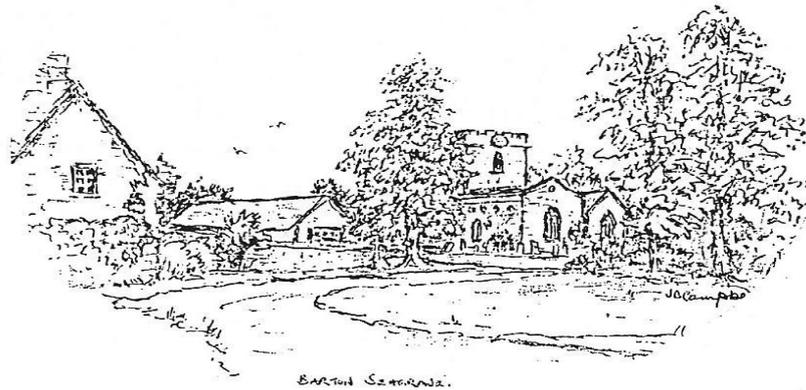


ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH

BARTON SEAGRAVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2021

(Registered Charity Number 1130426)



PRESENTED TO THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

24th May 2021

St Botolph's Church

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**St. Botolph's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 24th May 2021**

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Agenda for Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 24th May 2021

Vestry Meeting at 7:45pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 8:00pm in church

Opening Prayers and Welcome

Vestry Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Monday 8th April 2019
3. Matters Arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Electoral Roll

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 8th April 2019
2. Matters Arising
3. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
4. Election of Parochial Church Councillors
5. Election Sidespersons
6. Appointment of Independent Examiners
7. Chairman's Report
8. Annual Reports
9. GDPR
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting

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St Botolph's Church

Minutes of St Botolph's Vestry Meeting

held in Church on Monday 8th April 2019

55 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas.

The meeting opened with a hymn and then Revd Lucas spoke on Revelation 8: 1-3 "When the Lamb opened the seventh seal there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." The other seal mimicked the plagues. So with the seventh seal we should expect terrible retribution, but there was silence and half an hour is a long time. There was then fire from the censer but God is merciful. In current times parliament is making a mess, so how do we pray? Revd Lucas referred to the views of John Newton that when God is exceedingly displeased with a people, it is not necessary that he should bury them with an earthquake but just leave the people to themselves and their ruin follows. Do not pray that God will judge a country, just leave the people alone so they can mess it up themselves. Revd Lucas said that In this country family life has been destroyed. The country has turned its back on God. The difference is prayer, the angels collecting prayers up. The only hope for the nation is if people pray. Therefore, we have a duty to be informed and to pray, to bring about God's will and pray that God will extend his hand of mercy.

1. Apologies:

Lou Adamson, Heather and Don Cash, Judy Cowan, Steve and Sandy Frost, Victoria Hutchinson, Ali Gosling, Carole Jackson, Maryna Jacobs, Heather Laughton, Dave and Christa Liggins, Liz Pegg, Andrew and Sarajane Saville.

2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held 16th April 2018.

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Churchwardens.

Ken Ansdell was not seeking re-election as Churchwarden. Revd Lucas thanked him for his work over the past 3 years.

Nominations for the positions of Churchwarden had been received for Peter Jackson, proposed by Adrian Keach and seconded by Ken Ansdell, and for Adrian Keach, proposed by Paul Gosling and seconded by Peter Jackson. Peter Jackson and Adrian Keach were unanimously elected to serve at Churchwardens for the coming year. It was noted that this will be the 6th year that Peter Jackson has held the position of Churchwarden and 7 years is the limit without a special dispensation.

5. Election of Deputy Churchwardens.

It was noted that the Election of Deputy Churchwardens is a matter for the PCC and the agenda item for this had been listed in error.

6. Electoral Roll.

It was reported that at the end of the past year the number of parishioners on the electoral roll was 275. The church was required to draw up a new electoral roll by April 2019 and the total number of parishioners on the electoral roll is now 224.

The Vestry meeting ended at 8.17pm.

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Minutes of St Botolph's Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Church on Monday 8th April 2019

55 parishioners were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Revd Mark Lucas. Apologies are as for the Vestry Meeting

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2018.
The minutes were approved as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising.
There were no matters airing

3. Election of Parochial Church Councillors.
Three members of the PCC had come to the end of their term of office, namely Robert Edwards, Veronica Loo, and Jane Wade.

The following nominations had been received:-

Robert Edwards, nominated by Paul Gosling and seconded by Nicola Farrier

Veronica Loo, nominated by Mary-Ann Ansdell and seconded by Ken Ansdell

Sheila McElhone, nominated by Victoria Hutchinson and seconded by Sarajane Saville

Richard Sewell, nominated by Helen Tilney and seconded by Graham Tilney

Jane Wade, nominated by Derek Wade and seconded by Peter Rogers

There being 5 nominations and 5 vacancies, all were unanimously elected to serve for the next 3 years.

A sixth person, Rene Brooking, had submitted a nomination but it had been received too late. It was suggested that she could be co-opted on to the PCC but that matter had to be dealt with by the PCC.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
Alan Deans was nominated by David Wright to be Independent Examiner again, seconded by Veronica Loo, and he was unanimously elected.

5. Election of Sidespersons.
Revd Lucas explained how wonderful sidespersons are, shepherding people in, and they need to be thanked. There was a list of sidespersons at March 2019 presented in the Annual Report booklet prepared for the APCM. Apart from Ellie Burch, Gwen Done and Jean Fawkes who would no longer be standing, the remainder on the list were unanimously elected, together with new sidespersons Phil Burch, Steve Dawson and Graham Farrier. Revd Lucas commented that names of the sidespersons have to be listed in the report as they represent the church. Cayti Bilski is the organiser of those who serve at the 9.15 service and, on a temporary basis, Paul Gosling is the organiser for those who serve at the 6.30 service.

6. Annual Reports.
Revd Lucas referred to the reports in the Annual Report booklet, and invited Revd Andy Clark to speak regarding the church's work with the young people.

Revd Clark wished to mention Colossians 1: "Him (Jesus) we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." We are proclaiming Christ, we

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want to work with the parents and want to present everyone mature in Christ. We want them to grow up through the church knowing Jesus, pushing them, teaching them as mature believers who will offer to serve. The work in schools is growing: at Hayfield Cross, at Barton, at Latimer School, at Isebrook College, and at Bishop Stopford which has Christian students meeting together 4 days a week to pray and read the bible, and it is growing. Revd Clark requested prayer for the schools work, especially while the opportunities are there. He had offered to do a one day bible overview which resulted in 12 children coming on a Saturday looking at the bible from Genesis to Revelation, and the headteacher came along for part. There was growth in 18 as children have been bringing friends, with 25 children regularly attending, a number of whom are from non-church backgrounds. A new level group Equip was being started for the keener Christians. It was stated at a conference in Nottingham that 80-85% of people come to faith before the age of 18, and in Anglican churches if you have 25+ young people, you are in the top 25% of churches in country. We usually see 80-90 young people a week, but must not be complacent and need to strive to do the best that we can.

Revd Lucas thanked the congregation for their prayers.

Finance: David Wright as Treasurer presented charts to identify the sources of income and areas of expenditure, the daily cost of running the church, different funds over the years, the budget for 2019 and pressures on finances. He indicated that the year ending December 2018 had ended up with a surplus of £23,141 mostly in the restricted funds, but in the general fund there was a deficit of £7,677. The surplus was mainly due to planned repair works being deferred to 2019. Income was up by £4,675. Generated additional income included £7,000 in planned giving. 14% of income is from gift aid tax received back. Average monthly giving per family is £100. 73% of receipts are from donors with 3/4 of that income from planned giving. The budget has been planned on the basis of an increase in income of £3,000 but he acknowledged that would be quite an increase to achieve. The trend was that we were receiving more from donors, including a legacy. Investment income referred to rental amounts, and we have had full occupancy of the properties during the past year. Other receipts were from events such as holiday club, and one-off donations.

Regarding expenditure, David Wright indicated that the Parish Share continues to be a major item, about 60% of all expenditure, but for 2019 the percentage would be less as we have budgeted for extra property repairs, some of which had been deferred from the past year. There was a reduction in costs due to Ken Ansdell's negotiation of utility costs, and reduced staff expenses. We try to reduce expenditure but the Parish Share is going up by about 3% per year. The PCC made a commitment to spend 20% of income on mission, so the giving for mission has gone up by £4,000 to £24,000. For 2019, there is a need to account for the cost of preparation for the 900+ celebrations, as well as for increases to repair and maintenance costs, and for the Parish Share which has increased by £18,000 since 2016. Daily running costs for the church have gone up from £517 in 2016 to £621 in 2019 but current income is only £586 per day. The gap has to be filled and is going to have to come from the restricted funds.

David Wright explained that the budget proposal is now being reported under funds. We cannot run the church in a deficit position. We are looking at £43,000 coming out of restricted funds to fund works in the church and the windows in Rectory Cottage, and general maintenance. The Michael Wolf legacy funds will be used for to pay for the Church House patio doors, etc. The Finance Committee meets regularly to make sure we can finance things through a balanced budget. Notification has been received that the regular playgroup booking of £3000-4,000 per year has been lost. We have budgeted for full occupancy of the flats but must make sure this is so. We have taken into account the cost of deferred repairs. The Finance Committee needs to ensure the best use of finances. and is looking to report monthly, based on funds and allocation between restricted and unrestricted funds. It will be a challenging year. We have various income streams which are

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unpredictable. The Parish Share is an increasing pressure. We are having to use reserves to cover deferred repair costs.

Revd Lucas referred to the Parish Share, explaining that it goes to pay clergy and their housing. The use of the Parish Share monies can be seen on the diocesan website. We chose to take on Revd Clark who is paid through the Parish Share. Money in the account for the Youth and Children's work can go towards that element of the Parish Share which pays for Revd Clark, but only in relation to the youth and children's work he does, not his other work as a cleric. It had not been made clear about the transfer from the Youth and Children's Fund to pay for this. A restricted fund has to be used for a specific purpose. Another type of restricted fund is where the PCC have chosen to restrict it, like the Michael Wolf legacy fund, but that restriction can be changed subsequently by the PCC.

Revd Lucas explained that the Parish Share has been designed so that every community has a church. Methodists and Baptists cannot afford to have churches everywhere. We pay more to the Diocese than we get back, by about £20,000, but this helps to support churches that cannot afford to pay full amount. The Diocese is almost £1million down on its income.

8 Annual Safeguarding Audit.

Martin Adamson explained that this church is doing quite well with regard to safeguarding. There is a lot of paperwork to do. The main things to do are showing the report on the church website as a key item, and around issues like safeguarding training. He gave thanks to those who have already done the training. Revd Lucas explained that the safeguarding report was very necessary. The report was accepted unanimously.

9. Any Other Business.

None

9. Date of Next Meeting.

Revd Lucas suggested that the date for the next APCM should be Monday 20th April 2020. The next PCC meeting will take place on Monday 13th May 2019.

The meeting closed with the singing of the hymn Tell Out my Soul and ended at 20.15.

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1. Rector's Report 2020

*Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*

(Hosea 6v1)

To say that 2020 was an unusual year would be to miss its uniqueness. To say 2020 was a year like none before would be closer. We started the year with warnings of a new strain of influenza whose origins traced back to China's wet markets. A new strain of corona virus that, we were told, could sweep the world with devastating consequences. Since it was identified in 2019 it was labelled 'corona virus id. 19,' or COVID-19. The media soon dropped the 19 and dubbed it 'COVID,' a meaningless anacoluthon, yet one we have come to live with. At the start of the year, we were all encouraged not to shake hands, and to wash our hands regularly and thoroughly, while reciting the Lord's Prayer. By March, the virus was spreading uncontrollably, and the government imposed a national lockdown. Among the many restrictions to our freedom, churches were closed. St Botolph's Church has, to my knowledge, opened its doors to worshippers every Sunday for 900+ years. Until 2020. We were told the measures would bring infection under control, though we may need to be in lockdown until Easter. Easter came and went, the lockdown was eventually eased, and we were all 'let out' for the summer, with due cognisance of social distancing guidance. By the time Autumn came, temperatures dropped, and the virus was back in earnest. We were back in lockdown, death tolls rose, and there seemed no end. In December came announcement of effective vaccines but vaccinating the population of the UK is a monumental task and continues as we remain in lockdown (I am writing in February 2021).

1.1 How have we handled the situation?

We learned a lot of new skills during the year. Necessity is, indeed, the mother of invention. At the start of 2020 we knew nothing about livestreaming, producing, filming and editing video, internet video conferencing, Skype and video phone calls. The internet and related technology became our 'mission medium.' Some highlights:

- We livestreamed Morning Prayer every day for the first four months, dropping to weekdays only afterwards. It has been very helpful to re-engage with liturgy, to begin each day with God, and to pray for people, nation, and world.
- We broadcast 'Daily Thoughts', five minute, or so, gobbets of spiritual encouragement. These continue but are now twice weekly, rather than daily. Many people have contributed to these, however, I am in awe of Robert Bashford who just keeps them coming!
- We broadcast a Sunday morning service each week. Many members of the congregation have taken part in this, leading prayers or Bible reading. This service is also made available on DVD and distributed to those who have no internet access.
- Link and 180 have continued weekly using the Zoom platform. When it was allowed these groups met in a marquee in Church House Garden even into the cold months of the Autumn.
- Regular broadcasts were made for young children and families including Story Times and Promise Land online.
- Home groups have continued to meet online.
- We set up a St Botolph's blog site where we post news, advertise events, and give encouraging thoughts.
- We have revived our presence on social media: Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and now Instagram.

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- We have given the website a major facelift and added links to all other of our services. I am hugely grateful to Graham Tilney for this. The website is now the fulcrum of our online presence.
- We have continued staff meetings, and wardens' meetings, using Microsoft Teams.

These all continue. Video broadcasts are via YouTube, meetings via Microsoft Teams or Zoom, livestreaming is to YouTube, Facebook, Twitter/Periscope, and Twitch.

- We had leaflets printed for distribution to neighbours offering help if required. These also contained information about our online services. Many new relationships with neighbours were made.
- We encouraged people to leave a selection of Christian books at the end of their drives with a notice offering them free of charge.

During the year we have preached through:

- Romans 8, a chapter full of massive encouragements and hope for joy to come.
- Romans 12, a chapter of practical encouragement to live godly lives.
- 'Encounters with Jesus' (or, for Andy, 'People Jesus Met') in Luke's Gospel. We considered the change that meeting the living Lord Jesus makes.
- 'Christmas Hope' through Advent and Christmas. Christmas is full of hope, even when the world around is not.

1.2 Highlights

There have been some real highlights during the year:

- 'Online Easter' was a joy despite not being able to meet together. The news of the resurrection will always thrill the soul of a believer.
- We held 'live' services in the church building during the summer, as we were able. We observed social distancing rules, and were not allowed to sing, but it was a joy to be together.
- We held live outdoor services at St Edmund's, Warkton too. We have a new extension to the graveyard here which lent itself very well to meeting together.
- At the end of the summer, and into the autumn we held a number of services at the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough. Many of us found it deeply moving to be together again, and in such wonderful surroundings.
- We ran a Christianity Explored course online.
- We attended the Keswick Convention online.
- At Christmas we sent the message to the community, 'Christmas is not cancelled':
 - During Advent we set up a 'Nativity Advent' trail with decorated Advent windows. Explanations were posted, and photographs posted on social media.
 - We held 'Carols in the Garden' at Church House, observing social distancing and lockdown rules. With a live band and singers, a 'living nativity', and a message of Christmas Hope. We repeated this event three times with much appreciation.
 - We ran live, and virtual, Christingle Services.
 - We livestreamed a carol service on Christmas Eve and Morning Prayer on Christmas Day from the church building.
 - We held a live Midnight Prayer service at St Edmund's.
 - We Broadcast an online Christmas Day service full of joy and hope.
- Having learned to livestream from the church building I hope we may be able to livestream some services in future.

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- Church Meets has continued, and occasional coffee and chat events. I am grateful to Sheila McElhone for organising these.
- Though circumstances have been hard, we have not retreated. It has been hard to keep up with everyone, but we have tried our best. I am certain we have not got it all right, and I apologise to any who have felt forgotten over these dark days.

1.3 Sadness

Apart from the lockdown loneliness and boredom, which we have all experienced, there has been some deep sadness for some:

- The 900+ celebrations were cancelled. Derek Wade had worked extremely hard producing a programme for us to celebrate this amazing event in our history.
- Many lost loved ones during the year. This was doubly tough as funeral services were severely restricted, and pastoral visiting could not happen. These include:
 - Don Cash lost his wife Heather
 - We lost Steve Frost in tragic circumstances
 - Diana Ellis lost her husband Peter
 - Angie Welch lost her husband Mick
 - David Bracy lost his wife Joyce
 - We lost Les Adams
 - Many have lost parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters.

1.4 Encouragements

Some wonderful encouragements:

- We sent Joe Griffiths off to Wycliffe Hall in Oxford to train for Anglican ministry. Please continue to pray for him, Gemma, Isla and Esme.
- We sent Jonathon Burrows to take up the full time post of Youth Minister at Christchurch, Cockfosters in London. Please pray for him in this role, also for Sarah, Rosie, Zack.
- There has been an extraordinary number of births during the year. Congratulations to all new parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. I look forward to many baptism services as soon as we are allowed.

1.5 Finance

The national church is projecting a 20% loss in income this year because of the lockdown events. This will undoubtedly lead to extreme difficulty in meeting financial commitments. It has been suggested that there will be redundancies among the clergy as the deficit bites, something never before known. Many clergy are already stretched over multiple parishes. I am grateful that the Bishop of Peterborough has assured us that there will be no redundancies in this Diocese. We too, as a parish and benefice, are facing a larger deficit than we anticipated and will need to exercise some strict financial management in the next few years. The last thing I want to see is staff cuts, we will be working hard to avoid them. I have no doubt that the Diocesan budget will be hit very hard which will lead to larger than usual increases in Parish Share requests. This will be difficult for us as our parish share payments are, I believe, already unfairly high.

1.6 Hanwood Park

The developments continue apace, rapidly changing the face of Barton Seagrave. Church planting has not been forgotten but has taken a back seat during the pandemic. We need to pray on for God's wisdom and guidance in this.

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1.7 The Team

It is a privilege to work with such a committed team who have risen to the challenges of the year with creativity, resolve and stamina. The team have held the fellowship in their hearts, and we have done our best to keep abreast of pastoral needs and circumstances amidst constantly changing restrictions:

- A big thank you to all who have served on the PCC and its sub-groups, you are a great group of people without whom we could not operate. A special thanks to those who have had their term of service automatically extended by a year.
- I am especially thankful to Adrian and Peter (Wardens) and their wives who have worked doubly hard this year. It has fallen on them, with Paul, to make certain we were following government guidelines when we have opened the church building, organising seating plans, arranging cleaning, and enforcing a one-way system.
- My thanks also to David (Treasurer) and Kate (Pastoral Assistant) for your tireless service and wise counsel.
- Thanks to Andy and Helen and for their commitment to ministry over this difficult period.
- Thanks to Julie, Kirsty and Graham who have supported the work of ministry above and beyond.
- A huge thanks to the retired clergy who are, for me, a source of wisdom and inspiration: Wallace, Robert and Tony.
- Thanks to all who have contributed to online services, daily thoughts and 'Freestyle Fridays.'
- Thanks to Jim Roughton who has assisted with office tasks with his usual flare and attention to detail.
- Thanks to Paul who has kept us in order, made sure we are following the rules, and maintained stocks of hand gel, face masks and cleaning materials. As an ex police officer he has extremely valuable skills.

And may God continue to bless us as we look forward to another year serving Him. My prayer is that we will know His mercy and grace in our land as we emerge from this crisis. May we know that "*he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up*" To him alone be praise and glory for ever.

Mark Lucas - Rector

St Botolph's Church

2. Kettering Deanery Synod Report 2020

*Our mission is to encourage and support the churches of our Deanery to build the Kingdom of God.
We do this by: Building relationships, sharing resources & praying for each other.*

There have been three meetings of the Deanery Synod this year one as a group and two on Zoom.

January 2020 – Hayfield Cross Primary School

1. Charlie Nobbs introduced the local Open the Book volunteers who did a retelling of the Servants and Talents bible story using costumes and props. The Synod then divided into groups which then performed their own story.

2a. Rev. David Walsh gave a financial report and wanted to have a meeting of all Share. The Diocese faces a deficit of £750,000 a year meaning that reserves would run out in 2022.

2b. David was then nominated and seconded as Deanery Treasurer which was carried unanimously.

3. Deanery update.

- a. Cranford in interregnum, parish profile is ready, parish share paid.
- b. Rev David Walsh is Priest-in-charge of Kettering All Saints.
- c. Rev Nick Wills to leave Kettering St Andrew's in March.

4 **AOB** - plans for Thy Kingdom Come. Cathedral to hold service and hog roast on Pentecost Sunday.

May 2020 – Zoom meeting

1. Rural Dean did a short introduction and a Deanery update.
2. Attendees placed into breakout rooms to talk about good news within the churches and prayer items which were then prayed about.

October 2020 – Zoom meeting

1. Rev David Walsh presented a financial update.
2. The Rural dean gave a Deanery update
3. Attendees placed into breakout rooms for prayer.

Gwyneth Mellors
Deanery Synod Secretary
ketteringdeanerysecretary@outlook.com

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3. St. Botolph's PCC Annual Report 2020

3.1. Terms of Reference

St Botolph's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Revd Mark Lucas, in promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, promoting the mission of the Church, as well as pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical matters in the Parish.

The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric and land of the Church, Church House, Rectory Cottage, and the land upon which stood the old Church Rooms.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. The PCC is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under number 1130426.

The Church Representation Rules 2020 (Part 9 Rule M5(1)(b)) require "an annual report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally" to be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

3.2. Objectives, Aims and Achievements

Comments on the Church's objectives, aims and achievements for the year, and plans for the future are set out in the Report of the Churchwardens.

3.3. Membership

Members are elected by the APCM for a period of three years and can also be co-opted by the PCC. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Due to the pandemic, and the resultant postponement of the 2020 APCM at which elections would normally have taken place, those members whose term was due to expire in 2020 had their term extended to 2021.

During the year, the following served on the PCC:

Chairman: Revd Mark Lucas

Ex-Officio members:

Deanery Synod members: Dan Baynes
Joe Griffiths
Maurice Haynes
Peter Jackson
Adrian Keach
Julie Lucas

Churchwardens: Adrian Keach
Peter Jackson

Associate Minister: Revd Andy Clark

Reader: Derek Wade

Other PCC members: (date for re-election in brackets)
Secretary: Veronica Loo (2022)

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Treasurer:	David Wright (2021)
Deputy wardens:	Robert Edwards (2022) Andrew Saville (2021)
Other members:	Louise Adamson (2020) Robert Cowan (2021) Kate Curnock (2020) David Jacobs (2021) Jem Palmer (2020) Robert Smith (2020) Helen Tilney (2021) Jane Wade (resigned for health reasons in April 2020)
Co-opted member:	Rene Brooking (2022)

3.4. Church Attendance

The number of people on the Electoral Roll was 224. As the Church has been closed to public worship for the majority of the year due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to provide average weekly attendance figures. Services have been conducted online every week, viewable via various internet platforms, and have been extensively watched by parishioners but it not possible to ascertain the number of viewings.

3.5. Organisation

In this unusual year of the COVID 19 pandemic, the PCC met only once during the year by way of an online meeting via Microsoft Teams. 13 members participated. Although much of the work of the PCC is normally done through various groups, namely

- Standing Committee
- Fabric Task Group
- Business and Finance Task Group
- Evangelism Task Group (including More Than Gold and Women's Ministry)
- Missions Task Group
- Hanwood Park Task Group
- Health and Safety
- 900+ Group set up to prepare for the 900th Anniversary of St Botolph's in 2020

due to the pandemic the work of the working groups was considerably restricted, but many continued to do their work through online group meetings via Microsoft Teams and Zoom.

3.6. Risk Management

Health and safety is the responsibility of the PCC which must review the Safeguarding Policy annually. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Martin Adamson and the Parish Safety Officer is Robert Edwards.

3.7. Main Objectives of the Year and Major Topics of Discussion

Every PCC meeting normally includes reports from all of the Committees and Task Groups as well as reports on the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings, but many of these had been suspended due to the pandemic. However, topics included the following:

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- Adoption of the Safeguarding Policy and Diocesan Safeguarding Audit, training in safeguarding, and compliance with GDPR
- Health and Safety
- Church finance and methods of giving
- Church involvement in Hanwood Park and other new housing developments
- Repair of Church House, heating and security
- Dispensation of the requirement by Canon Law to open the Church to prevent the spread of coronavirus
- Plans for re-opening the Church post COVID 19
- Works required by the Quinquennial Report
- The churchyard and grounds, including the Wellingtonia tree and boundary walls
- Tower reorganisation plans
- Bat survey
- Potential use of the former Church Rooms land
- Cancellation of the plans for a festival to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of St Botolph's Church due to the pandemic
- Evangelism events taking into consideration the pandemic lockdown

Meetings were chaired by Revd Mark Lucas and commenced with prayer. All items on the agenda were discussed. Every member had the opportunity to express his or her opinion.

3.8. Financial Report

The accounts for the year to 31st December 2020 are included in the papers assembled together for this Annual Report and reference should be made to the Treasurer's "Financial Review" for an appreciation of the Church's financial position.

3.9. The Future

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, its management and control. Fresh ideas regarding the exercise of these duties are always welcome, and decisions are made after prayerful consideration. Anyone aged 16 or over and on the Electoral Roll is eligible to stand for nomination as a PCC member and is encouraged to do so.

Signed on behalf of the PCC by Revd. Mark Lucas

4. St. Botolph's Accounts 2020

Registered Charity Number 1130426

St Botolph's Church

Barton Seagrave

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st December 2020

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Financial Review Year ended 31st December 2020

The attached Accounts give information required of the Parochial Church Council by law as good stewards of monies received and paid.

The Financial statements are set out in pages F4-F8 of this report.

We have had a challenging year in many ways, as we started the year with an original budgeted shortfall of £81,564, however due to the COVID-19 outbreak it was necessary to review the existing budget but this still left us with a budgeted shortfall of £61,866 which was to be funded from contributions from restricted funds, the general fund and match funded income.

The actual outturn for 2020 shows a slight deficit of £409, broken down by a surplus on restricted funds of £9,854 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £10,262.

Funding for the Family Support Worker (FSW) was through one off income and regular donations amounting to £30,947 and expenditure on salaries and expenses of £23,992. The balance on the FSW fund at the end of 2020 was £17,211.

There were several variances against the revised budgeted expenditure over the year, but the large saving was due to spend on maintenance and property repairs being only £21,395 against a budget of £74,960. Whilst this has helped the financial situation for 2020, it only continues to defer the pressure to future years and work budgeted for still needs to be carried out and is becoming more urgent.

Expenditure has been generally well controlled throughout the year, and if the cost of repairs and the FSW are excluded, are broadly in line with the revised budget. One area that has exceeded forecasts is that of IT costs, which due to the additional technology required, to broadcast the services, saw an additional cost of £1,595. This was in part offset by savings on heating costs for the Church and Church House and a reduced spend on Missions from pot 6.

As part of the revised budget, it was expected that income was going to fall significantly due to reduced weddings and lettings. Income did indeed fall but in no way did it fall by what was expected due to significant one-off contributions received from parishioners. These donations helped us to recover in the region of £10k in lost income. The rental for the Church flats was maintained due to full occupancy and other receipts were boosted by smaller one-off donations.

Whilst we are showing a slight deficit for 2020 of £409 it must be understood that the General fund made an overall deficit in 2020 of £11,103 and was only covered by a transfer from the staffing fund which was used to contribute towards the cost of the Associate Minister paid through the Parish Share, which had been fully charged to the General Fund. It must be noted that this is possibly the last year that this can be done, on this scale, due to the closing balance on the staffing fund.

Overall, for 2020 the level of unrestricted and designated funds stands at £152,659 down from £172,103 in 2019 and restricted funds stand at £99,743.

In reviewing the accounts, other points come to note:

- Planned giving rose to £144,828 (2019 £127,150) an increase on last year's actuals of **£17,678**, but FSW planned giving was £22,596 up by £17,217 on last year's planned FSW giving levels.
- The income from Weddings and Funerals and lettings fell by £8,829 against last year's actuals and levels are likely to remain low for 2021.

St Botolph's Church

- Major repairs and maintenance to the Church and Church properties cost **£21,395** (2019 £8,035) but significant levels of repairs still remain outstanding and are programmed into 2021.
- Giving to Missions from unrestricted funds was **£ 15,220**. All the commitments were met but costs were reduced from pot 6 (2019 £24,017)

At the end of 2020:

- General Fund has broken even in 2020 (2019: (£12,922)) and the
- Staffing Fund is in surplus by **£ 3,079** (2019: £7,378)

NB: These are funded by the remaining funds as detailed on Page F6.

The year ahead sees continuing financial challenges, and the reported General fund deficit in 2020, before funds transferred from the staffing fund, **cannot continue** to be funded from reserves given the planned level of expenditure on repairs and maintenance. Therefore, it is vital that the budget for 2021 is set with a balance against the general fund. We will have to continue to apply tighter financial management in the hope that we will be able to bring the Church Finances into balance for 2021 and continue to correct the deficit trend on the general fund. This will require strong financial stewardship, but at the same time ensuring that resources gifted are used in a way that will bring glory to God.

It is a constant challenge to be wise stewards of the resources we have and to be bold in the cause of the Gospel. Through the continued development of new homes in our Parish we have opportunities as never before to reach out to our surrounding community.

We pray that God will provide the resources, human and financial in the years ahead.

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33

May we bring Glory to God in all we do, day by day, week by week.

*David Wright (Treasurer)
19th February 2021*

St Botolph's Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees (PCC) of St. Botolph's Church, Barton Seagrave

This report on the Financial Statements of St Botolph's Church for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages F1 to F7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 43 of the Charities act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishop's council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

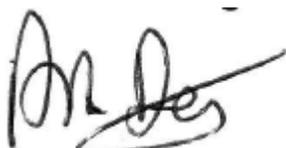
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and

- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met: or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Alan Deans
Kettering
Northants

March 2021

St Botolph's Church

Statement of Financial Affairs (Income)

Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Actuals 2019	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2020	Provisional Budget for 2021			Total
					Restricted	Unrestricted	General	
Incoming Resources								
Receipts from donors								
Planned Giving (Bankers Orders)	127,150	28,390	116,438	144,828	36,800	0	110,000	146,800
Planned Giving (FWO)	8,727	74	4,910	4,984	1,000	0	3,200	4,200
Other Planned Giving (Tax Efficient)	0			0	0	0	0	0
Planned Giving (Non Gift-Aid)	2,700	36	3,264	3,300	300	0	2,100	2,400
Collections at Services	7,652		1,751	1,751	0	0	1,600	1,600
Non-Recurring/ Non Gift-Aided Income	80		2,650	2,650	10	0	200	210
Non-Recurring/ Gift Aided	12,026	248	9,657	9,905	300	0	200	500
Gift Day	0			0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	35,882	5,875	32,754	38,629	8,780	0	28,720	37,500
	194,217	34,623	171,425	206,048	47,190	0	156,020	203,210
Other voluntary receipts								
Legacies	0		730	730	0	0	0	0
Warkton Contribution	800	-	1,536	-1,536	0	0	900	900
One off Grants	0			0	0	0	0	0
Income - Rectory Walk	0			0	0	0	0	0
	800	-	806	806	0	0	900	900
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects								
Fees for weddings & funerals	7,314		3,319	3,319	0	0	3,000	3,000
Coffee Monies	842	-	76	76	0	10	90	100
Bookstall sales	205		69	69	0	0	100	100
Ch hall lettings PCC objects	5,233		399	399	0	0	1,000	1,000
	13,595	-	3,863	3,863	0	10	4,190	4,200
Income from investments								
Bank & building soc interest	774		578	578	0	0	1,500	1,500
Rent Church House Flats	10,277		10,495	10,495	0	0	10,800	10,800
Rectory Cottage	10,271	10,500		10,500	10,800	0	0	10,800
	21,321	10,500	11,073	21,573	10,800	0	12,300	23,100
Other receipts								
Other Funds Generated	2,130		9,104	9,104	0	0	6,500	6,500
Parish weekend	3,296			0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Holiday Club - income	664			0	0	0	0	0
Events and Activities Income	2,506		1,125	1,125	0	0	635	635
Family Support Worker	12,776	3,060	240	3,300	0	0	0	0
900+	2,336		1,595	1,595	0	0	0	0
Misc Income	11,526	10	7,650	7,660	0	0	6,000	6,000
	35,235	3,070	19,714	22,784	0	0	14,135	14,135
Total Income	265,167	48,193	205,267	253,461	57,990	10	187,545	245,545

St Botolph's Church

Statement of Financial Affairs (Expenditure) Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Actuals 2019	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2020	Restricted	Unrestricted	Provisional Budget for 2021 General	Total
Fund raisers - expenses	0			0	-	-	-	-
Missions	24,902	2,123	15,220	17,343	-	-	20,363	20,363
Activities relating to the work of the Church								
Honoraria and Bursary	860		860	860	-	-	900	900
Staff Expenses	7,458	-	3,957	3,957	-	-	4,200	4,200
Youth and Children's work	13,860	23,992	1,562	25,554	26,000	763	-	26,763
Outreach Expenses	2,973	-	1,953	1,953	-	-	550	550
Womens Evangelism	0		22	22	-	-	150	150
Upkeep of services	910		1,539	1,539	-	-	1,200	1,200
Audio, Powerpoint & Music	4,618		798	798	-	-	300	300
Church House Running Costs	13,735	-	8,294	8,294	325	-	10,300	10,625
Fees for Weddings & Funerals	2,926		1,767	1,767	-	-	2,500	2,500
Bookstall purchases	2,495		434	434	-	-	300	300
Parish weekend expenditure	3,200		240	240	-	-	1,000	1,000
	53,035	23,992	21,426	45,418	26,325	763	21,400	48,488
Church management and administration								
Office Salaries	13,926	-	15,638	15,638	-	-	16,357	16,357
Church Running Costs	6,507	-	8,244	8,244	1,450	-	6,800	8,250
Office and Admin Costs	9,853	-	8,478	8,478	-	250	4,705	4,955
Council Tax Flat 1	0		0	0	-	-	-	-
Property Repairs	3,276	1,121	20,274	21,395	30,500	67,400	4,900	102,800
	33,562	1,121	52,635	53,756	31,950	67,650	32,762	132,362
Parish share	134,216	11,103	126,249	137,352	17,031	-	120,321	137,352
Total Payments	245,715	38,340	215,530	253,869	75,306	68,413	194,846	338,565
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	19,452	9,854	10,262	-409	17,316	68,403	7,301	93,020
Total Funds Brought Forward	233,359	89,889	162,921	252,811	99,743	152,659	-	252,402
Total Funds Carried Forward	£ 252,811	£ 99,743	£ 152,659	£ 252,402	£ 82,427	£ 84,256	-£ 7,301	£ 159,382

St Botolph's Church

Funds Movement Summary

Year Ended 31st December 2020

		Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried Forward
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
Apprentice	Apprentice Fund	4,000	0	0	4,000
Pensions	Pension Fund	1,312	0	0	1,312
Bell	Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	0	0	-101
Choirfees	Choir Fees Fund	110	0	0	110
Makeplay	Make and Play Fund	1,210	0	1	1,210
Organ	Organ Fund	126	0	0	126
Family Support Worker	FSW Fund	10,256	30,947	23,992	17,211
Childrens Resources	Childrens Fund	5,000	0	0	5,000
Property Chapel	Chapel Fund	10,000	0	0	10,000
Potters	Potters Place Fund	785	0	0	785
Share	Shareplan Fund	2,643	1,982	2,123	2,502
Rectory	Rectory Cottage Fund	-	0	-5,250	5,250
Propres	Property (restricted) fund	49,950	8,460	10,111	48,299
Staff	Staffing Fund	7,378	6,804	11,103	3,079
Welfare	Fellowship Fund	960	0	0	960
		£ 93,629	£ 48,193	£ 42,080	£ 99,743

Designated and Unrestricted Funds

General	General fund	- 12,922	195,136	182,214	0
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	Pilgrims Fund	655	217	0	872
Prophold	Property Holding Fund	73,134		0	73,134
Coffeeshop	Coffee Shop Fund	248	25	0	274
RectWDes	Rectory Walk Designated Fund	63,556		44,770	18,786
Sarajevo	Sarajevo Fund	1,320		217	1,103
Wolf	Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	31,589		-15,411	47,000
Youth	Youth and Children's Projects	1,601	9,889		11,490
		£ 159,182	£ 205,267	£ 211,790	£ 152,660

Total Funds

£ 252,811	£ 253,461	£ 253,870	£ 252,402
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St Botolph's Church

Balance Sheet

Year Ended 31st December 2020

	Year 31/12/2019	Year 31/12/2020
<u>Fixed assets</u>		
Fixed assets Church House / Rectory Cottage	135,000	135,000
Fixed assets Buildings depreciation	- 62,760	- 62,760
	£ 72,240	£ 72,240
<u>Current assets</u>		
Bank Current Acc.	44,645	37,022
Bank Deposit Acc.	41,420	54,327
Internal Orgs Bank Acs	1,039	1,043
Central Board of Finance	100,000	100,000
Cash in hand	106	144
Accounts Receivable	4,444	2,396
	£ 191,654	£ 194,933
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Agency Collections	7,567	10,822
Accounts Payable	3,516	3,949
	£ 11,083	£ 14,771
<u>Net Assets</u>	£ 252,811	£ 252,402
<u>Held in Funds as Follows:</u>		
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Apprentice Fund	4,000	4,000
Pension Fund	1,312	1,312
Bells and Belfry Fund	- 101	- 101
Choir Fees Fund	110	110
Make and Play Fund	1,210	1,210
FSW Fund	10,256	17,211
Childrens Fund	5,000	5,000
Chapel Fund	10,000	10,000
Organ Fund	126	126
Potters Place Fund	785	785
Shareplan Fund	2,643	2,502
Property (restricted) fund	49,950	48,299
Rectory Cottage Fund	-	5,250
Staffing Fund	7,378	3,079
Fellowship Fund	960	960
	£ 93,629	£ 99,743
<u>Designated and Unrestricted Funds</u>		
General fund	-12,922	0
Soup and Sandwich Lunch	655	872
Property Holding Fund	73,134	73,134
Coffee Shop Fund	248	273
Rectory Walk Designated Fund	63,556	18,786
Sarajevo Fund	1,320	1,103
Michael Wolf Legacy Fund	31,589	47,000
Youth and Children's Projects	1,601	11,490
	£ 159,182	£ 152,659
Total Funds	£ 252,811	£ 252,402

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on it's behalf by Revd. Mark Lucas (PCC Chairman)

Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31st December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

- a) The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, using the accruals basis.
- b) Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restriction regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC.
- c) Restricted Funds represent funds of the PCC which can only be used for specific purposes.
- d) Income Tax recoverable under Gift Aid is not recognised until received.
- e) The Freehold Property in use by the Church is based on a historical valuation less depreciation.

2. Fixed Assets comprise 2 Freehold properties:

- Church House
- Rectory Cottage.

The Book value of these properties does not reflect current market value.

The Property Holding Fund finances both properties.

3. Employees

- (a) The average number of employees in the year was 3 (2019: 3)
- (b) The total remuneration of employees amounted to **£39,376** (2019: £23,625).

The figure for 2020 includes the full year for the FSW and a refund through the job support grant for the Cleaner of £1,549.

4. Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr. Alan Deans, received no fees for his services, but a donation was given to a The Railway Children fund of £60.

5. Parish Share	2020	<i>2019</i>
Full amount paid:	£137,352	<i>£134,216</i>

5. Honoraria:

- The Treasurer, Mr David Wright received **£500**. (2019 £500)
- The Musical Director, Mt Graham Tilney received **£300** (2019: £300)
- Donation for Audit services **£60** (2019 £60)

St Botolph's Church

6. Churchwardens' & Fabric Report 2020

The year 2020/21 has been a year like no other before it in respect of our church life, and for the first time all our churches have been closed at various times not only to the public but also to the clergy. Even when allowed to open, restrictions placed upon access and numbers being able to attend either by actual numbers or imposed by the spacing arrangements for seating, severely restricted attendance, and limitations were placed on acts of worship such as singing and partaking of communion which were banned.

Newspaper reports abounded quoting various secular groups as saying that this was the end of the established church and, yes, there have been difficult times and yes, it is extremely sad that we cannot sing in church or take communion in the form intended or even to use the church as a place to meet and socialise after a service. However, while there are examples of churches just accepting that they can't open and doing nothing, most churches have attempted to carry on and worship the LORD as best they can and our church is a shining example of that.

We are being led by an active and innovative clergy and leadership team who have found new ways of ensuring that we can carry on giving praise and thanks to the LORD. With only one exception our traditional bible based gospel preaching has been given every Sunday by either Mark or Andy throughout the time since mid March - a marathon effort for which we record our grateful thanks and that is not to mention the daily half hour Morning Prayer time. Our on-line services have developed from what was probably a predictably shaky start to something that, apart from the odd glitch, now looks quite professional. The outdoor services that we had in the summer were a great success and, although logistically Christmas was a nightmare, the services that we were able to provide have shown just how well the clergy and the team have performed this year. We, the wardens, would like to offer our own thanks to all involved in keeping our church open, if not physically, then at least spiritually.

We think it needs mentioning that our youth and children's work has also carried on throughout the pandemic, either on line or face to face in Church House garden - and we should commend Andy and Helen for their leadership and enthusiasm which has maintained the youngsters' attention throughout this difficult period

In addition to the staff team many members of our congregation have also assisted by giving of their time to record bible readings and prayers for inclusion in the services, clean the church and decorate it when we have been able to hold services.

Lockdown has presented problems other than being unable to hold regular church services, and the incarceration caused by the vulnerable having to isolate has been a cause for great concern. However, we know that much is going on, not necessarily through the clergy, although they are involved, but also by the congregation in trying to have some form of contact with those who need it. Much goes on unseen throughout the congregation but, although only the tip of the iceberg, a flavour of this can be seen by the requests for prayer and or help for others that appear on the church's "WhatsApp" site and the more traditional prayer chain.

Therefore, as this "year" draws to a close we as Wardens would like to thank all of our congregation for your patience during any teething problems that have occurred in holding online services throughout the pandemic, and for demonstrating your faith by joining in with the many novel ways that we, at St. Botolph's have found to give praise to the LORD.

Already 2021 is looking just as challenging for the church in general as this last year has been and there are already rumours that there is a risk that the church will have to lose 20% of its clergy in order to be financially stable. Such losses would presumably be from churches who, technically, are financially unviable themselves and are being subsidised either by the central church or locally through their diocese.

St Botolph's Church

However, whilst we here at Barton Seagrave may be relatively safe from the fall out of any such reduction in clergy, we may have to begin thinking as to whether we can assist others less fortunate.

6.1 Fabric Group

Lockdown and the social distancing restrictions have had quite an impact on the fabric group this year in that we have not been able to meet as often as we would like and, when we have, it has been over Zoom which is not quite as conducive to proper discussion as is sitting round a table.

Prior to lockdown we did have quite a bit of work that we intended to complete during the year which, apart from the usual general maintenance of the fabric, heating, lighting and alarm systems we had also hoped to include works under the tower area to provide a new servery and toilet facilities; together with replacement of the patio windows and doors in the fellowship room; and, replacement and/or repair of the windows in Rectory Cottage. However, lockdown had a major impact on the construction sector particularly the supply chain providing materials or key components for inclusion in the works. That said, some work has been completed both by ourselves and by outside contractors:

- Part of the regular quinquennial works requires that we keep the church rainwater goods (gutters and downpipes) in good order and fix any leaks caused by broken and/or cracked roof tiles. A team from the church has been on the roof cleaning gutters and down pipes twice this year, once early in 2020 and once in January this year. However, there is still some work to resolve some ponding in one of our gutters but this will wait until the weather improves.
- We were able to have some indoor services this year and those of you who could attend would have noticed that the heating system was not working. This we have fixed by having a major component replaced within the boiler room.
- At the start of the year the government's planning appeals group finally informed us that permission to fell the Wellingtonia Tree had been refused. In order to ensure that we adequately protected people using Church House gardens we have now installed a permanent fence around the tree. Our insurance company requires us to have warnings placed advising people using Rectory Walk of the danger of falling branches. This had already been done but will be renewed again shortly.
- The regular inspections of the heating, lighting and alarm systems in both the church and Church House have been carried out and any necessary work undertaken. In addition the boilers and heating system have now been put onto a maintenance contract to ensure that they are kept in good condition.
- Unfortunately, the lockdown necessitated that the company replacing the doors/windows within the Fellowship Room had to close for most of the lockdowns which delayed the work to that area. However, this work has now been completed except for a final coat of paint externally.
- Planning permission was received some time ago for the works to the tower area in church but again, lockdown forced the contractor due to carry out that work to close during lockdown. It had been hoped that work would commence on 22 February this year but the post-Christmas lockdown has again delayed this work. However, it is hoped that formal contracts can be exchanged and the work commenced shortly after the current lockdown has been lifted.
- Following a protracted period of discussion with Kettering planning department approval was finally obtained to replace most of the windows on the south side of Rectory Cottage but again Lockdown prevented the new windows from being assembled and the existing windows repaired due to social distancing issues within the workshop. Further discussions are to be had with the contractor to see what if anything can be done before Lockdown is lifted.

6.2 Finance Group

Two months into the year financial year Covid 19 was already having a major impact upon the country and when the first Lockdown had been imposed in March we knew that we had to budget for a significant loss of revenue from both regular giving and from lettings and events. However, we did manage to set a

St Botolph's Church

balanced budget for the year although this did require us to make some difficult decisions and to include provisional income from a "Giving Day" if we were to avoid the necessity of having a reduced mission budget for the year.

The full details of the income and expenditure can be obtained from the Treasurer's report, but it is worth noting that despite the difficult financial climate that has been encountered this year we have closed the year showing a zero balance on our current account without having to draw upon our reserves other than the procedure agreed by the PCC some time ago that funds set to the youth ministry could be used to offset the element of the Youth Minister's costs included within the Parish Share.

It is true that we have lost income over the year but this has fortunately been offset by a one off donation of +£9,000, made in January of last year and a further 9 donations throughout the year that have amounted to again +£9,000. In addition to these one-off donations 11 families have increased their regular monthly giving and we would like to thank all members of our church community for their continued financial support during these difficult times. However, we cannot rely on receiving generous donations again this year to help balance the books, so we would ask all members to prayerfully consider their giving and respond as they feel the Lord is prompting.

The Financial group has over time gradually diminished and, despite both wardens now joining the group there are only five members of the group remaining - the two wardens, the treasurer, the rector, and the secretary. Therefore, we would ask if there is anybody within the congregation who considers that they could contribute in some way to the management of church finances, especially younger members of the congegation.

6.3 Sidespersons' Report

It is a requirement that each year the church approves, by voting in, the persons who are prepared to serve as a sidesperson for the coming year. The cancellation of the APCM last year meant that this was not carried out but in the event the lockdown and closure of the churches resulted in the need not to have sides persons as such for most of the time. Any duties undertaken when services were held were carried out on an ad hoc basis by a small number of volunteers and we would like to offer our thanks to these people without whom it would not have been possible to hold the indoor services.

In order to comply with the church's requirement to vote in the sidespeople each year the following people have been contacted and have agreed to be included on the rota should the Lockdown be lifted and the church being able to open as normal:

The list below sets down those who have indicated that they are willing to carry out the role of sidesperson during 2021 and we would ask that you approve this list.

Sidespersons

Martin	Adamson	David	Jacobs
		Maryna	Jacobs
Cayti	Bilski		
Ellie	Burch	Eileen	Mason
Lindsey	Burch	Sharon	Mason
		Tina	Murphy
Toby	Clegg		
Jenna	Colson	Tina	Noble
John	Cresswell	Anne	Pegg

St Botolph's Church

Gwen	Done	Beryl	Read
Pippa	Evans	Neville	Read
Geoff	Fawkes	John	Russell
Jean	Fawkes	Asha	Silk
Tim	Fawkes	Karen	Snape
		Alice	Spence
Ali	Gosling		
Paul	Gosling	Andrew	Thomson
David	Heggie	Elaine	Walker
		Roger	Walker
Carole	Jackson	Jacqui	Ward
Peter	Jackson	Simon	Wills
		David	Wright
Maureen	Russell	Flora	Wright

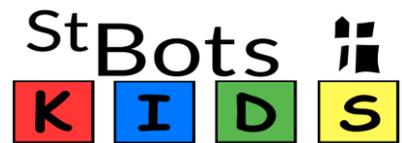
Churchwardens
Peter Jackson and Adrian Keach

7. Children's & Youth Ministry 2020

St Bots Children's & Youth Ministry aims to be Good News for Children and Young people
(in Barton Seagrave & beyond)



He [Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.



[The New International Version.](#) (Col 1:28–29).

In Partnership with Parents & Carers - We want...

- to help children and young people:
 - come to know and love Jesus as Saviour & Lord
 - grow to maturity in their faith
 - become active, serving members of the church
- to equip children and young people to:
 - be lifelong followers of Jesus
 - effectively share their faith with their friends and family
 - live 'in the world' but not be 'of the world'
- in all these things to work in partnership with parents and carers
- the children's and youth ministry groups to be the highlight of the young people's week

Through everything that has happened over the last year God has again been faithful in youth ministry and we have lots to give thanks for. Since the start of the pandemic, it has been a steep learning curve and we have had to adapt and change very quickly. We now have increased our use of social media and digital media to keep the young people engaged and connected.

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We now email out weekly newsletters to all the parents (this helps the parents to keep up to date with what we are doing and lets them know of any sudden changes!), there is also a weekly graphic to advertise that week's session which goes up on WhatsApp and the new St Bots Youth Instagram account.

For the first half of the year (the first lockdown) we also set weekly challenges both silly and serious (such as 'Create your own crazy golf course' or 'Tell us your favourite Bible verse') to keep the young people engaged.

We have continued to meet with both Link & 1eighty either virtually on Zoom or in Church House Garden in a marquee (which was very generously donated). When the first lockdown started, we continued to meet even in the holidays when we would normally have a break so both groups met every week from January to the end of July 2020.

Learning to run youth groups on Zoom has been challenging and we are still learning!

Whilst we have seen a slight fall in numbers when meeting on Zoom (some young people feel very self-conscious meeting on Zoom, also others have done home school all day on a screen want a break from screens), meeting in person in the marquee has seen the numbers go back up. Overall however we have seen greater consistency in attendance than we would normally see over the year. We are very grateful to God that he has been faithful in keeping these young people engaged. The young people continued to turn up to meet in the marquee even when it was freezing cold some arrived with sleeping bags and blankets!

I think however what it has shown is that despite the reputation that young people like to be on screens all day - there is no substitute for meeting personally, face to face, for building relationships and for engaging young people with the good news of Jesus.

Last term we have been sad to say goodbye to two longstanding members of our team; Joe Griffiths (who has gone to train for ordination at Wycliffe Hall Oxford) and Jonathon Burrows (who has gone to be the Youth Minister at Christ Church, Cockfosters). They will be very greatly missed. We are excited that Rosie Dooley has just joined the Link team, however, we still very much need your prayers for new leaders.

We are so grateful to our small team for all their efforts, support and perseverance during this challenging year.



(School years 7-9)

The name '1eighty' comes from Mark 1:15 which is the first thing Jesus says in Marks Gospel. He calls us to repentance which can be described as 'doing a 180'. 1eighty is a lovely group of young people who (would normally) meet on Sunday mornings during the 9:15am service and on Thursday evenings.



(School years 10-13)

Link meets each Wednesday evening during term time.

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Because of the pandemic, 1eighty and Link have been looking at the same teaching material for most of the last year. 1eighty Started the year thinking about 'Following the leader' as we got to grips with some of Jesus' parables in Matthew's gospel. Link started looking at Paul's letter to the Colossians in a series called 'Apps to live by'.

Both Link & 1eighty spent time thinking about what it means to be genuine as we looked at the beatitudes from Mathew's gospel and 'A Life Less Ordinary' from Paul's second letter to his friend Timothy. Since Christmas we have been using 'Soul' (the youth version of Christianity Explored). It's been great to get back to basics and be reminded what we believe and why.

In addition to our normal weekly meetings in the last week of July, Link and 1eighty met jointly in the marquee every evening to join in with the Keswick convention's virtual youth program. This was great fun to be a part of and involved live music, games, interviews, chat and great relevant teaching from the Bible. We even managed to get a 'shout out 'on the last night!

Please pray as many of us (particularly the young people) get tired of screens, that we would be able to continue to be creative and engaging. Please pray that we would be able to meet back in the marquee soon. Please mostly pray that the young people would continue to meet Jesus and find hope, security and life in Him.

Equipped

'Equipped' is a new group which started last year. It is for any young person from both Link and 1eighty. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of the month after the 6:30pm service at Rectory Cottage.

The purpose of this group is to provide a group for some of the 'keen' Christians to equip them with skills and help them think a bit more deeply about living for Jesus. Last year we looked at how we can understand the bible for ourselves, how to prepare and lead a bible study and we also read a book together looking at the issue of suffering (If I were God, I'd end all the pain).

Equipped met for the first few weeks of 2020 before the pandemic took hold and since then we have paused this group.

Schools

Obviously with the pandemic contact with schools has been difficult. Helen has provided some of our puppet shows for Hayfield Cross school to use in their online assemblies where Helen is also a governor.

Andy has continued his more formal role mentoring the chaplain at Bishop Stopford School and has kept in touch and tried to support the school where he is able. Andy also produced online assemblies and did the talk for their virtual online Carol Service.

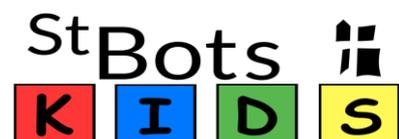
Please pray that we would be able to go back into schools and have opportunities when lockdown eases.

Andy Clark

8. Families and Children's Worker Report 2020

St Bots Children's & Youth ministry aims to be Good News for Children and Young people (in Barton Seagrave & beyond)

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. Proverbs 22:6



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Thanks to the generosity of our church families at St Botolph's and St Edmund's, I was able to take up the newly created post of Families and Children's Worker in September 2019. During the six months that followed, I began to get to grips with the incredible work that was already going on with children and families and also to see where the opportunities were for developing that work and introducing new initiatives. Things that were already happening included:

- Promise Land Sunday teaching groups for primary age and pre-school children.
- Monthly Family Services at 9:15am at St Botolph's.
- Refresh weekly Bible study and prayer group for mums with babies and young children (see separate Refresh report by Kirsty).
- Make and Play weekly group for mums, dads, carers and their pre-school children.
- Holiday Club at Easter for primary aged children from within the church family and the local community.
- Christingle service at Christmas.
- Sunday School at St Edmunds.

8.1 Promise Land at St Bots

Our Sunday morning groups met during the 9:15am service and were led by an amazing group of volunteers who taught the children the wonderful truths of the Bible week by week. Thank you to everyone who led a group throughout the year. From the pre-schoolers in Beginners, through the Finders, Explorers and Discoverers' groups, the children heard about Jesus and his amazing love for them.

8.2 Make and Play

We are incredibly blessed to have faithful volunteers who ran this group each week; I would like to thank each and every one of them including those who came each week to organise the refreshments - the tea ladies (and gentlemen)! There were some weeks when we felt that the Fellowship Room would burst at the seams with babies, toddlers and their carers. Each week we would start in church with some songs and a Bible story before heading over to Church House for toys, refreshments and some more singing.

8.3 Refresh

During this first six months in post, I was able to run two parenting for faith sessions with the Refresh group and this is certainly something I want to repeat and develop once we are able to meet in person again.

We also had our very first film afternoon just before Christmas 2019 when several families came together in the Fellowship Room to watch the great animated film 'The Star'. And you can't have a film afternoon without popcorn!

8.4 Who Let The Dads Out

I have always felt that there should be an opportunity for dads and young children from the church family to meet together and invite their friends to and so at the beginning of 2020 we had our first 'Who Let the Dads Out' session. This was held on a Saturday morning; a group of dads and their pre-school children met for bacon butties (thank you Phill!), toys and chat. We were only able to have two sessions before Lockdown stopped us from meeting but this is definitely something that I would like to start again when we can.

8.5 The Future

When Covid struck, all the groups I was involved with stopped very suddenly and I was left asking myself, "what do I do now?" and "how can I best serve families and children and do God's will through the uncertainty of a pandemic?" By God's grace I have been able to adjust some aspects of my work and

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move them on-line. We meet each Wednesday and Sunday for Promise Land sessions on Zoom and usually see between 4 and 10 children each time. We can truly call ourselves an international group as we regularly have children from Wales and Slovakia join us!

During the first Lockdown I recorded videos of myself reading each of the 44 chapters in the Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones. This is a wonderful children's Bible which points families to Jesus from the very first story in the Old Testament. I also recorded several 15 minute sessions for pre-schoolers which included nursery rhymes, Christian songs and a Bible story.

I have introduced another member to the team during the pandemic; I hope you have all made the acquaintance of Jonah who has been helping me record short videos for our on-line Sunday morning services. Jonah would also like to thank Jasmin, Emily and his other friends for helping in this way!

I have tried to keep in touch with the families who came to Make and Play. Myself and other members of the team delivered a children's Nativity book and Christmas card to the children in December and I also take a book and card to children on their birthdays.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in our Advent window initiative through the month of December. Each and every window was so thoughtfully designed and a real witness to our community of the true meaning of Christmas. Perhaps we've started a tradition?

In conclusion, I want to thank you all for your prayers and support over the past eighteen months. None of us could have foreseen what those months held and so we continue to trust our great and mighty God who holds all things in his hands. I am so grateful to him for his provision and sustaining love and I pray that we will all continue to look to him, our rock, our fortress and our deliverer.

Helen Tilney
Families and Children's Worker

9. Safeguarding Report 2020

It would be easy to believe that Safeguarding was another one of those things that went on hold because of the pandemic, but that is far from the case. The increasing dependency on IT and the potential to use it for harm, is an area that all those involved in safeguarding have been very aware of and I am grateful for the good practice that has been demonstrated by team at St Botolph's.

One of the impacts of the last 12 months is the way safeguarding and the mental health agenda have become more and more entwined. The lockdowns have, unsurprisingly, had a particularly damaging effect on the more vulnerable in our community and in many cases, we are just beginning to see how this is effecting individuals. I am sure that this will be an issue that will require much prayer, wisdom and insight over the next few years.

At diocese level, a number of new systems have been put in place (mostly administrative) and we will begin to engage more fully with them once we get a better idea of what the future looks like.

As always, I thank you for everyone's support and urge you to pray for all those who will be working with our children, young people and vulnerable adults over the next twelve months – I sense it could be a challenging time.

Martin Adamson.

10. Evangelism Report 2020

*"The second is this 'love your neighbour as yourself'.
There is no commandment greater than these" Mark 12:31*

At no time in my 50 years, have these words had greater resonance with me, or impact on me, than since March of last year. I am sure I am not alone in this.

As I sat to think about what to write, I realised I had very little to report on Evangelism activities, as we have previously understood the concept. We've had a handful of Taskgroup Zoom meetings, but our lockdowns and long-term separation have resulted in a relative paralysis. But then again, not so.

In all situations we, the church, are called to 'make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil', as Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians. And St Botolph's leadership team have risen to this, with our online services and daily morning prayer, and, when legally permitted, with outdoor in-person services and live streams. What a joy and delight, despite the mud, more mud and incessant rain, to invite our community to carols and a nativity in church house garden, as well as to a 'packed' (in socially distanced terms) christingle. Mark also ran a seekers course via zoom earlier last year, when the Zoom experience was still a relatively new idea.

The Women's ministry team have raised the bar to new levels of creativity and utter brilliance, with a whole host of outreach and relationship-building Zoom events; girls nights in, Christmas crafts, book club...to name a few. A fantastic way to engage with others in these days of isolation. Out of the box Evangelism and fellowship!

Going back to the opening verse from Mark however, I am equally struck by the opportunities we have, of loving one another, our actual neighbours, from our own front doors. Everyone is struggling in some way, no one person has escaped what is happening. There are painful and difficult stories on every corner. These months have been dark and difficult. Now really must be OUR time, as God's people, here in Barton Seagrave to "live as children of light and find out what pleases the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8&9). We can hold out the light of Jesus in the surrounding darkness.

I know, indisputably, that we will have all been active over the past year, reaching out to neighbours, the lonely, the bereaved, those in our streets, to those who need a phone call, a meal or a doorstep chat. Again in Ephesians 5:1, Paul encourages us to "follow God's example as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us"

So my report is to encourage us all to keep on keeping on, keep on praying for those who live in the houses that surround you, keep submitting to one another and loving our neighbours. In so doing we will proclaim the glory of our risen Christ, we will share His light and the hope of eternal life through Him. There is no commandment greater than these.

Victoria Hutchinson

11. Lay Pastoral Ministers' Report 2020

In this unprecedented year, when regular groups and events have had to be suspended, we have had to look for different ways to provide pastoral care for church members. Home groups have continued with meetings over Zoom and many have overcome any initial barriers to the use of such technology in order to benefit from 'virtual' face to face contact, support and prayer. Online daily services, 'thoughts for the day', regular prayer meetings on Zoom and opportunities for virtual coffee and chat have been appreciated by many. We are grateful to all the people who have contributed to making these happen.

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12.1 Visiting

Although visiting in people's homes has not been possible for much of the year, the church family has responded to the need for making regular phone calls, and where appropriate, chats across driveways or taking socially distanced walks. It has been encouraging to hear of how many people are looking out for others and keeping in contact, especially with those who are living alone or who can't get out easily. Church members without access to the Internet have been offered DVDs of services which have been delivered on a weekly basis.

12.2 Baptism Preparation

We have been delighted at the arrival of several new babies within our church family and look forward to being able to arrange baptisms later in the year. Please pray for young families who have missed being able to bring their children to church in the usual way.

12.3 Marriage Preparation

With restrictions on weddings during the past year, many couples have had to postpone their ceremonies. The last Marriage Preparation course was held just before the first lockdown in early March 2020, and since then it has only been possible to offer couples the study material to work through at home.

12.4 Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry team has organised several social events for women of all ages to meet virtually via Zoom: a craft evening and two 'Girls' Night In' events. These have focused on providing encouragement and social interaction during lockdown. There has also been an opportunity to read and discuss a Christian book in groups on Zoom.

12.5 Wednesday Women's Bible Study Group

A group for women of all ages, we currently have around 14 regular members. From the start of lockdown in March 2020, we decided to keep our meetings going on Zoom including during school holidays. Meeting weekly for 'Share and Prayer' has been a great encouragement and helped us to stay connected during this difficult year. We have based some of our Bible studies around the Sunday sermon series while also covering the topics used by evening home groups.

Kate Curnock

12. Home Bible Study Groups 2020

As in other areas of church life, Home Groups have had to face up to the challenge to adapt to Zoom technology over the past year. Almost all Home Groups have done so and regular meetings for Bible study and prayer have flourished. In addition to this, phone-contacts within each Home Group have ensured that pastoral support of members has continued.

Home Groups concluded the series of studies on Paul's Letter to the Galatians around Easter time in 2020. During the early summer, Home Groups undertook to provide their own studies, and many found that looking at selected Psalms was a worthwhile exercise. A course on the first half of Daniel was also made available, which a number of groups worked their way through during the autumn.

Since the beginning of 2021, Home Groups have embarked on the second half of John's Gospel, having tackled the first half of that Bible book in 2018-19. Feedback indicates that these studies are proving to be valuable.

I wish to pass on my thanks to fellow Home Group leaders for preparing and leading studies.

Robert Bashford

13. Flower Report 2020

2020 was certainly not the year that was anticipated with the Covid 19 virus changing all that was familiar and held dear to us a church family.

As the church was only open for small services part of the year the Flower arranging team went on furlough.

My thanks to those of you who arranged some flowers whilst the church was open for prayer and services. I appreciate that many were shielding or in a position where they didn't feel comfortable coming into the church building but God willing, 2021 will see the church building open for regular services as the effect of the virus recedes.

Many people appreciated the flower arrangements at Harvest and Christmas, which although were scaled back, gave people some feeling of the cycle of the seasons in what has been and a very unusual and challenging year.

Anyone who has an interest in joining our team please contact me on 01536 721058 or 07804013990.

Chris Roughton