

Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Worshipping together al fresco

Sunday 25th April 2021

10.45 am

St Mary's Churchyard

SIDESPERSIONS 2021

Tracey Alade
Sue Ashton **
Julie Beaman *
Janet Biggs
Isobel and Damian Cranmer
Daniel Eghobamien
Louise Emmins
Celia and David Forbes *
Ralph Goold
Brian Hayward
Margaret Jewell * / **
Janet Lang **
Alan and Edna Lindfield
Natalie Marsh
Sue and Jim May
Penny McAdam * / **
Dick Morgan
Ann Palmer
Judith Sandell *
Alan + ** and Angie Simkins
Susan Stacey
Sue Taylor
Simon Taylor
Margaret Tillyer
Jill Whitehouse + **
Mollie Williams + **
Allyson and Rod Woodhouse

* Sidespersons who have agreed to act as reserves.

** Sidespersons for Baptism services.

The + sign signifies that what follows is in addition to a regular monthly duty as a sidesperson

David Mitchell and Paul Vernon

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<i>1 Peter 3. 15</i>	<i>Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.</i>

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Redbourn

Registered charity number 271677

45th Annual General Meeting

25th April 2021

10.45 am

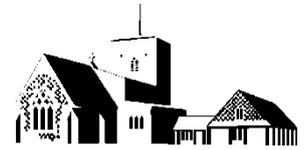


Agenda

An opening prayer led by Revd Will Gibbs

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting – *pages 30-32***
- 3. Matters arising from previous minutes**
- 4. Trustees' Report – *pages 33-37***
- 5. Churchwardens' Report**
- 6. Vicar's Remarks**
- 7. Election of Committee**
- 8. Any Other Business**

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



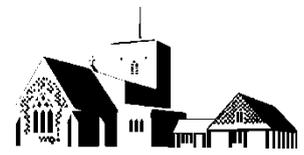
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS to be held on Sunday 25th April 2021, at 11.00 am in the Churchyard of St Mary's Church

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

- 1 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2020
- 2 Election of 2 Parochial Churchwardens
- 3 Election of up to 2 Deputy Wardens
- 4 Chairman's Closing Remarks

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD ON SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: The Vicar, two retired members of the clergy and 52 Parishioners.

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer at 10.55 am.

1) Minutes of the Meeting held 24th April 2019

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as drawn and signed by the Lay Co-Chairman as a true record.

Proposed by: Wendy Cruickshank Seconded by: Brian Hayward Passed: Nem Con

2) Election of Churchwardens

Churchwardens

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Paul Vernon	David Forbes	Celia Forbes
David Mitchell	David Forbes	Celia Forbes

3) Election of Deputy Churchwardens

Deputy Churchwardens

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Stephen Gell	Paul Vernon	Kay Vernon
Alan Simkins	Rosemary Woodhouse	John Searle

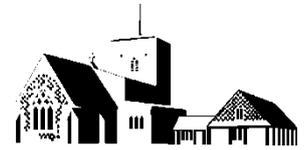
The above were elected Nem Con.

4) Vote of Thanks

The Vicar thanked the four wardens for all the work they have put in during the last 20 months, work both seen and unseen. He could not have asked for more, particularly at this very difficult time, and the whole church family is fortunate to have them.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.03 am

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN

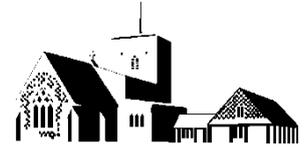


THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to be held on Sunday 25th April 2021, at 11.00 am in the Churchyard of St Mary's Church

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th September 2020**
- To receive and discuss**
 - 3 The Electoral Roll**
 - 4 A Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**
 - 5 A Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
 - 6 The Annual Report & Financial Statements 2020**
 - 7 A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments**
 - 8 A Report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2020**
- 9 Election of up to 5 Representatives to the Parochial Church Council**
- 10 Appointment of Sidespeople**
- 11 Appointment of an Independent Examiner to St Mary's Church**
- 12 Any Other Business**
- 13 Chairman's Closing Remarks**

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2020 IN THE CHURCHYARD OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Present: The Vicar, two retired members of the Clergy and 52 Parishioners

The Meeting was opened at 11.05 am by the Lay Co-Chairman, Keith McAdam.

Apologies for Absence: Alan & Janet Godfrey, Reona & Albert Joly, John Davie, Claire Gibbs, Judith & Paul James, Eileen Fernley, Mike Wood, Jan Lang, Jan Nelder

Booklets containing the minutes of the previous APCM, the various reports and the Accounts for 2019 had been circulated both in a paper version and electronically, prior to the meeting.

1) Minutes of the Meeting held 24th April 2019

The Minutes were read, approved and signed by the Lay Co-Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Adoption of the minutes

Proposed by: David Mitchell Seconded by: Kay Vernon Passed: Nem Con

2) Electoral Roll

The Report had been circulated within the booklet prior to the meeting and was accepted Nem Con. Jim May was thanked for his services in maintaining the roll for another year.

3) PCC Secretary's Report

The report was within the booklet and accepted Nem Con.

4) Deanery Synod Report

The report was also contained within the booklet. Our representatives on the Deanery Synod were thanked for their contributions during their three years tenure which has now finished.

5) Treasurer's Report

Mike Wood, our Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting in person and had sent his apologies.

A separate booklet containing the full Accounts for 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mike had added some further explanations and comments which were read out by the Vicar and the transcript is added below:

I am sorry that I am unable to be at the APCM in person.

I want to thank Ruth Hughes for her considerable help in compiling these accounts. She has helped me enormously to understand how the accounts work in my first year as Treasurer.

The accounts layout will be familiar to those who have seen these in previous years. The document includes an annual report from the Vicar, a statement from Ruth as our independent examiner and then the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet. I suggest we come back to those after we have looked at some of the detail that starts on page 9. I will just point out and explain where there are differences from the numbers posted in 2018.

If we look at the Income, this is split into 4 parts. A large proportion is Voluntary Income, basically our stewardship and some other appeals. Planned giving is up from 2018 by 9.25% and there is also an increase in Sundry donations. This is mainly due to the Stewardship appeal we did in February and March. This means the Gift Aid is also increased in line with this increased giving. Grants is smaller as we did less work for which we could claim back the VAT. Special Appeals include donations from the Friends.

The Income from Church Activities include Fees from weddings, funerals, etc and there were less than in 2018 accounting for the less income. Transept income has increased considerably and is down to a number of reasons; more lettings, better control over bookings and some additional fees from the Russian Orthodox from a previous year. Fees for club trips included the trip to Durham in 2018.

Fund Raising events is very similar to 2018 if you add in the £5,000 that was donated online for Will's A-Z trip. This went direct to YouthTalk from the website.

We had some bank interest from 2018 that was not included last year so this means we have an additional amount for 2019. Property rental is down a small amount as we had two months when the Old Church Hall was not let.

Moving to Expenditure on page 10

Charitable donations are detailed under note 10 on page 15 and relate to Youth Talk, the Harvest Appeal and Mpwapwa Appeal. When you look under Note 10 you will also see charity collections made at funerals that were sent direct to the charities and are not shown in our activities.

Our Parish Share was paid in full. Fees to the diocese are down due to fewer weddings, funerals, etc mentioned earlier. Parish Office expenses are down, mainly due to only half a year rental for the house for our Curate.

Organist and Choir is up considerably due to £11,000 spent on an overhaul and Tonal Work on the Organ in 2019. Churchyard expenses are increased due to some major tree operations during the year. Church maintenance in 2018 includes work from the quinquennial inspection. Expenses for church clubs and trips balances is less, as previously reported.

Other expenses is a 'catch all' for a number of other works during the year.

These numbers flow back to the Statement of Financial Activities on Page 5 and the Balance Sheet on page 6.

Our Deposit Funds were reduced as we needed the money for operating expenses early in 2019 and we have also repaid £10,000 of loans during the year.

Overall, we made an operating surplus of £27,686 in 2019 compared with a deficit of £5,796 in 2018. That puts us in a much healthier position.

Thank you

Adoption of the Accounts 2019

Proposed by: Roy Woods Seconded By: Rosemary Woodhouse Passed: Nem Con

The Vicar thanked Mike Woods for taking over the responsibility of our accounting, and was commended for proving so efficient in carrying out those duties. Our Financial Examiner, Ruth Hughes was thanked for the enormous amount of help she has given to Mike as he came to terms with his new responsibilities.

6) Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Churchwardens' report was contained within the booklet. This, and all other reports were accepted en bloc by the meeting.

7) A Report on the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2019 given by the Vicar, The Revd Will Gibbs. The report is reproduced in full below.

I have great pleasure in giving my report on the Ministry and Witness of St Mary, Redbourn for the calendar year 2019 but, unlike in other years, I will say something beyond the end of last year for obvious reasons. You may be pleased to know that I will also keep this a little shorter than my annual report in other years given the change in format and location to our meetings this year. I was also hit in the face with a cricket ball keeping wicket yesterday in Stevenage and have a thick lip and bruised face which is quite uncomfortable. So, I'll keep it brief if you don't mind (and, let's face it, you probably won't!)

In so doing, there is every chance that I will not be able to mention or thank everyone that I would usually thank or mention all the groups and activities specifically. The booklet of reports makes for very good reading and I commend it to you with a mix of gratitude and pride. It gives some good accounts of all that God is doing in this place through us and for us and there is much to give thanks for and celebrate. Please know that the way that St Mary's runs and thrives is always as a team effort – thank you to all of you who are a part of that team and thank you for all the things you do to make this such a good place to worship God and serve our parish.

Our worship is the heartbeat of our church life and the core from which everything else flows. I have been especially encouraged in recent times by the quality of our worship in terms of a relaxed reverence, strong preaching, deep prayerfulness and full engagement with all who are present. Our pattern has changed little in the last year or two, but our congregation has, including a very welcome greater diversity, and with that it brings new riches for all of us. I want to record my sincere thanks to members of our ministry team who play such a strong part in our worshipping life. I'm grateful to each and every one of them for the gifts they bring and share. In August 2019 we said our sad farewells to Tim after his three-year curacy with us. His mature and thoughtful ministry and strong spirituality made a significant impact on us individually and collectively and we miss him, Sophie, Jem and Laurie greatly. Ailsa continues her training for Reader ministry completing her first year in the summer of 2019, finishing her second year more recently and has now just started her final year a couple of weeks ago. We look forward to her licensing next summer.

Rachel Snow came to us four years ago as an ordinand in training and she and Derek brought many gifts and blessings to their time with us. It will be my privilege to be one of only six permitted guests at Rachel's ordination next Saturday, to represent us all as we wish her well for her curacy in Letchworth and the ministry that lies ahead in the years to come.

The occasional offices continue to be an important part of the wider ministry offered by St Mary's and during 2019 these included 32 baptisms, 24 funerals or memorial services, 9 burials, 25 interments of cremated remains, and the solemnisation of 6 marriages. 1 adult candidate was presented for Confirmation at the Easter Vigil at St Albans Abbey Cathedral and a further 2 adults and 11 children were confirmed at St Mary's in July.

Very sadly 2019 was a year when some very dear and special members of our church family and community died and, among them, we remember with great fondness as well as sadness Eileen Darvell, Frank Harborough, Fred Arnold, Geoff Cannon, Georgie Shiach, Faith Farnham, David Cheetham, Sylvia Turner and Draha Gell.

Our pastoral visiting team continues to offer an important ministry to the sick and housebound as does our Bereavement Visiting Team with families we support following the funerals of their loved ones and I am grateful for the small teams of people involved in these less visible but incredibly important areas of ministry. I also record our thanks to Jonathan, our choir members and the instrumentalists for the very high standards they bring to our music and also to our servers and sacristans who assist our worship so ably.

During 2019 various important items of work have been carried out on the fabric including some significant repairs and enhancements to the pipe organ, the purchasing of a new keyboard and office photocopier and the reapplication of Smartwater solution to the lead roofs and communion vessels. The year also saw a lengthy struggle with the tower clock mechanism which was finally resolved. The Friends of St Mary's continues to be an invaluable support to the church in raising money for the upkeep and maintenance of the church and churchyard. In 2019 their events included a Harvest Supper and another classic car show, and we thank them for their generous support to us this past year, as always.

Some of our church families enjoyed an excellent Parish Weekend at Chellington in June, we held another rewarding and enjoyable Summer holiday club and a group of our young people once again attended a church sailing weekend in September.

Safeguarding is always given the highest priority and attention and Janet Lang, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, has led the way whilst working closely with others in regularly monitoring, reviewing and updating our Safeguarding policies and practices. We are now using a secure online dashboard to track progress, renewal dates and compliance. DBS checks are carried out for all members of St Mary's who work with children or vulnerable adults and our policies were reviewed by the PCC in May 2019. I draw your attention to the report from Janet on page 16 of the booklet of reports and I thank her for her incredibly important work in leading us in this area. The PCC has also continued to ensure that we remain compliant with General Data Protection Regulation in the way we conduct our ministry.

St Mary's continues to play a full and active part in the life of Wheathampstead Deanery, with our four elected members to the Deanery Synod. The Deanery consists of twelve churches across seven benefices who seek to support one another in collegiality, shared worship and joint projects, training and collaboration. We look forward to welcoming our new Rural Dean, Fr

Tom Sanders, who takes up this role soon in succession to Richard Banham. Jim May, as well as being the Lay Chair of the Deanery, serves on the St Albans Diocesan Synod as well as being the Deanery Lay Chair and I continue to serve as a Proctor in Convocation on the General Synod.

And speaking of the General Synod, over the last few years, the General Synod has been engaged in a process called Renewal and Reform. It is an ambitious programme to help strip away some of the unwieldy bureaucracy that impedes mission and to help make the church fully fit for purpose and mission for the journey that lies ahead.

Two key points emerge from the report circulated at the start of Renewal and Reform which we would all do well to take the time to consider, understand and pray over:

1) Until, together, ordained and lay, we form and equip lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel we will never set God's people free to evangelise the nation.

2) Until laity and clergy are convinced, based on their baptismal mutuality, that they are equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission, we will never form Christian communities that can evangelise the nation.

In other words, it is not enough simply to mean well and to do what we can to make people feel welcome and valued whenever they come. Today we recognise in this meeting that we simply cannot function without the help of all those I, and all the other report-writers, thank from the bottom of our hearts. And we certainly won't be able to go forward from here without the help, support and hands-on assistance of everyone, especially those who we might call the next generation. The two points above make very clear what I hope you already know - this is YOUR church. YOU make it what it is.

So, I want to make a special plea to every member of our church family, new and not-so-new today. Please do offer yourselves in some way. You will be more than welcome and will find it fulfilling to take a role in a place that means so much to so many people. Please think and pray about getting involved and then let us know. Let it be a kind of new resolution: to participate in some way, no matter how small, in keeping your church the lively and welcoming place it has always been.

So, in that spirit, I offer the following prayer to us this morning:

My church is composed of people like me - I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly - if I am.

Its pews will be filled - if I help fill them.

It will do great work - if I work.

It will make generous gifts - if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship - if I invite and bring them in.

It will be a church of love and faith - if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be. Amen.

What the last few months has told me is that despite all the challenges of Covid, and there have been many, we are in a strong place as a church and we have been blessed with some

extraordinary talents and massively generous people willing to share those talents as we've had to do things differently with online services, website resources, pastoral phone calls and socially distanced visits and then, slowly, the resumption of services and some activities.

I have been so grateful for the generosity of our congregation financially, both in terms of the amazing response to our Stewardship Appeal eighteen months ago when we were facing some significant financial challenges and also the amazingly generous response to my letter during lockdown setting out the likely financial impact of the Covid lockdown for us as a church. Through your incredible giving that risk of serious financial shortfall has most likely been mitigated fully or very nearly. We wait to see.

We have had to change and do things differently but the God we worship is unchangingly loving and faithful and good to us. Some things we miss terribly and long to resume when eventually we can do so safely, and yet some things we're having to do in new and creative ways and that has brought new blessings and opportunities.

But the pandemic has reminded us that whilst we enjoy a widespread of age ranges in our church family, we do have a significant number who are elderly, and we need to be aware of that. The jobs they have been doing they won't be able to do for ever, and whilst honouring their continued gift to us in terms of experience, faithfulness and loyalty we do, at the same time, need to grow St Mary's younger. This must be an area of focus and priority in the coming year. How can we help to encourage young adults and younger mums and dads to get involved and share their skills and time, in amongst all the other things they juggle?

The corona virus is an ongoing situation and challenge and we will get through it because we are always stronger together. I will be writing to everyone on the electoral roll in the next few weeks to set out some thoughts for how we might offer worship and ministry in the next few months and I will also be seeking your thoughts and opinions as well in a questionnaire. I will try not to make it too long but please take the time to complete it and send it back because the more people who do will give me, with the churchwardens and the PCC, the stronger confidence we can have that what we start to plan and put in place is what is wanted and needed.

I hope that in this report I have been able share with you something of our everyday life as we serve God and his people as an outward facing people of service and prayer, and it continues to be the greatest privilege to do this as your Vicar.

8) Election of six Representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Mike Wood	David Mitchell	Paul Vernon
Daphne Fisher	Rosemary Woodhouse	Janet Biggs
Julia Jeffs	Stephen Gell	Celia Forbes
Deni Ennals	Stephen Gell	Sue May
Sarah Hill	Paul Vernon	David Mitchell
Ralph Goold	Lesley Poulton	Celia Forbes

Election of the above named en bloc was

Proposed by: David Mitchell Seconded by: Doris Cheetham Passed: Nem Con

9) Election of Four Representatives to the Wheathampstead Deanery Synod

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Sue May	David Mitchell	Stephen Gell
Michelle Parry Slater	Jim May	Stephen Gell
Ailsa Hulme	Ian Ashton	Sue Ashton
John Davie	Janet Biggs	Sarah Parren

The above were proposed en bloc and passed Nem Con

10) Appointment of Sidespersons

The list was included in the booklet and formally approved at the meeting.

11) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ruth Hughes kindly agreed to be our Independent Examiner for a further year. Ruth was thanked for all her work in 2019 and for her invaluable help in getting our finances on to a surer footing. It is a considerable task and one which we appreciate very much.

12) Any Other Business

Clorinda Goodman asked whether the work done on the maintenance of the Churchyard could be extended to improve the habitat for wildlife. Will confirmed that this would be possible and in fact the Diocese has guidance for this type of project.

13) Chairman's Closing Remarks

Keith commented how life has changed for all of us during the last few months, but let us not be diminished by it. This village of Redbourn has seen a generous response of time and care put back into our community. Will, our Vicar, has been closely involved with all this along with 'Active in Redbourn' and The Care Group. We are grateful to all our Ministry Team and a loyal band of assistants, for their new skills acquired in producing online presentations, Zoom services and meetings, recording and photography. On behalf of all of us, Keith thanked Will and his family for their love and support throughout the year.

There being no further business the meeting was brought to a close at 12 noon.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – APRIL 2021

The Electoral Roll has been renewed this year in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

- ❖ In September 2020, there were 203 persons on the Electoral Roll.
- ❖ There are now 204 persons on the Electoral Roll.

Of these 204 people, 26 live outside the parish. Last year, 29 lived outside the parish.

Jim May – Electoral Roll Officer

LAY CO-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2020

During the last year of living with the Coronavirus pandemic, the St Mary's community has risen magnificently to the challenge of making a difference for Redbourn. For the record I shall try to reconstruct the epidemic details, without repeating last year's report:

We have now experienced three national lockdowns in response to alarming rises in rates of SARS CoV2 infection, hospitalization and death. Downing Street briefings occurred daily at first, but have become a less frequent means of public communication about the epidemic.

The first of the dramatic lockdown challenges to life-as-it-used-to-be was 23rd March 2020 and the elevated infection rates responded to the public health measures of washing hands, wearing masks and keeping a safe distance, to reduce the chance of hand-to-hand and aerosol transmission. This continued until the end of May, when a 'tiering system' was introduced to take account of variable risks in different parts of the country and this persisted rather chaotically until the end of August. Incidence rates flattened out everywhere. However a spike in 'Ro', the Reproduction rate of infection, led to a second, less stringent shutdown, instituted on 31st October 2020, and this generated huge public pressure to reopen the country for Christmas 2020.

However, immediate concern was raised by the arrival of new viral variants that spread more rapidly and caused more severe illness, leading to the third lockdown on 5th January 2021. Variant B1.1.1.7 first found in Kent, was followed by variant B1.351 discovered in South Africa and variant B1.28 in Brazil; no doubt these are the first of many more viral mutations to come in the future. Again, the public health measures have been effective.

However this time the whole scene has been changed by the miraculous speed, (in less than a year since the corona virus was recognised) to production of multiple vaccines, that are being rolled out, initially to the most susceptible groups of people: residents and staff in care homes, healthcare workers, older age groups and those at high risk of dying from the infection; progressively being given to younger age groups and higher risk individuals. The press and media have been transfixed by science and medicine for the last year and everyone has gradually acquired a whole new vocabulary. The speed of rollout of the vaccines has been truly amazing in UK, run by the NHS and assisted by volunteers (reminiscent of the brilliant Olympics 'Gamesmakers'). The challenge now is Equity and the need to control the infection everywhere including in middle- and lower-income countries.

Front line workers have been publicly applauded, particularly the NHS staff and scientists but also the many people whose dedicated and sustained public service has allowed life to continue relatively safely for those at highest risk (over 80s, overweighties, males more than females, with diabetes and other co-morbidities, and those of BAME origins).

The dramatic response of young people in Redbourn volunteering to help, representing almost every street in the village, has been quite extraordinary; doing shopping, collecting medicines, befriending lonely people and supporting those quarantined and self-isolating. The Redbourn Care Group and Active in Redbourn have been refreshingly outstanding, with production of a very informative and helpful newsletter, telling of heroic local stories and informing us all of what was going on in the village. The weekly Active in Redbourn Wednesday telephone-in

Community Call became an essential, optimistic update on village happenings. Will Gibbs' Thought for the Week was widely appreciated (well worth a retrospective read too – A Minister's Musings is available at St Mary's). Another of many examples of great community initiatives was the Christmas Hampers project to reach lonely and needy households.

St Mary's has responded resolutely with Will Gibbs' leadership being greatly appreciated by the faith community and the village. Initially services were held outside in a manicured churchyard, with safe distances marked by lines that were white-washed into newly mowed grass. Amazingly, the obliging fine weather held every weekend until it became too cold to sustain.

A very talented team of gifted people developed skills in delivering services on-line. This team included Paul Vernon and his son Tom (singing and orchestral synchronization), Stephen Boffey (what great photography) and Kate Ford (on-line communications guru) alongside the highly motivating Will Gibbs. The choir have been brilliant in creating individually synchronised hymns and 'live' music. Our great appreciation to this dedicated and gifted group.

We are also grateful for the ministerial team, who have been conducting services and preaching for smaller congregations in three different live services each weekend, in line with permitted distancing in church – thank you Bishop Robin and Lois Smith, Kay Vernon, Christine Farrington, Ailsa Hulme and of course Will Gibbs. The on-line services have been imaginative and creative and have been accessed and appreciated by many people who have been unable to attend church services at St Mary's, some from distant places. The vicar has pointedly involved many people in reading and leading prayers and it has been lovely to recognise a wide range of parishioners participating in times of isolation. Many people have died this year or so it seems, not only from Covid19. From a personal perspective, and representing many other bereaved families, I am particularly grateful for a memorable and beautiful funeral service for my mother between epidemic blips, outside in the graveyard.

The last AGM was not long ago so this report will not include a highly risky (because I'll inevitably leave people out) personal appreciation for the many people who contribute to our thriving faith community at St Mary's. The Church Wardens (Paul Vernon and David Mitchell) have been a constant and reliable support for Will. Our Treasurer Mike Wood has been a very safe pair of hands. The churchyard has been looking marvellous, and has been used in novel ways, thanks to David Swift and his team. Forest Tots have been amazingly creative and their creations outside in the churchyard have been widely appreciated and recognised. The PCC and SC have met regularly on-line and Celia Forbes has kept the important records of proceedings.

We are very fortunate to have Will Gibbs at the wheel. Keeping the church open, warm, welcoming and active has been his resolve, when most churches have been closed. This has been a joy to many. His leadership and encouragement have been greatly appreciated and this couldn't have happened without huge support at home from Claire, Olivia and Darcy. Big thanks Will and your devoted support team from all of us.

Keith McAdam – Lay Co-Chair

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Period covered: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, restrictions commenced with the first National Lockdown from 23 March 2020.

Therefore, all usual activities involving children and vulnerable adults ceased from that time.

The Diocese issued Safeguarding Advice on COVID -19 and guidance for people who are supporting vulnerable people in the community.

We all had to adapt to doing things differently and extra advice was published for Clergy and Church Wardens on streaming Church services and keeping worshippers safe.

There was also a wealth of information available on the Church of England website.

My administrative role continued with:

- reporting regularly to the Zoom PCC Meetings- PCC reviewed all listed church activities for approval on 5/2/20 and the Action Plan was reviewed on 14/10/20.
- Maintaining the Parish Dashboard- an aid to help PSO's and the PCC ensure compliance with all safeguarding requirements.
- Reviewing Risk Assessments
- Processing DBS (15 new checks/renewals completed) and ensuring all new members of the PCC were DBS checked and had access to required training online.
- Liaising with Rev. Will on all safeguarding issues/concerns
- Monitoring need for renewing training – required from March 2021.

Janet Lang – Parish Safeguarding Officer

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2020

In a normal year my report would cover the period from April to April, from APCM to APCM. However, this year has been far from normal. The APCM due in April 2020 was postponed and not held until September 2020, hence this report only really covers a half year.

The PCC has still managed to meet regularly, albeit via Zoom. This has on the whole been successful although sometimes technology has been less than helpful. We have had four full PCC Meetings plus an extra meeting late in the calendar. There was also one Standing Committee meeting. All meetings were well attended and the work of the PCC carried on as normal.

Those serving on the Council are: -

The Chairman	The Vicar, The Revd Will Gibbs
Lay Co-Chairman	Keith McAdam
Churchwardens	Paul Vernon and David Mitchell
Deputy Churchwardens	Alan Simkins and Stephen Gell
Licenced Reader	Kay Vernon
Diocesan Synod	Jim May
Deanery Synod	John Davie
	Ailsa Hulme
	Sue May
	Michelle Parry-Slater

Elected Members	Deni Ennals
	Daphne Fisher
	David Forbes
	Ralph Goold
	Brian Hayward
	Sarah Hill
	Julia Jeffs
	Lesley Poulton
	David Walker
	Clive Williams

Offices held by members during the year 2020/2021

Lay Co-Chairman	Keith McAdam
Treasurer	Mike Wood
Secretary	Celia Forbes

Chairpersons of Sub-Committees

Stewardship	Mike Wood
Ancillary Buildings	Jim May
Churchyard	David Swift (David Forbes liaising with PCC)
Charitable Finance	Stephen Boffey (Stephen Gell liaising with PCC)
Youth	Ailsa Hulme

Rachel Snow left us in the summer and has taken up a position as Curate at Letchworth. Her ordination was held up due to the current restrictions, but has now been held with only a few people able to be present to support her. We all wish her well and will watch her career progress and remember her in our prayers.

Our media team has done a marvellous job – Stephen Boffey, Kate Ford, Paul Vernon and Will Gibbs. On line services have been broadcast every Sunday for many months – a lot more has gone into the productions than just filming talking heads. We have received so many appreciative comments, not just from Redbourners, but from far and wide, including the other side of the world. Many, many people have featured in the productions, reading and leading intercessions and these are both young and old. We are very grateful to all who take part and bring St Mary's life into the homes of those who are not able to attend church in person. The return to 'actual' worship in church does not mean that the online broadcasts will stop.

We must also acknowledge the continuing work put in by those who come in to clean the church, maintain the churchyard, do the printing etc.

The committee work has been able to carry on to a certain extent even though group meetings have been held by Zoom.

Thank you to everyone, especially Will and his ministry team for all they have done to keep St Mary's alive and thriving during these unprecedented times.

Celia Forbes – Secretary to the PCC

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT FOR 2020

Is time relative? Astro-physicists would probably say it is, and probably our own experience over the past year would confirm that! It is surprising which events over the past year will make it into this report, and which won't.

- The new votive candle stand was put in place and approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. *Correct – April 2020*
- Additional speakers for the PA system were installed in the chancel. *Correct – February 2020*
- The organ was overhauled. *No – December 2019*

Despite everything, St Mary's has continued to thrive, and against all the odds has presented a really positive face to the community. So many teams that keep life running have donned masks, gelled up, and continued to carry out all those maintenance tasks they were doing before lockdown. We are so grateful to them all. Without singling out any by name: our churchyard, our building, its décor, those activities that would under normal circumstances be hosted in the building – all of these have been kept alive by so many people. And, of course, there have been new and fresh initiatives – in how we worship, who we reach, outreach to young families.

Although the building has been used much less, due to Covid, the maintenance bill has not been reduced by much this past year. We're pleased to report that the gutters, roof alarm, fire extinguishers have all received their annual check.

Our boiler company decided to move to Australia (surely not so much need for boilers down there?), and so we have found a replacement company based in Watford, who we hope - it is still early days - will prove reliable and responsive to our needs.

The tower clock has had another challenging year, unsure whether to provide us with absolute or relative readings. The most high-tech part (the Pendulum Regulator) is currently out for service, but is to be refitted in March 2021. Ironically, the clock has been largely accurate whilst that key component has been at the factory awaiting repair.

We're grateful to Sue and Jim May for replacing the crib with a faithful facsimile of the old crib (vintage early 1950's we think), and also for doing sterling work on updating our terrier/inventory, which is an ongoing process.

David Mitchell

Paul Vernon

WHEATHAMPSTEAD DEANERY SYNOD 2020

Our Rural Dean, the Revd Richard Banham, stood down during the year, after 5 years' service for which we give thanks. His successor, the Revd Thomas Sander, had no sooner taken up his post when he was appointed Rector of St Giles-in-the-Fields, London in October, so left the diocese at the end of the year. Consequently, Wheathampstead Deanery Synod met just once in the year on 18th November by Zoom. This took the form of a round-the-deanery sharing of experiences during the lockdowns. After a period of consultation, the Bishop announced that Richard Banham is to be our temporary Rural Dean for up to 18 months. We welcome Richard back!

Jim May – Acting Deanery Lay Chairman

ANCILLARY BUILDINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

It was a quiet year for the committee, which met just once in March. The Old Church Hall and the Vicarage Cottage have been rented out all the year. Minor repairs were carried out in the Transept and the Vicarage Cottage, where dampness is an ongoing concern not tackled this year due to lockdown, but on the agenda for 2021. Some initial thought has been given to the re-roofing of the Transept.

Jim May – Chairman

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Stewardship Committee did not meet in 2020, and nothing took place which had been arranged by the Committee.

Nevertheless, plenty happened during 2020, not just the Pandemic.

The Vicar sent out a letter of appeal to everyone on the Electoral Roll early in the first half of the year, when it looked as if our finances would be in deficit. There was a terrific response to this which put a totally different aspect on our year end position. A huge amount of time and talent is given to St Mary's which has enabled us to carry on the important work in Redbourn. We are very grateful to all who contribute in any way.

Michael Wood – Chairman

ST MARY'S TEXTILE GROUP

The group started the first quarter of the year with the usual twice monthly meetings. Very good progress was made on the three new altar frontals.

Once Lockdown hit, we were unable to meet as a group, but members continued to sew in their own homes. Once the restrictions were relaxed a little, it was possible to meet in groups of six, well socially distanced in the Church Courtyard. By the time October came the outside meetings were forced to stop. The Transept was suitable for a small number to meet up, and by the end of the year the new altar frontals were completed and ready to be dedicated when the time arrives, hopefully in 2021.

As well as our major project, members have been making craft gifts for a stall to raise funds for the CFC's pumps for Mpwapwa project. It is hoped that a sale weekend will be possible in 2021.

The members of the group have missed the teas, chats and friendship and look forward to happier times in 2021.

Barbara Corbett – Group Coordinator

BEREAVEMENT VISITING TEAM

The Bereavement Group has not met or engaged in any activity since December 2019. Since then, one member of the team has died. It is not yet known if the team will reconvene, as it is now down to two members.

Catharine Pusey – Bereavement Team Coordinator

THE CHARITABLE FINANCE COMMITTEE – CFC

Our 2019 appeal concluded on 26th January 2020 with a presentation to David Barker from YouthTalk St Albans. We had raised £16,280 in the course of the year.

Our 2020 appeal was launched at the 8.00 and 9.30 Services on February 2nd with presentations by David Walker who outlined our appeal to raise funds for the provision of water pumps in Mpwapwa in Tanzania.

£1,435 had however already been raised at Carols and Beer the previous month and over £1,000 at a concert by Quartet Camerata on 12th January.

Some £300 were added to our funds by the Coffee on the Common Pancake Party but by March it became apparent that our planned activities would have to be curtailed because of the Covid19 pandemic.

We had, however, by then raised sufficient funds to enable an initial survey to take place in Tanzania which subsequently showed that the project is feasible.

Further funds were raised at our Patronal Festival on September when Quartet Camerata returned to provide background music for our al fresco lunch at and at a concert in Church later that day. A cake stall run by our Junior Choir on the same occasion contributed some £500 to our appeal.

It became clear by this time that we would need to continue our appeal for Pumps for Mpwapwa on into a second year if we were to have any chance of reaching our target and we are hoping that we will be able to carry out some of the exciting projects which we had planned for 2020.

Stephen Gell – Secretary of the CFC

ST MARY'S VISITORS

Covid restrictions from March 2020 have sadly prevented the Pastoral Visiting Team from visiting people in their homes, so we were limited largely to phone calls of support and encouragement or communicating from the doorstep/through the window. Of the twenty people we started the year with, five people have died, and one has moved to a home outside the area, but we have extended the service to six new people, and continue to expand as the pandemic relaxes. To do this we will need more team members, as the current team has become less available through incapacity, and to this end we have several new welcome volunteers waiting to take the induction course with Will as soon as possible in 2021, which will greatly strengthen the service for the future. Anyone wishing to become a member should contact Ian Ashton via ashtons1111@gmail.com

Ian Ashton – Secretary

LAY LEADERS OF WORSHIP

2020 has been a very unusual year for everyone including the LLWS. We have continued to help Will whenever and wherever we are able, but the opportunities have been restricted due to the Covid restrictions.

We have lead Morning Prayer on several occasions either on the rare occasions when Will is not there to lead it, or when he feels he would like to worship as a part of the congregation.

We have led online Evening Services for Remembrance Sunday and All Souls Sunday, which were both well received by the wider Congregation to whom we are now ministering.

We hope to be able to assist more in the coming year as the church as a whole becomes more used to this different way of worshipping and connecting with new and existing congregations.

David Forbes and Sue May, Lay Leaders of Worship

CHURCHYARD SUB-COMMITTEE

During the last year we have felt even more blessed than ever to have such a large and well-tended Churchyard. Not only were we able, over the Summer and early Autumn, to enjoy a considerable number of Services outside in the Churchyard when we were not allowed to worship inside. But also, it has been very well used by all members of the village whether churchgoers or not for recreation and exercise.

It has also been used in very creative and imaginative ways by Teddy Tots and latterly Forest Tots to encourage the younger members of the village to explore the Churchyard and the meaning of friendship and love in these difficult and strange times.

The addition of an outside Christmas Tree on the Church Lawn was also a very welcome innovation which meant that anyone passing could leave a prayer for a loved one on it.

All this increased use of the Churchyard emphasises how very important it is to us as a congregation and as a means of outreach. David Swift has been a tower of strength in coordinating the work in the churchyard with the very able assistance of Chris Wright. The work of the Community Payback people has been invaluable as has the work of all our volunteer mowers and trimmers.

Claire Farquhar has magnificently maintained the South side flower bed on her own and Albert Joly up until recently has maintained the central bed. Ursula Bradley has now organised a rota of volunteers each of whom has taken responsibility for maintenance of a particular flower bed. As can be seen, our churchyard is now, and will continue to be an even more important resource for us as a church in the future. We can always do with more volunteers, particularly in the Summer and Autumn months. The Community Payback team cannot help while Covid is so rampant in the community. Volunteering can be carried out socially distanced and therefore very safely. You can attend whenever and for whatever period of time you like to carry out strimming, mowing or just tidying up. Please contact David Swift to obtain more information.

David Forbes – PCC Liaison

SPOTLIGHT SMALL GROUPS

Like everyone Spotlight has been greatly affected by the Covid pandemic preventing us meeting together in our homes. Some of us have been very involved in producing our online services. We have two groups at the moment: one met in gardens when they could. The other group has kept connected every 3 weeks on Zoom. One advantage has been that Sophy Vickers has been able to join us. Each of us found ourselves in varying degrees of isolation. It seemed even more important to listen and understand how each was coping, and occasionally to have a focus as well – what we found gave hope; preparing for Christmas; recommending books, angels. We look forward to coming together in person.

Penny McAdam – Spotlight Group Coordinator

BELLRINGING AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Unfortunately, there is not much to report as we have been unable to ring since March 2020, except for a few brief weeks when we were able to ring for 15 minutes on a Sunday for the 9.30 am service, and then only on 5 bells due to the Government guidelines.

There were no changes to membership in 2020.

We had arranged and got funding for our clappers to be taken to Taylors Foundry in Loughborough to be 're-bushed' in April. This has not been able to be carried out, and at the time of writing we still do not have a date.

I was able to ring one bell 75 times on VE Day as a mark of respect to the fallen.

We are all looking forward to some positive news in the coming weeks.

Liz Middleton – Ringing Master

COFFEE ON THE COMMON

2020 started well for us at 'Coffee on the Common'. Usual service resumed after a short Christmas and New Year break, and Shrove Tuesday saw us enjoy another 'Pancake Party'. We thank everyone who supported us in this fun occasion, which raised £300 for the CFC.

As we moved into March, and the worries regarding Coronavirus started to become very real, the decision was made to suspend 'Coffee'. At the time, it was a difficult decision, which we thought was necessary for the safety of our volunteers and customers, expecting it to be a short-term response.

We have been heartened, during the months that followed, to find how many people missed us, and we were frequently asked when we might re-open.

As we emerged for a short time from hard restrictions in the autumn, we were contacted by the village hall team, anxious to provide something for those missing 'Pop In', to see if we might be willing to consider options. As a result of this, within 3 days, 'Coffee OFF the Common' began! This was a wonderfully joyful weekly coffee morning offered in the Centenary Suite, under strict Covid guidelines, for a maximum of 20 people. I would like to thank Rosemary and Caroline from the village hall. We made the decision not to open to young families, which was sad, but the aim was to encourage older, more isolated people to feel comfortable coming along. The initiative was well received for the 3 weeks that we managed to operate before we again went into lockdown!

For 'Coffee on the Common', the saddest part of 2020 was the loss of our dear Derek. His record as a volunteer was unequalled! He had been involved from day one, and worked every Tuesday session, unless on holiday, or poorly – and that was very rarely. He was very valued by us all, and he will be sorely missed.

As 2021 approaches, we continue to think about what 'Coffee on, or OFF the Common' might look like. I am VERY heartened by the fact that volunteers are seemingly keen to get 'back to business', for which I am extremely grateful.

Sue May – Coordinator

YOUTH WORK at ST MARY'S

2020 saw an extraordinary year for youth at St Mary's Redbourn. Due to the closure of the church during the first lockdown we were unable to have our normal Sunday children's groups, and this continued throughout the year.

When we began to worship outdoors, families were encouraged to participate but we could not hold separate groups. Online services continued and children and young people participated in the readings and intercessions, especially on the 1st Sunday of the month, the All Age Service.

We were unable to hold our annual Holiday Club, go to Fellowship Afloat and have our Christmas Holiday Club and Nativity. We did give out Advent calendars, Christmas cards and craft bags at the beginning of Advent for children to make cards and crafts which was very well received.

We have kept up activities on the website for the children to participate in and we have encouraged them to see what has been happening in the churchyard where Teddy Tots / Forest Tots have been making things. There have been collages put up and various trails for all ages over the year. Our thanks go to all those who have made this possible with such skill and inventiveness.

So, contact with children and youth has been maintained but due to the amount of online time children were spending on schoolwork it was decided not to add to this by online church groups. However, we had an online Christingle and a lovely Christmas story read by the Vicar.

We would also like to thank the young people who sing in the choir they have continued through lockdown to produce beautiful music for all our services.

We hope 2021 will see the reintroduction of all our activities both on Sunday and beyond.

To those who give up their time and talents to nurture our children in Christian values I thank them and also to those people who hold our groups and the children in them in their prayers, you are very much valued.

Ailsa Hulme – Children's and Youth Work Coordinator

THE BIRTH OF FOREST TOTS

In March last year all our planning for Teddy Tots suddenly came to a halt. No more cosy, supportive get-togethers with cake and chat and children playing. No stories and definitely no singing!

We set up a WhatsApp group so we could keep in touch, and we regularly phoned to make sure everyone was coping. When the lockdown was eased and we were able to get together in groups of six we started meeting again, socially distanced, in the sunny churchyard for picnics every Friday through the summer.

Once the weather grew colder, and it was not safe or feasible to begin our usual meetings inside again, it was obvious that we needed to have a complete rethink. And so, Forest Tots was born. The idea was to use our most valuable resource- the churchyard- for the children and adults to engage with creation and the Creator.

Certain imposing trees were identified which would make up a trail with different activities at each one, and we named them: Welcome Tree; Thank You Tree; Sorry Tree; Worry Tree; Praising Tree. Kate Ford made wonderful, durable signs for each one.

Forest Tots started meeting in October with between 6-10 families. One of the highlights was blowing giant bubbles at the Worry Tree. Afterwards the children were engaged in craft activities in the courtyard while the adults chatted and supported each other over a hot drink. However, after just 3 weeks we were once again in lockdown which lasted the whole of November. We met again for 2 weeks in December adding a Remembrance Tree, and then everything once more ground to a halt.

Since then we have met as a team every week over Zoom: Penny McAdam, Sarah Hill, and Kay Vernon. Kate Ford has continued to give support as well. Each week we put together 20 activity bags which we leave in the porch to be collected. The wonderful book by Charlie Mackesy called 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' has been our focus for the last term. Wendy Cruickshank has been kept busy in the office photocopying, and laminating posters for us!

Creative juices have been running! We planted bulbs which have now pushed through the earth; and the Thank You Tree is always adorned with chalk 'thank you' boards. There are two dens (The Happy House); a table for nature sculptures; a wooden spoon village; a menagerie of clay animals reposing in moss; a treasure trail; and fantastic wire sculptures of the boy, mole, fox and horse made by Virginia Corbett. And by the time of reading this there should also be an Easter Garden.

The churchyard has come alive! Families have been so appreciative of the regular changing activities, and during lockdown this space became part of the scheduled exercise route. Many others have also commented on how much they have enjoyed seeing everything as they walk through.

Please pray for Forest Tots/ Teddy Tots and the team as we discern God's guidance for our future development and direction.

The Forest Tots Team

ST. MARY'S TRANSEPT REPORT 2020

The Transept Hall and Upper Room were being used on a regular weekly/monthly basis and the one-off bookings were increasing; the usage being church meetings, village group's meetings, sewing groups, lunch clubs, children's parties, baptism celebrations, wedding receptions, wakes, and fitness classes for young and old.

COVID-19 and the resultant lockdowns have meant that all bookings from 23rd March were cancelled; September and October saw the return of a couple of our regular bookings and a couple of new ones but, there has been no activity from the beginning of November, following further government regulations.

Despite the additional cost of extra cleaning required when the Hall and Upper Room are used, it has been decided not to change the hire fees for the time being.

Wendy Cruickshank – Bookings Clerk

<p>Transept bookings can be made by email: hall@stmarysredbourn.org or by calling the dedicated booking number: 07938 723 222</p>

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

The past 12 months have been different! The choir sang for the last time in church in March 2020, prior to the national lockdown. In the following few weeks, the choir gradually metamorphosed itself from a robed choir singing in church to an online choir where individual contributions are mixed into a final product for the online services. We have been able to cover a good variety of music in this way: hymns, anthems and instrumental music for the online services. Apart from the Sunday broadcast, there have been additional services for All Souls, Advent and Christmas. The first Sunday in the month has continued with its all-age flavour, with the worship band performing its lively music, and the junior choir singing an anthem.

All this has been a remarkable team effort, and very grateful thanks must be expressed to all members of the choir for their contributions; to Stephen Boffey and Kate Ford who mix the recordings into the final music, and especially to Paul Vernon who not only mixes but also arranges music for the worship band and most importantly sits in the driving seat coordinating the online services. Thanks must also be expressed to Paul and Kay's son Tom who helped with the mixing in the early days.

Friday evening choir practices for the adults and juniors continue via Zoom.

Whilst it is sad that music making cannot take place live, one benefit of the current situation is that, because recordings can be done and services watched at any time of the day or night, one member of the choir who cannot normally attend Sunday morning services through long-term illness is able to watch them online and also to contribute to the recordings.

Catherine Robertson, whose absence through illness was recorded in last year's report, sadly passed away on 19 March 2020. We hope that before too long it will be possible to plan a memorial service.

Two members of the choir retired during the year, Eileen Mack and Ken Smith. We hope before too long to be able to thank them properly for their contribution at a choir party. Our choir parties are sorely missed, but in place of the Christmas one, Andy and Kate Ford ran a really enjoyable quiz over Zoom. Chris Wright also plans to move away from Redbourn shortly, and we hope to thank him for his longstanding contribution at one of our Zoom practices. Sadly, one member of the junior choir, Mollie Russell, has also left. On the plus side, we were very pleased to be able to welcome Carla Griffiths and Rachel Cripps to our virtual choir.

I am hoping that next year's annual report will be able to cover the resumption of choral services in church!

Jonathan Goodchild – Organist and Director of Music

THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN REDBOURN 2020

The Committee for the Churches Together in Redbourn met in January and September 2020. The three Redbourn churches represented on the committee are St Mary's Church, the Methodist Church and The Catholic Church of St John Fisher.

Committee Members: The Revd Will Gibbs (Chair), Fr. Michael Mannion, Christine Clow (Treasurer), Samantha Statham, Maggy Swift, Sue May, Angela Jordan, The Revd Stuart Dyer and Grace Sawyer (Secretary). At the September meeting The Revd Stuart Dyer succeeded Will as Chairman.

Lent 2020: Two weekly meetings were held in the lounge of New Forge Place. Two *Charity Lunches* were enjoyed at Redbourn Methodist Church and two meetings based on the parables of the Prodigal Son and The Good Samaritan were held at St. Mary's Church.

All other arrangements were cancelled because of lockdown restrictions

Grace Sawyer – Secretary

REDBOURN DAY CENTRE

The year started off on a positive note on the 8th January with 15 of our 18 clients present and ready to enjoy the company and meal provided by St Luke's.

The programme for the year, outings, entertainment and celebrations etc. had been planned and booked. Unfortunately, after a pleasant ten weeks, we were forced to close because the Covid 19 virus was sweeping the globe at an alarming rate.

Nevertheless, our wonderful teams of volunteers kept in touch with everyone. Each team, when it was their Wednesday on duty called the clients for a chat. Rosie Hinde and I divided the clients into two groups and we call them on alternate Saturday mornings. These calls are appreciated enormously.

Added to this we delivered Easter gifts and Christmas gifts, all organised by Jane Taylor.

As the year progressed, several of our clients moved into care homes, and Daphne Selwyn Fatt died, just after her 103rd birthday. At the close of 2020 only 12 of the clients remain on the list, and there is some doubt as to how many will be well enough to return when we open again. I see no point in finding more clients to make up the numbers until things return to normal.

Margie Johnstone – Day Centre Coordinator

MOTHERS' UNION

On the 7th January 2020, St Mary's Mothers' Union was pleased to welcome members from the Deanery and our friends from other churches in Redbourn, to join us for the Ecumenical Epiphany Carol Service. We held our AGM in February, when 27 members were present. This was followed by an explanation of 'Clusters' from the Deanery Chairman. In March after the service, Will kindly gave a Lenten Address.

Sadly, then shut-down closed in so we were unable to meet in April, May, June or July. This included Deanery and Diocesan events. We kept in touch with all our members during the shut-down, each committee member contacting three/four members by telephone on a regular basis.

On 1st September members were delighted that we were able to hold a socially distanced service in Church. In October and November we were also allowed a service, and on both dates a designated MU speaker came along. They were not totally successful gatherings, due to the severe Covid restrictions. But obviously everyone had to abide by the rules.

On 8th December a service was again permitted in Church, and to end the year we had a very low key 'celebration' to mark 50 years of MU membership for Hazel Smith.

Our thanks to Will for his support, as ever, but in particular this year. Also, thanks to Gill and Stephen for the first three months of playing the organ.

We hope that during 2021 we will be able to resume something like our normal programme of events.

Rosemary Woodhouse - Branch Contact

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE REPORT 2020

The unexpected events of 2020 had an obvious impact on the use of the church website.

The website received **38,000** visits from **11,000** individual people during the year (compared to 25,500 visits by 7,000 people in 2019).

Our social media pages were busy and growing – we now have **604 followers on Facebook** and **385 followers on Twitter**. Particularly popular posts during the year included a photo of the rainbow on the church fence in early lockdown, a post by Will offering help to anyone in the village who was self-isolating, the lit Christmas tree outside the church, the churchyard labyrinth, a video tour of the Bell Tower, Beer & Carols, and the stone rolled away from the church door on Easter morning. Each of those posts was seen by more than **1,000** people.

Kate Ford – Church Website Editor and Administrator

The Church website is: www.stmarysredbourn.org

St Mary's can be found on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysRedbourn>

And we're on Twitter at: @stmarysredbourn

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

2020 was another successful year for the production and circulation of the magazine. The number of copies printed each month was 1000, most of these being for regular local orders, and some posted to addresses outside Redbourn.

There were 11 editions during the year, July and August being combined. The price is 80p per copy or £8 for the year (11 editions).

Grace Sawyer continues to receive the copy for the magazine each month, and this is passed on to David Walker to provide layouts of the 29 editorial pages.

Jim May and John Ridgwell are the printers. A team of around 50 deliver the magazine and Tony Bartlett is responsible for organizing distribution.

Jim May is the Treasurer and responsible for producing the Classified Advertisements. Redbourn churches continued to give news and details of services.

A wide variety of village activities traditionally submit copy, and there is an open invitation to village organizations to do so. The Covid 19 pandemic and the lockdown restrictions meant that many events were postponed in 2020, so there was a reduction in contributions about monthly activities ... but, happily, this meant that there was an opportunity to feature more articles on local, general or specialised interests.

It is our policy to deliver a complimentary copy of the magazine to all new residents.

Those responsible for the production and circulation of Common Round in 2020:

<i>Editor</i>	Will Gibbs
<i>Copy, and design layouts</i>	Grace Sawyer and David Walker
<i>Distribution</i>	Tony Bartlett
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim May
<i>Printing</i>	Jim May and John Ridgwell
<i>Collating and distribution</i>	Jim May
<i>Classified advertisements co-ordinator</i>	

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

INCOME / EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2020

		2020	2019
Funds Brought Forward	[A]	6,856.07	8,184.04
CREDITS			
Magazine Sales	Distributor and direct	7,293.00	5,608.00
	Postal	72.00	84.00
Post Subscribers Post/pack contribution		108.00	196.00
Advertisement Sales		4,962.99	5,185.90
External Services Provided		519.63	835.48
TOTAL INCOME	[B]	12,955.62	11,909.38
DEBITS			
Printing		3,726.72	4,740.08
Machine Rental		1,945.29	1,814.32
Stationery		841.11	1,264.79
Sundry Production Expenses		30.00	187.01
Distribution Expenses		102.05	231.15
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	[C]	6,645.17	8,237.35
NETT MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	[B] - [C]	6,310.45	3,672.03
TOTAL FUNDS	[E]= (A + B - C)	13,166.52	11,856.07
Transfer to PCC	[F]		(5,000.00)
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	[G] = (E + F)	13,166.52	6,856.07
FUNDS SUMMARY			
Current Account		16,483.07	9,052.75
Debtors	at 31/12/20	40.56	338.60
Creditors		(3,357.11)	(2,535.28)
		13,166.52	6,856.07
Analysis of Debtors	2020 Copying invoiced in 2021	40.56	
Analysis of Creditors	Machine usage 2020 paid in 2021	1,260.17	1,710.22
	2021 Subs received in 2020	1,520.00	253.00
	2021 Postal subs received in 2020	80.00	
	Postage	-	231.15
	Stationery received and used in Dec 2020	56.94	171.91
	2021 Advertising received in Dec 2020	440.00	169.00
		3,357.11	2,535.28

Jim May – Common Round Treasurer

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH REDBOURN

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 26th APRIL 2020 Via Zoom for ST MARY'S CHURCH, REDBOURN

Present: 16 members, including 5 Committee members

Apologies for Absence: Julia Jeffs, David Mitchell

Wendy Bloisi welcomed everyone to the 44th annual meeting and briefly outlined the aims of the constitution.

1) Minutes of the meeting held 17th April 2019

The minutes were approved proposed by Steve Smith and seconded by Chris Little.

2) Matters Arising (Trustee's Report) – Wendy Bloisi

Another reasonably busy latter half of the year

Events from last year (2019)

- August – Gin and Jazz
- September – The bar at the annual Patronal Festival
- September – Redbourn Classics Motor show
- September – Bottle stall
- October – Harvest Supper raised
- December – Santa Claus float (thanks to the Round Table in St. Albans), and to Lee Sheppard as Santa. A big thank you to Janis Apsa for collecting and driving the float, to all the 'Elves' for helping with the collection and to everyone who donated money.

3) Treasurer's Report

The accounts were circulated at the meeting and reported on by Wendy Bloisi, our Treasurer.

Main points were:

- Subscriptions had decreased by £395 but donations were up on the previous year by £825.
- Gin and Jazz was a new event run in the church yard with the support of the Hollybush. It proved successful with a profit of £540.
- Redbourn Classics Motor show – this is the main fundraising event for Friend's and it is run with the Redbourn Care Group. It made a profit of £6,837
- RCM Bottle stall – this is held at the car show and raised £476
- Patronal Festival – running the bar earned us a profit of £105.
- Harvest Supper – held in the village hall with a quiz. It raised £301
- Santa's Float – After the 15% to the Round Table for the use of the float, we raised £649
- Expenses – the only expenses claimed are those related to an event. No other expenses are taken.

- Stock of drinks is carried over to subsequent events to maximise profits. Is difficult to cost each event as wines are purchased on offer in supermarkets.
- Interest rates are still very low; however, they are very slightly up on last year.
- Interest on savings account £681.
- Total receipts for the year were £12,930.
- Expenditure on Church projects – PCC stonework £4769. PCC Building work £1287 and Organ and Heating repairs £6969
- Other expenditure – insurance premium, Costco membership, and computer, bell service and banners totalled £1849.
- Total expenditure for the year of £14,874.
- The Annie Housden Memorial Fund received £6 interest giving a cash surplus of £843.
- Cash funds increased to £104,602.
- We still receive occasional income from legacies. These are a non-taxable way of giving money, and make a big difference to our fundraising. Please remember us in your wills.
- Wendy reminded us all profit made is used purely for the upkeep and beautification of our church and churchyard.
- Gift Aid – Wendy confirms we have to keep records of people who give us donations so she will claim the Gift Aid during the course of this year.
- The Friends aim to keep a contingency fund as a safety net for unforeseen expenditure for upkeep of the Church and Churchyard.

The total amount raised by Friends in their 41 years is almost £600,000. Thank you to everyone who has contributed over the years. Thank you also, to everyone who has attended and supported our events. Thanks go to the trustees and committee members who provide invaluable support. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please let us know. It has been disappointing to cancel an event this year; however, we do have to compete with other fundraising events in the church and village.

There were no questions.

Proposed – Jim May Seconded – Will Gibbs

All attendees were in favour of accepting the accounts.

4) Forthcoming Events

Events planned so far this coming year are Gina and Jazz in July. The Patronal Festival in September, and Redbourn Classics Motor show– September 5th. This is a classic car show to be held on the Common. This is proving a successful event which is a major fundraiser for both us and profits the Care Group. We also plan to hold the harvest festival and the Santa float.

5) Future Projects

The Quinquennial report and church decoration are in the pipeline for future expenditure

6) Vicar's Report

Will gave an enormous huge thank you to The Friends from the whole church family for the funds raised and the time given. This gave him, and the PCC, peace of mind provide support for the maintenance of the Church and Churchyard. Also, provided funds to cover new

projects, in the church. Will also promised that the Church would support The Friends in encouraging new members to join the committee, and in our fundraising activities and events.

7) Churchwardens' Report

Paul Vernon re-iterated Will's words of thanks and support, and then outlined the ongoing repairs which are part of a 900+ year old building. The support of The Friends ensures that money is available for maintenance and repair which gives peace of mind. Ending, by again thanking The Friends for their support.

8) Any Questions

None

9) Election of Committee

All the existing members were prepared to stand for re-election.

The need for new members and a Chair-person was stressed.

Proposed by: Jim May Seconded by: Celia Forbes Passed: Nem Con

10) Any Other Business

The committee asked for the constitution to be changed to allow for internet banking. When the Friends of St Mary's was set up there was no concept of such a facility.

It was agreed that the following would be added to section 12 of the constitution and this would be submitted to the Charity Commission.

"12. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the organisation, receive all subscriptions and donations and account for the same to the Annual meeting and when required so to do by the Committee and perform such other duties as usually pertain to his/her office.

The Treasurer and anyone who from time to time is named as a signatory to the bank account shall be entitled to sign a cheque or make a transfer of funds. One signature will suffice to make the cheque or transfer of funds effective. For the avoidance of doubt, it is declared that however many signatories there may be from time to time only one signature from one signatory is required to pay a cheque or make an effective transfer of funds."

Wording was also changed in the constitution to make it gender neutral which reflects the changes in society over the last 40 years.

Steve Smith gave special thanks to Wendy Bloisi for all her help and support during the year.

And encouraged everyone to get involved with the Classics on the Common, as a volunteer for what promised to be a special day for the Friends and the village.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12 pm and everyone was invited to raise a glass to the success of The Friends on future years and the hope the Covid-19 would resolve itself so that we could continue with our planned events.

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Redbourn

Trustees' Annual Report

1st January to 31st December 2020



Legal and Administrative Information

1. Address for correspondence

32 Lybury Lane, Redbourn, Herts, AL3 7HY

2. Trustees

Mr C Little

Ms J. Jeffs

Dr W M B Bloisi

Secretary

Treasurer

3. Constitution and Objects

The conduct of the Friends is governed by our constitution, which was adopted on 7th June 1976 and updated in 2020. In it, the objects of the Friends are stated as:

“To help and support the Vicar and Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Redbourn to: -

- a. maintain and embellish the fabric furnishing and fittings of St. Mary's Church.
- b. maintain, protect and beautify the churchyard of the said Church.”

4. Bankers

HSBC Bank plc, 1 High Street, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2RS

5. Independent Examiner

Mr Christopher C Hall, 33 Beechwood Avenue, St Albans, AL1 4XR

6. Income reserve policy

It is our policy to accumulate funds until they are needed for projects in accordance with our objects as stated above.

7. Investment policy

It is our policy to invest our funds with the Central Board of Finance of The Church of England, where they are held on deposit account. Interest is credited quarterly. In 2020, the average rate of interest has been 0.42%.

Main activities and achievements

Fund Raising

The Friends Committee have run a range of social activities during 2019. This year we concentrated on the car show as our main fund raiser.

February A quiz was held in the Holly Bush in February. The event made a profit of £396.

April An online zoom quiz was organized by the Holly Bush and raised
September

Although we were unable to hold the event we did have some expenses and also some donations. We also had a stall pre-paid which will be carried over to 2021. This is a profit share event with Redbourn Care Group and it was decided that all the profit would be given to the Care Group this year in recognition for the work they are doing to support the village during the Coronavirus pandemic.

December Although the Santa Float was able to run this year. Due to Tier 4 lockdown we were unable to use the event as a fundraiser.

Projects:

We have not spent money this year on structural repairs to the church building.

Future Projects:

We are conscious of the need to ensure we have funds to meet the up-coming quinquennial which we have agreed to support and also internal decoration of the church.

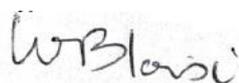
As we go into 2021 in lockdown it is unclear if we will be able to run events this year.

Summary:

Due to Covid-19 we have been unable to run any events during 2020 apart from 2 quiz evenings. We are fortunate that we have regular subscriptions which continue to provide a significant part of the income. We have also had donations from the funeral collection of Fred Arnold for which we are truly grateful. We have also had a loan to the PCC repaid. The Friends are truly grateful for the support from members, both past and present, as we continue in our task of maintaining and beautifying our church building and churchyard for the village to enjoy.

We have a vacancy for a Chairperson and additions to the committee would be welcome.

Signed:



Treasurer

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - Unrestricted Funds

RECEIPTS	2020	2019		
- Subscriptions and Donations				
Subscriptions	2506	2316		
Donations	789	1025		
Loan	10,000			
	13,295	3341		
 - Fund raising	Income	Expenses	Profit	
Quiz	396		396	
Quiz via ZOOM	50		50	
Redbourn Classics Motor show	737	737	0	
	1,183	737	446	8908
 - Receipts earned from assets				
Central Board of Finance interest			387	681
HSBC Bank interest				0
			387	681
 TOTAL RECEIPTS			14,128	12,930
 PAYMENTS				
- Church projects				
Organ repairs			5,150	
			5,150	13,025
 - Other expenditure				
Costco			60	
MacAfee computer security			90	
Deer Leap Garden Machinery repairs			864	
Insurance			437	
			1,451	1,849
 TOTAL PAYMENTS			6,601	14,874
 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			7,527	(1944)
Cash funds last year end			105,445	106,570
Cash funds this year end			113,124	105,445

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - Annie Housden Memorial Fund

RECEIPTS	2020	2019
- Receipts earned from assets		
Central Board of Finance interest	3	6
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3	6
PAYMENTS	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	0	0
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	3	6
Cash funds last year end	843	837
Cash funds this year end	846	843

The Annie Housden Memorial Fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Housden grave and other churchyard maintenance projects.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at Year End

ASSETS

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Annie Housden Memorial Fund	Total
- Cash funds				
Central Board of Finance Account		90,753	846	91,599
HSBC Current Account		21,153		21,153
Cash		150		150
		112,056	846	112,902
Pre-paid expenditure		222		222
TOTAL ASSETS		112,278	846	113,124
LIABILITIES				
NET ASSETS		112,278	846	113,124

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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
 - 1 to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act): and
 - 2 to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.

Signed

Date

Christopher C Hall

Accountant

33 Beechwood Avenue, St Albans, AL1 4XR