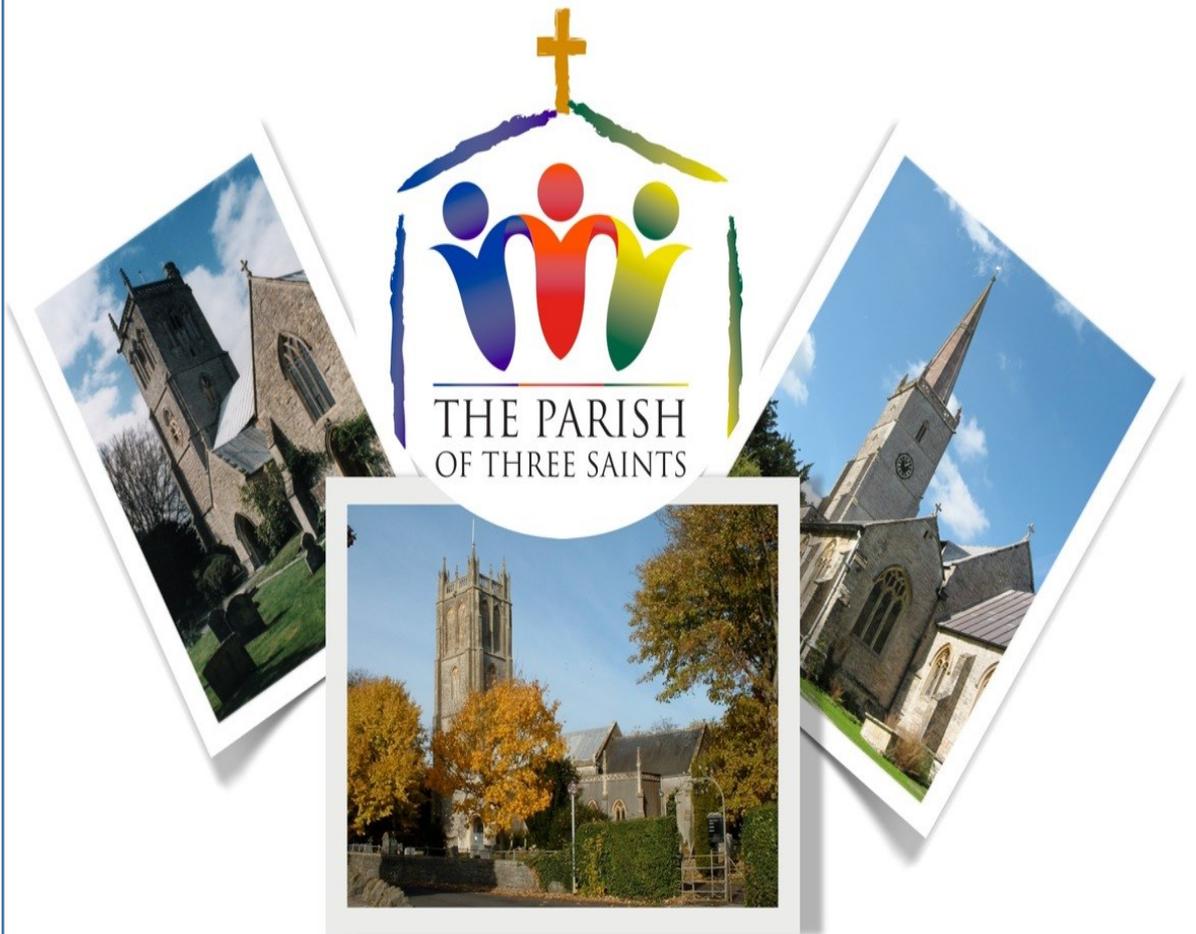


PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

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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.



Rector's reflections on 2021

Maintaining the integrity of the church family and nurturing a feeling of fellowship, despite uncertainty, has been my priority over the last two years. Therefore, the focus of this report is largely on worship and liturgy (both online and in the buildings), fellowship and pastoral care. Full reports on finances and fabric can be found elsewhere.

It goes without saying that the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic were longer-term than any of us imagined. Plans for services Christmas 2020 had been severely impacted and then, while the churches were not forced to close by legislation in the winter and spring of early 2021, the strong advice from the central C of E and Diocese was to be very cautious and not hold any indoor public worship. Therefore we went online until Easter. There were also restrictions on numbers allowed to gather outdoors and limits on numbers for funerals indoors, although they could take place.

We focused, as before in lockdown, on recorded (YouTube) services and reflections, with other online live (ZOOM) worship and fellowship. This included Morning Prayer, Café Church, a Christingle Service, Eucharists, prayer times, virtual coffee mornings and parish quizzes. The live ZOOM Ash Wednesday service included the provision of cards with real Ash Crosses on them to be held during the service. All church meetings, including the Lent Group and PCC, took place online.

On Easter Sunday and for a few weeks after we sang hymns in the churchyards and entered the church only for the Eucharistic Prayer. God blessed us with remarkable weather week after week. Later we were able to resume a more familiar pattern indoors but initially only singing a couple of hymns (gently).

Christmas 2021 was restricted as the Omicron variant raised its head, but we did offer a full Carol Service, a novel Crib Service with a scripted, but unrehearsed Nativity Play, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Eucharist. Congregation numbers inevitably were reduced. Those who attended were very appreciative of the last-minute planning that was necessary.

Recognising an opportunity, while normal worship was unavailable, to reflect on our provisions for more regular worship, a questionnaire was circulated about what people found valuable in both online and live in-person in church services and activities. Responses, both electronic and paper, were solicited and almost 40 responses collated.

It is clear that a main 10 am Eucharist is for most people, rightly, the service at which the church family meets and receives sustenance spiritually and with each other: It is when we become the Body of Christ. However, there was notable support for more outdoor, contemplative and experimental, less formal worship, and a desire for some midweek online or in-church worship. During the rest of the year, we began to establish a provisional rota of worship that would be sustainable, rationalising some of the services with less support to provide space and energy for those which may be more missional and attractive. Later in 2021 we provided Celtic Evening Prayer in Ralph's Wood and a Harvest celebration in a farm barn. These were very well supported.

The results of the survey, while not the ultimate factor and with considerable discussion, have helped and, together with the light of experience, determine a provisional calendar from Advent 2021 until Christ the King 2022 has been drawn up. This is still evolving. We need to discern God's will and His timing for any new ventures - I have used the image of 'The Calm after the Storm – Sitting in the Boat with Jesus'. I would ask you to pray for vision and direction that will be missional and engaging as we reflect on our practices and provision during this year.

We have received and continue to receive Communion in one kind, as is the current practice in most Anglican Churches, not yet sharing the chalice. Other churches use intinction (dipping), but in my view this involves more handling of a potentially sticky wafer without any theological gain. The C of E practice of a shared cup, which is now permitted, will be resumed here as soon as it is felt safe for all to do so. It is not church policy or theology to have separate cups.

We were also able later in the year to resume weddings, some of which had been postponed and rearranged a number of times with the associated bureaucracy for us and stress for the couples. One wedding had been booked four times!

Baptisms were restarted too and there has been a number of older babies, who could not be baptised during the height of the pandemic. There is now a group of children and their parents who, with common interest, have met for coffee with some of our Pastoral Care Team. Some have also attended other worship, both outdoors and in church. This is perhaps an area on which we should focus as we plan for the future. If outreach, mission and growth are our priorities then we must be accommodating of this younger generation and provide for their spiritual needs, even at the expense of some things we hold dear. Whether we can sustain so many regular baptisms in our main service is another matter which requires prayer, as there is on these occasions a noticeably reduced attendance of regular members. This saddens me as we are there to greet new members of God's family.

Part of the planning for the future will need consideration of the time, energy resources and skills of the Worship Team. Reader Nikki Burns left the team and has moved on to a new calling. We acknowledged our appreciation of all that she did for this parish, especially during the vacancy. We however welcomed two new members of the team. Firstly, Revd Neil Biddiscombe as a Curate for his training and formation period. He has begun to contribute significantly to our worship and parish life while gaining experience. Neil is a self-supporting minister and has a full-time day job, so his work here requires a significant commitment. Secondly, Caroline Riall, a Reader, moved into the parish and has now joined the team to explore her contribution to worship here. We wish them both well.

I am very indebted to Kate Wilford and Chris Wright, both Lay Worship Assistants, for the amount they contributed both live and recorded with good humour during a difficult year. As we explore new ventures LWAs (and our Reader) will, I hope, play a major part in planning non-Eucharistic activities, while still contributing to the main Eucharistic service.

For example, they contributed to the Advent meditations 2022. Chris, apart from the fact she has supported me personally through very challenging times, also provides me continually with resources and ideas from a range of sources, for which I am most grateful.

The Pastoral Care Team has continued to keep in contact with people both from the Church family and beyond. They have been supportive of many practical needs and provide comfort and companionship for others. Sarah McLean and Ginnie Soffe have also been very supportive of baptism families, and a small monthly coffee time has begun including prayer and a bible story. This is a green shoot which needs a lot of prayer and careful nurturing.

I will also add that Ginnie, as Safeguarding Officer for the Parish, is working hard to make sure that we comply with the necessary requirements for everyone who works on behalf of the church. The church and its active members have a particular collective responsibility to safeguard anyone in the community who is vulnerable.

It has been a tiring time for us all, we have all aged, and I have particularly appreciated the support of the Wardens, Mike Smith, Dot Coles and Victoria Daintree, and the team of Assistant Wardens. Carole Carter, our Administrator, working sometimes at home and sometimes in the Office, has kept on top of the trail of paperwork, rearranged dates, invoices, communication with our energy suppliers and, working closely with Victoria, the day-to-day accounts. Robin Leveridge quietly manages the practicalities of paying cash and cheques into the bank and the significant Gift Aid reclaim that has helped our finances significantly. I might add at the time of writing, he is also over-seeing the reordering application for St Christopher's and has sold tickets for the Ninebarrow concert.

There are many people who quietly get on with things. For this I record my sincere thanks. Please pray to see what you can do to serve the church better for the good of all.

Briefly on finances, we are very grateful for the number of people who support the church in any way, but it is monetary income which pays the bills. The generous regular giving to the Church Life Fund (at an average of about £50 per head per month) has meant this fund is in surplus and we are able to support the diocese's mission as fully as we can. However, the Heritage Funds for all three buildings are diminishing with increasing rapidity especially with rising energy costs. It may feel that we need to make a greater effort to raise funds, but I appreciate the diminishing band of volunteers and the increasing age of us all, so we need to pray about other solutions. It may mean thinking differently, doing things differently, or communicating better with our residents. All church buildings are village assets.

By the spring of 2022, thanks to generous donations and large grants, all three church roofs will be watertight and the buildings weatherproof. We also hope that St Christopher's reordering will be moving forward. However, quite bluntly, people who live in these villages and expect the church to be there whenever required, will need to dig deeply into their pockets regularly and consistently if the ongoing bills are to be paid so that the doors can remain open for another generation. There is still a widely held view that the church is wealthy. The church's material wealth in buildings is also its liability. Please share this message with your friends and neighbours.



Briefly, the future of the whole C of E is under review. The current parish system is unaffordable. Stipendiary Clergy like me will be fewer in number in the future. There will be more Ordained Self-Supporting posts, like Neil, and also many more Lay Ministers. Please pray for the those making these decisions at deanery, diocesan and national level. Please pray to discern your part in the future church.

Finally, balancing the practical needs of the fabric with the spiritual life of the parish is part of my job and, thanks to a great team of volunteers, it is a task I carry with joy. The loyalty and support of all the church family here is unsurpassable. Thank you all. I struggle sometime with the priorities, practical and spiritual, and it is easy to lose sight that my first calling is to spread the Gospel – God’s love for all – which does not need buildings and fabric at all.

I feel there is potential here waiting to be unlocked. Growth often involves discomfort and growing pains, but as I have said, if a plant isn’t growing, it is dead or it may need severe pruning (i.e. letting things go) and feeding (i.e. study and prayer) to stimulate new growth.

Then, as we pray more about our individual callings and ask God to guide us as we move forward, the way will become clear. If we submit to God’s will, rather than clinging to what we want, then we will stop getting in His way. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers few. We all need to discern what we are individually called to do to serve God’s church in this parish. God does not call the equipped, he equips those he calls. What is your role? What will you do?

May God’s will be done.

God bless you all,

The Revd Kevin Wright (Rector).



**Easter Service
April 2021
at St Mary's**



**Picnic Church
July 2021
at St Mary's**



A message from our Curate



I would like to thank everybody for the warm welcome that Jayne and I have received since we joined you in the Parish in July 2021.

As most of you know I am a 'self-supporting minister' so as well as being your Curate (ordained Deacon in September 2021). I also work full time. This has enabled me to bring God's message to people who may not have any interactions with church, just by being a visible presence in the work environment with my clerical collar.

Over recent years the parish system, based as it is on geography, has been supplemented by other networks/communities: the days of families living, working, socialising and worshipping in one parish are gone. We travel further, work further afield, socialise online and so on.

A big part of my own calling to ministry was to remain in these other communities with a particular emphasis on the opportunities within my work role. Perhaps others might feel a similar sense of calling in the communities in which they are present.

However, although I am a part-time Curate, I am a full-time Deacon. As part of this I try to live out the Deaconal calling to work and serve in the community in which we are set, so for me this community is not just the parish.

I will be, God willing, ordained as a Priest in June in Bath Abbey and from then I will be able to preside at the Eucharist, to baptise and to lead wedding services.

I know that Kevin is looking forward to sharing these ministries with me for the next few years and it will be a joy and a privilege to be with you as I take these next steps in my ministry.

Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Curate

**Wedding at
St Michael's
September 2021**



**Verity's Baptism
August 2021**

Support Groups for Our Parish

Pastoral Care Team will normally meet monthly. This group aims to support Parishioners who have a need for help, advice, friendship or comfort.

The Village Agent scheme. This was created in response to the fact that many people living in rural communities have difficulty in accessing key services and support agencies that help maintain well being and quality of life. All advice is free and completely confidential. The village agent, **Kim Wilcox**, provides very useful and helpful information about the support available for parishioners and carers in the area. Kim can be contacted on 07943 555519 or by email – kim@somersetccc.org.uk or through the Pastoral Care Team.

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers' Group – Carla Searle has decided to wind this up as its membership has dwindled to one. She held their last meeting on 20th September. Thank you Carla for the many years you have hosted this group and for the kindness and care you have shown those attending. We would also like to thank Kim Wilcox, Village Agent, who has conscientiously supported the Group from the beginning. Carla and Kim are still available if someone is in need of support.

The Bereaved Friends' Group also finished in its current format. Thank you to Gwen Hatton and Margaret Smith for welcoming people and supporting the group over the years.

The Prayer Group is being reviewed and refreshed. As a Healthy Church we aim for prayer to be central to our Christian life.

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 30 years and has been well supported.

Unfortunately as the Methodist Church had not reopened yet in 2021 this was not able to resume. See separate Toddlers group report .

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.

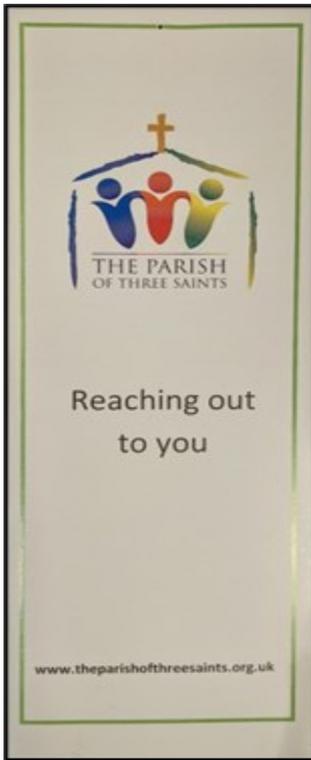
These can be obtained in any church building or on our website & also at the church office in East Brent.

01278 769082

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

Follow us on :-

Facebook: TPOTS or Twitter: @TPOTS6



Pastoral Care Team

**Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you:
love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you must love one another.”**

This year has seen a number of changes in the Pastoral Care arrangements in TPOTS, some due to Covid restrictions and some to the personal circumstances of the Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs).

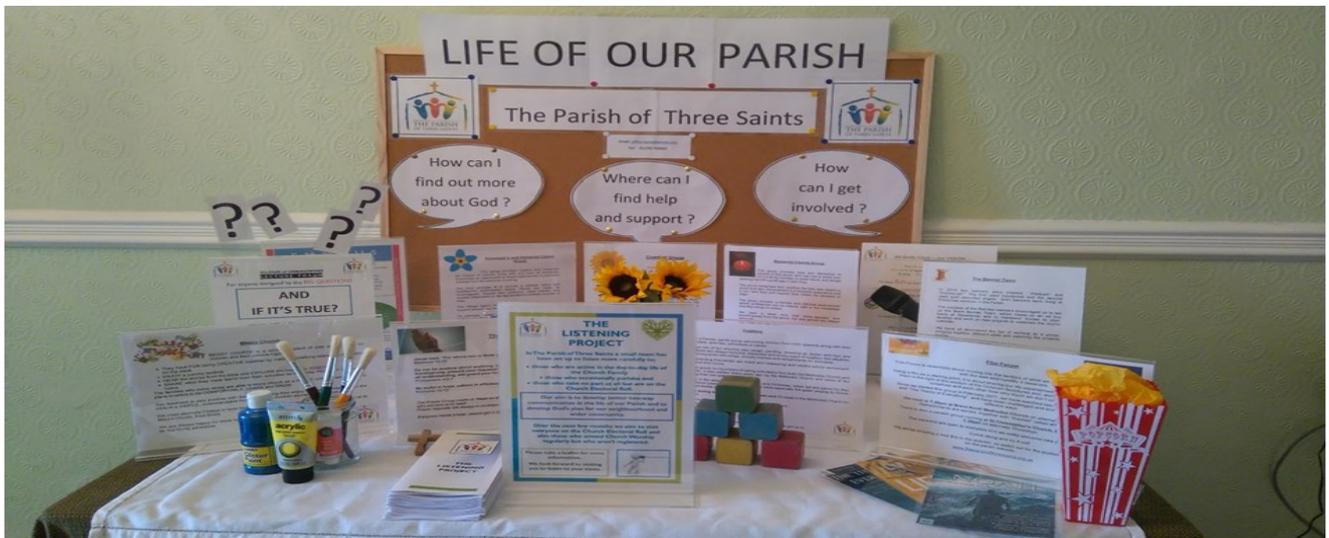
Gwen and Anthony both decided, separately, to step down as LPAs this year for health reasons. They have both readily given their time and energy whenever needed and we would like to thank them both for their loving care and support for people over the years.

For the first three months of 2021 during lockdown all pastoral care groups stopped meeting because of Covid restrictions. Carla continued to lead the Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers' Group online, but most groups didn't lend themselves easily to meeting up virtually.

So this led, in the summer, to a radical rethink of Pastoral Care in our parish. Covid has made us all re-evaluate what we do in many areas of our lives and Pastoral Care in The Parish of Three Saints was no exception. We prayerfully considered the viability of our pastoral groups and felt that the BFG, Coffeetime, the Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers' Group and the Comfort Group had run their natural courses. Numbers had dwindled to one in some of these groups.

Thank you to Margaret and Gwen for running the BFG and providing comfort and support to those recently bereaved. Thank you, Dot, for leading the Comfort Group and running Coffeetime at St Mary's. Thank you, Carla, for hosting the Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers' Group and for the kindness and care you have shown to those attending. Thank you also to Kim Wilcox, the Village Agent, who has conscientiously supported the Group from the beginning. Carla and Kim are still available if anyone is in need of support. Thank you to Jane and Margaret, who are prayerfully deliberating the future of Toddlers in Brent Knoll. Jane continues to send cards to the children on their birthdays from the Teddies.

As restrictions were lifted later in the year, visits resumed again slowly, starting with referrals from Kim Wilcox. Our new Curate, Reverend Neil Biddiscombe, also started visiting people in the parish, especially those who live on their own or who haven't been well.



Over the year parents have continued to bring their children for baptism and we now have a named person system in place to welcome them into the Church Family. At the baptism preparation meeting Sarah or Ginnie will be there on behalf of the Church Family to get to know the families and keep in touch before and after their child's baptism.

Parents are also invited to a monthly coffee and play morning for fellowship and friendship with other baptism families. So far we have run four such mornings and have really enjoyed them.

It has now been five years since the Pastoral Care Team was formed in TPOTS and it is time for the LPAs to be re-accredited. Some of us need to complete the new Leadership Training and then have our forms processed by the Diocese. Kevin is planning a small 'commissioning service' once this is all completed.

The team meets every six weeks for prayer, reflection and discernment, training and sharing ideas and experiences. We are looking forward to welcoming our Reader, Caroline Riall, to the group very soon. We trust God will show us the way forward and feel very privileged to be His 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:
office.tpots@gmail.com 01278 769082

Children at the monthly coffee and play morning for baptism families

**Held at Woodlands House,
Brent Knoll**



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.

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.

Ginnie Soffe

Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator and Baptism Co-ordinator

Ginnie Soffe	Pastoral Care Team Co-Ordinator and Baptism Co-Ordinator		
Tim Hannah	LPA (Lay Pastoral Assistants)		
Jane Hannah	LPA		
Gwen Hatton	LPA		
Carla Searle	LPA		
Dot Cole	LPA	Reverend Kevin Wright	Rector
Margaret Smith	LPA	Reverend Neil Biddiscombe	Curate
Sarah McClean	LPA	Caroline Riall	Reader
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

St Christopher's Annual Church Wardens' Report

2021 continued to be a very challenging year for us all but, thankfully, we were able to see the reopening of the church and some return to normal services, albeit with the wearing of masks and other safety measures in place.

Plans continue for the reordering of the church, but at a painfully slow pace. It seems that as soon as one issue is resolved another rears its head. Many thanks must go to Robin Leveridge and his team for their continued support and perseverance. We are currently awaiting the results of an electrical survey that will then enable the Quinquennial report to be finalised. It is expected that much of the work in the report will be covered in the reordering process.

Sadly, the Wych elm tree that stands close to the bell tower has become a victim of Dutch Elm disease and needs to be felled. It is a requirement by Somerset District Council that the tree should be replaced, although not in the same position, as this endangers the stability of the tower. Thanks to Dan Berry who has offered to donate and plant a Hornbeam sapling in replacement.

June saw the return of the ever popular St Christopher's fete, held in the Manor Gardens by the kind permission of the Counsell family. This year saw even more classic cars grace the lawns. Although we were unable to offer the same range of stalls as in previous years, the event was hugely successful and raised over £5,000.

The previous weekend, four gardens in the village were opened under the National Gardens Scheme. Proceeds from the refreshments and plant stall raised a further £658 for the church. Many thanks to everyone who made this happen.

Following the return to church services, there has been a reduction in the number of people offering to join the flower and cleaning rotas. Sincere thanks go to Gwen Hatton who has helped and supported me with these duties. I am pleased to report that a couple of ladies have now volunteered to assist with the flowers, but we are still looking for cleaners.

Thanks go to Pauline for playing the organ so beautifully, to Robin Hoare for looking after the grounds, clock and flag, to those who open and close the church daily 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

Victoria Daintree

Churchwarden

Harvest Service in a Barn at Wick Farm



St Mary's Annual Church Wardens' Report

I was appointed as a Churchwarden of our Parish, with responsibility for St Mary's. I am blessed with the help of so many people, without whom life would be very difficult.

In particular I would like to express my sincere thanks to Tim Hannah, one of our PCC members: without his time and patience in applying to several grant funders we would not have received the funding mentioned below.

Church Wardens are responsible for the buildings and grounds within our Parish; thankfully, Wardens do not have to do all the work required themselves, but do have the responsibility of overseeing St Mary's as God's servants. Without local ongoing support this certainly would not be possible: 'Thank you'.

St Mary's was in desperate need of roof repairs that were identified after successive Quinquennial Inspections. However, with grants from Viridor Credits (£50,000) and the Nuttall Trust (£5,000) and also some very generous donations from local people, we obtained sufficient funds to complete Phase 1, being replacement of the roof of the North Aisle in August 2021 at a cost of £82,683.

We were also fortunate to have enlisted the help of Emma Brown, Church Buildings Adviser at the Diocese, who assisted with a successful and sunny Open Day on 31 July attended by many local people; this included talks by Colin Loader from the History Group, walks around the churchyard, visits to the bell tower, bell ringing and organ music. Visitors were also able to see the large area of the churchyard that had been cleared by Julian Nurse, being the start of a 'wild area' in the churchyard. A survey report by the Somerset Botany Group on the plant life in the churchyard was also available.

Services and other activities have continued to be significantly affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic but we have enjoyed some lovely outdoor services in front of the south porch at St Mary's, including a well attended and sunny Easter service.

During 2021 we re-launched a 'Supporters' Group' for St Mary's to help with funding for roof repairs and also for the day to day running expenses etc. This was organised by Carole Carter at the Church Office who obtained a generous offer from Jim Murray, Media Edge Printers of Bridgwater, to print all the Supporters' publicity brochures free of charge, thus saving valuable funds.

These brochures were distributed by teams, led by Chris Hussey, to over 550 households, in East Brent, Rooksbridge and Edingworth.

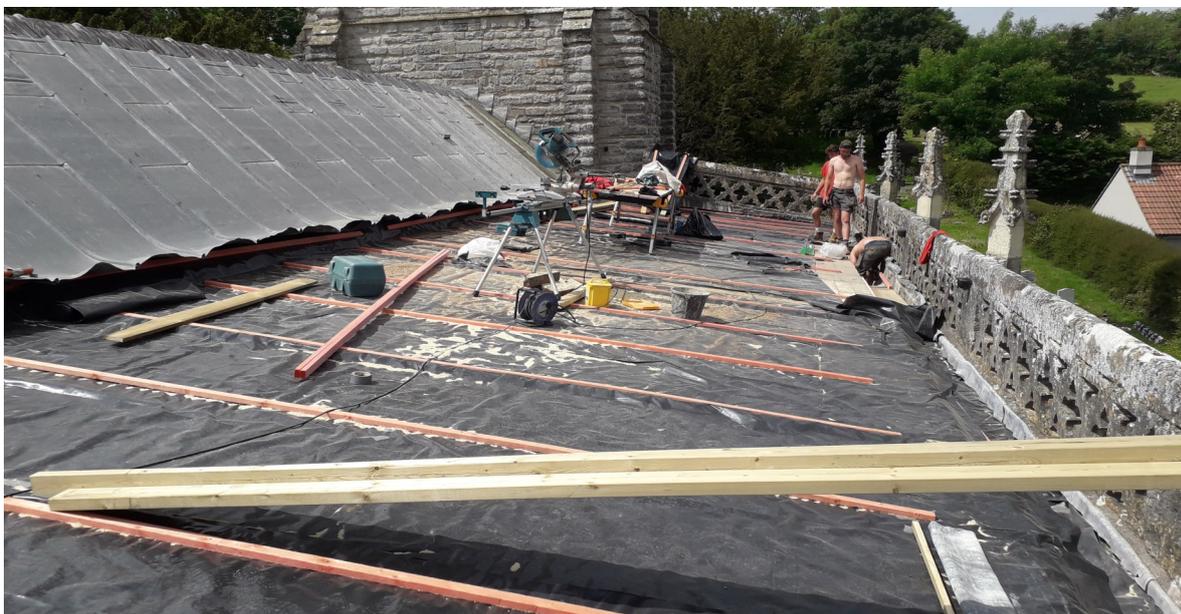
It is anticipated that, during 2022, the roof of the chancel will be replaced mainly at the cost of the Church Commissioners and that the remaining phases of the roof work on the south side and porch will be completed again with the assistance of generous local donations and grants. We shall then need to turn our attention to interior work, including the redecoration of the many parts damaged by water ingress through the roof.

We would like to thank all our supporters including floral arrangers, cleaners, bell ringers, fund raisers, church openers and closers, clock winder and the churchyard team.

Our Church family is so helpful with reading, praying and chalice assisting: we honour our faith together.

This has been another difficult year for us all and with God's blessing we are looking forward to a better, brighter 2022.

Dot Coles
Church Warden



St Mary's Roof—Press Release 2021

'FURTHER REPAIRS ON ST MARY'S CHURCH, EAST BRENT, WELL UNDER WAY, THANKS TO GENEROUS GIFTS AND GRANTS'

Thanks to a significant initial personal donation along with many other generous gifts the first phase of work to make the roof St Mary's Church, East Brent, watertight and weatherproof began in the spring of 2021. The Rector, Reverend Kevin Wright, and the PCC were immensely grateful for the grants including those from Viridor Credits, and The Nuttall Trust that enabled the completion of phase 1 work to the North Aisle roof by last summer, thereby preventing further damage to the Jacobean plaster ceiling in the nave and other valuable artefacts.

Grants have been promised for phase 2 repairs to the south side and porch, which will begin in March 2022 and be completed by Easter. The total for all the work is in excess of £140,000.

In the meantime, the Chancel roof is shrouded in scaffolding (picture February 2022) as work to the East End is carried out. This phase will be largely funded by the Church Commissioners as they hold responsibility for this section of the building.

As with most village church buildings like this, it is the responsibility of the local parish to maintain the majority of the fabric. (The Parish of Three Saints has three notable historic buildings.)

Reverend Kevin Wright says: "Thanks to generous donations and grants, it has been very pleasing to be able to stop the rot of the roof and make this beautiful building sound again. We're not going to be the generation to let these places of worship close if we can help it, but resources are stretched.

Churches like this stand as testament to a real faith practised here for centuries and, while worship does not require a building and we often worship in the open air, the historicity in the stones stands as a public witness to a living faith in Jesus, the same yesterday today and forever. We need to find regular income for the buildings to keep them open."

For further information contact:

Reverend Kevin Wright, revdkjwright@btinternet.com or

Carole Carter, Parish Administrator, office.tpots@gmail.com or 01278 769082

Works at St Mary's 2021



St Michael's Annual Church Wardens' Report

As we look back on 2021 we are grateful to Kevin, Chris, Neil and the worship team for continuing to be adaptable to the services as the covid pandemic continues.

We have been able to continue to worship together either under covid safe condition in church or during home-recorded services.

January - We went into Lockdown 3 and back to recorded services during this time; we were able to join online prayer services and social time with a church quiz online.

February - Online services continued

March - Lent group online - Another online church quiz - Mothering Sunday posies were left in the porch for people to pick up. - Palm crosses were left in the porch for people to use with the online service.

April - On April 11th we were able to wake up St. Michael's Church gently with a Eucharist and some outdoor singing. This was the resumption of regular services in our church.

May - Normal services continued covid-safely. 23rd May saw an online farewell to Bishop Peter.

June - We held an open churchyard and garden event: on 4th June we welcomed Neil to work in the Parish as Lay-Curate, with his wife Jayne.

July - Service at St. Michael's Covid safely every 3 weeks plus online services.

August - August teas were held outside on Sunday afternoons.

September - Taunton Military Wives' Choir concert in aid of the Parish.

A Parish Harvest service was held in a barn at Wick Farm.

The ordination of Neil at Wells Cathedral as Deacon; the following day we celebrated with refreshments in the Churchyard after the service.

The redecoration of the North Aisle took place.

November - British Legion Remembrance service returned to the church.

Guides visited the church as part of the Peach project. Zoom Advent reflections started.

December - Christmas Day service was held at St. Michael's.

Thanks go to all who help towards services and with the maintenance and fundraising. We have welcomed back the flower arranging and cleaning teams and are grateful to those who carried out these tasks whilst we had to limit the number of people in the building.

I am extremely grateful to Miss Frances James (our Warden Emeritus) for all she does for St. Michael's.

Mike Smith, Churchwarden

Frances James, Warden Emeritus



Outdoor Service at St Michael's



Neil's welcome to the Parish



Palm Sunday at St Michael's



Dedication of St Michael's Banner



Scarecrow Trail at Brent Knoll



**Remembrance Service at
St Michael's**

Toddlers

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

This group is run jointly by the Parish of Three Saints and The Methodists meeting weekly on Tuesdays during term time at the Brent Knoll Methodist Church.

2021 has been a year like no other, being the first one since Toddlers began, that we have not been able to meet in person. How this virus has changed our lives: we miss the sound of the children playing and the fun we had, but we have maintained contact with phone calls and by sending cards for birthdays including to those who started school in September 2021, reminding them that they are still in our thoughts.

Us Teddies, with the help of some of the other toys, have regularly written monthly articles for the Brent Knoll News telling of our adventures and seaside holidays alongside suggesting things to make and do and what to look for in nature during the different seasons of the year.

In the December issue we talked about the Christmas Story and the birth of a very special baby. We had great fun writing the articles and we always expressed our concern for the well being of the children and their families.

It is very encouraging to learn that many of our families have continued to 'meet' on Tuesdays either on WhatsApp or at each other's homes and gardens when they were allowed to do so, keeping the spirit of Toddlers alive.

Please keep the future of this Toddler Group in your prayers.

The Teddies.



With a little help from Jane Hannah

Financial Review of 2021

In the autumn of 2019, I tentatively agreed to take over the Parish accounts from Jim Hanmer, who had been doing an excellent job for several years. I am very grateful to Jim for his support and training over the following months. It has been a steep learning curve for me, and it was not until June 2021 that I have been managing the accounts single handedly! I must also express my thanks to Robin Leveridge for his help and support with the banking and gift aid. Also to John Leddy for carrying out our Independent Examination and preparing our year end accounts.

The Parish finances are managed through two different funding streams, Church Life and Heritage. The Church Life fund contributes to God's mission and ministry across the Parish and separate Heritage Funds support each of our three church buildings.

Currently the Church Life Fund is well supported by regular church members and members of the wider community. The current end of year balance shows a healthy £40,334 and I am confident that we will be able to pay our Parish Share in 2022. We must be mindful, however, that we have a small number of very generous givers and without them we could quickly get into difficulties.

Our three Heritage funds show a significant reduction since December 2020. This is partly due to the inability to raise funds on the usual scale due to the current pandemic. In addition, significant building work has taken place in both St Mary's and St Michael's churches which have resulted in both buildings becoming watertight! All three churches were fortunate enough to benefit from grants from the Nuttall Trust.

N.B. St Christopher's £1,500 will be used towards the proposed hospitality area; St Michael's £1,000 will be used towards audio visual equipment and St Mary's £5,000 was paid directly to the roofing contractors for the essential roof repairs.

Please see following pages for details from the accounts, that have been independently examined and approved for publication.

It is important that we continue to recruit regular donors to the Heritage funds in order to maintain our beautiful churches.

Victoria Daintree
(Acting Treasurer)



Financial Review 2021 (continued)

The Parish of Three Saints				
Statement Of Assets				
As At 31st December 2021				
Account Name	Opening Balance	Transactions IN	Transactions OUT	Closing Balance
Combined Accounts	£282,354	£130,112	-£163,215	£249,251
The Parish of Three Saints (Cash)	£30,588	£58,355	-£48,610	£40,334
St Mary's Church (Cash)	£82,997	£29,793	-£61,711	£51,079
St Christopher's Church (Cash)	£27,666	£15,795	-£20,361	£23,100
St Michael's Church (Cash)	£21,102	£26,169	-£32,533	£14,738
St Christopher's Teachers (Cash)	£75,000	£0	£0	£75,000
St Christopher's CAF (Cash)	£45,000	£0	£0	£45,000
Fund Raising during 2021				
Event	Church Life	St Mary's	St. Christopher's	St Michael's
Ride and Stride	£312.50	-	-	-
Military Wives Choir	£1,252.33	-	-	-
Easy Fundraising	£189.22	-	-	-
Coffee Morning	-	£145.00	-	-
Coffee for roof	-	£26.35	-	-
Easter Raffle	-	-	£255.00	-
Summer Fete	-	-	£5,413.30	-
Open Gardens	-	-	£658.80	£120.00
Christmas Fetes	-	-	-	£778.15
Plant sales	-	-	-	£354.79
Silent Auction	-	-	-	£118.00
Easter Trail	-	-	-	£60.00
August Teas	-	-	-	£441.90
Support Group	-	-	-	£4.73
TOTALS	£1,754.05	£171.35	£6,327.10	£1,877.57

The Parish of Three Saints
Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31st December 2021

	Church Life	Heritage	2021	2020
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies:				
Planned giving	29253	12017	41270	34974
Collections, donations & other giving	727	30671	31398	96089
Income tax recovered	0	11552	11552	14635
Legacies	0	0	0	0
Other Trading activities				
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	0	0	0	0
Income from other Properties	0	0	0	0
Annual Fete/events	4469	5526	9995	2650
Receipts from Investments:				
Interest & dividends	0	1891	1891	2166
Receipts from Charitable activities :				
Parochial fees	8324	0	8324	4559
Other Receipts				
Insurance claims	0	0	0	0
Sale proceeds from fixed assets	0	0	0	0
Loans received	0	0	0	0
Other	0	200	200	358
Total Receipts	42773	61857	104630	155431
Payments				
Charitable activities:				
Donations/Grants to charities	0	0	0	-18
Mission & Evangelism	-317	0	-317	-540
Parish Share	-25008	0	-25008	-25744
Clergy expenses	-1891	0	-1891	-1985
Church running expenses	-505	-18544	-19049	-5783
Churchyard maintenance	-172	-2520	-2692	-3707
Cost of raising funds	-272	-28	-300	-610
Support costs	-180	0	-180	0
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	-8841	-199	-9040	-9398
Governance Costs	-80	0	-80	-84
Other	-341	-6738	-7079	-5251
Major expenditure				
Repairs to church buildings	0	-72098	-72098	-96267
Repairs to other property	0	0	0	0
Capital purchases/additions	0	0	0	0
Loan repayments	0	0	0	0
Total payments	-37607	-100127	-137734	-149387
Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over payments	5166	-38270	-33104	6044
Transfers between funds	4579	-4579	0	0
	9745	-42849	-33104	6044
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan (Actual Balance)	30588	251766	282354	276310
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec (Actual Balance)	40333	208917	249250	282354

Parochial Fees Note

The PCC received parochial fees as detailed below during the year. Part is made up of statutory fees due to the PCC or the DBF, as prepared by the Archbishops' Council under the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986. The balance relates to charges as fixed by the PCC, for extras such as bells, flowers and special heating, or paid to visiting ministers, Readers or Non-Stipendiary Ministers as set out in the DBF's Parochial Fees policy

Of these fees only the amount due to the PCC (statutory & non-statutory) is shown above as legally the amount due to the DBF and other ministers (as set out in the DBF policy) should not be treated as PCC income.

During the year, the PCC received parochial fees totalling	£13,404.00	
Statutory Fees due to the PCC totalled	£8,124.10	
Statutory Fees due to the DBF totalled	£3,585.00	
Statutory Fees received on behalf of a third party	£1,494.90	
Non-Statutory Extras due to the PCC totalled	£0.00	
Non-Statutory Extras due to a third party totalled	£0.00	
The PCC also received Deposits for the following year totalling	£200.00	
		Balance owed at year-end (inc. in Creditors)
In total the PCC repaid the following Fees during the year		
Payment to DBF of Statutory Fees	£3,585.00	£0.00
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£1,494.90	
Payment to visiting ministers/Readers/NSMs	£0.00	£0.00
(This excludes fees for Sunday Services)		





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 is part of our heritage.

All three church 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 9 pm.

For more information please contact our

Tower Captain

Mr Melvyn Freeman

01278 641214



St. Christopher's Church, Lympsham.

Fundraising Report 2021

This year, we have been able to hold most of our fundraising activities with the hugely welcome relaxation of Covid restrictions.

June was a particularly productive month. The garden fete and vintage car show returned from its year off at just the right time and it was great to see so many people come to enjoy being able to mix together for perhaps the first village event since the long lockdown. As a result, we beat all records and raised an incredible £5,416 in just two and a half hours of opening, by far the most we have ever raised and the first time we have ever topped £5,000. We had over 725 paying adults through the gate, a record number which did not include children and those who brought their vintage cars.

Many thanks to the organising committee and all the stall-holders but particularly to Rosemary and Andy Carr, who led the team, and to Graeme Hale for his fantastic work in the garden.

We also had a very successful Open Gardens, raising over £650 for the Church together with over £1,400 for the National Garden Scheme charity. We definitely benefited from having four gardens open at the same time and thanks to Rosemary and Andy, Victoria and Robin, and Claire and Martin Sleight for allowing their gardens to feature in addition to the Manor – they all looked fantastic.

Covid permitting, we were still planning to hold the much delayed 'Night on the Tiles' Ball at Batch Country House Hotel in March 2022, but this has now been rearranged for Saturday 29th October. Look out for more news about that later in the year.

The fete will take place on Saturday 25th June and the Open Gardens the week before on Saturday/Sunday 18/19th June.

Please put the dates in your diaries now!

James Counsell





St Mary's Churchyard Team

We are a ten-strong group who meet regularly 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 cover the following:

laurel lopping,
hedge and bramble control,
weeding, digging and planting,
rockery maintenance,
path clearing and edging,

and when needed, when 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 ?

Note from The Rector.....

Several people have expressed an interest in 'Greening our Churchyards'. This is an initiative we started in 2020 and will continue to explore and develop parish wide.



St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

The major innovation during the year was the setting up of a Building and Grounds Team to oversee work on the Church and the Churchyard. The first formal meeting was held in January. During the year a number of projects were considered, but the main constraint on doing work was financial. Owing to uncertainties re the state of St Michael's Church Heritage Fund brought about by lack of fundraising due to Covid, it has only been possible to complete the project work set up under the North Aisle re-leading and do one major project to redecorate the North Aisle. However, other projects financed outside the formal framework of the Church have been undertaken. It has also been possible to create a framework for managing the churchyard.

Repairs to windows

The window repair work specified in the original Schedule of Works for the North Aisle roof had been separated from the main contract in July 2020. This work was carried out in April by Bakers of Weston-super-Mare.

Redecorating the North Aisle

After much consideration and the submission of three tenders, the work was carried out to a high standard by Ambrose and Locke. For the work to take place, the pews in the North Aisle had to be removed. During the contract Mike Smith set up an extra contract to refurbish the floor. This has enabled us to create a valuable extra space within the church. We will have to make a case to the Diocese to justify not putting the pews back in October 2022.

Clock project

Private donors funded a project to regild the clockface and to provide a black backing to the new face. Cumbria Clocks had to abseil to remove the face in July and returned the regilded face in October. The procedures to set up the abseil worked extremely well and the clockface is immaculate. We are very grateful to our private donors for financing this work.

Symes Tomb

This long running project to refurbish and make safe the historic table tomb in the churchyard is finally nearing completion. A grant application was submitted to Viridor Credits in December and the grant was awarded in January 2022: we anticipate work being done in May 2022.

Churchyard management

An overall plan of management has been agreed, and we are in the process of implementing this. We will continue to undertake our major management work on one day in February. However, we hope to be able to spread general tasks over the year.

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll (continued)

Planning for the future

The major constraints on significant work to improve the church and churchyard are financial. This is partly due to there being a number of project developments that are in the pipeline that cannot be funded through lack of adequate earmarked funding. One key project that will go ahead in 2022 is the repair of the Lychgate, which has three, rotten bases out of four supporting pillars. The two major projects that need funding are a path to the New Remembrance Garden and the installation of projection facilities in the Chancel of St Michael's.

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



Friends of St Michael's Church and Fundraising and PEACH Project (Promoting Education About Church Heritage)

The roles of the Friends' Coordinator and Fundraising Team are difficult to disentangle. In formal terms I occupy both roles. I am also leading the implementation of the PEACH (Promoting Education About Church Heritage) Project which follows the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant awarded to St Michael's for work on the North Aisle re-leading project.

Wearing three hats poses problems on occasions and Covid restrictions have made the tasks doubly difficult. For practical purposes I will deal with Fundraising first and then go on to report on PEACH.

Fundraising activities in 2021

Fundraising activities were severely disrupted by the first Covid lockdown in March 2020, so we approached 2021 with a degree of trepidation because we knew we had lost between £3,000 to £4,000 of potential funding.

Easter celebrations were muted and Bible and Egg trails were set up.

The latter raised £60 through the sale of trail leaflets, but no refreshments were possible. In early May we organised a very successful pop-up plant sale outside the Jubilee Room and that raised £400.

Rogationtide provided an opportunity to raise funds through sponsored walks: unfortunately the response was not good and the weather dealt the final blow to our plans.

The Brent Knoll Fete was cancelled for the second year running, so we lost out on opportunities to fundraise there. Nothing daunted, we set out on an Open Gardens / Open Churchyard event in early July. Significant work went into the event, but the weather again intervened and a downpour at midday dampened the spirits of all concerned.

Fortunately August Teas took place in better weather and we raised £430 overall.

We prepared for our usual Christmas Fair in December and hoped that Covid restrictions would not prevent us having refreshments. To our consternation we realised that the Brent Knoll Village Shop were organising their monthly Breakfast Event at the Parish Hall. Some quick thinking and liaison work with the Village Shop management allowed us to switch the venue of the event to the Parish Hall.

The local quilters added their exhibition work to our usual stalls and we had a splendid morning with a very good attendance raising £600 in the process.

PEACH Project activities in 2021

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) requires recipients of grants to organise a community involvement project. Our community involvement project is called Promoting Education About Church Heritage (PEACH).

There are three main components:

- Education about St Michael's Church heritage, with a particular emphasis on involving children
- Art and craft work centred on St Michael's Church heritage
- A library of information built around a website that will underpin these educational activities.

At the outset NLHF made it clear that the churchyard and its natural environment is part of this heritage.

Owing to restrictions imposed by Covid the project schedule had to be revised so the website was developed first and, when Covid restrictions permitted, we began churchyard activities.

The website is being developed in stages and the current version can be viewed at: www.stmichaelschurchbrentknoll.co.uk.

Churchyard activities have concentrated on wildlife survey work and setting up a series of nature trails around the churchyard (full description of this work is in the Churchyard section of the website).

We have also worked with the local Guides on exploring the church and the churchyard with a view to their working towards a specific badge on Heritage.

At the end of the year two sets of workshops were organised to produce material for an Arts and Crafts Exhibition in early May 2022. Judith Champion, the project artist, led a Pop-up Art day in October and Anita Peach ran two sessions producing some very varied and interesting images of Green Men.

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





Taunton Military Wives Choir Concert, St Michael's, September 2021



Ride & Stride Sept 2021



Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the Church community, i.e. 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.

The 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 reviews our policy regularly as it is included on our meeting Agenda. Regular training is given to PCC members.

As always it is important for us all to remain alert and, if anyone is concerned about anything, they need to let the Safeguarding Officer or a representative of the PCC know.

Our main aim, because we are all God's children, is to provide a safe environment not only 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 with explanatory pages.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Ginnie Soffe. Appointed in 2021.

If you have any concerns, contact Ginnie or Reverend Kevin Wright.



‘The Church of England is called to share the good news of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ.

The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.’

From ‘Promoting a Safer Church’,

The Church of England’s Safeguarding Policy Statement

Administration and Structure

Geographically the Parish of Three Saints:

- is constituted of the following villages and hamlets: Brent Knoll, East Brent, Eastertown, Edingworth, Lymsham and Rooksbridge in Somerset
- has three parish church buildings: St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church in East Brent and St Christopher's Church in Lymsham plus a Church Office in 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)

Reverend Kevin Wright

Curate

Reverend Neil Biddiscombe

Reader

Caroline Riall

Churchwardens

St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Frances James (Warden Emeritus)

Mike Smith (Retiring April 2022)

St Mary the Blessed Virgin Church, East Brent

Dot Coles

St Christopher's Church, Lymsham

Victoria Daintree

Parish Administrator

Carole Carter

PCC Treasurer (Acting) Post Vacant

Victoria Daintree

PCC Secretary

Carole Carter

Safeguarding Officer

Ginnie Soffe

External Organisations

Inspecting Architect:

George Chedburn
Chedburn Codd
Bradford-on-Avon
Wiltshire BA14 6RL

Charity Commission

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

Registration Number 1188593

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

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

Friends of St Michael's
Trust

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

PCC Membership as at December 2021

<i>Ex-officio</i>		<u>Position</u>	<u>Term/Expiry</u>
Rector	Reverend Kevin Wright	Chairperson	
Curate	Reverend Neil Biddiscombe		
 Churchwardens			
	Brent Knoll Frances James		Warden Emeritus
	Mike Smith	Retiring April 2022	Annual
	East Brent Dot Coles		Annual
	Lympsham Victoria Daintree		Annual
Deanery Synod Representatives	Maxine Bashford		3 year term /2023
	Dot Coles		
Elected Members	Anthony Barkle	Resigned 2021	3 year term / 2023
	Nick Bashford		3 year term / 2022
	Pauline Chadwick		3 year term / 2023
	Sarah Cole		3 year term / 2023
	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
			
Co-opted	Vacant Post	Treasurer	Annual
	(Victoria Daintree— Acting)		Annual
	Carole Carter	Parish Administrator	Employed
		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 2021:

The Electoral Roll at the end of the 2020	107
Total at the end of 2021	105

Number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for the Parish

	Parish Total for 2021
Baptisms	5
Weddings	5
Funerals	22

Who's Who as at December 2021

Rector- Reverend Kevin Wright

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

Curate- Reverend Neil Biddiscombe curate.tpots@gmail.com

Worship, Mission and Evangelism

Rector, Reverend Kevin Wright and Curate, Reverend Neil Biddiscombe,
Lay Worship Assistants: Chris Wright , Kate Wilford, Caroline Riall.

Deanery Synod:

Maxine Bashford, Dot Coles

Diocesan Synod:

Chris Wright

Pastoral Care Team

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

Lay Pastoral Assistants

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

Buildings and Grounds Teams

Victoria Daintree, Mike Smith, Dot Coles, Carole Carter, (Project help, Tim Hannah)
Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Tony Gilbert, Jim Hanmer, Barbara Foti & Reverend Kevin Wright

Finance Team:

Victoria Daintree Robin Leveridge, Ged Keele, Carole Carter & Reverend Kevin Wright

Fundraising Chair of Teams

St Christopher's:	James Counsell
St Mary's:	Dot Coles/ Carole Carter
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