



Ashbourne, St Oswald

Annual Report and Financial Statements Of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31st December 2020

Registered Charity No. 1185390

Ashbourne, St Oswald

Meeting of Parishioners – Election of Churchwardens

11.30am on 27th June 2021 in St Oswald's Church

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Clerk (to both meetings)
 2. Minutes of last meeting (21st October 2020) Page 3
 3. Election of Churchwardens
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Ashbourne, St Oswald

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

11.40am on 27th June 2021 in St Oswald's Church

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM 2020 and any Matters Arising Page 3
3. Report on Changes to Electoral Roll and Church Attendance Page 6
4. Annual Report on Proceedings of PCC and activities of the Parish generally Page 7
 - To include: Safeguarding Page 8
 - Ministry Team Report Page 8
 - Reports from St Oswald's groups and organisations Page 12
5. Treasurers Report. Page 9
 - To include:
 - Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2019 Page 20
6. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church Page 10
7. Report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod Page 11
8. Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner
10. Any Other Business

Ashbourne, St Oswald

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Election of Churchwardens 18h, Wednesday 21st October 2020 – using online ‘Zoom’ Application

The Rev’d. Duncan Ballard opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

- 1) It was agreed that Susan Damesin, Minutes Secretary, would act as clerk for both the meetings.
- 2) The Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th April 2019 were approved.
- 3) Election of the churchwardens: two nominations for Churchwarden had been received for the coming year. These posts will be for 6 months until Easter 2021. Duncan declared that Paul Elliott and Nick Taylor would be Churchwardens for 6 months and that an effort should be made to find new people for the posts. In view of the current situation with the Covid pandemic and the fact that some people might live in a different ‘tier’ from Ashbourne, it was suggested by Janet Wright that it could be helpful to appoint deputy wardens. A suggestion agreed to by Duncan.

This then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at 18h10.

Ashbourne, St Oswald Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 18h10, Wednesday 21st October 2020 – using online ‘Zoom’ Application

- 1) Apologies for absence were noted – there were five apologies. Those present numbered 31. (See list in record book.)
- 2) The Minutes of the APCM 2019 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising from those Minutes.
- 3) Linda Barbour reported number on the Electoral Roll as 113 - 19 of whom were not resident within the Parish. On the subject of church attendance, Duncan reported that St Oswald’s currently has the largest congregation in the Diocese – mainly because our church building is so large. Attendance was flourishing in 2019 – a very different situation this year due to the pandemic. A question was asked if we count on-line attendance and Duncan said that on-line attendees are to be encouraged to continue, but we did not know how they would be counted.
- 4) The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council to the year ending 31st December 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. This included the Clergy Report and reports from St. Oswald’s groups and organisations. There were no questions on these reports.
It is noted that Kay Wright, who wrote the Safeguarding report, is standing down from her position as Safeguarding Link and this will be taken on by Celia Dickenson. Thanks to Kay Wright for her work and leaving things well set up for the next person to take on the position. Thanks also to Celia for taking on the position.
- 5) The Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31 December 2019 – also circulated before the meeting. The Treasurer commented that we were ‘keeping our head above water’ but that there had been a reduction in monies received due to the reduction in the number of weddings and other services. Peter Walker proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Michael Hyde, Treasurer, for his work during the year and his report.
- 6) Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church 2019. Circulated before the meeting. No comments on the report. Duncan thanked Nick Taylor for the report.
- 7) Report on Deanery Synod. Circulated before the meeting. No questions raised on the report. Thanks expressed to Synod members. Celia Yates commented on the quality and interest of the Synod Meetings which she found interesting, challenging and enjoyable.
- 8) The end of term for current representatives on Deanery Synod being 30 November 2020, we need to appoint three new representatives to serve for three years. Nomination received for Roger Harrison and elected. Janet Wright nominated John Elwell and Peter Walker, seconded by Nigel Rode. Elected unanimously. Duncan suggested Mike Warner, Celia Yates and Michael Halls might wish to become Deanery reps. for other churches in the group.
- 9) Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC.
Duncan took the opportunity of thanking John Titterton, Chris Haycock and Kay Wright who would all be standing down. Michael Hyde and Lindsay Walker had come to the end of their current term of office. Nomination had been received for Jane Almond. Toby Gaddum, Celia Dickinson Michael Hyde and Lindsay Walker all willing to stand. All 5 unanimously elected.
- 10) Appointment of independent examiner: Mr B. Montgomery from the accountancy firm of Smith Cooper in Ashbourne was appointed as Independent Examiner for the coming year. Thanks were noted to him for his work.

The Meeting closed at 18h55 with the Grace.

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020

Correspondence Address:

St Oswald's Parish Office
School Lane
Ashbourne
DE6 1AN

Bank:

Lloyds Bank Plc
Compton
Ashbourne
DE6 1DY

Incumbent:

Revd. Duncan Ballard
3, Spire Close
Ashbourne
DE6 1DB

Independent Examiner:

Mr. B. Montgomery
Smith Cooper
54 St. John's Street
Ashbourne
DE6 1GH

Introduction

Background

St. Oswald's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with its clergy in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St. Oswald's (except the chancel) and the Church Centre.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	The Revd. Duncan Ballard	
<i>Retired Clergy</i>	The Revd Nigel Rode The Revd Maggie Rode	
<i>Curate:</i>	The Revd Amanda Marshall	
<i>Reader:</i>	Mr Mike Warner Mrs Lynda Herbert	
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mr Nick Taylor Mr Paul Elliott	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr Martin Forrest Mr Michael Halls Miss Celia Yates Mr Roger Harrison Mr Peter Walker Mr John Elwell	Until 30/11/2020 Until 30/11/2020 Until 30/11/2020 Until 30/11 and From 1/12/2020 Until 30/11 and From 1/12/2020 From 1/12/2020
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mr John Titterton Mrs Christine Haycock Mrs Kay Wright Mrs Susan Damesin*** Mrs Linda Barbour* Mrs Janet Wright** Mrs Jane Almond Mr Toby Gaddum Mrs Celia Dickinson***** Mr Michael Hyde**** Mrs Lindsay Walker	Until 13/07/2020 Until 26/07/2020 Until 21/10/2020 From APCM 2018 From APCM 2019 From APCM 2019 From APCM 2020 From APCM 2020 From APCM 2020 From APCM 2017 and APCM 2020 From APCM 2017 and APCM 2020
<i>Co-Opted</i>	Mr Michael Halls Miss Celia Yates	From 5/11/20 From 5/11/20

* Electoral Roll Officer ** Secretary *** Minute Secretary **** Treasurer ***** Safeguarding Link

Committees

During 2020 the PCC operated with committees as follows:

Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business between meetings of the full Church Council. It also acts, when required, as the financial planning group. Membership consists of Incumbent, 2 Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer and another PCC member invited from a rota.

Forums.

Each Forum has clear 'Terms of Reference' and is focussed on supporting the mission of the church, as laid out in the Church Strategy Document. During 2020 only the Resourcing Forum met.

Resourcing Forum

To provide support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises (church and church hall) and grounds, and on the best use of our financial resources.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll Officer records those eligible to vote in the church elections and reports to the PCC at its meetings. Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, the APCM which was scheduled to take place in April 2020 was deferred until October 2020. Revision of the Electoral Roll took place ahead of that meeting.

The Electoral Roll was revised again in early June 2021 and currently there are 111 (113 in 2020) on the Church Electoral Roll, 18 (19 in 2020) of whom are not resident within the parish of St. Oswald's church.

Church Attendance

During 2020 church attendance could not follow the usual pattern.

From early in the first lockdown, until the end of the year, a weekly Sunday service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer was recorded. In addition daily Morning and Evening Prayer were recorded. Both of these were made available on YouTube and Facebook or via the website. It is, of course, not possible to ascertain exactly how many people accessed these services and watched them all through.

Weekly Edward Bear stories and prayers were also offered online along with a recorded Breakfast Church service in April. From May –July Breakfast Church was offered via the video-conferencing app 'Zoom'.

From July, in addition to the online services, a 10.30am Sunday service of Holy Communion was held in Church under strict Covid guidelines. These services continued until December (with the exception of November when churches had to close again). The average attendance at these services was 48.

Annual Report on the Proceedings of the PCC (2020) and activities of the Parish

A year of challenge and change! When the Covid-19 pandemic began and the Government imposed a 'lockdown' (March 23rd) the PCC and Ministry Team had to find new ways of communicating, worshipping, praying together, and looking after each other. For many it was a steep learning curve in digital technology.

The PCC met once 'in person' in February and, blessed with members who all had access to e-mail and the internet, met a further 3 times using the 'Zoom' video-conferencing application. The Standing Committee held additional meetings and both consulted and informed other PCC members via e-mail. Delayed Annual Meetings were held in October also using 'Zoom'.

In early March use of the 'common cup' in Holy Communion was suspended (Covid virus 'prevention of transfer arrangements'). Then on March 23rd the Church building was closed and all activity suspended. Church members were encouraged to stay in touch by phone, especially with anyone elderly or vulnerable who might need extra support. The Revd. Duncan Ballard arranged for some members of the congregation to contact others by phone on a regular basis. He also began recording services of Holy Communion from the Vicarage (available on YouTube and Facebook). Reader Lynda Herbert led daily Morning and Evening Prayer on YouTube and Facebook. (St Oswald's updated its CCLI licence to include 'streaming'). In April the first of weekly emailed newsletters was issued and a weekly 'Zoom chat' was offered. In May, following the Church of England's guidance, weekly services were recorded in church. In late June the Church was opened for unaccompanied private prayer on the afternoons of Wednesday and Sunday, with strict protocols laid down in a Risk Assessment approved by the Archdeacon. Finally, on the 27th July, St Oswald's opened for a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am. The service was intentionally short, the doors were left open throughout the service, everyone attending had to give contact details for the 'Track and Trace' system, masks had to be worn, hands sanitised, there was a one-way route around church, seating was 'socially distanced', there were no reusable service sheets or books, there was no singing (but it was good to hear the bells and organ again) and no offertory plate passed around. Holy Communion in one kind was brought to people in their seats. A 'contactless' giving point was available beside the retiring collection plate. This and subsequent weekly Sunday services were popular, with a typical congregation of 50. Between them the Ministry Team continued to provide a Sunday 'Morning Prayer' service online too, recorded in one of the churches in St Oswald's Group of churches. St Oswald's church was awarded the "We're Good to Go" mark, (a national scheme to show that we had taken the required action to welcome visitors in line with Government and Public Health England guidelines).

However, sadly, numbers of Covid cases began to rise again sharply and churches were closed for public worship at the beginning of November. St Oswald's was opened for Sunday services and private prayer during December but many traditional services leading up to Christmas were offered in an online form only. The congregation had to book places for services on Christmas Eve (10pm) and Christmas Day so numbers could be managed.

Many of St Oswald's usual groups and activities were forced to close all year but, as you will see in the following reports, others found new ways to continue or remain in touch. Individuals provided contact and support, delivered food and flowers to others, made contributions to the Food Bank, helped with recording services, kept the church grounds tidy and volunteered in many other ways (See especially Ossie's Kitchen report). Grants made to Ossie's Kitchen and a generous donation from an individual made it possible to keep the Hall 'Covid clean', but open the toilets before and after a Sunday service.

The PCC already knew at the beginning of 2020 that the financial outlook was 'challenging'. However the events of the year were to make this worse. (See Treasurer's Report) The PCC was very grateful for continued financial support from regular givers (especially through the Parish Giving Scheme) but had to take some difficult decisions. Our Parish Administrator was furloughed from May to August and church running expenses cut back. In July the PCC agreed a budget for the rest of the year that would mean we paid only 70% of the requested Diocesan Common Fund contribution (See Treasurers Report) but allowed strictly managed opening of the Church Hall (used by St Oswald's School) and maintained our commitment to local, national and international mission.

The work of the Resourcing Forum has proved invaluable in keeping the building and grounds cared for, and monitoring potential Health & Safety issues. There were no items for urgent action on the Quinquennial Report finally completed during 2020. The Forum also led the process of setting and monitoring the budget.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy discipline Measure 2016 (to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding). The PCC received Safeguarding Reports from its Parish Safeguarding Link (Officer).

The PCC was really grateful to the Revd. Duncan Ballard for his leadership of St Oswald's during the pandemic, for his priority in providing for and supporting all in the community, and his willingness to embrace new technology. We received notice from the Diocese on 8 December 2020 that the Revd Ballard would be suspended until further notice pending an investigation. The commitment of our Ministry Team had been seen throughout the year. After notice of the suspension, along with Churchwardens Nick Taylor and Paul Elliott, the Team ensured that planned services and activities continued during Advent and Christmas. Retired clergy the Revd Maggie and the Revd Nigel Rode took on leadership in addition to Ossie's Kitchen and Carers Count, curate Amanda Marshall assumed more responsibility before she left for a placement in Pilsley at the end of the year, Readers Mike Warner and Lynda Herbert led or contributed to 'live' or online services (Lynda continued to offer daily Morning and Evening prayer online). We are so grateful to them all for their spiritual and pastoral leadership during a testing year.

Janet Wright
(Approved by PCC at meeting 15 March 2021)

Safeguarding- Annual Report (2020-2021)

DBS Checks and Renewals There have been 11 DBS checks and renewals for both existing roles and new volunteers. All have been cleared.

Safeguarding Policy – This has been updated and a link is available on the Church website. The website address is available in Church.

Safeguarding training – appropriate levels of training have been completed, i.e. C0, C1 and C2 by various post holders. Training is ongoing and a register is kept by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

A Data Dashboard continues to be updated as changes happen and is current.

Safeguarding issues – there have been no new safeguarding issues in the past year. An ongoing Safeguarding case is requiring input from the parish.

Derby Safeguarding Newsletter is received in the parish to ensure compliance and receive relevant updates from the Derby Diocese & Church of England.

Celia Dickinson May 2021

Ministry Team report for period 8th – 31st December 2020

Ministry Team (8th – 31st December): Rev'd Amanda Marshall (Curate), Rev'd Maggie Rode (PTO), Rev'd Nigel Rode (PTO), Michael Warner (Reader), Lynda Herbert (Reader – Covid Housebound).

Following the Bishop's announcement on 8th December of the Rev'd Duncan Ballard's enforced absence Rev'd Amanda (as Curate) took initial charge of proceedings and organisation of relevant communication and co-ordination of immediate arrangements.

In the evening of 8th December Archdeacon the Venerable Carole Coslette telephoned to Rev'd Maggie Rode and Rev'd Nigel Rode and, in view of the new situation and with Rev'd Amanda due to go on Placement as of 31st December, requested that together with the Church Wardens they assume responsibility for the Parish(es), on the basis of "as if in vacancy". Rev'ds Maggie and Nigel verbally agreed to accept that responsibility and subsequently met with Church Wardens Paul Elliott and Nick Taylor. [The Archdeacon expressed surprise and concern that the Ashbourne Group of Parishes was not yet a Single Benefice]. Sunday 20th December Archdeacon Carole attended the 10.30am Service at St Oswald's. The Ministry Team ensured that various forms of Christmas Services, all within the guidelines of Covid Restrictions, were held at each of the churches within the Ashbourne Group of Parishes with a 10pm Christmas Eve Service and two Services (9am and 10.30am) on Christmas Morning held at St Oswald's. At the 10.30am Service, 27th December Rev'd Pip Short, retired but known to the Parish(es) and holding PTO, offered to join the Ministry Team during this challenging time and was welcomed, and the congregation wished Rev'd Amanda well as she left the Parish to commence her placement of three months (possibly six months) at Clay Cross ahead of her Curacy being completed on 30th June 2021.

Our special thanks go to Tony and Deidre Wilmore and to Roger Harrison for all the work and support in producing the recorded Services each week since March and to Lynda Herbert for her daily on-line Services of Morning and Evening Prayer.

Nigel Rode

Treasurers Report

& Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2020

(Financial Statements are on pages 20-26) Received and approved at PCC meeting on 15th February 2021. Independent Examiner's Statement is on p27

Finance

The treasurer's comments on the several funds in Receipts and Payments:

Bellringers Fund – A small decrease of £65 during the year with the balance standing at £2,930.

Choir Fund – A small decrease of £95 to give a balance of £2,831.

Fabric Fund – The receipts of £3,910 include a legacy of £500 from Mrs Hazel Fletcher, £629 from the Old Trust and £1,270 VAT recovered on heating work completed in 2019. The only payment was the insurance premium of £5,917. However, the balance increased from £197,904 to £214,107 through the increase in value of the CBF shares.

Flower Fund – A purchase of oasis reduced the balance from £783 to £681.

Organ Fund – An increase of £107 to £3,017.

Special Purposes Fund – The balance increased by £11,762 to £25,329 at the year end. This was thanks to a most generous anonymous donation of £10,000 (£12,500 with Gift Aid added) and a legacy of £5,002 from Mr GG Phillips. Payments amounting to £3,600 from the lottery grant were paid to Greenwoods.

General Fund- With the church closed for much of the year from March because of the Coronavirus pandemic outgoings were kept in line with reduced income and we made a small surplus. Thanks to the Parish Giving Scheme, and its members, planned giving was down by only £922, however, collections and other giving, money in church boxes and bookstall sales were down by approx. £10,000. It was decided late in the year that we could again give £3,000 to missionary and other charitable organisations and this was allocated as follows: USPG £1,000, ACE £1,000, Church Urban Fund £500, Derbyshire Mind £300 and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal £200.

It proved impossible to pay the Common Fund in full but monthly payments continued throughout the year and a total of £49,034 was paid, this being 70% of the £69,860 requested. Of this, £1,236 was paid by Mappleton and £3,500 by St John's until they stopped monthly payments.

Ossie's Kitchen Agency (Postbox)- Receipts from and payments to this new venture were recorded in this, with the opening balance being £698 and the year-end balance being £7,556, of which £2,700 received in advance for support in 2021. From January 2021 this will be replaced by Ossie's Kitchen Fund which will be part of the PCC accounts.

Several grants were received during the year £

Derbyshire County Council	3,000
Covid National Lottery	2,900
Derbys Dales Dist. Council	325
Rural Action Derbyshire	463
Foundation Derbyshire	1,000

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church – 2020 (Received and approved at PCC on May 17th 2021)

Report for the APCM June 2021 Covering May 2020 to December 2020

Introduction

There has been little change of significance since the last APCM, especially as the interval has been shorter than usual due to the COVID-19 changes to the timetable.

No major projects or developments have occurred in the period and what activity has taken place has been general "keeping an eye on things" maintenance.

Fabric

The main event this period was the Quinquennial Inspection conducted by Mark Parsons our Church Architect in September. The most significant item in the report is that Mr Parsons stated that he saw no immediate need to attend to the exterior of the spire. He indicated that another 10 to 15 years should elapse before it became necessary to work on the exterior of spire.

There were three items for priority action, a number of less urgent matters to attend to, and various observations.

Priority Items

1. Recommendation to consider installing Roof Alarm protection given the extent of lead sheeting on the roof – basically all of it – and its vulnerability to theft.
2. The interior of the spire is suffering from "wind scour" which needs to be attended to. The stone is being eroded by wind entering via the lucarnes (unglazed openings) which can be addressed by fitting windbreaks. These will replace the existing bird-netting, many of which are already in need of repair. Care will be needed to choose the correct degree of wind reduction as blocking too much will put lateral pressure on the whole spire.
3. The lead sheeting on the Chancel roof is wearing thin and is slipping giving rise to occasional leaks, most notably over the organ console. In addition, the overlaps between the sheets are now considered to be inadequate for the pitch of the roof as Best Practice recommendations have been updated. The lead sheet has been in place since 1937 and is now due for replacement. As the Church Commissioners have Chancel Repair Liability we must liaise with them, and it is hoped that they will fund the repairs.

The PCC's Resources Forum has been working through the report to formulate a plan to tackle the recommendations. Item 1 has been addressed already and is complete; item 2 has been started; and item 3 will be looked at once item 2 is well underway. We don't have the resources to work on them simultaneously.

Less Urgent Items

In no particular order, other items to address are:

- Trip hazards and uneven patches in places on the footpaths, from the gates and around the SW corner of the building (DDDC responsibility).
- The wooden block flooring in the Nave and S Transept requires relaying or replacing.
- Some drainpipes and gullies require attention to refix and/or unblock.
- Pointing work is required in numerous places.
- Some floor tiles in the Chancel by the choir stalls, require repair or replacement.
- All the doors require treatment with linseed oil and repainting the ironwork.
- The South Transept door requires attention to improve its attachment to the doorway.
- A loose column around the S Door requires re-fixing.
- The gates require redecorating (DDDC responsibility).
- Access to the Boiler House is hazardous and requires upgrading.

Goods and Ornaments

No changes to the Inventory have been recorded.

The cane-seated chairs in St Oswald's Chapel are mostly in poor condition and have been moved into the S Transept while some blue chairs have been moved into the chapel. No decision has been made as to what to do with them, but some of the frames are in good enough condition to be re-caned.

Nick Taylor and Paul Elliott (Churchwardens)

Carsington Deanery Synod

There are usually three meetings each year. Since the 2020 APCM, due to lockdowns, the Deanery Synod has held just two 'Zoom meetings'. The aims of these meetings are to:

Seek God's Will;
Reflect Our Values, Work Well Together, and Take Action for The Future.

In the last year, as is normal, there has been opportunity for the sharing of news, updates and practice from our constituent churches and wide ranging discussions on a range of topics, including: the obvious impact of the Covid pandemic on Churches, Services and Parishioners, and measures taken to maintain communication, e.g. Zoom services and other events; will the Church of England ever be Carbon Neutral; Zero Carbon 2030; Changes to Church Governance Rules; Diocesan Vision; Strategic Buildings Review; Statistics for Mission; and not least elections to the Derby Diocesan Synod!

Other main items have concerned: updates on the payment of the Common Fund; membership of the Deanery Leadership Team; and information about the Board of Education's Academisation Policy and membership of the Derby Diocesan MAT. This has raised questions around relationships, support, and the nature of the future relationships with current schools and those schools which might wish to join other MATs.

Probably the most significant issue at present for the Carsington Deanery, and all others in the county, is how we work with the Bishop Libby's vision for the future, and how can we support each other and flourish.

At the Deanery Synod meeting on 9th November 2020 Bishop Libby attended to talk about the 'five strands' for her vision for the future of the diocese. As you are probably already aware this review is likely to have serious implications on how churches and the diocese may operate in the future, not just financial, but also as a result of proposals to reduce the number of Clergy.

Members of the Deanery Synod expressed a range of concerns, though the 'Bishop's Vision' is subject to further consultation across the diocese. At the January Deanery Synod meeting a further presentation was given around Bishop Libby's vision and strategy. It explained why the process of communication and feedback was paced, while every element of diocesan life received communication, before the next steps were taken.

Please watch this space, and the opportunity for further discussions to continue in the coming months.

Reports from St Oswald's groups and organisations

Bellringers

Bellringing at St. Oswald's took place as usual for the first few weeks of 2020, including the annual Shrovetide Peal, this year's method being London Surprise Major. However, due to the Covid 19 pandemic and government restrictions put in place in March, all bell ringing stopped until July. The C of E, Central Council of Church bell ringers and Public Health England then allowed limited ringing: 15 mins per session, 1 ringer per bell and social distancing of 2m. This resulted in our ringing bells 1, 3, 5 and 7 for Sunday morning services. We rang on a rota basis until prevented from doing so when we moved to tier 2 in the autumn. No tower bell ringing has taken place since then.

Practice nights, even though they would be the requisite 72 hours distant from Sunday ringing, could not be planned unless the 15 min duration was extended and social distancing reduced to 1 metre + face coverings. This never was allowed.

We have started Zoom and Ringing Room meetings every Wednesday evening to keep us together as a band. On Ringing Room, apart from a lot of laughter, we can now manage Plain hunt triples, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Cloisters and Erin Doubles. We have 8 regular ringers who are all making progress.

No training or recruitment has been possible this year and this will need to be addressed as soon as we can.

We are in a very difficult time with the Covid-19 pandemic and we shall endeavour to hold the band together until such times as the vaccines and successful treatments have taken effect. The latest Government Road Map suggests limited ringing, as before, may be allowed from mid-May, with full ringing by July. It is hoped that this can be achieved.

We thank everyone for their continued support and especially Jackie for her work as secretary, David as steeple keeper and Jane as our treasurer; also Duncan for allowing us to ring the bells and for his support throughout the year.

Peter Dickinson March 2021

Book Club

The book club has not met. One member did offer to host via zoom but it never happened. Sourcing and distributing books during lockdown would have been tricky and inadvisable.

Ros Taylor

Breakfast Church

Between January and early March the kitchen team provided a generous breakfast, numbers attending remained between 30 and 40 and our acts of worship included prayers, songs (accompanied by Roger Harrison on piano or YouTube videos) and activities - to share something new about God and our faith.

After 'lockdown' our first challenge was to stay in touch with the large number who had some contact with Breakfast Church. The Revd Amanda Marshall created a 'WhatsApp' group for those with smart phones and began posting regularly on our Facebook page. In April we offered a pre-recorded video of Breakfast Church worship to celebrate Easter, but hoped to introduce more interaction. Hence from May to July Breakfast Church was held on the video conferencing app 'Zoom', with interactive prayers, stories and songs. Numbers were far fewer than when we could meet 'in person' but contact was retained with those people.

By July the Church was able to hold services in the building (within strict Covid guidelines) so the planning group dared to think about meeting again. A Breakfast Church without breakfast (!) (but with limited numbers, social distancing, mask wearing and a one-way system) was held in the church hall in August. A small pop-up tent made an excellent whale to swallow a small Noah!



The response was encouraging so we met again in September and October. Materials for activities and a limited, pre-packed breakfast were left out on tables at least 48 hours ahead.

As Covid numbers began to rise again in some parts of the country the November Breakfast church was cancelled. We did meet once more to anticipate Christmas, in early December, but then a new 'lockdown' began.

Leadership of the worship was shared by Revd Amanda Marshall, Andy Wright, Ashdon Tombs, Revd Duncan Ballard and Janet Wright. We have lost several team members (Thank you Irene, Chris, Ellie-May and Revd Amanda) but the desire for Breakfast Church is still there so we will hope to meet again in 2021. Going forward our challenges are similar to those of the whole church - how to stay in contact with those people who attend services and how to disciple, or grow the faith of, those who do attend.

Despite these challenges we have been given the opportunity to share aspects of our faith with a different set of people, expressing God's love for them in a very practical way.

Janet Wright

Carers Count



AN OUTREACH ACTIVITY OF St OSWALD'S CHURCH

In association with Derbyshire Carers Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

On the first Wednesday of January, February and March 2020 we welcomed anyone caring for someone else, for whatever reason, to join us in St Oswald's Hall for an hour of respite, coffee and chat. They were assured of a warm welcome, a friendly face and a listening ear, not least amongst fellow Carers able to share understanding and advice from their own personal experience.

In each of those months we had ten attendees from our group of regular attendees of fifteen Carers, but then Covid 19 Restrictions prevented the continuing to meet in person.

Then the world discovered Zoom. Regrettably, not all of the group were able to stay in contact this way. For those without internet access, we continued to maintain telephone contact but up to ten Carers met on Zoom on a Wednesday morning **every week for the rest of the year**. This proved invaluable, mutual support especially to the Carers who were isolating and shielding from the pandemic, for their own sakes and that of the one for whom they were caring, and for those Carers who sadly lost loved ones during the year.

MR / NR

Choir

That was the year that was. The year began promisingly but then came March. Choral work stopped abruptly with no sign of a change until Advent when we were able to record a special service. Following national guidelines, we were able to provide some limited choral work for Christmas services. The choir members were asked what they felt they could commit to: all of those who felt safe enough to sing socially distanced were able to do so. For about half of the entire year, there was at least one live service in church each week where Roger and I provided a variety of music before, during and after the services. Roger very kindly ensured that the recorded services had musical input throughout the year.

The choir members received regular newsletters through the year as well as phone calls from me on a rolling rota. Pastoral care is an essential ingredient in the nurture of a successful choir.

However, so much was lost with no practices, services or visits. Hopefully we shall be able to pick up where we left off sometime soon, newly invigorated and enthused after such a long enforced break.

My personal thanks must go to each member of the choir but especially to Roger for his unerring support. I should also like to thank Duncan for helping the choristers achieve their potential through carefully thought through liturgy; it is much appreciated. We are so fortunate to have such a great choir leading our worship. I greatly appreciate what each chorister brings to the life of St. Oswald's church and its outreach into the wider community. Thank you so much.

Michael Halls

Connect Group

Our Connect Group was established at the end of 2019. During the following year we grew from a group of 6 to 8.

At the start of 2020 we met in each other's homes one evening a week sharing; provision of hospitality, cake and drinks, the highs and lows of the previous week ('check in') and leadership of the session. We closed with prayer for each of us. Each session was based on material we read and reflected on at home during the previous week. During the year we used material from York Courses and BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) and occasionally topics suggested by group members.

With the arrival of the Covid-pandemic and 'lockdown' we initially stayed in touch by telephone, then we learned to use the free online application 'Zoom'. At first we were limited to a 40 min session, then seeing its value Andy took out a subscription so we could go back to meeting for about 1¼ hours.

Between late April and July we pondered the topics of 'prayer', 'hope' and 'time'. Over the summer we met just to 'check in' and pray for each other. Then from September to December we returned to our usual pattern, studying 'Receiving Christ' and 'Journeying through Advent'

We have seen the value of an online meeting – staying in touch wherever you live, not having to leave your home (especially on a dark evening!) or struggle with access issues – but we still look forward to the day when we can again meet in person and share hospitality.

However the group has lived up to its name – connecting us, providing the means to share highs and lows, learn from each other and, above all, grow in our faith.

Andy and Janet Wright

Edward Bear (report to the PCC March 2021)

1 Social media presence. On behalf of EB, Lindsay and Peter have continued to share a presence of the Edward Bear values through weekly Facebook events since April 2020.

Some of these were also put on YouTube by Duncan, and although viewings range widely, weekly these have reached several hundred people. These events started with a series of stories written by Peter and represent the imaginings of Edward Bear and other toys during lockdown. Peter then created a book 'The adventures of Edward Bear' that captures the organisation of the Edward Bear Praise and Play group, beautifully illustrated by one of our mums, Lucy Burlinson. Copies of this little publication were given to all the volunteers of Edward Bear as a record of having run Edward Bear to celebrate twenty years of Edward Bear, not quite as we had planned, because of Covid 19 restrictions. Some have also been sold at £5.00 a copy (cost of printing through the University of Derby).

2 The lockdown adventures of Edward Bear: a new publication that includes all 23 stories, together with more of Lucy's beautiful illustrations shall go on sale when the church reopens, together with an exhibition of her images.

3 Succession planning – It is over a year since Edward Bear last met in the Church Hall. We must be realistic that there may be changes in some members of the EB team's circumstances and availability. It is time to seek out/encourage new members to join the team, bringing with them a new-found energy and vibrancy as we all endeavour to deliver the relevance of EB and its Christian values to young families.

4 Use of old kitchen. This is understandably becoming more occupied by Ossie's kitchen foodstuffs etc. We shall need to agree how these activities might work together upon the return of Edward Bear!

5 Picnic table – A picnic table and hardstanding has been identified by the EB team. John Titterton wishes fully to fund both parts, in memory of Rutha, who was a very much-loved member of the EB team. We wait for the formality of the PCC to agree 15.03.21 before we put the plan into action.

6 Edward Bear Teddy Parachuting Funds - Michael Hyde is holding £562.25p in an account.

7 Edward Bear is self-funding. We aim always to make an annual contribution towards the use of gas/electricity annually, although 2020 is rather different.

8 Edward Bear database. In compliance with GDPR regulations it is our policy to remove families from the database whose children leave us to go to school. We do this at the end of every calendar year. Due to EB not running this past year, there will not be the normal large number of newcomers to the database (we always experience a large 'churn' of visitors). We have recently communicated by email to all parents who remain on the database and have asked for them to confirm receipt of email and let us know if they wish to be kept on our records; there are currently 140 families.

Lindsay and Peter Walker on behalf of the Edward Bear team

Fairtrade Church

During 2020 St Oswald's tried to maintain its commitment to being a 'Fairtrade Church'.

At the beginning of the year, on a regular basis, we served Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar after our 10.30 service. We also used Traidcraft handsoap in the Church Centre. A Traidcraft stall was held after the 10.30 service on 1st March, showcasing the wide range of fairtrade products available, and marking Fairtrade Fortnight. In the lead up to Easter we took orders for Fairtrade chocolate Easter eggs from 'The Meaningful Chocolate Company' and orders were delivered just before 'Lockdown'.

After 'lockdown' most of our usual activities had to cease, but it was clear that the pandemic would have a drastic effect on Fairtrade producers around the world.

Instead of selling Christmas cards in church, samples were displayed in the church hall entrance windows inviting orders. Orders were then delivered in a 'Covid-secure' way. It was not possible to hold the pre-Christmas stall.

My thanks go to Clare Sales of Ashbourne Methodist Church who is a Traidcraft 'Fair Trader', supplies the items we use or sell and takes orders for individual sales.

Janet Wright

Flower Arrangers

This year we have been unable to arrange flowers for a substantial amount of time as the Church has been closed due to the Covid crisis.

We arranged flowers as usual for the first two months of 2020 but then we were unable to do anything until September when services recommenced.

We only arranged one display by the lectern as the sanctuary was out of bounds for the congregation.

At Harvest time we depicted the harvest elements and 2 other arrangements in the nave area.

At Remembrance time in November we decorated the altar vases with poppies and the pulpit and lectern area with red and green flowers.

At Christmas we decorated the Advent Wreath and arranged 3 Christmas themed displays again in the nave.

Sadly this year we have lost a long standing member of our team, Eileen Marsh who died after a long illness with cancer.

The free daily flowers from Marks & Spencer have still been collected and distributed among the congregation, elderly and NHS workers.

Thanks must go especially to Claire Critchlow and Irene Wilson for organising this work.

Margaret Dawson (Secretary)

Magazine

The last copy of the Parish Magazine to be printed and circulated was March 2020 – exactly one year ago as I write. The Treasurer, I believe, advised advertisers that the magazine would not continue to be published at present.

The April edition was prepared and all set to go when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and, needless to say, it was never to be published. Reading back over the unpublished pages I realise how little we realised of what was to come. However, I quote here from a part of Duncan's message in that edition of the unpublished magazine: "This is a very difficult time in the life of our nation and our communities, and our churches need to play their part in caring for everyone affected by the Covid-19 virus. At a time of worry and stress, the leadership of our churches needs to be a calm and non-anxious presence."

Sue Damesin

Monday Lunches

Unfortunately due to the pandemic we have only been able to meet twice for lunch, but all through lockdown we have kept in touch with our members by telephone.

Barbara Thomson very kindly donated cards and stamps so we were able to send Easter cards to everyone. We also sent cards to everyone at Christmas. A special thank you to St Oswald and Osmaston Schools for entertaining us they are always a delight.

Unfortunately we haven't been able to celebrate our 20th anniversary this year hopefully we will be able to later in 2021.

We normally meet once a month and usually cater for between 50/55 people each time. A huge thank you to Alison and Val who cook wonderful meals and all our volunteers who help keep things running smoothly. Monday lunch is a valued and important part of the church's outreach into the community. Contact is kept with our older generation from independent living, The Leys and Dove House.

If and when we can meet again we wish you all well, and stay safe!

Monday Lunch Team

Mothers Union

Ashbourne Mother's Union started 2020 with 29 members. The programme for 2020 was disrupted by Covid-19. We did however have our AGM and communion in February. The service was led by Maggie Rode who used a liturgy from Iona. Maggie had talked to us about Iona at a previous meeting. Members also attended the World Day of Prayer service at Ashbourne Methodist Church. A Chinese Supper as well as a tasting evening were also held before the pandemic hit. Monies raised from these were sent to MU charities. In the summer we managed to hold six cream teas in members' gardens following the rule of six guidelines in place at the time. These raised money for the Derby Diocesan MU 'Away From It All' fund which needed a boost to its funds due to the pandemic and gave members the opportunity to catch up. As well as keeping in touch with each other members have been busy in lockdown keeping in touch with Edward Bear families, the Monday Lunch club and Careline as well as working at Ossies Kitchen and distributing the flowers from M&S.

Nancy Bell
(Branch Leader)

Ossie's Kitchen

St Oswald's Church, Derbyshire CC, FareShare



Community Café in Ashbourne

AN OUTREACH ACTIVITY OF St OSWALD'S CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

WHERE WE WERE

We officially opened on June 2019 with the aim of addressing social isolation and loneliness in the community through opportunities for intergenerational social eating and developing friendships by providing up to fifty, three-course meals once a month, on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

By December 2019 we were consistently averaging 55 Guests each session and had built up a community of more than 110 people who had enjoyed an Ossie's Kitchen meal in the company of others. Although, having established a solid base of Guests, we were very conscious of a large number of lonely and isolated people whom we were not reaching which led us, from the November, to providing transport for folk to get to from the meals.

As 2020 dawned, we were looking forward to the challenges to come, but little did we know just what they might be; it proved to be a most demanding, yet most rewarding year which is best reported in simplest form.

2020 KEY TIME LINE

January: Usual sit down meal and attendance. Decision made to develop to twice a month offering, beginning in April.

February: Usual sit down meal and attendance. Detailed planning for second opening commenced.

March: A successful Volunteer Recruitment Day (in preparation for second opening in April – later proved most valuable). Usual meal cancelled due to Covid 19.

April: Closed due to Covid 19

May & June : Closed due to Covid 19 and it became clear that it would be many months before restrictions would be lifted to allow us to resume our sit-down meals. Instead, in response to anticipated need by the Community as a result of Covid : research, decision and planning to 're-boot' to provide a **weekly Take-Away Meal Service.**

July: 7th July commenced Take-Away Service – 25 meals in first week. Commenced six month collaboration with ACE Youth Trust to provide up to 30 meals per week. 65 meals provided in third week. It was quickly recognised that this service was serving a different need in the community, somewhat at the expense of our original aims of addressing social isolation and loneliness, as many of our former guests declined Take-Away meals as “they came to us for the company not the meals.”

August, September, October: Meal numbers dipped during the August holiday period but grew again in September and October, averaging over 90 meals per week in October.

November: Meal numbers averaging between 100 and 110 per week. Replaced the two kitchen ovens in the Church Hall that had given over twenty years' service. Received The Derbyshire Dales CVS Annual Award with the citation:

“To celebrate all the work done to support others. In particular helping others to gain a sense of fulfilment and belonging especially when the going gets tough!”

December: Meal numbers grew to 115 – 120 per week including Christmas Special Meals provided on both the Tuesdays either side of Christmas. Special thanks go to an anonymous sponsor of those meals and to Ashbourne Rotary Club for Christmas crackers and treats.

TAKE-AWAY MEALS & GROCERIES : From July to December we provided 2,250 meals and some 1,450 bags of groceries.

VOLUNTEERS: Our operating is totally dependent upon our amazing pool of 45 volunteers, drawn from across the Ashbourne Community, who plan, prepare and cook the meals; who organise and pack bags of groceries; who interface with our Guests each week taking their meal orders by phone or text; who 'welcome' Guests each week as they come to collect their meals and drivers who deliver to those households who are not able to collect.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, DONATIONS, GRANT FUNDING

We are very pleased to acknowledge the support of:

Our Volunteers and Leadership Team: without whom we simply could not operate and who have coped admirably with the extra challenges and difficulties brought about by Covid.

FareShare: Who, despite all the pressures as a result of Covid, managed to supply us each week with food provisions for our meals with some surplus used in our grocery bags.

Ashbourne Allotments: For a regular supply of seasonal fresh vegetables.

Our Guests: We make no charge for the meals or groceries but do invite donations, where possible, suggested at £3 for an adult meal, £1 for a child meal and £2 for groceries. We are very grateful for all donations received from our Guests.

Other Donations: We are very grateful for the many other donations received from individuals and from Ashbourne Christian Fellowship. Their support with money, prayer and encouragement was much appreciated.

Derbyshire Dales District Council – Local Projects Fund used to provide initial Covid protection supplies.

Rural Action Derbyshire – Batch Cooking Project: funding of packaging for Take-Away meals.

National Lottery Covid Community Fund: for Covid cleaning.

Derbyshire County Council: grant for equipment.

Foundation Derbyshire John Weston Fund: Grant received in December in advance of 2021.

In conclusion: The year has been an even far greater challenge than we could have possibly contemplated at the start of the year, but it has been a year in which Ossie's Kitchen, as a thoroughly ecumenical team of people, with faith and none, as an outreach of St Oswald's Church, has shown the love of Christ to many, especially in a time of need, to the Community of Ashbourne.

We now hope and pray for the end of Covid restrictions and the opportunity to resuming opportunities to address social isolation and loneliness by providing intergenerational social eating experiences and to continuing to support vulnerable families with Take-Away meals as required.

NR/MR

Walking Group

Our year started well with two walks in January and one in February. However, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March meant that we could no longer meet up in a large group.

Walks did resume at the end of August, and were very well supported. In order to comply with the government's "Rule of 6" we split into three groups of five or six, with staggered starting times, each covering the same route, which worked well. Up to the start of "lockdown 3" we clocked up four walks, in areas including Stanton Moor, Monsal Dale, Carsington Water and the Staffordshire Moorlands. There have been no monthly walks so far this year but we hope to start again in April within the permitted regulations.

Sadly our planned biennial long distance walk, this year being the Cateran Trail in Perthshire, due to take place in May 2020, could not go ahead. This has now been postponed (for a second time!) until May 2022.

We are all very much looking forward to getting together again, and as usual anyone interested in joining our happy band would be most welcome.

Jackie Burns.