with access for the disabled.

Work on the leaking roof was completed and we are pleased to report that the church is now water-tight.

St Christopher's Heritage fund suffered this year due to fundraising events having to be cancelled. However, the village rallied round to support a Christmas Hamper Raffle which raised just over a thousand pounds. Many thanks to everyone who made this happen.

Thanks go to Pauline for playing the organ so beautifully (when she was permitted!), to Robin Hoare for looking after the grounds, clock and flag, and to the bell ringers.

Finally thank you to Carole for all her hard work in the office.

It is a privilege to serve God in our journey together.

Gwen Hatton & Victoria Daintree
Church Wardens



St Mary's Annual Church Wardens' Report

As Church Wardens we are responsible for the buildings and grounds within our Parish. Thankfully, as wardens, we do not have to do all the work required ourselves. We have the responsibility of overseeing St Mary's as God's servants and we try to do our best for Him. Without your ongoing support this would not be possible: 'Thank you'.

This year saw the resignation of Church Warden, Kathy Quinnell, in April after many years' service to St Mary's and the Parish for which we are very thankful. Kathy still leads the grounds team looking after the Churchyard with a team of volunteers. Also she is a regular supporter with our fundraising efforts for the building.

Anthony Barkle also resigned as a Church Warden in October this year and is still a member of the PCC and is on the Pastoral Care Team. He also supports fundraising for St Mary's.

St Mary's is currently in desperate need of repairs which have been identified through the Quinquennial Inspection. At the beginning of 2020 we launched a 'roof appeal' which unfortunately came to a halt in March due to the coronavirus pandemic. This was restarted later in the year as much as was possible with the regulations that had been put in place. However, with the support of Tim Hannah obtaining grants for St Mary's and also some local people joining our small team we are planning to start the roof refurbishment in May 2021. We were also fortunate to have enlisted the help of Emma Brown, Church Buildings Adviser, from The Diocese.

Also during 2021 it is hoped to launch a 'Supporter's Group' for St Mary's which will help with funding for day to day running etc.

We would like to thank all our supporters: floral arrangers, cleaners, bell ringers, church openers, and closers and the churchyard team. Our Church family is so helpful with reading, praying and chalice assisting. We honour our faith together.

This has been a difficult year for us all & we are looking forward to a brighter future in 2021.



**Pilgrimage
reopening the
churches in July
2020**

St Michael's Annual Church Wardens' Report

As we look back on 2020 we are especially grateful to Kevin, Chris and the worship team for adapting to services during the covid pandemic. We have been able to continue to worship together either under covid safe condition in church or during home recorded services.

- January - Joined in celebrations for 'One Parish Benefice'.
Kate and Chris commended as lay worship assistants.
- February - School able to hold one service.
Valentines meal at Woodlands
Service for those we have loved and see no more.
- March - First café church at St. Michael's.
Churchyard clean-up day
Covid closure of churches but had home recorded services
- June - Church open for private prayer.
- July - Reopening of churches with service at St. Michael's
every 3 weeks plus online services
- October - North roof was renewed and work finished this month.
- November - British Legion Remembrance service in churchyard
Zoom Advent course 'Living in hope'.
- December - Christmas Day service at St. Michael's.

Thanks go to all who help both towards services and with the maintenance and fundraising.

We look forward to a time when we can worship in person together with no covid restrictions.

I am extremely grateful to Miss Frances James for all she does for St. Michael's. She is now a Churchwarden Emeritus as recognition of all the work she has done.

Mike Smith, Churchwarden

&

Frances James, Warden Emeritus

Café Church Online



St Michael's Church



Brent Knoll

Origami Palm Crosses Online

Online Services



Financial Review of 2020

Firstly, may I thank the Finance Team for their support during this year. In particular, may I thank Robin Leveridge for his advice, guidance and support as Donation and banking Coordinator. Also, my appreciation to Carole Carter, our Administrator, for keeping me on track, as usual.

You will be aware we manage our finances through two funds. Our Church Life fund, which contributes to God's mission and ministry across our Parish, and our Heritage Fund, which manages our three church buildings, as Heritage Assets, for the whole neighbourhood.

Thanks, largely, to a positive response to the Stewardship Appeal our Church Life Fund finished 2020 with a healthy £10,413 surplus and a bank balance of £30,588. Our income was affected by lower fees from weddings etc. but was boosted by strong planned giving and gift aid. Due to the current strength in our Church Life balances the PCC took the decision that, in 2020, for all fundraising receipts, generated by our three fundraising teams, would benefit our Heritage accounts.

Income to the Heritage Fund is generously supported through fund raising activities across the Parish. Each church building has a small fundraising team who work extremely hard to ensure the buildings can be retained at the heart of our communities. Regrettably, due the COVID-19 virus very little activity was possible during 2020. All three fundraising teams did carry out one activity in December and the results are shown on the attached figures, although some of the receipts were not banked until January 2021.



Café Church—before Lockdown

Financial Review of 2020 (Continued)

The excellent local appeal in Brent Knoll, together with successful grant applications, meant the urgent roof repairs were completed.

In East Brent we have a similar urgent need to repair the roof. We have received some generous, one-off, donations to start an appeal fund and much more work will need to be done on this in 2021.

In Lympsham work continues to identify how we can use the remaining legacy funds to improve the basic facilities within the building.

As can be seen from the attached figures, with all the appeal income and repair expenditure, the Heritage account had an overall deficit of £4,368.

It is vital the PCC maintains a tight budgetary control on the normal Heritage expenditure, required to maintain the running of the buildings, until normal fundraising activities can begin again.

The overall surplus across all accounts is £6,045 with overall closing balances of £282,354. As can be seen from the Balance Sheet, £278,746 is reserved for overheads, repairs and improvements to our buildings. This includes the Unit Trust investments held by St Michael's Trust.

We enter 2021 in a strong financial position and we pray that our Church Family will review their support to God's mission and ministry and our three fundraising teams will continue to have your support as they struggle to meet the financial demands of our three beautiful church buildings.

We registered as a stand-alone Charity in 2020 and the PCC will need to pay close attention to the Governance requirements this brings to them, as Trustees of the new Charity.

Jim Hanmer
Treasurer



The Parish of Three Saints						
Combined figures						
Receipts and payments - 2020						
	Church Life		Heritage		Total	
Receipts					2020	2019
	£					
Planned Giving	29279		5314		34593	30627.96
Collections	3888		0		3888	4815.46
Other giving & Donations	1325		1652		2977	9834.21
Legacies	0		0		0	0
Gift Aid	9276		2969		12245	7832.42
Grants	0		12731		12731	12705
Fund Raising	1120		1530		2650	12464
Parochial Fees	4624		0		4624	5378
Refund of Ministers Fees	0		0		0	839.1
Other	0		0		0	2459
PEACH	0		5100		5100	0
Insurance Claim	0		0		0	15750
Appeal Funding	0		75084		75084	87631
Interest	0		1483		1483	3262
Total	49512		105863		155375	193598.2
Payments						
Parish Share	25744		0		25744	34647
Administration	11699		0		11699	11294
Church Running Expenses	888		9373		10261	24988
RPOI	0		0		0	20705
Mission	540		0		540	217.2
Repairs & Maintenance	0		55		55	714
Sundries	228		165		393	3435
Visiting Minister Costs	0		0		0	837.75
Cost of Fundraising	0		200		200	468
Churchyard Mtce	0		3390		3390	15737
Quinquennial Report	0		0		0	0
Donations	0		0		0	0
PEACH	0		409		409	0
QI Work	0		255		255	68389
Major Repairs	0		96384		96384	13138
Total	39099		110231		149330	194570
Excess of Income over Expenditure	10413		-4368		6045	-971.8
Opening Bank Balance	20175		136135		156310	127282
Opening Investment Balance	0		149043		149043	150000
Total Opening Balance	20175		285178		305353	277282
Closing Bank Balance	30588		131766		162354	156310
Closing Investments Balance	0		146980		146980	149043
Total Closing Balance	30588		278746		309334	305353

The Parish of Three Saints
Church Life Receipts and Payments
Year Ending 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
Income	Total	Total
Planned Giving	29279	25298
Collections	3888	4815
Other giving & Donations	1325	8652
Legacies	0	0
Gift Aid	9276	7630
Grants	0	0
Fund Raising	1120	3688
Parochial Fees	4624	5378
Refund of Ministers Fees	0	839
Other	0	2397
Total	49512	58698
Expenditure		
Parish Share	25744	34647
Salaries	7196	7696
Clergy & Reader Expenses	1985	1381
Administration	2203	2216
Church Running Expenses	888	2026
Mission	540	217
Music	315	196
Sundries	228	628
Visiting Minister Costs	0	838
Total	39098	49846
Excess of Income over Expenditure	10413	8852
Opening Bank Balance	20175	11323
Closing Bank Balance	30588	20175

The Parish of Three Saints

Heritage Receipts & Payments

Year ending 31st December 2020

					2020		2019
RECEIPTS	St Christopher's	St Mary's	St Michael's		Total		Total
	£	£	£				£
Collections & Other Giving	1518	1150	2646		5314		5330
Gift Aid	150	2135	684		2969		203
Friends	250	0	1402		1652		1182
Grants & Donations	11526	1205	0		12731		12705
Legacies	0	0	0		0		0
Interest	537	0	946		1483		3262
Fundraising Events	1004	526	0		1530		11628
Other	0	0	0		0		60
PEACH	0	0	5100		5100		
Insurance Claim	0	0	0		0		15750
Appeal Funding	500	12609	61974		75084		87631
Total	15485	17626	72753		105863		137751
PAYMENTS							
Heat & Light	1423	1253	-1634		1041		14876
Church Running Expenses	2977	2017	3338		8332		7890
Cost of Fundraising	200	0	0		200		468
CL share of Fundraising	0	0	0		0		2850
Minor Repairs	55	0	0		55		714
Sundries/Grant expenditure	55	55	55		165		2807
Churchyard Mtce	1950	1260	180		3390		15737
Quinquennial Report	0	0	0		0		0
Donations	0	0	0		0		0
R POT	0	0	0		0		20705
QI Work	255	0	0		255		68389
PEACH	0	0	409		409		0
Major Repairs	1588	0	0		1588		13138
Appeal Funding Work	7708	8761	78328		94797		0
Total	16210	13346	80676		110232		147575
Excess of Receipts over payments	-725	4280	-7923		-4369		-9824
Opening Bank Balance	28391	78718	29026		136135		115959
Opening Investment Balance	120000	0	29043		149043		150000
Total Opening Balance	148391	78718	58069		285178		265959
Closing Bank Balance	27666	82997	21102		131765		136135
Investments Closing Balance	120000	0	26980		146980		149043
Total Closing Balance	147666	82997	48082		278745		285178

The Parish of Three Saints

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

Assets									
								Legacy/	
	Bank	Investments	Total	Unreserved	Appeal Funding	Reserved	Investment	Total	
Church Life	30588	0	30588	30588	0	0	0	30588	
St Christopher's	27666	120000	147666	0	500	27166	120000	147666	
St Mary's	82997	0	82997	0	68854	14143	0	82997	
St Michael's	21102	26980	48082	0	15463	5639	26980	48082	
Total	162353	146980.42	309333.4	30588	84817	46948	146980	309333	

The Parish of Three Saints

Fundraising for 2020

Heritage										Church Life	
Event	St Christopher		St Mary		St Michael		Total		Nett	Gross	
	Income	Costs	Income	Costs	Income	Costs	Gross	Costs			
Quiz	0	0	501.4	0	0	0	501.4	0	501.4	0	
Coffee Mornings	0	0	170	0	0	0	170	0	170	20	
Christmas Fayre	0	0	0	0	280.7	0	280.7	0	280.7	336	
Ride & Stride	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330	
Easyfundraising	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	640.2	
Masks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	
Raffle	1004	0	0	0	0	0	1004	0	1004	0	
Totals	1004	0	671.4	0	280.7	0	1956.1	0	1956.1	1456.2	
NB	St Michael's Christmas Fayre money banked in 2021										
	£145 of St Mary's coffee morning banked in 2021										

St. Christopher's Church, Lympsham.

Fundraising Report 2020

The year's fundraising has been severely curtailed, of course – no fete, no open gardens and very little that we have been able to do. Despite that, Victoria raised just over £1,000 out of the Christmas raffle, a fantastic achievement – thanks to all who helped to sell tickets, especially Mikhael at the shop.

We very much hope that will be back to a full programme of events from this summer and have pencilled in the following dates:

- Sat/Sun 19/20 June: Open Gardens at the Manor (in aid of the National Gardens Scheme and the Church) – we have an extra garden opening this year;
- Saturday 26 June: Church Fete and Vintage Car show in the Manor Gardens; and
- December date TBA; Gwen's Coffee Morning

We still hope to hold the much postponed 'Night on the Tiles Ball' and have a provisional date at Batch Country House Hotel for that. We will reveal details when we can.

In the meantime, here is what to look forward to when we are past this pandemic.

James Counsell

February 2021



St Mary's Church Monthly Pub Quizzes at Brent Knoll Inn, East Brent

Unfortunately due to the pandemic these have not taken place this year. It is hoped that when permitted quizzes will return.

To keep you updated we started the quiz in 2011 and, since then, we have raised £14,746. So we intend to carry on as long as we can!



St Mary's Churchyard Team

We are a ten strong group who meet on a Saturday morning when the weather allows and the spirit is keen. Some of us wander up for the odd hour in the week as well !

Our activities stretch as follows....

Laurel lopping

Hedge and bramble control

Weeding, digging and planting

Rockery maintenance

Path clearing and edging

Oh and when needed and the wind is in a northerly direction we make bonfires.....

Yes. It's good exercise with plenty of space for social distancing.....

So why not come along and join the fun?...?

Kathy Quinnell

Note from The Rector.....

Several people have expressed an interest in 'Greening our Churchyards'. This is an initiative we will explore and develop parish wide.

St Mary's Church, East Brent, Fundraising 2020 Review

The St. Mary's fundraising team aims to support the ongoing running costs incurred each year.

The team are very thankful to people who have resigned after many years of valuable commitment, but have agreed to continue helping at events.

We started the year, excited to be introducing some new fundraising events for 2020.

These included ;

Get to know your church, with cheese and wine evening.

Spring coffee morning events.

3 day summer wedding dress exhibition.

Christmas tree exhibition, by local charities, community organisations and businesses.

As you will appreciate, we have not been able to hold these events owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We have held an online coffee morning, and received donations that people would have given had they been able to attend events. Also we considered an online auction, raffle and murder mystery evening. As our team membership is small, with other personal and Parish commitments, we have not been able to plan and hold these alternative ideas yet, but we will consider them for the future.

St Mary's fundraising team need people to help in order to secure funds for the running of St Mary's. Please help by praying for new members to join, consider if you may be that person, and consider if you can become a regular donor. If so please contact the Church Office.

Without the support of the local community, we will not be able to meet the ongoing yearly costs to keep St. Mary's church open. Please contact Carole in the Church Office if you feel you are able to support the team.

During a challenging year many churches Nationally have been adversely affected.

We remember how patient and loving God is towards us and that He will provide so that His will be done.

Anthony Barkle



St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Save Our Special Ceiling Building Project

Releading of the north aisle roof was our major project at St Michael's Church in 2020. The final planning stage fell under the shadow of the first Covid lockdown and was completed when restrictions were eased during the late summer and early autumn.

During the latter part of 2019 our appeal to Save Our Special Ceiling was successfully completed. Somerset Churches Trust had agreed to support the project and the Nuttall Trust gave us a generous grant in January. Our application for National Lottery Heritage Fund was submitted in March and in May we heard that we were successful in our bid. Garfield Weston and Wolfson ChurchCare completed the match funding so we were all set to go.

Preparing for the roof work on June 29th 2020

Our architect had advised that a day should be set aside for West Country Tiling, our contractors, to do some exploratory work on the roof to establish the condition of the underlying timber work. Lifting roof boards at selected sites on the roof revealed the surprising finding that steel girders were present. Work had been done on the roof in 1978 when death watch beetle was discovered, and it was thought that the roof structure was strengthened then. The general conclusion was that the timber work was sound and that the work could progress without significant changes in plans. *But it was noted that the lead guttering was resting on concrete...*

Start of the roof work and a change of plan...

When roof work began on 20th July the foreman of building work reported a potential issue with lead replacement covering the guttering draining the roof. In essence the original plan to re-lead the roof could potentially cause problems years ahead because the lengths of lead required to replace the established guttering were too long. Overlong lengths of lead can split as a result of expansion and contraction with temperature variations. Due to the concrete base to the gutter it could not be lowered, so, instead, it would have to be raised, which would then create problems with the inclination of the main roof. The proposed solution was to introduce a step into the roof which would avoid the need to overlap rolls of lead. *The downside of this solution was that it would mean a considerable amount of preparatory timberwork before the lead was to be laid.*

The Parish accepted this solution and work began in earnest later that week...



St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Save Our Special Ceiling Building Project

The actual building work.....

It was fascinating to watch the whole process of releading the roof. Following erection of scaffolding the stripping out of the timber began. This was a slightly painful process to watch because we had hoped that it would not be necessary! WCT use their own recycled lead which is produced on site at their works in Frome, and in their normal production process lead from the roof would have been stripped, recast and returned to the roof as work progressed. Because our roof lead had been stolen this was not possible for our project, and WCT had to buy in their lead. Lead is heavy but much of the work getting it up to the roof has to be done by hand. Once it is at the base of the scaffold it is hauled up by a winch, and then manhandled: really heavy work.

Guttering was the first part of the roof to be installed. Water must flow and there have to be collecting points for the water to run out clear of the building. These were constructed off site and winched up. Under the revised roofing plan the gutter had to be raised and stepped to ensure proper drainage. The **general covering of the roof** is achieved by installing bays in sections. The lead is first painted with a chalk emulsion to protect the undersurface after it has been laid. It is then fashioned into a 'bay box' on the roof and is laid in position. This box is hammered into shape with an overlap to the roll that covers a wooden stick (the mopstick). This method of laying lead is known as 'closed roll'. It is important that the roof space below the lead is ventilated and the final step was to introduce ventilators that were cut through the lead that had been laid.

Repair work was completed by **repointing parts of the parapet and turret**. For repairs to Grade 1 listed buildings it is essential to use lime mortar, which, unlike modern mortars, does not contain cement. This mortar takes weeks to set and months to finally 'cure'.

This is a summary account of the building work that took place. Under our NLHF Project, Promoting Education About Church Heritage (PEACH), we have set up a website to describe our work. A full illustrated account of the building work can be found on a downloadable pdf file that can be accessed at the foot of the webpage -

[St Michaels Church Brent Knoll | SOS Ceiling](#)

**Ged Keele, Coordinator,
Friends of St Michael's Church**



Buildings and Grounds Teams

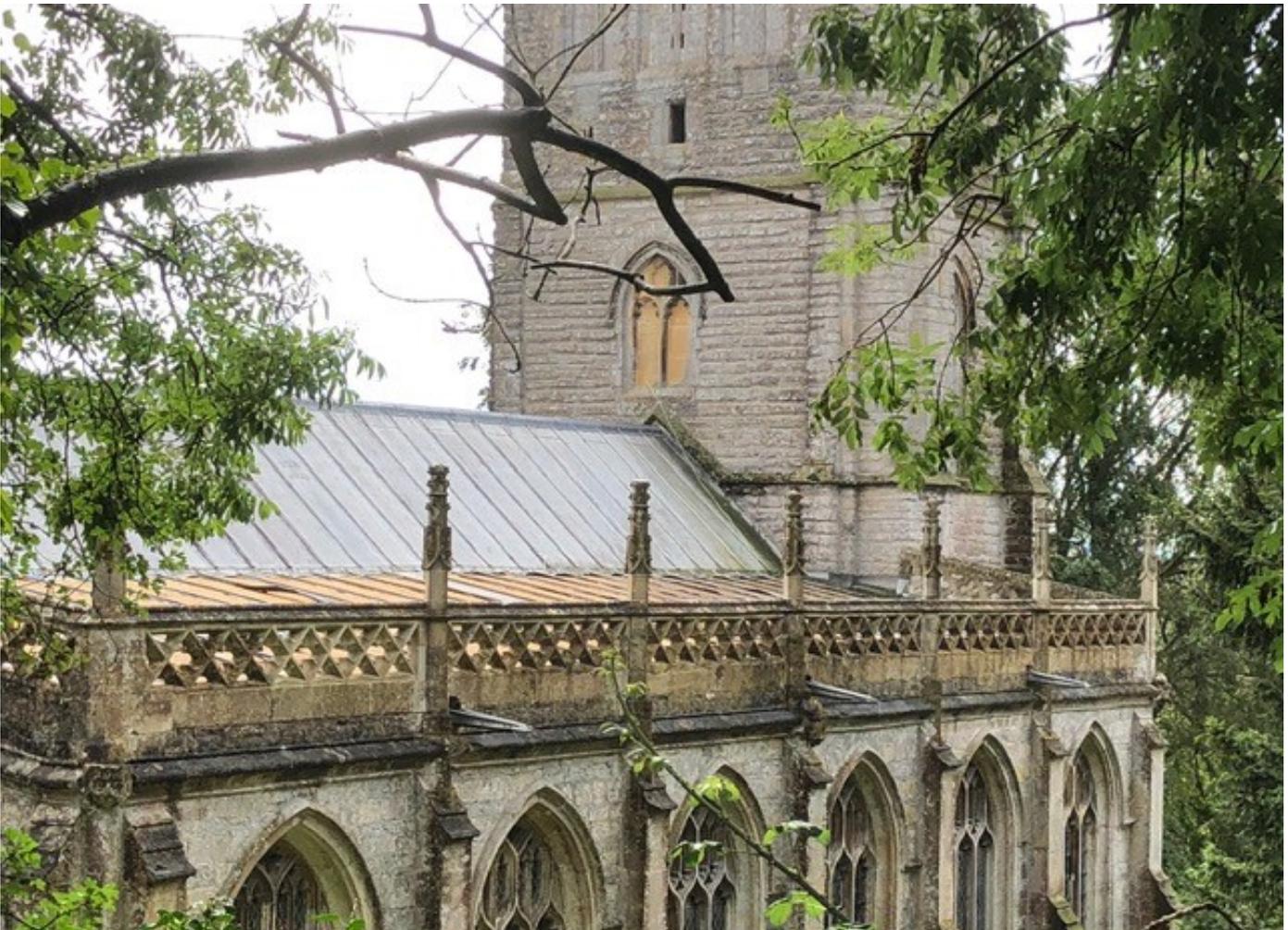
This year the Buildings and Grounds, Quinquennial Works & Re-Pitching our Tent (RPOT) group has been reviewed by the PCC and reformed as Individual Building and Grounds Teams, IBG's. These teams report into the Standing Committee, which reports to the PCC.

The main function of these teams is to identify and maintain our Church buildings. Every five years an inspection report is required by the Diocese, (Quinquennial Inspection) QI.

Quinquennial work is work that is identified as needing to be completed in this report.

These Building and Grounds Teams now consist of a minimum of one church warden, representing a church building, the Incumbent, and a representative/s from each village.

Church wardens have the responsibility of the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, but are not required to complete the work themselves. The team is accountable to the PCC. Each church building is encouraged to have a working group which can use the skills of people to help with specific events, works and projects for the Parish church building as is required.



Safeguarding Report 2020

Safeguarding in the Church community, that is, making our churches a safe haven for children, young people and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. Safeguarding is all about protection from abuse, neglect, harm or being exploited.

Our policy for our three churches and the office is in accordance with the Church of England House of Bishop's Document & Diocesan Guidelines. The PCC also review our policy regularly as it is included on our meeting Agenda.

As always it just remains for us all to remain aware and, if anyone is concerned about anything, they need to let me or a representative of the PCC know.

Our main aim, because we are all God's children, is to provide a safe environment especially in each of our churches, but also in our communities. Our Pastoral Care Teams have all completed training for this and the register is regularly updated when changes are necessary: this means that each church and all our activities are well covered.

A Safeguarding display is available in each building and explanatory pages are included.

Our Safeguarding Officer for 2020 was Victoria Daintree and for 2021 will be Ginnie Soffe. In the meantime, if you have any concerns contact the Church Office or Reverend Kevin Wright.



Socially Distanced Services in 2020



2020 Ride and Stride Event

Administration, Structure and Data

Administrative information

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages and hamlets: Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lympsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset;
- has three parish church buildings: St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent and St Christopher's Church Lympsham and a Church Office at East Brent.
- is in the Diocese of Bath & Wells, a member of The Church of England.

Correspondence address

The Church Office,
Church Road,
East Brent,
Somerset
TA9 4HZ

office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082

Parish Staff

Incumbent (Rector)

The Reverend Kevin Wright

Churchwardens

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll Frances James (Warden Emeritus)
Mike Smith

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent Post now vacant

St Christopher's Church, Lympsham Gwen Hatton

Victoria Daintree

Reader

Nikki Burns (Now left our Parish March 2021)

Parish Administrator

Carole Carter

PCC Treasurer

Jim Hanmer (Resigned December 2020)

PCC Secretary

Carole Carter

Organist

Pauline Chadwick

Safeguarding Officer

Victoria Daintree Resigned Dec 2020

External Organisations

Inspecting Architect:

George Chedburn
Chedburn Codd Design & Conservation,
Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road,
Bath, BA1 7DE

Financial Organisations specific to the Parish:

CHURCH LIFE

CAF Bank Ltd

25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling,
Kent, ME19 4JQ

HERITAGE

St Christopher's Church

St Mary's Church

St Michael's Church

Friends of St Michael's
Trust

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Ave,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent.

CCLA, Senator House, 85 Queen
Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

Charity Commission

The PCC , The Parish Of Three Saints is now a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission.

Registration Number 1188593

PCC Membership as at December 2020

<i>Ex-officio</i>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term/Expiry</u>
<i>Incumbent</i>	Reverend Kevin Wright	Chairperson	
<i>Churchwardens</i>			
<i>Brent Knoll</i>	Frances James		Warden Emeritus
	Mike Smith		Annual
<i>East Brent</i>	Anthony Barkle		Resigned
			October 2020
<i>Lympsham</i>	Gwen Hatton		Annual
	Victoria Daintree		
<i>Reader</i>	Nikki Burns		Until March 2021
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Maxine Bashford		
<i>Representatives</i>	Dot Coles		3 year term /2023
	Sarah McClean		
<i>Elected</i>	Anthony Barkle		3 year term / 2023
	Nick Bashford		3 year term / 2022
	Pauline Chadwick		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah Cole		3 year term / 2021
	Dot Coles		3 year term / 2023
	James Counsell		3 year term / 2023
	Tim Hannah		3 year term / 2022
	Chris Hussey		3 year term / 2022
	Ged Keele		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah McClean		3 year term / 2023
	Ginnie Soffe		3 year term / 2023
	Sally Wingate		3 year term / 2023
<i>Co-opted</i>	Jim Hanmer	Treasurer	Resigned Dec 2020
	Carole Carter	Parish Administrator & PCC Secretary	Annual
	Christine Hussey	Electoral Roll Officer	Annual
	Robin Leveridge	Donations Coordinator	Annual

Structure, Governance and Management

- The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.
- Each elected PCC member is encouraged to be a member of one of the PCC Teams. Ex-officio members (excluding Deanery Synod Representatives) may sit on any Team.
- Non-PCC members invited to join PCC Teams are co-opted members. They are invited to join because of the gifts and expertise they have. Their term on a Team might be short-term (for example, the duration of a particular project) or long-term.

Objectives and Activities

- The Parish of Three Saints PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical (as expressed in the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 No.3 4 and 5 Eliz 2*).
- It also has maintenance responsibilities for the three church buildings, St Christopher's, Lympsham, St Mary the Blessed Virgin, East Brent, St Michael's, Brent Knoll and also for the Church Office in East Brent.

Changes to the Parish Electoral Roll in 2020:

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2019	=	107
Total at the end of 2020	=	107

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for the Parish

	Parish Total for 2020
Baptisms	2
Weddings	2
Funerals	15

Who's Who as at December 2020

Rector Reverend Kevin Wright

The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4DQ
01278 760844 07764 170463 priest.tpots@gmail.com

Reader Nikki Burns

PCC Teams

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

Reverend Kevin Wright and Reader, Nikki Burns

Lay Worship Assistants: Chris Wright and Kate Wilford

Prayer Group

Gwen Hatton, Eva Price, Viv Freeman, Ginnie Soffe,
Sarah McLean, Anthony Barkle, Pauline Chadwick

Deanery Synod:

Maxine Bashford, Dot Coles, Sarah McClean

Pastoral Care Team

Anthony Barkle, Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim and Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith, Gwen Hatton,
Carla Searle, Sarah McLean. Sarah Cole.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Anthony Barkle, Ginnie Soffe, Dot Coles, Tim and Jane Hannah, Margaret Smith,
Gwen Hatton, Carla Searle, Sarah McClean, Sarah Cole,

Buildings and Grounds / Quinquennial Works & Re-Pitching our Tent project (QPOT)

Anthony Barkle, Gwen Hatton, Victoria Daintree, Mike Smith,
Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Barbara Foti & Reverend Kevin Wright

Finance Team:

Jim Hanmer, Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Carole Carter & Reverend Kevin Wright

Fundraising Chair of Teams as at end of 2020

St Christopher's:	James Counsell
St Mary's:	Carole Carter / Anthony Barkle
St Michael's:	Ged Keele

Friends of St Michael's

Ged Keele

Organist:

Pauline Chadwick

Website: www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk E-Mail: office.tpots@gmail.com

Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset, TA9 4HZ 01278 769082

Facebook: TPOTS Twitter: @TPOTS6