

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST PETER'S CHURCH,
YEOVILTON WITH PODIMORE

At the Heart of the Village



2021 Report and Financial Review

St Peter's is your parish church and has been *at the heart* of Christian worship and community life for over 700 years. Amidst all the comings and goings of people, of politicians, hopes and fears it has stood as testimony to the human condition as spiritual beings called to worship God in Christ Jesus and to work out how as humans we might live as community formed about the principle of 'love of neighbour as of oneself'.

The community of St Peter's looks to welcome all who would join in this exploration of faith in Christ, in worshipping God and serving neighbour in this day and age. This annual report looks to give a snapshot of some of the activities we get up to, and to which you would be welcome to join at any time.

The parish system within the Church of England gives rise to an interesting structure developed over centuries. Many people understandably think of the Church of England like a big corporation with a boss and workers, and with many individual branches throughout the land. This is not really the case. A better image might be that of a large business made up of franchises. Each parish has an amount of autonomy yet is governed by a set of rules for conduct which all of the parishes who are 'in communion' with each other agree to. One thing that arises from this is that each parish has to fund themselves and at the same time contribute to a 'common fund' for common provision of things like clergy and support staff. It is also the case that each parish church council (PCC) is, in its duty of care for the building and grounds, a charity and subject to the regulations of the latest Charities Act.

This act requires that we publish the accounts for all to see and give details of its constitution and function. Do read on.

Blessings

Bruce

The aims of St Mary Peter's church council.

St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Bruce Faulkner, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church building of St Peter, Podimore.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular:

- Worship and prayer.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Ensuring that the church building is both an accessible and welcoming environment.



A look back to 2021

In 2021 there were 17 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll eligible because of this to vote for PCC members.

In person services resumed in March of 2021 and regular attendance has remained steady, with 2 new worshipping members and 2 remaining isolated from public worship. We held no weddings, funerals or baptisms during 2021. The *harvest festival service* was held with a good collection of produce from the village for the local food bank – The Lord's Larder in Yeovil. Thankfully, it was still possible for the village to mark Remembrance and thanks go to Revd. John Webb for leading the service. At Christmas we still managed to hold a lessons and carols service on Christmas Eve, however, thanks to the latest Covid scare numbers were significantly reduced on previous years.

Lastly, but not least, a big thank you to all who keep the church clean, bedecked with such amazing flower displays and who keep the churchyard looking – well picture like – Thank you all!

Bruce

Churchwarden's report

Following the Covid-19 lockdown, church services commenced again in mid-March of 2021; with wearing of face coverings, social distancing and no singing allowed. Regular attendance was slightly down in the early year, due to Covid concerns, and one member having left the parish. However, in the autumn we welcomed 3 new members to our congregation, which put our average worshipping numbers back to pre Covid years. The autumn also saw a welcome return to being able to sing hymns again at all services.

Numbers at the annual Harvest Festival were lower this year, possibly due to Covid, but it is good to report that the November 'Remembrance Service' which took place outside around the war memorial was very well supported by a great number of villagers. Thank you to John Webb for leading this service. I believe most people felt more relaxed with the Covid situation having the whole service outdoors.

Covid did impact the Christmas Eve Carol service with drastically reduced numbers; with spare seats and no need to use the standing room – a first in many years. Due to the Covid restrictions on parties it was decided not to offer the usual mulled wine, local cider, mince pies and sausage rolls after the service; which was sad! We do anticipate our plans to return to the old popular traditions for Christmas 2022 will welcome the 100 plus people back to our wonderful Carol Service.

Despite the pandemic restriction on everyone's daily lives we have, when it was permitted to do so, had some enjoyable social occasions. The summer village BBQ took place on 'Duncan's Lot' in front of the church and it was especially good to welcome some of the new residents to the village. We hope to see them all at the 2022 Jubilee weekend village events.

To raise funds for St Peter's our Treasurer Sue B from the 'Old Smithy' held a cake and plant sale at her house with the support of several villagers' donations of home baked cakes. What was supposed to be a few hours turned into a very enjoyable morning, lunchtime and early afternoon. Thank you to Sue, to all who baked and to the village for being so sociable!

The annual December coffee mornings held in Ilchester Town Hall were back this year. This is our main fundraiser for church each year and the takings over the 2 Wednesday morning topped previous years. A big thank you to

the various villagers that donated a good selection of homemade sweet and savoury items, and the helpers both regular and new; it was a real village effort this time.

We add our thanks to all village volunteers for cleaning the church, providing and arranging flowers which always look a wonderful and cheering sight on entering the building. Also a special thank you to the grass cutting team. Your help is vital and much appreciated to keep Podimore church attractive and operational. I final thank you goes to the PCC members; their help in organising all the village activities is invaluable.

It just remains to encourage all to join the various Jubilee weekend celebration in 2022; especially the Village Jubilee Songs of Praise on 5th June at 11.15am

Pauline Rosewell and Ellen Le Brun

Church Wardens

Safeguarding

“Safeguarding is a Christian imperative and a responsibility that we all must undertake with thoughtfulness, commitment and care. The gospel affirms that every person is made in the image of God and that everybody is therefore valued and loved by God”

No concerns of safeguarding were reported in 2021

The Parish is registered on the Diocesan Dashboard (for easy record keeping). The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding policy, appointed a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and implemented the national Safer Recruitment Policy. Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at each PCC meeting.

As of January 2022 ‘Basic Awareness’ and ‘Foundation’ safeguarding training became a mandatory requirement for all PCC members; before this it was a ‘best practice’ matter. The PSO and Rector also need the ‘Leadership’ level training, and it remains advisory for all Church Wardens to conduct this level of training too. Many PCC members have completed their online training; all will be expected to do so before the year end. New training for raising awareness of Domestic Abuse will also be required for PCC members and is available online. All Wardens, the PSO, Pastoral Visitors and the Rector also have to be DBS cleared. All Safeguarding training and DBS are valid for 3 years.

All information is displayed in the churches and about how to contact the PSO.

Sarah Coleman

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Report

As with all Synods we began the **February 2021 meeting** (held on Zoom) with ‘Good News’ from our parishes. We heard how Ham Hill Benefice had welcomed its new incumbent, Rev Nick Clark. Also reported were the continuing works of so many parishes and community volunteers in assisting villages and towns through Covid. One piece of great news was the “Twin my Vaccine” Just Giving initiative set up by Rev Scott Patterson at Curry Rivel and his wife Rowan to support UNICEF in providing vaccines to the poorest countries unable to finance their people’s anti-Covid inoculation. This had begun with the aim of raising £1,000 but had reached £205,000 (plus gift aid).

The main focus of the meeting was the first of 3 sessions held over the year helping folks to reflect on Covid, church and how we might begin to 'emerge' in to the new reality of life the year would see us journey towards. At this meeting the Area Dean reflected on how the Church had been existing in the equivalent of Lent for nearly a year and, rather than adding further Lenten abstinence, all should take this time to be kind to themselves. We looked to Nehemiah as a source for wisdom on how God leads his people out of such times as these; exile times. We noted:

1. The people who survived the exile came and told of their situation and there was prayer; 2. An assessment of the state of Jerusalem was undertaken; 3. A proposal was put forward based on Principle rather than Preference; 4. Once more the people had a vision of who they were and of a purpose; 5. Together – the possibility of fulfilling the sense of purpose was realised – resources, skills and talents were focused for this, some things had to stop and some did new things, those looking to preferences brought opposition

With this all in mind we began to ask how our parishes might gain a fresh, or refreshed sense of vision/purpose as we come out of Covid times and following to ask what resources would assist in realising the new sense of purpose.

July 2021 meeting heard more 'Good News' with spire works completed and the project to introduce a toilet to the church almost finished at Chiselborough. Work on west side of church tower almost complete, Long Sutton. St Martin 's Kingsbury lead theft roof works were complete. Schools at Ash and Martock are so pleased to be back in Church. Odcombe, influx of families coming forward for baptisms and a Charity Walk for Uganda raising more than £800. After 3 years in Vacancy Martock, Ash and Kingsbury Episcopi had welcomed their new Vicar, Paul Fillery. Curry Rivel. Food bank to have new home in the church. Huish Episcopi cum Langport. 'Langport Cares' involves many church people. we have a foodbank which has been running in the Rectory but this will move to the Angel. Light lunches provided each week. Also collecting prescriptions and shopping.

We heard of a new forum for all Lay Leaders in Ivelchester Deanery to converse, offer support and work together for the flourishing of all our parish's mission visions. If you are a Church Warden, A Reader, PCC member, Treasurer, Lay Worship Leader, Pastoral Assistant, School Chaplain, Messy Church team member, Open the Book person, Lay Pioneer - this is your group! *Search Facebook - Ivelchester Deanery Leadership Forum and ask to join.*

Ashore after the storm! Was the title for our second session looking at how PCCs and parishes might move forward from Covid.

John 6.16-21 formed our bible reflection and we noted how the assumption is that the disciples reached exactly where they had been headed for before the storm on the lake. But have we, the parishes of Ivelchester, as we exit the storm of Covid-19 through which we have been rowing 'all night', landed in exactly the place we would expect to be if the journey had not been storm filled? Whilst it is the shore of the lake, might it be there are some differences? And what is the same, or to be expected? And how has the journey, the hours of rowing, the wind, the rain, the prayer, and panic, how has this changed us?

Synod went into virtual breakout rooms to discuss the following questions. What has not changed? What is different? How are folks after the journey?

Deanery finances – The accounts for 2020 were approved and given the healthy state of Deanery finances it was agreed that no subscriptions would be collected in 2021.

Elections to Diocesan Synod 2021-2024: Two lay representatives had been elected leaving vacancy. Mr. Chris Jackson was prepared to stand and fill the vacancy, with no opposition he was therefore elected unopposed.

October 2021 Synod heard 'Good News' of a new Messy Church, restarting of Mothers and Toddlers groups, installation of new heating systems, opening of new school in Somerton, King Ina Academy, seeing the Infants and Juniors now located in one building.

Where next after Covid? This brought our series of reflections on church and Covid to a conclusion.

As PCCs to gain a new 'vision' we would keenly ask questions like: Who are we in Christ today? What purpose is God calling us to as Christ's church? What actions need to be taken to fulfil this 'calling'? What might need to be stopped? What might we need to do differently?

Who might prefer nothing happens? Ultimately we are asking 'What does it mean to 'BE' church in our parish today'? The next step is to always to ask about the skill/talents/gifts/experiences required to move into this way of 'being church'. What recourses would be needed to be 'focused' to see things happen?

We reflected on 1 Samuel 16; a reminder we are not about 'who' but what type of person/what skills or gifting; after all this is how God does things ... Samuel consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Who/what needs to be 'focused' to see things happen? What roles/gifts/ministry is required – what things would make the calling 'possible'? We reflected on how in Jesus Christ

'the Word made flesh' - the ministry comes before the minister 'God so loved the world he sent his Son' - the Role Required comes before the Post Holder. How might we ask what Ministry/Role/Calling is required to make our calling possible? Only then might we be able to identify the person who will 'embody' the calling and make it a ministry!

This approach to equipping churches for their local mission is at the heart of 'focal ministry' (note Ministries and not Minister as the starting point). In this approach to resourcing ministry, now being adopted across the CofE (with various titles) we see an approach that is broad and not just ordained in form but looks to someone whose ministry has been locally encouraged and through discernment, training, safeguarding, and authorization is enabled and supported to undertake the role they are called into. Very much Ly this is, however NOT Vicar Gap Filling! At its heart we ask 'what ministry' is required before asking who might provide this as their 'ministry'.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2020). At St Peter's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 3 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 90%.

Administrative information

St Peter's Church is situated in Church Street, Podimore. It is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England. PCC members who have served from the annual meeting in 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members: The Reverend Bruce Faulkner (Chair),

Elected members: Ellen Le Brun (representative on Deanery Synod), Sue Bennett (Treasurer), Pauline Rosewell, Rose-Marie Robinson (resigned September 2021), Julie Evans (co-opted September 2021)

Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Coleman

Financial review

Total receipts were £7,139 a reduction from 2020 of £115.

Parish share for 2021 was £4,363 an increase on 2020 of £235 and all had been paid to the DBF as of 31st December 2021.

In its undertaking to honour the expectations of the Faculty Jurisdiction System the PCC ensured that repairs noted in the most recent architect's inspection of the church were completed with £1,313 spent.

Insurance costs remain steady at £451; £4 more than the previous year.

Fundraising through village events and the coffee mornings held in Ilchester generated £1,414 for the PCC

Reserves policy

The balance of the free reserves at the yearend was £33,142 which falls well within the PCC policy of having at least 3 months of expenditure held in reserve.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Thank you Sue Bennett for your tireless work as our treasurer!

St Peter's Church Yeovilton with Podimore

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

Receipts & Payments Accounts

page 1 of 3

	U	R	D		
	General Fund	Tower Fund	Fabric Fund	2021	2020
Receipts					
Tax efficient planned giving	2695			2695	2580
GASD planned giving					
Collections at services	882			882	465
Other recurring donations					
Non recurring donations	210			210	100
Tax recovered gift aid	756			756	998
Legacies			789	789	1534
Non- recurring grants			219	219	767
Fund raising	1440			1440	680
Investment income	12			12	26
Parochial fees income					71
Other church income	136			136	33
Right of way payment					
Total Receipts	6,131	0	1008	7139	7254

Notes: 1 Osborne Legacy trust (for fabric repairs); 2 LPOW scheme (VAT grant following repairs); 3 Credit repayment from SSE

page 2 of 3

	U	R	D		
	General Fund	Tower Fund	Fabric Fund	2021	2020
Payments					
Fund raising costs					
Donations, mission giving	85			85	
Parish share	4363			4363	4128
Clergy expenses	563			563	187
Subscriptions	25			25	25
Insurance	452			452	447
Minor repairs	255			255	
Running Costs (candles, extinguishers)	77			77	79
Independent examiner fee	60			60	60
Heating and lighting	181			181	635
Fabric works			1313	1313	2810
Sundry expenses					
Parochial Fees					27
Total Payments					
	6061	0	1313	7374	8398
Excess of receipts over payments	70	0	(305)	(235)	(1144)
Transfers between funds	(305)	0	305	0	0
Balance B/F 1st January 2021	15903	0	0	15903	17047
Balance C/F 31st December 2021	15668	0	0	15668	15903

Notes: 4 Somerset Churches Trust and Ivelchester Deanery subs (no deanery subs in 2021); 5 Chancel rug and underlay

Account Balances and Reconciliation Year ended Dec 31st 2021**Nat West A/C**

		1st Jan 2021	31st Dec 2021
Balance 1st Jan 2021	£15,903	£15,903	
Income	7,139		
Expenditure	(7,374)		
Balance 31st Dec 2021	£15,668		£15,668

CCL Investment A/C

Opening Actual Balance 1st Jan 2021	£17,467	£17,467	
Interest	£7		
Actual Balance 31st Dec 2021	£17,474		£17,474
Totals			£33,142

Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

Report to the trustees of:

St Peter's, Podimore

Parochial Church Council

On accounts for the year ended:

31st Dec 2021

Charity Number (if applicable):

X1091099

Set out on pages

Respective
responsibilities of trustees and
examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's
statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

H. A. Petherbridge

Date:

1/4/22

Name:

MRS HELEN PETHERBRIDGE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

ACCA

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