

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WINSCOMBE AND SANDFORD

Church of England
Benefice of Winscombe and Sandford



St James the Great, Winscombe



All Saints, Sandford

11th October 2020

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Reports for
St James the Great and All Saints
for the year ended
31st December 2019

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
REPORTS FOR ST JAMES THE GREAT, WINSCOMBE
AND
ALL SAINTS, SANDFORD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019**

1. OUR SHARED VISION

is to be a visible Christian presence at the heart of our communities, serving others and encouraging the Love of God through Jesus Christ.

2. CHURCHWARDENS REPORT FOR 2019

2019 was the year we spent looking for a new incumbent. The Profile Writing Team produced an excellent document which was approved by the PCC at their meeting on 4th February. The Profile went out with the advertisement in March and we had one applicant. It was decided not to interview the applicant. The second advertisement was placed on 26th April and again there was only one applicant. That applicant was interviewed in June, but the panel decided not to offer him the post. After a meeting with the Archdeacon in July it was decided to go out to advertisement again with shortlisting fixed for 8th October. Again, there was only one applicant who was not interviewed. Our vacancy continued into 2020 and the fourth round of advertisements produced three applicants, one of whom was not called for interview. After the other two were interviewed on 10th March, our Curate Andrew was appointed.

For many years it had been recognised that the vicarage, a few hundred metres from St James's, was not in the right place, in relation to the centre of the Parish. The PCC had made a number of representations to the Diocese for it to be sold, all to no avail. After the third round of advertising to fill the vacancy, it was felt that the location of the vicarage might have been one of the contributing factors to the lack of suitable applicants responding to the advertisements. After further representations to the Diocese they finally agreed to sell the vicarage and purchase a new house on the Redrow development in Winscombe. It went on the market on 24th September, and an offer was accepted on 1st October. The new owners moved in on 17th January 2020.

The PCC met eleven times in 2019, with an additional extraordinary meeting in July. Much was discussed, agreed and approved by the PCC during the year. The meeting in July was specifically to discuss readvertising the vacancy, and to write to the Diocese about the sale of the vicarage. As in the latter part of 2018, the PCC continued to ensure the smooth running of the Parish during the vacancy. We would like to thank the PCC members for their dedication and support. The day to day running continued to be discussed, nearly every week, by the Ministry Executive Team (MET) of ourselves and our Curate Andrew. The Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) of the MET plus Hilary Hagen, Canon Shaun Darley, Revd. A, Sarah Gunn and Jan Welling met four times during the year. They were joined half way during the year by Revd. Warren Williams. They worked with Andrew to populate the service plans. Again, we would like to thank them for ensuring that all the services planned were able to continue with familiar leaders.

Some significant business enacted, and events that happened, during the year included

January	Review of moving third Sunday in the month Holy Communion to St James's Church Hall, which started in November 2018. Increased letting charges for Church Hall.
February	Donation of new Communion set and candles for the Church Hall. Thank you to Margaret Aske for donating these in memory of Jeremy. Approval of the Parish Profile. Charitable Giving. Thank you to the Faith in Action Group. Application for faculty for removal of pews at All Saints.
March	Offer from Friends of St James's Church to support the restoration of the West Door.
April	Portable Altar for the Church Hall, given by John Wilson in memory of his wife Marjorie and crafted by Tony Callow. It was dedicated for use as an Altar by Andrew. Annual Parochial Church Meeting - 29 th April 2019. Experience Easter - see separate report.
May	Baptism of Teddy Woods in the Church Hall on 19 th May.
June	Approval of Health and Safety Policies. Owyn Hiscox's full immersion baptism at Bagley Baptist Church on 30 th June.
July	New upholstered chairs for All Saints from St Andrew's Church Bournville.
September	Break-in causing damage to the Tower door at St James's but nothing was stolen. Knitted Bible - see separate report. Parish Family Holy Communion at Sandford Station on 29 th September.
October	Robert Yeomans - 50 years on the Bench Celebratory Concert Sale of the Vicarage.
November	Replacement upholstered chairs for the Church Hall - from Shipham Village Hall. Andrew's placement with Crook Peak Parish until 18 th January 2020.
December	Christmas Services 8 th December Christingle (STJ) 17 th December Sandford School Carol Service (STJ) 18 th December Winscombe School Carol Service (STJ) 22 nd December Carol Service (STJ) 24 th December Crib Service (AS) Carol Service (AS) First Communion of Christmas 25 th December Christmas Family Holy Communion (STJ and AS)

2A NOTABLE EVENTS

Experience Easter

Experience Easter is an interactive and stimulating resource for explaining the events of Holy Week. The six stations, which cover key events in the Easter story, were set up in St James's from 6th to 20th April. The stations were

Palm Sunday	'Hopes and Dreams'
Jesus washes the disciple's feet	'Servant King'
The Last Supper	'Remember Me'
The Garden of Gethsemane	'Alone'
The Crucifixion	'Sharing our Sorrows'
The Empty Tomb	'Resurrection '

Each station had a story board and interactive materials, which were particularly suitable for children and young people. At the Palm Sunday service on 14th April the congregation were taken through the Experience.

Knitted Bible

The Knitted Bible exhibition was launched on Friday 20th September and ran for 12 days. It was visited by 1251 people, which included 388 children. The children came in 9 groups from 7 local schools. It was a very successful event, and although not intended for fund raising, donations including gift aid, amounted to just over £2600. Expenses were taken out of this to cover transport for some of the schools, and a donation of £260 was sent to St George's URC in Hartlepool, who loaned us the exhibition. The Organising Team are to be congratulated for arranging the exhibition. A truly inspirational event.

Gift Days

Gift days were organised at both churches. St James's day was arranged for 28th September, to coincide with the Knitted Bible exhibition. With Gift Aid the magnificent sum of over £14,000 was raised.

The Gift Day at All Saints was held during the Community Café on 5th October, and at the following Café in November £631 was raised.

2B FABRIC REPORTS

St James's

The fabric of St James's has not caused us too many problems this year. We still have the occasional leaks from the roof depending on the direction and intensity of the rain. Some patching of the lead will be required. The churchyard continues to be maintained by North Somerset Council. Geoff Norton retired from cutting the grass in the Ashes area in June. The PCC sent a letter of thanks to him for his dedicated service over many years. John Wilson has now taken over this job.

The Church and the Churchyard Room electrical installations had their five-year regulatory inspections. Some of the emergency lights were not working and these were replaced. During the year quite a few of the halogen and LED lights in the church failed. The halogen lights were replaced and it was agreed to replace the LED lights, but that work has not yet been done. We still have some outstanding work to be done on the outside lights.

All Saints

The first phase of the major renovations was completed in October 2018. Quotes for the second phase are ongoing. Fund raising continued throughout the year to replenish the building fund to cover the outstanding work. The pews were removed and put into storage, and new upholstered chairs from St Andrew's in Bourneville replaced them. Tony Callow would like to thank the small loyal band of volunteers who work tirelessly to support and run All Saints.

St James' Church Hall

The large projector screen was finally permanently repositioned. A new projector and laptop were purchased, and these together with the karaoke machine, are useful resources for our services in the hall. The old kitchen serving hatch shutter was removed and new folding doors fitted. Thanks to Tony Callow who made them. One of the gas heaters was out of commission for some time awaiting repair. The hall continued to be hired by local organisations and groups, as well as by the NHS for regular Blood Donor sessions.

Birch Cottage

The porch was finally repaired in February. It is a valuable asset and continues to be let and is a regular source of income.

2C FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH

The Friends continue to help preserve and enhance the fabric of the Church. They held a number of events during the year to raise funds. Work started during the year to repair the West Door.

2D OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Pastoral Team

Thank you to the Pastoral Team, ably co-ordinated by Ann Norton. They are an enthusiastic team who assist the ministers whenever needed. They regularly went into the care and nursing homes, took home communions and visited the sick and lonely. They also followed up baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Finance Team

In the continued absence of a Treasurer, the team of Hugh Gunn, Sarah Gunn, Martin Hagen, Geoff Norton, David Smith, Denys Cutmore and Richard Noy, along with the Churchwardens, worked with our Administrator David Ashton-Hilton to look after the finances and bank accounts. Thank you.

Safeguarding Officer

Jo Claridge continued as our Safeguarding Officer throughout the year. She ensured that those that needed DBS checks, and the appropriate training, were up to date, see her separate report. Thank you Jo.

Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine continued to be produced during 2019. It was delivered to nearly 600 households in Winscombe and Sandford. It gives accounts of life in our Parish and is regarded as an essential means of outreach to our diverse communities. We would like to thank Jean Sturgess (nee Maughan) for her professional compilation.

Transport Team

A team of volunteers continued to provide transport to St James's for those who find it difficult to come to the church because they have no transport of their own, or for various reasons are unable to drive themselves. Thank you.

Refresh-men-t

Refresh-men-t met 9 times during the year. As in previous years they joined the Men's Big Breakfast in Cheddar on 16th March. By the time of the AGM on 20th April, the group had out-grown the Woodborough Inn, and they had to look for a new venue. Various options were considered and eventually they relocated to The Railway Inn in Sandford. This turned out to be an inspired move and the group continued to flourish. Thank you to Andrew, Richard Noy and Derrick Claridge for their excellent organisation.

Music

Our Organist, Robert Yeomans, continued to play regularly at St James's and occasionally at All Saints. As mentioned previously he celebrated '50 years on the Organ Bench' with a celebratory concert in St James's on 25th October. Nearly 100 people attended and it raised just over £770.00, which Robert generously donated to the Gift Day. Robert was presented with a garden seat, bought from donations from our Parish communities.

Our contemporary music group, led by Martin Hagen, with Chris Greenwood, Sarah Wood and Peter Rutter, provided the music at the Church Hall Café services. At the Family Holy Communion services in the Church Hall pre-recorded music was used played through the karaoke machine.

Our small church choir sang at some of the regular Sunday services, and also on other special occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

Thank you to them all for the contributions they made to our church worship.

Social Committees

The Social Committees, led by Jill Noy at St James's, and Lynn Callow at All Saints, continued to provide 'bodily refreshment' before and after our 'spiritual refreshment'. They also catered at individual church's fund-raising events and joined together to provide a wonderful Harvest Lunch on 13th October. Thank you to them both and their committed teams.

Cleaning and Flower Arranging

Teams of volunteers continued to keep our churches in immaculate condition, and our dedicated teams of flower arrangers, no matter what the season, ensured a regular display of lovely fresh flowers. Again, thank you.

2E THE PCC

The PCC continued to meet every four or five weeks throughout the year. They were the 'beating heart' that made sure we survived through the vacancy. In fact, we did more than survive; we thrived!

Meetings in 2019

7th January

4th February

4th March

1st April

29th April - APCM
7th October

13th May
4th November

1st July
2nd December

2nd September

10th July - Extraordinary Meeting to specifically discuss the vacancy and the sale of the vicarage.

Membership

Curate	Revd. Andrew Hiscox
Churchwardens	Beth Cutmore Douglas Ogram Tony Callow
Safeguarding Officer	Jo Claridge
Deanery Synod Representatives	Dorothy Baldwin Angela Morris
Members	Martin Hagen John Hayter Celia Hine Ann Norton (Co-opted from May 2019) Sue Reed Jan Welling (Co-opted as Parish Representative for vacancy)
Secretary	William Du Croz

2F POST SCRIPT

The APCM at which this report should have been presented in April was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have decided to include a Post Script to briefly cover what has happened so far in 2020.

All our lives changed at the end of March when the whole country went into lockdown. Our churches and Church Hall were closed, and we were confined to our houses and homes, except for trying to get food and other essentials from empty supermarkets. Our whole way of living was transformed.

We had to adapt by using modern technology. Face to face meetings were banned and we had to learn to use Zoom video conferencing. Emails and the telephone became the new way to communicate. Many of our parishioners were in the vulnerable, or extremely vulnerable, age groups. Some, thankfully not many, succumbed to this horrible virus, and many lost loved ones and friends to the disease. That was when the 'war spirit' kicked in.

Those less vulnerable helped those more vulnerable. Those that could go shopping, shopped for others. Bags of food, groceries and other essentials appeared on doorsteps. Toilet rolls and hand sanitisers were shared. Extra meals were cooked and given to neighbours.

As church communities we set up Keep in Touch (KIT) teams. These are still running and a great solace to many. The PCC Standing Committee started meeting every week, much as the Ministry Executive did during the vacancy. Eventually after the fourth round of advertising Andrew was appointed as our Priest in Charge in March, and his licensing by Bishop Ruth took place on 30th April by Zoom. So that we could continue worshipping together Andrew started Podcast services on Mothering Sunday 22nd March, and then with the help of Jo and Derrick Claridge and Chris Greenwood, we started video services on 26th July. These can be viewed on Facebook and You Tube

through a link on our website. The website was another innovation that has happened during the lockdown. Log on to winsandchurches.org.uk.

With the easing of restrictions, we were able to open the churches for Private Prayer on 21st June. Since then further easing has allowed us to have services in the Church Hall throughout September, and back in St James's and All Saints starting in October.

At the time of writing this report the number of confirmed cases of COVID 19 positive tests in North Somerset is rising. Are we heading for another lockdown and closures of the churches? We pray not, and continue to pray that you all will remain free of this terrible virus.

God bless you all

Beth Cutmore, Douglas Ogram and Tony Callow
Churchwardens

3. DEANERY SYNOD 2019

There are three Deanery Synod meetings per year:

7th February 2019 at Clarence House, Weston-super-Mare.

Clarence House is a residential home near St Paul's Church WSM, which was bequeathed to the Deanery many years ago for aging members within the Deanery. It is very well resourced and consists of self-contained apartments. The communal facilities are very bright and cheery. The Archdeacon of Bath was in attendance at this meeting. Following updates on personnel throughout the Deanery, he emphasised the Diocesan Vision and the need to promote mission and evangelism as the prime focus of all the church communities. This will necessitate targeting finances and resources to where there is greatest need. He explained that 60% of the 500 churches in the Diocese have less than 30 regular congregations. Parishes should be focusing on how to reach out in these churches. There is also a need to embrace the 18-40 age group. This seems to be most effective where Church Plants are taking place. We have two in our Deanery, namely West Wick and Haywood Village. Resources are being provided to encourage this outreach.

26th June 2019 St James's Church Hall, Winscombe.

Updates on the Deanery Action Plan were reported. The Revd. Andrew Alden reported that £30,000 had been received from the Fund for Church Growth to provide support and services for young people at Emmanuel Church WSM. They are also trying to establish chaplaincies at each of the college sites, highlighting the evening services in Emmanuel during Freshers' Week.

There was also discussion about the possible realignment of Parish boundaries in the Worle, Kewstoke, Milton and Mead Vale area. The consultation process has begun and it is hoped that a report will be available in early 2020.

3rd October 2019 St Andrew's, Bournville.

Unfortunately none of your representatives were able to attend this Synod. The Area Dean, the Revd. Tom Yacomeni welcomed Nicky Pybus, who has been appointed as Pioneer Minister for Bournville, funded by the Diocese. Nicky has experience in this field, having been Pioneer Minister in Portsmouth Diocese. Her role is to meet with young people wherever they are, and build up relationships with them.

From this report, you can see that resources are being targeted where they are needed. Our only reservation is whether parishes such as ours will not be sufficiently resourced to be able to fulfil our outreach endeavours, but will have to bear a share of the extra cost.

Additional Deanery-wide events include:

The Festival of Light with participants from throughout the Deanery in February each year.

Deanery Conference held on 15th June at Bagley Baptist Church. Sixty people attended and it was considered to be a thought-provoking success.

Dorothy Baldwin
Angela Morris
Deanery Synod Representatives.

4. SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The PCC has continued to comply with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

This means that we are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

No safeguarding incidents have been reported this year within the Parishes.

56 people currently hold up to date DBS certificates and are actively volunteering with adult or children’s activities.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and approved by the PCC. The policy is reviewed annually.

Safeguarding Training has been carried out in the Parish which every volunteer, member of the PCC and other church officers have been required to attend. The C0/C1 course has been run four times with a total of 58 people attending. This is required every 3 years.

The training sessions were facilitated by Ann and Jo Claridge.

In addition, the Church Wardens have completed C2 training and the Parish Safeguarding Officer has attended specific training for her role.

The PCC has carefully considered the requirements of the Church of England’s Parish Safeguarding Handbook which was introduced in 2019. An action plan was drawn up and the PSO has been working through these to ensure that we are compliant.

To date the following have been achieved:

- Formal adoption of House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy

- Display of House of Bishops' posters, Parish Safeguarding Handbook, Parish Safeguarding Policy in both churches and St James's Church Hall.
- Safeguarding pages created for each church on 'A Church Near You' website
- Risk Assessments for specific activities e.g. Messy Church, Scramblers
- Code of Safer Working Practice drawn up and given to volunteers at training sessions
- Registration Forms and Photographic Consent Form introduced at Messy Church and Scramblers

Jo Claridge
Parish Safeguarding Officer

5. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT 2019

In December 2019 St James's had 97 on their Electoral Roll and All Saints had 37. The Electoral Roll for both churches underwent the six yearly reconfiguration in April 2019.

The Roll was reviewed in September 2020 and currently the figures are 91 on the St James's Roll and 31 on the All Saints Roll making a total of 122. A copy of the new Electoral Roll can be seen on the Notice Boards of both churches and will have been displayed for fourteen days prior to the APCM.

6. CHURCH LOG BOOKS, INVENTORIES AND TERRIERS

The Log Books, Inventories and Terriers are up to date.

7. SERIOUS INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS

Our Charity Number is 1173106

All charities with an income over £25,000 have to report Serious Incidents to the Commission. A Serious Incident is:

An adverse event, actual or alleged which results in or risks significant:

- Loss to the charity's money or assets
- Damage to the charity's property
- Harm to the charity's work, beneficiaries or reputation.

There have been no Serious Incidents to report in 2019.