



Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Polden

Wheel Benefice

Date: 26th October 2020

7.30pm; via Zoom



AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Apologies for Absence

VESTRY MEETING

4. Election of Church Wardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

5. Minutes of previous meeting (10/04/19)
6. Matters Arising
7. Election of Local PCC Representatives. (to be voted en bloc).
8. Election of Cashiers (to be voted en bloc)
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
10. Reports
 - a) PCC Annual Report, b) Church Warden's Fabric Reports, c) Treasurer's A/cs & Report, d) Electoral Roll Report, e) Deanery Synod Report. f) Other Reports.
11. Chair's Reflection/Votes of thanks
12. Open Discussion
13. Dates: Archdeacon's Visitation, Next PCC Meeting, Commissioning of Wardens and PCC Members.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(APCM): Polden Wheel: Tuesday
April 10th 2019.



1. Representatives from all six churches assembled for the annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council of the Polden Wheel parishes held in Catcott School Hall. Reports had been previously circulated and packs produced for individual churches prior to the meeting. The accounts had been displayed in all six churches but had been later than desired due to the timing of the meeting and fitting with the Independent Examiner. Copies of the full accounts were available at the meeting.
Nominations for Churchwardens, Cashiers and PCC representatives had been carried out in the respective parishes and completed forms were to hand. Also lists of sides people were available to be appointed for each church.
2. Revd. Rich Tweedy chaired the meeting and opened with prayer...
3. **Appointment of Secretary:**
Mrs Freda Prime was appointed to act as Secretary for the meeting. Proposed by: Rosemary Tucker and seconded by Lissie Vine.
4. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies were received from; Jennifer Tweedy, Rosemary & Chris Hargreaves, Martin Melia, Sheila Chambers, Ann Cattermole, Margaret Bell, Mithra Richardson & Brian Parsons.

VESTRY MEETING:

5. **Election of Churchwardens for 2019/20:** The following nominations had been received:

Parish	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Ashcott	John Harvey	Margaret Trimm	Freda Prime
Ashcott	Margaret Trimm	Lyn Harvey	Nancy Routley
Burtle	Rosemary Tucker	Jane Ponsillo	Jennifer Jones
Burtle	Alison Everett	Barbara Vowles	Chris Puddy
Catcott	Martin Melia	Andrew Gordon Clark	Adrian Pearson
Catcott	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Chilton Polden	Anne Lush	Chris Lush	Anita Hayne
Chilton Polden	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Edington	Rosie Tilbury	Lissie Vine	Alison Sparkes
Edington	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Shapwick	Rosemary Hargreaves	Andrew Savage	Ann Cattermole
Shapwick	Vacant	N/A	N/A

All nominations unanimously agreed by the meeting: Proposed by Lyn Harvey, seconded by Chris Lush.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

6. **Minutes of APCM (24th April 2018).**

Minutes of the previous APCM were to hand and agreed. These were signed by Revd. Tweedy as a true record with one amendment: p.2.8 Election of Cashier for Burtle amended from Jenny Jones to Sue Ball. Proposed by Lissie Vine, Seconded Anita Hayne.

7. **Matters Arising: GDPR.** The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into effect on 25th May 2018. The parish administrator, Sue Ball is working on the implementation of the new rules on behalf of the PCC. She has almost completed an audit of all information held and the secretary now has a church laptop exclusively for church use. The password to be lodged with Rich as a backup.

8. **Election of Representatives on PCC from Local Committees:**

Parish	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Ashcott	Freda Prime	Nancy Routley	Lyn Harvey
Burtle	Margaret Bell	Alison Everett	Rosemary Tucker
Catcott	Sandra Pearson	Corinne Reynolds	Bridget Frier
Catcott	Jackie Parkes	Julie Pritchard	Stuart Frier
Chilton Polden	Chris Lush	Anne Lush	Anita Hayne
Chilton Polden	Anita Hayne	Anne Lush	Chris Lush
Edington	Alison Sparkes	Brian Tilbury	Lissie Vine
Edington	Brian Tilbury	Gill Palmer	Mithra Richardson
Shapwick	Andy Savage	Rosemary Hargreaves	Ann Cattermole

All nominations were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Alison Everett, seconded by Gill Palmer.

9. **Election of Local Cashiers:** The following nominations had been received:

Ashcott	Nancy Routley	Margaret Trimm	John Harvey
Burtle	Sue Ball	Rosemary Tucker	Margaret Bell
Catcott	Stuart Frier	Trevor Jones	Adrian Pearson
Chilton Polden	Netta Meadows	Chris Lush	Anne Lush
Edington	Brian Tilbury	Gill Palmer	Mithra Richardson
Shapwick	Peter Steward	Jan Jones	Ann Cattermole

All nominations were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposed by; Anita Hayne, seconded by Chris Lush.

10. **Appointment of Sides Persons:** The following were appointed to serve as sides persons for their respective parishes;

Parish	Sides Persons
Ashcott	David & Mary Adkins, Georgie Currie, Melanie & Colin French, Ross Everson, Marion Folkes, Sue Harrison, Carolyn & Tony Fitzpatrick & Lyn Harvey
Burtle	Margaret & Ken Bell, Jane Ponsillo & Barbara Vowles...
Catcott	Sandra Pearson, Diana Gordon Clark, Corinne Reynolds, David & Jackie Parkes, Julie Pritchard & Bridget Frier

Chilton Polden	Robin Garwood, Amber Jones, Pat Ulyyat, Sheila Chambers, Ann Rooke, Chris Lush, Kirsty Knight, Brian Parsons, Netta Meadows & Anita Hayne
Edington	Gillian Palmer, Lissie Vine, Brian Tilbury, Alison Sparkes & Mithra Richardson
Shapwick	None

Proposed by Chris Lush, seconded by Lissie Vine.

- 11. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Mr Stephen Fry was appointed as Independent Examiner for the coming year. Proposed by Brian Tilbury and seconded by Stuart Frier

12. Reports (all reports had been previously circulated)

- a) **PCC Annual Report:** The annual report for the Parochial Church Council was produced as an overall report for the six churches. The information had been gained from contributions from every church and represented the activities from the parishes which were many and varied. Proposed by Lissie Vine and seconded by Anne Lush and carried.
- b) **Churchwarden's Fabric Reports:** The inventories of all moveable items had been updated and Terriers and Log Books were signed off at this meeting by Revd. Tweedy. **Ashcott;** had its five yearly Quinquennial Inspection towards the end of the year which highlighted a number of repairs and renovations that will be required over the next few years. Tree Surgeons had removed some low, overhanging branches from the Yew tree near the main gate and also the Beech tree overhanging the Village Hall. Just before Christmas the boiler was declared to be unsafe and consequently could not be used. Alternative portable heating was used over the Christmas period. **Burtle;** A recurring damp problem has been addressed and appears to have been successful. The Leylandi hedge has been removed from the churchyard boundary wall by new owners and an alternative is still being considered. An area of the churchyard is left unmown to allow wild flowers to flourish. This is a managed process. **Catcott;** The structure of the church is currently very sound following recent major restoration work and the priority for the coming year is to repair the churchyard boundary walls which are in a poor state of repair. There is concern that the roots of some conifer trees may be undermining parts of the wall and the project is currently on hold pending surveyors. Ownership of the very large conifers is yet to be established. **Chilton Polden;** The Cedar tree which had given rise to concern that it was causing structural damage, has now been removed and there is a period of settlement time in order to see whether this has sorted the problem. Roof, gutters and drains have been repaired with grants from the Listed Places of Worship fund and also Viridor have made grants towards the relaying of the path. There are emerging problems with the Sunday school roof. **Edington;** The recent Quinquennial report indicated that the church was in good structural repair. The architect has suggested that a structural engineer might look at the cracking in places, with a view to crack stitching to prevent further cracking in the plaster. Caring for God's Acre is operational in St. George's and there have been orchids for the first time in many years. **Shapwick;** there has been no major work to the church building during 2018. Storm damage caused the guttering on the south aspect of the church to come away from the wall as well as some roof tiles and a small cross was broken. Although a faculty has been agreed the work is yet to be done. Two trees

have been felled for safety reasons during the year and storms also saw damage to some of the ancient cedars.

All reports were agreed and accepted. Proposed by Gill Palmer and seconded by Rosemary Tilbury.

- c) **Electoral Roll Report:** The revised Electoral Roll report had been prepared by Freda Prime with information from the six parishes. The process of renewing the Electoral Roll was implemented this year, it being done on a six yearly cycle. All those wishing to be included on the roll had completed a new application. The forms will be securely stored at the vicarage office. It was advised that contact details should not be displayed but names can be but this a purely at the discretion of the churchwardens. A certificate had been issued for display in the church porches, showing the final number on the new roll and a copy will be sent to the Diocese. There are 143 members on the new roll across the benefice. Proposed by Freda Prime and seconded by Bridget Frier...
- d) **Deanery Synod Report:** The Synod had met four times during 2018 and regular reports following each meeting are provided. Members were advised that the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG) had appointed a part-time priest-in-charge to the Wheathill benefice, Revd. Jane Durham. She will also fulfil the new role of Mission Enabler, thus making a full-time post. The Mission Enabler will serve all parishes across the deanery. There had been some issues related to the funding of the travel costs for this post and as a result of negotiations at Synod, a levy of £3.50 per person had been agreed, based upon membership figures provided by parishes to the Diocese. The report was agreed, proposed by Rosie Tilbury and seconded by Alison Everett.

- 13. Finances:** Brian Tilbury had done sterling work in producing a very readable set of accounts for the six churches and was warmly thanked for his efforts. In turn Brian thanked the local Cashiers for their work in providing him with the information that was needed to prepare the end of year accounts and for keeping their respective records in good order. The accounts for the Benefice are prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 on a 'Receipts' and 'Payments' basis and displayed in each church prior to the meeting. It was reported that five of the six churches had ended the year in deficit with one ending the year with a small surplus. The Parish Share continues to be a heavy burden on all six churches. The Benefice showed a deficit overall of £11,551.62 Much of the deficit can be attributed to major expenditure by two churches over 2018 but this is now completed. Despite the deficits the finances of the benefice continue to be in good shape with cash reserves at 31st December 2018 amounting to 63,942.39. Brian Tilbury proposed that the accounts be adopted and this was seconded by Sandra Pearson and carried.

- 14. Chair's Reflections:** Rich, now in his third year as vicar to our six parishes, said that he was enjoying his time with us and that the arrival of baby Joshua in July had brought both steep learning curves and great joy to himself and to Jen. He went on to say that whilst hugely respecting all of the events that take place he would highlight the weekend 'Eyes on Wildlife' because it had been very successful and attracted many people who would not otherwise come to church. The photographic exhibition and the supper and talk by Dominic Couzens were particularly noteworthy. Similar events were taking place elsewhere as a result and Rich felt that God is working in this way of doing things. Also the advent of Messy Church was

most encouraging and is our most successful outreach, connecting with some 35 families and an average of twenty children at each session. Rich particularly thanked Fiona Livesley for her vision and enthusiasm in this work.

Rich also expressed his thanks to Freda Prime as secretary to the PCC and to Brian Tilbury, Treasurer who does an amazing job at keeping the accounts so well. Also Sue Ball, parish administrator who most tactfully keeps him on the straight and narrow with all the necessary administrative tasks. Rowena Steady and Andy Savage were also thanked for bringing us the means to have more lively and informal services with Polden Praise. He acknowledged that without these, together with the army of other volunteers, it would not be possible to maintain the Benefice Thanks also to Catcott School for allowing us the use of their hall for the meeting and a letter will be sent to the head teacher, Chris Axton Higgs.

During his reflections over the past year Rich invited people to think about where we might be in ten years' time. Would we be older and fewer, struggling to keep going, perhaps hunkering down in a couple of our six churches awaiting the inevitability of the last two closing. He suggested that we could make that picture come true by setting our expectations low.

“It’s enabling new people to come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, the risen son of God” he said. Perhaps somewhat daunting to share our faith with non-Christians but there are ways of making it easier for ourselves such as inviting someone to a Carol Service or to a Messy Church or Café Church.

Rich was of the view that it is entirely possible for the Polden Wheel to lead the way for rural Somerset parishes by doing new and attractive things. Members are supportive and open to new ventures which is encouraging. There is evidence that revival has already begun in the UK and that prayer has hugely increased. This is an essential ingredient to surround all that we do and Rich advised that he will plug into the Archbishop’s prayer campaign ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ which runs between Ascension and Pentecost and daily prayer will take place during that time.

In addition, Rich is planning ‘The Prayer Course’ devised by Pete Greig. He is on the staff at Holy Trinity, Brompton, home of the Alpha course and this eight week course will achieve the same high standard of production and is free to run. Starting on Thursday May 2nd.

Rich ended his reflections by quoting the Great Commission, the vision statement that Jesus has given to all his followers and all of his churches and we must be willing to hear his voice and to obey him.

- 15. Open Discussion:** During open discussion Rich was thanked for his very uplifting reflections and also for his ministry with us over the past year.

Messy Church was commended to members as a most worthwhile and inspirational time when children and parents hear the familiar bible stories and sing and share food. More helpers are needed and new volunteers would be hugely welcome at these monthly session on the fourth Saturday in the month.

Cream Teas will be held again at Greystones, the home of Brian & Susie Parsons on 1st June 3 – 5pm.

**16. Dates: Archdeacon's Visitation: 16th May at St. Benedict's, Glastonbury.
Next PCC Meeting: Wednesday 8th May 7.15pm. St. Mary's.**

Commissioning of PCC and Wardens TBA.

The Catcott crew were thanked for providing the refreshments and the meeting closed with prayer at 8.40pm.

Signed.....Date.....

The Polden Wheel Benefice: Annual Report: January – December 2019

Background Information:

The Polden Wheel continues to be overseen by a single Parochial Church Council which is made up of churchwardens and representatives from the six parishes. Our vicar, Rich works collaboratively with our two Readers, Jan and Ann, the churchwardens and also benefits from strong participation from lay members and one Lay Worship Assistant (LWA), Andy Savage, who was formally commissioned in 2017. It is good to have a family in the vicarage and Rich's wife Jennifer is proactive in all aspects of parish life, particularly in planning and running study groups. It will be with much regret that we shall bid farewell to one of our Readers, Jan Jones next year as she moves to the Wheathill Benefice.

New ways of offering opportunities to learn more of the Christian faith in different settings and styles continues to be a priority and moving the monthly Café Church to the Cricket Pavilion was an initiative that was implemented in the autumn of 2019.

Legal/Administration:

We are pleased to have the services of our administrator, Sue Ball who is based, part time at the Vicarage office and we are advised that in 2020 the employment contract for Sue will become permanent rather than fixed term, after a continuous period of 4 years employment.

Cashiers continue to support the Benefice Treasurer at a local level and the PCC meetings have been mainly on a bi-monthly basis. All six churches have a representative on the Deanery Synod, all of whom were elected to serve for three years from June 2017 and will be re-elected in 2020.

Safeguarding; the PCC is mindful of its responsibilities in this regard, both for safer recruitment and those working directly with children. A Safeguarding Officer is in post across the six parishes and is responsible for the wellbeing and protection of vulnerable adults and children and attends regular training events as arranged by the Diocese. The Polden Wheel is compliant with current guidance. All volunteers who are working directly with children and vulnerable adults have completed the appropriate training as set out by the Diocese and a 'Confidential Declaration' is held by the Safeguarding Officer. The 'Basic Awareness' online module CO is in process of being rolled out to those volunteering in other ways which are not directly working with vulnerable groups. All applications for Disclosure and Barring (DBS) are now done online via Capita ebulk and this has simplified the processing of applications.

General Data Protection Regulations; 2018 saw the roll out of new General Data Protection Requirements (GDPR) and throughout 2019 our administrator has been working towards completing a full audit of all data held across the Benefice. Regular updates have been available to the PCC and it is hoped to complete the audit early in 2020.

The safe storage, sharing and retention of sensitive information are issues that are better understood with the passage of time and our administrator takes the lead role in this important work on behalf of the PCC.

Disability Audit; not all churches have an Accessibility Plan in place but this is work in progress. All churches are wheelchair friendly; some have ramps on a permanent basis and some on request. It is acknowledged that more could and should be done but there are some constraints in the nature of our ancient buildings,

Health & Safety; it has not proved possible to appoint a Health & Safety Officer as stated in the 2016 report. Whilst this remains officially pending for the time being, there is a good deal of informal expertise in this area and all churches seek to ensure that they fulfil their obligations to the public and to members. During external activities such as tower opening days, Risk Assessments are in place. Running Man exit signs are in place in all churches together with other safety precautions such as torches and first aid kits and painted step edges.

Discipleship:

Home Study Groups; these have run in some parishes through the autumn and Jennifer Tweedy facilitated a study course on the Acts of the Apostles which was much appreciated. It is planned to study some of the women of the bible with Jennifer in the New Year. Grateful thanks to Fiona for her hospitality. A regular bible study group runs fortnightly in Ashcott which is planned and led by Mary Adkins and is much valued.

Prayer Course/Thy Kingdom Come; the prayer course, a video based series designed by Pete Greig was greatly valued by those who attended.

Thy Kingdom Come; for the first time, we took part in the prayer initiative launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York in 2015 and which has spread rapidly across the globe since then. It runs between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday. The main purpose of Thy Kingdom Come is for each person to pray for five people (whether friends, family or neighbours) to come to faith in Jesus Christ. Although not many travelled between villages for the prayer events, an encouraging number connected with individual sessions.

Alpha Course; the Alpha course, run by Rich was largely video led with new and updated material, running from mid-September to the end of November. A formal meal was served at the beginning and despite the initial numbers dwindling early on; it was well attended and much valued.

Lent Course; a lent course was designed by Rich that reflected on environmental issues from a Biblical perspective. The theme struck a chord with people, with more people connecting with the course than would normally be expected for one during Lent

Music:

Music Group/Support for Services; our Music Group, Polden Praise, together with our loyal organists, continue to enhance our worship, and is much appreciated. As a backstop a digital media system of pre-recorded hymns and songs has been purchased and is being successfully used in Catcott.

It was with much sadness that the PCC accepted the resignation of Andrew Gordon Clark who had, for many years, been Musical Director for the West Poldens. A very

moving and uplifting service was held for Andrew in the summer when St. John's, Glastonbury Choir provided a beautiful Choral Evensong and a rose was presented to Andrew.

Lay Ministry:

Lay Worship Assistants; the Lay Worship Assistant course jointly run by Rich and Jane Durham was completed at the end of 2019 and six members of the Polden Wheel will go forward and be formally commissioned As LWAs early in the New Year. .Andy Savage plans to go forward for Lay Reader training next year.

Regular Services:

In the main the times of services have remained the same, at 10.30am and 6.30pm (4.30pm for some during the winter months. Careful consideration is given to ensuring that all parishes have a fair opportunity to host special services.

Worship across the six churches is maintained Sunday by Sunday which include traditional styles of services, largely twice each month. Café Church and Messy Church run on a monthly basis. In addition, the main festivals and celebrations make up a rich pattern of worship across the six with flexibility and co-operation among members. The services at Christmas were particularly well attended, especially the 'Christmas Cracker' which was held at Shapwick. Two churches open early on a week morning for quiet prayer at the start of the day when the communities are held in prayer.

We are pleased to be able to keep all of our churches open during the day and very much appreciate the faithful members who open and close them each day. Comments in visitor's books indicate that this is welcomed on many occasions when people are visiting the area and it is not unusual to find someone sitting quietly in the church.

Midweek Holy Communion; these take place at Ashcott and Edington and are much valued by those attending. We are indebted to Revd. Andrew Stevens for his support. Catcott have introduced a 'Time to Breathe' service once each month. This is a short time of quiet contemplation which is greatly valued by those who attend, some of whom are very much on the fringe.

The experiment with Sunday afternoon services at Catcott failed to bring the hoped for rise in numbers attending and as a result the previous 10.30am slot has been re-instated but changed from Matins to Informal Worship. This has seen a rise in numbers but has yet to see any increase in the attendance of families and young people.

Café Church; began in January 2017 and is now a well-established monthly worship. In September 2019 it was decided to move Café Church to the local Cricket Pavilion just down the road. In the spirit of 'Fresh Expressions' it was hoped that a less formal venue, away from the church, might prove more attractive to those who are seeking to engage at an early stage of their faith journey. Also establishing a 'next step' for Messy Church families was part of the overall thinking. It is recognised that it will take some time to assess whether or not this move has been successful.

Messy Church; has proved to be hugely popular among a number of children and their families. The sessions run on a monthly basis and Fiona's inspiring leadership and enthusiasm is truly amazing. The sessions are fun and full of creativity and there are an average of some 25 children attending with parents and carers. With the diminishing of RE teaching in schools, it is heartening to see the children delight in singing and listening to bible stories in a very 21st century style and sitting down to a meal at the end. There continues to be a shortage of helpers coming on board, but Messy Church is the main growth area of our Benefice.

Prayer and Praise; is a devotional and praise evening held once a month in different churches, continues to be much appreciated by those who attend and we are grateful to Andy Savage for his vision and commitment in this very special worship time.

Easter Day; following a week of remembering our Lord's journey to the cross a wonderful time of fellowship was observed for the third time, at Ham Wall. Celebrating our Lord's resurrection early on Easter Sunday morning was very meaningful. The wooden gazebo close to the lake provided a perfect venue for our worship and despite the very misty morning the atmosphere of hope and thankfulness was very evident. Easter Holy Communions were also held as well as a Family Fun service.

Rogation Sunday; this has become an annual event now with less emphasis on the walking! For 2019 once again, a service was held in a barn at a local farm, this time at Edington. A bring & share lunch was much enjoyed

Fellowship Month; the decision to hold one service throughout the summer was modified this year to span the month of August only. There continues to be mixed views about the effectiveness of this initiative which will be kept under review.

Harvest Thanksgiving; this year our harvest offerings were dedicated to the 'Trussell Trust Food Bank' charity which was supported across the six churches and is a regular recipient of food collected in the churches and delivered regularly. It was particularly helpful to have a representative from the charity to speak at some of the harvest festival services.

Remembrance Sunday; this year the Remembrance Service was hosted by Edington with 63 people attending. The names of those who fell in conflict for all six parishes were read out. A more informal but nonetheless very meaningful service was also held at Café Church in the Cricket Pavilion. The gathering of the whole of Catcott Primary school at the local war memorial on 11th November was sensitively led by Revd. Andrew Stevens with children taking part with poems and prayers.

Buildings:

The maintaining and running of the six lovely buildings across the Polden Wheel is often a challenge and we are mindful of the balance between our responsibilities in this regard whilst ensuring that the true mission of Christ cannot be found in bricks and mortar alone. In 2019 all six churches had at least one churchwarden in post and all are dedicated to maintaining and overseeing their respective parish churches and congregations. Although numbers are not growing significantly there continues to be a strong core of members in each church and all, despite being dismayed by

recent increases in the Parish Share for some, have managed to meet their financial commitments over the year. Five of our six churches have a local committee of 'Friends/Supporters who oversee and administer the business at a local level. These groups are the mainstay and link between the church and the wider community and efforts are made to ensure that the many and varied fundraising events reflect the work of the church and its identity.

The upkeep of the church buildings and graveyards continues to require a good deal of regular fundraising and effort but is done with support from communities and fellowship enjoyed. There are many events that are planned and organised across the six parishes, some of which are 'one off' initiatives and others held on a regular basis. At these times the church promotes a community presence as well as raising much needed funds. All events are recorded at PCC meetings in order to ensure that we adhere to insurance guidance and regulations. Engaging with our respective communities forms a key part of our church lives and a range of activities ensure that the church family plays a central part in community life beyond the church walls. Some of our churches continue to hold a Gift Day each year.

Across the Benefice:

Communication; it is essential in a large Benefice to ensure that good communication exists in order to maintain connections between the six churches and the wider community.

The monthly 'Spokes' sheet has a comprehensive overview of activities and services and is used in each church service. Notices of all services across the Benefice are displayed in each church and announcements at church services are given for all six churches holding worship.

The launching of our new website in early 2018 has significantly improved not only our 'shop window' but also our communication across the churches and beyond. Webmasters have been appointed to oversee its updating etc. The PCC are pleased with the results which is significantly better than the previous website. The updating is clearly a crucial part of its effectiveness and there has been some slippage from time to time over the past year. Communication and how it can be improved is a vital issue for the vicar and PCC and we are aware that we need to be more proactive in this across the six.

Advent Christingle services were held, at Ashcott and Chilton Polden again this year. These services not only support the work of the Children's Society but also provide opportunities to link with the local schools and certainly appeal to children and families.

Open the Book is a further link with the local schools is the very successful 'Open the Book' initiative which is taken to Catcott School on a monthly basis. The enthusiasm of the children and the commitment of the head teacher is very encouraging and the team, made up from benefice members, delight in telling the bible stories and acting them out. We very much hope that Ashcott School will agree

to this in the future. Rich goes into both schools to do assemblies from time to time and has a positive relationship with both head teachers.

Men's Breakfasts have taken place once every couple of months at the Piper's Inn, in Ashcott and these continue to be very popular. About 20 men meet each time, many from the Polden Wheel, but others coming from places such as Meare, Langport, Walton and Street.

Maundy Meal: Maundy Thursday is a highlight of the worship calendar and, once again, it was the White Hart who catered for us. A very thoughtful and devotional time was had over a meal and the opportunity to stand outside and reflect upon the events of our Lord's Passion.

Fairtrade; all six churches have signed up to use Fairtrade which extends to communion wine, tea and coffee and other commodities wherever possible.

Food Bank Donations; we have been pleased to support the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Bridgwater with collecting boxes in the churches. Over 2019 the amount donated amounted to 400kgs, representing 123kgs more than in 2018. We are grateful to Anita for overseeing this initiative and for her dedication and commitment...

Bell ringing:

We have six bells in two of our churches and a faithful team who manage a weekly practice night and ring for services on a regular basis. However, this is only maintained by alternating with Shapwick who only have two ringers who can make the stairs. As they belong to Glastonbury Methodist church they are not always available on Sundays. This has become more difficult with Shapwick also having a 10.30am service for which the bells should be rung but is not always managed. We are in urgent need of new recruits if we are to keep the bells ringing for services and weddings in Ashcott and Shapwick. During 2019 two new recruits joined the team and are progressing well but our young ringer, having left for university, is much missed.

Christmas and Easter Greetings; by way of a card with service times have been delivered around the villages.

Anniversary Baptism and Welcome cards are used as part of our community outreach.

History Booklet: Most churches have a history booklet that is available to visitors. Our churches are opened every day and the visitor's book provides an indication of the number of visitors that enjoy our lovely churches.

In our Parishes:

Whilst we celebrate our benefice identity as the Polden Wheel group, we are mindful that each parish has its own individual identity in terms of the way it interacts with the community that it serves. These are some of the events that have taken place over 2019.

Ashcott;

The Big Breakfasts held at Ashcott have now become a real feature in the village calendar and are extremely well supported. This is seen as a real opportunity for outreach in the village and our Spokes magazine is visible on the tables for those who are on the fringes of church life. Again this year the Big Breakfast in November was combined with a Christmas Market which was well supported and the cooking being undertaken by a team of men, not all connected with the church, has been a real bonus.

The second of our 'Afternoon Teas' in the summer attracted a good number of people and church members were pleased to host this very happy afternoon again as part of their outreach as well as necessary fundraising.

The Belfry Coffee House continues but numbers are significantly less and old friends are much missed. It is felt that this continues to meet a real need within the parish and brings people into the church building during the week.

It was sad that the school children did not come for their annual Carol Service this year due to the very wet weather and difficulties in bringing them down to the church. Cheeky Chimps Playgroup did come for their Nativity and we were pleased to welcome them with their families.

The evening when the choir of Ebbw Fach travelled by coach to our church was hugely successful and it is hoped to repeat the performance again next year. Also the Auction of Promises raised much needed funds and both events were organised by a non-church member.

Ellen and Gregory, two very talented young people gave wonderful concerts at Shapwick and later at Ashcott which were hugely enjoyed.

Burtle

Cream teas at Catcott Burtle Farm has become a regular community event and is well supported as a welcome and enjoyable event on the lawn.

Church events are also promoted by Burtle committee members at Café Burtle which is a hugely successful community project, supported by many in and around the village. Church members are very much in evidence at these times.

The Duck public house provides a great venue for outreach and two skittles evenings were held there over the year, with supper. Also church members joined with other village organisations to run a traditional village fete.

Wildlife walks are popular in Burtle and this year a walk on Shapwick nature reserve was much enjoyed and appreciated.

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal is organised by Burtle church and is well supported with boxes being filled and collected across the benefice and also by non-church members.

Catcott

Two major fundraising events took place in Catcott during 2019, both of which were well supported by a wide group of people who are eager to support the church but not necessarily attending worship.

The strong sense of prevailing community spirit enables events to be supported by attendance and practical help.

The 'Supper in the Garden' , now a regular event, proved as popular as ever and the annual Village Association 'Open Gardens Day' , which attracts visitors from far and wide, was, once again supported by cream teas run by St. Peter's members.

Throughout the year regular coffee mornings are held around the village and these provide valuable outreach as well as fundraising and are always well supported with no shortage of willing hosts.

Chilton Polden

Over 2019 it has been possible for members to see the fruits of their labours with regard to the work on the church and churchyard.

The Book Sale in February and the Garden Party at the White Hart in July were fun events which not only enhanced community life but raised much needed funds for the church.

Family Bingos continue to be popular through the year and the Sunday School room is used well although the loss of groups renting the room will be a significant loss financially.

The 100 Club continues to flourish and is seen as a resounding success.

This year, during October, Chilton Polden held a History Weekend which coincided with their annual Gift Day which brought a number of new faces into the church.

Edington

The regular coffee mornings held across the year in Edington provide a regular meeting place for the community and are well regarded.

Edington also staged an event which included a history of the church over 140 years and this concluded with a concert of local talent during the evening. Part of the proceeds for the concert was donated to 'Shelterbox'.

The annual Cream Teas are a much anticipated event and no less so this year with excellent attendance and the year's events culminated with a Christmas Fayre and the delivery of cards around the village.

Church members organised and hosted a charity event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research which raised £603.33p.

It was heartening, once again, to see a group of young mothers plan and present a nativity service at Edington on Christmas Eve. This was well done and very well attended with 100 adults and 40 children attending.

Extending a welcome to newcomers is a priority at St. George's and a welcome letter is sent to newcomers, together with a free invitation to an annual event each year.

Shapwick

Lite Bite at Shapwick is held on a monthly basis and is a very popular event from a wide area of faithful supporters.

Ellen and Gregory Steward, two very talented young people gave a concert in the church to a packed audience and this was much enjoyed and another example of how much the lovely space in St. Mary's is used. Despite the fact that there are very few members to help with fundraising and outreach in Shapwick, the church is used frequently and during 2019 a number of courses were held there including a Prayer Course, Alphas Course and a Lay Worship Assistant training course as well as Safeguarding training from the Diocese. Shapwick School has also used the church for a concert and its end of year Christmas celebrations.

An informal service on Christmas Day was well attended and much enjoyed by those who came.

The foregoing is a representation of some of the events and community based initiatives that continue to ensure that our church families are seen and heard within our villages. The notion of church being within a building is continually challenged where possible.

Mission:

During the latter part of 2017 a new group was formed from the Deanery Synod, namely Deanery Mission & Pastoral Group (DMPG) and this group have been responsible for drawing up a Mission Plan for the Deanery with a strong focus on schools. The appointment of a part-time Mission Enabler, Revd. Jane Durham has provided new opportunities for Pioneer Mission across the Deanery and Jane co-led the Lay Worship Assistants course with Rich.

Over 2018 we looked together at ways in which we could reach out to diverse groups of our parishioners, looking at the Fresh Expressions course 'Mission Shaped Intro.' This is an ongoing commitment, particularly with regard to the possible links between Café and Messy Church

Pastoral Care:

We are mindful of those in the parish who need our care and our prayers. 2019 has proved particularly challenging with the loss of key members of our church families who have died or moved away. Pastoral Concern is a standing item on the local agendas and cards are sent to those that we know who are sick and a group of people make beautiful prayer blankets which are given to those in particular need. These are always so well received and appreciated.

Lay Pastoral Assistants:

The newly re-formed Lay Pastoral Assistant group have now completed their training and new members have been formally commissioned by the Diocese and received their licences from the Bishop. Rich will oversee the group and ways of reporting will be explored. The local commissioning of the group has yet to take place.

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

Feedback from a Diocesan seminar on Mental Wellbeing was given by a member of the PCC last year and it is hoped that this can be built upon when a sub group is formed to look at the question of 'how friendly our churches really are from an inclusive mental wellbeing perspective.

The Mobile Holy Communion team continues to take the consecrated sacraments to those who are unable to attend church and our Readers have been able to use extended sacraments at some services

Building Works

The following represents some general points as churchwardens will report on the fabric in their annual reports.

Ashcott: During 2019 a plan was developed to undertake the work identified in the 2018 Quinquennial Report. A start was made towards seeking grants to assist with the work and this will be continued in the forthcoming months.

The boiler that had been condemned at the close of 2018 has been repaired and has been functional throughout 2019. However it is anticipated that significant expense will be required in the not too distant future.

Some surface re-decoration is required following an ingress of water due to a blocked gutter. This will be done in the summer of 2020 when it has dried out sufficiently. The log book and inventory are up to date.

Burtle: No work has taken place on the building this year. An area of the churchyard is left on the north side to encourage wild flowers and wild life and orchids have been seen this year. This is a managed process. The terrier and log book are up to date.

Catcott: Structurally the church building is sound and a few issues that were raised at the last quinquennial are being addressed. Negotiations are underway to try and acquire some more land to extend the graveyard which is running out of space. Extensive roots of conifer trees have caused damage to boundary walls on the north and east sides of the graveyard. This is an ongoing problem which could potentially impact upon the church itself if not resolved.

Chilton Pollen: St. Edwards has suffered structural issues over the past three years following damage caused by the Cedar tree in the churchyard. A waiting time of a minimum of a further year is required in order for the ground to stabilise from the tree removal. The work undertaken following two significant grants has now been completed and included a new roof on the church, relaying of paths and a ramp to

the Sunday School. Urgent work is required on the Sunday School roof and also to the boundary walls which are unsafe. The terrier and log books are up to date.

Edington. The Quinquennial Report has suggested that the church is structurally sound. Some cracking has become slightly worse and may require the services of a structural engineer to look at crack stitching. To prevent further plaster damage. All graves have been checked for safety during 2019.

The churchyard is managed in accordance with 'Caring for God's Acre', leaving grass uncut to attract wildlife and flowers. Cut paths enable access to graves. This is a managed process and the churchyard is very beautiful, particularly in springtime.

Shapwick: No major work has been done this year but a Quinquennial Report has highlighted certain work that is required when funds are available. The cast iron guttering on the south side of the nave and chancel came down in a storm during 2018 and this has now been replaced, together with a small wooden cross on the east end of the building.

And in Conclusion...

The PCC is grateful to all those who work so hard, in so many ways, in our six churches and acknowledge that without these committed volunteers we would not be able to function in the way that we do. We are mindful of the need to be prayerful and spiritually focused if we are to ensure that we include our God in all that we do in our service in His name. There is much need to be open to new ways of promoting worship and to ensure that our many and varied activities are clearly aligned with our faith and are part of our encouragement to others in an ever changing society and culture. The PCC is keen to have a strategic basis on which to base any future development, paying due regard to our Deanery Mission Plan and the overall demographics of our very individual parishes across the Benefice.

Signed.....date.....
Secretary to the Polden Wheel Parochial Church Council

All Saints Church, Ashcott

Churchwardens/ Fabric Report for 2019

The inventory of books and other moveable items has been checked and brought up to date.

As reported last year some repairs and renovations were needed as detailed in the quinquennial inspection report. During 2019 a plan was developed to undertake the work and a start was made towards seeking grants to assist with the work and this will be continued in the forthcoming months.

Fire extinguishers have been inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

Gary Townsend has continued to maintain the churchyard to a high standard throughout the year.

The service pattern continued as before with just two services held in most months, at 10.30 a.m. on the first Sunday and 6.30 p.m. on the third. We are grateful to those who provide music to accompany our services, particularly Polden Praise, Jenny Cole and Adam Mellor together with others who play when needed.

There are many persons involved behind the scenes in the day to day running of our Church. We give grateful thanks to all of them who are too many to name but they include the cleaners, the flower arrangers, those providing refreshments on social occasions and after services, the bell ringers under the leadership of Henry Routley and those overseeing supplies of fresh linen and consumables. We also acknowledge the contribution from those who open their homes for meetings. New helpers are always welcomed.

Finally we thank our Vicar, Rich Tweedy, who appears to have settled into life in the Poldens and has introduced some new initiatives, Messy Church and Café Church among them and 2019 has seen a regular monthly Mens breakfast on the third Saturday at the Pipers Inn. Rich and Jen have led study groups during the year.

Margaret Trimm and John Harvey
Churchwardens

St Philip and St James, Burtle 2019 Report

Fabric Report

Buildings and Churchyard: No work has taken place on the building this year. There is some work outlined in the quinquennial that is outstanding but not urgent. No further work has been done to the fence adjoining the old school site as the owner has appealed against the current planning rule.

We continue to leave an area on the north east side of the church yard un-mown or less frequently mown to allow wildflowers to grow and encourage other wildlife. We left another area uncut this year as orchids and other plants flowered. These were mown and raked up in the autumn. An area on the north west of the churchyard has been cleared of overgrown vegetation allow further grave spaces.

The Terrier and Logbook are up to date and the accessibility plan and health and safety plans have been reviewed.

The Churchwardens would like to thank Burtle Church Friends and others who help with all aspects of church life especially organists, flowers arrangers, cleaners and grass cutting.

Alison Everett

Rosemary Tucker

Services and Outreach

Services generally followed our usual pattern of two services a month, special services in 2019 Informal Mothering Sunday service, Stations of the Cross in Easter week, a joint summer fellowship service, and a well-supported Carol Service. Shoeboxes were filled with gifts for the Samaritans Purse shoe box appeal. We continue to collect food for Bridgwater Food Bank and supported them in our harvest celebrations.

Carol singing took place on one evening before Christmas with donations collected be given to 'Ups and Downs' a local charity supporting children with Downs Syndrome. A monthly newsletter is delivered to all Burtle homes.

Social Events included Cream Teas, the annual Harvest Supper, two skittle evenings with supper at The Duck and a wildlife walk on Shapwick nature reserve. We also joined with other village organisations in running the village summer fete. We are grateful to all who support and help with our events, we couldn't do it without you!

Report to the APCM from St Peter's, Catcott 2019-2020

Our experiment with Sunday afternoon services did not bring the hoped-for rise in numbers attending, and so we have reverted to our monthly 10.30 slot with Informal Worship. This has seen a rise in numbers and is proving popular with our regular congregants, although we still are not drawing in families and children. Our monthly Time to Breathe service has now become established, with a small but loyal following, including a couple who do not otherwise attend services, so I feel that this has been a success.

Open the Book has continued to prove popular at Catcott School, enabling some outreach to take place. The school have also continued to hold services in St Peter's, with Harvest and Christmas services taking place.

Our Remembrance Day service at Catcott War Memorial took place again this year, with a goodly number of villagers and the whole of Catcott School participating. Older children read prayers during the service, which was conducted by Revd Andrew Stephens, to whom we are very grateful.

We have several weddings booked for 2020, something that we always welcome.

Structurally, the church building seems very sound. Our last Quinquennial raised a few issues that we are addressing. Some maintenance work on our two bells was due to take place in March but the company postponed the work at the last minute due to issues with the virus. We are also aware that a few of the gravestones in our churchyard are unsteady and need to be toppled if the relatives of those buried there cannot be found or are unwilling to pay for the cost of resetting the stones. We are trying to find the relatives of these at present. I have approached the chairman of Catcott parish council for help in identifying families.

The issue of our crumbling boundary walls remains ongoing. The diocesan surveyors are unwilling to approve a faculty to repair the walls on the north and east sides until the problem of the encroaching conifer roots from the neighbouring land is resolved, as the problem will continue to recur. The height of the conifers has now reached that of the top of the tower. The surveyors inform us that the roots reach as far wide as the tree is tall, so that the roots are undoubtedly damaging the boundary walls and potentially undermining the church itself. Unfortunately, the ownership of the land and conifers is in dispute and so we cannot negotiate a solution with the owner(s).

We have had complaints about dogs running loose and fouling people's graves in our churchyard. As a result we have put up new signs reminding members of the public that dogs must be kept on a lead and not allowed to foul whilst passing through the churchyard.

St Edwards Church, Chilton Polden. PCC Meeting Review 2020

Services and Fund Raising

Our pattern of 2 Services per month has continued throughout 2019 and the congregation seems slowly to be increasing, we now have a regular attendance just over 20 and hope this will continue to increase.

We have had another busy year of social events and fundraising, made even more popular as people can now see the results of our work as the work on the church is complete. We started the year with a Book Sale in February and once again held the Garden Party at the White Hart Inn in July, the regular Sunday School Games have been cancelled through lack of support but the Monthly Family Bingo Sessions in the Church Hall continue. The Crochet Class in the Sunday School still seems to be very popular. We held our annual Gift Aid Day in October together with a History Weekend which this year raised another record amount. Sadly we have lost the people renting the Sunday School, That will severely affect our finances.

The 100 Club is still well supported and has been a resounding success, currently with nearly 120 members and contributes just over £70 per month to the Church funds.

At the beginning of October we held a History Weekend which coincided with our Gift Aid Day. This was a great success and brought quite a number of new faces into the church as well as boosting our funds.

Once again this year we held our Christingle Service and raised £101.03 for the Children's society.

This year we hosted Christmas Midnight Communion Service which was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

We still have a vacancy for a second Churchwarden and pray that someone may feel able to volunteer soon.

Fabric Report

As reported over the last three years we are still suffering from structural issues with the Church after the damage caused by the Cedar Tree in the Churchyard, we now have to wait a minimum of another year for the ground and the church to stabilise after the removal of the tree. As reported last year we were awarded a grant from the Listed Places of Worship fund, (LPOW) for repairs to the roof, gutters and drains, and another from Viridor towards the re-laying of the paths and the rebuilding of the ramp up to the Sunday School. The work is now complete and the Church is looking very much better. We hope that now the roof is watertight that the NW corner of the North Aisle and the Vestry will now dry out and then we will be able to redecorate these areas, we have to wait for about another year for the church to fully dry out before this can be done.

It has been identified that we have problems with the roof of the Sunday School, slates have been coming off and the ridge tiles need to be removed and re-bedded, this needs to be done urgently and we are currently obtaining quotes for the work.

In September all the lead on the roof was protected with Smartwater as requires by the terms of our insurance, this has to be re-applied every five years.

We have also been getting quotations to rebuild part of the churchyard wall which is in a very poor condition and beginning to collapse, best estimate to date has been £6640 for its rebuilding. Then in the gales in September part of the wall collapsed into the neighbours garden, they have a small child and it is no longer safe for the child to play. Ways of raising the money are being investigated.

The terrier and log book are up to date.

General

Thank you to all those who continue to help and support all the things that we do, those people who always turn up to help in and support any event we hold, helping with refreshments, supplying Cakes, Biscuits, Shortbread, Soup and every other fancy thing we dream up. Those that help with Cleaning Rotas, Readers and Sidespersons Rotas, and those who regularly Lock and Unlock the Church, those who provide the Flower Displays from the Flower Guild, The Readers, the Sidespersons, to the man who keeps the grass well mown, and thank you to Chilton Polden Parish Council who very generously give us a grant each year towards the cost of the upkeep of the Churchyard.

I would also like to thank all those people who support St Edwards every day, Thank You.

Anne Lush, Churchwarden.

ST GEORGES, EDINGTON – FABRIC REPORT FOR 2019

Matters for Concern

- Quinquennial Report – 19th December, 2018
- Churchyard
- Annual Tests : Clean out silted gulley's west of porch.

Outstanding work to be done in the next 12 months.

- Check lead, tiling and flashing pointing at chancel NW abutment and make good.
- Fit 100mm diameter cowls to bell ropes.
- Establish an annual contract for cleaning gutters and gulley's including NW corner of chancel/vestry and the floor of the boiler room steps.
- Check NE soak-away cover for adequate support and infill ground hollow adjacent.
- Secure detached wall plaster above vestry window.
- Check NE bearing end of lower nave roof purling as appears badly decayed, repair as necessary.

Work to be done within next five years:

- Refurbishment of opening windows, painting of external and internal saddle bars.
- Replacement of East, West and organ chamber window mesh.

Work carried out

- January – Electrical test - fixed wire to premises
 - January Tubular heating Repairs
 - February – Replacement sockets to be in line with new regulations as being used in Kitchen area by pubic.
 - March –Pat testing
 - March – Lightening conductor repairs
 - Aug – Fence around cellar steps replaced.
 - Aug – Gulleys cleaned as stated in quinquennial report.
 - Nov – Trees Pollarded.
 - Fire extinguisher checked
- The recent quinquennial report suggested that the church building is in a structurally satisfactory condition. There have been foundation movements historically, mainly at the east end. Some cracking noted in 2013 is slightly worse and a small amount of new cracks in NW corner due to the dry summer. The architect suggested engaging a structural engineer to comment on crack stitching to prevent further plaster damage.


Churchyard – All the graves were checked for safety by AJS Memorials in June 2019 and AJS reported they were safe.

We continue to manage the churchyard as in 'Caring for God's Acre', leaving the grass uncut to attract wildlife such as wild orchids, butterflies and other insects. There are cut paths to enable access to the graves. The grass is cut in early autumn and raked up by parishioners. During early spring we are blessed with snowdrops, hundreds of daffodils and primroses. In the summer, orchids have re-appeared after not showing for years.

Annual Tests

The PAT, Fire Extinguisher and Lightening Conductor tests have been carried out for the year – certificates filed.

The **Log Book** and **Inventory** are up to date.

Signed  Rosemary Tilbury (Churchwarden)

2nd February 2020

Fabric Report; St. Mary's, Shapwick. 2019

No major work has been done to the church building during the past year but, in November, we had our Quinquennial inspection and there is work to be done when funds permit.

In June the sound system was upgraded.

The cast iron guttering on the south side of the nave and chancel had come down in a storm in 2018. This has now been replaced.

A small wooden cross on the east end of the building has also been replaced.

All fire appliances have been checked and the one in the kitchen has been replaced as it was over five years old.

Two taps, one in the toilet and one in the kitchen have had new washers

The large iron brackets which once supported the gates onto church road have been removed from the church wall.

The external lights have been repaired and are all now in working order. Some internal lights have also been repaired but there are still several not working and the electrician has been contacted.

The church safe has been serviced.

The church plumbing has been inspected by Wessex Water and found to be in satisfactory working order.

The bouiler has been serviced.

Andy Ball has continued to maintain the churchyard.

I am grateful to Andy Savage for all his support and practical experience in maintaining our lovely church building.

Rosemary Hargreaves

Churchwarden.

THE POLDEN WHEEL

Treasurer's Annual Report

My report is later this year due to the Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) which has spread throughout the world and which has closed all of our churches at present and caused a delay in me being able to finalise the individual church accounts with the Church Friends and Cashiers. It is not yet known when our churches might reopen but this will clearly have a big impact on our church incomes in the current year.

As always, I would firstly like to record my appreciation to each of the Church Cashiers who have diligently maintained a financial record of the day to day finances of their church. These records are maintained on a standard unified Excel spreadsheet which makes my job easier when the amalgamation of accounts at the year-end is undertaken.

I continue to attend the individual church meetings whenever I am able and when I am advised of when they are taking place and I continue to work very closely with the Church Cashiers and to make myself available for advice when required.

The time scale for completing the combined accounts of the six church's is very tight, and in order to achieve this, I am dependant on the cashiers providing me with their respective church records as soon as possible after 31st December. Ideally all records need to be with me by the end of January, allowing me time to check and verify such records, prepare individual accounts for each church, amalgamate such accounts and prepare a consolidated statement for submitting to an Independent Examiner, all in a timely manner and be available to be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This year however, due to the self isolation and lockdown situation we are currently enduring due to the coronavirus, the APCM has been postponed and it is not yet known when that meeting will now take place.

The accounts are all prepared on a receipts and payments basis where only receipts received and payments actually made in the year are included.

During 2019, St George's Church Edington sustained a small deficit of £407.15 but all the other five churches within the benefice resulted in a surplus. The Parish Share payable to the Diocese by each church continues to be a heavy burden and a major cost to cover. The result of the combined accounts of the six churches indicates an overall surplus for the year amounting to £21,774.27 where income has exceeded expenditure.

Four of the churches had their Quinquennial survey conducted during the year which will undoubtedly result in considerable expenditure on maintenance works being undertaken during the current year which will soon utilise the surplus secured during 2019.

The finances of the benefice continue to be in good shape with cash reserves at 31st December 2019 amounting to £85,731.66p.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to all members of the Benefice for their support to me during the past year.

Brian Tilbury

25th April 2020

THE SIX CHURCHES WITHIN THE POLDEN WHEEL								
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT								
31.12.2018	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019							
		All Saints Ashcott	St Philip & St James Burtle	St Peter's Cattcott	St Edward's Chilton Polden	St George's Edington	St Mary's Shapwick	TOTAL
RECEIPTS:								
4,970.28	Offerings - GASDS	1,321.07	111.00	405.20	834.31	619.30	1,592.23	4,883.11
278.85	Offerings - non GASDS	148.44	32.00	26.00	-	100.00	-	306.44
10,797.57	Gift Aid Envelopes	1,214.44	362.00	2,787.00	2,150.68	2,031.00	711.60	9,256.72
23,404.45	Planned Giving - Gift Aid	6,455.00	3,510.00	2,774.00	2,425.00	3,361.00	8,732.00	27,257.00
1,100.00	Planned Giving - non Gift Aid	40.00	220.00	300.00	360.00	-	-	920.00
8,549.48	Fees	2,292.00	1,634.00	2,209.00	1,745.00	135.00	2,142.00	10,157.00
3,411.41	Donations	368.43	627.85	378.66	341.77	92.86	72.09	1,881.66
130.00	Visiting Bellringers	95.00	-	-	-	-	-	95.00
-	Legacy's	-	-	5,500.00	-	-	-	5,500.00
8,183.71	Income Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	2,141.40	1,066.97	1,293.04	2,115.26	1,371.75	2,423.45	10,411.87
25.70	Interest on late HMRC repayments	7.15	3.87	4.96	1.28	5.48	8.26	31.00
13,466.70	Fund Raising Events net of Expenses	6,193.52	2,783.76	2,601.49	1,776.52	2,380.64	985.15	16,721.08
993.55	100 Club Income net of Prizes	-	-	-	921.60	-	-	921.60
1,868.34	Fund Raising Events for Specific Charities	359.06	247.11	47.00	371.99	603.65	-	1,628.81
-1,868.34	Less Amount Donated	-359.06	-247.11	-47.00	-371.99	-603.65	-	-1,628.81
2,270.00	Grants - Parish Council	550.00	400.00	510.00	450.00	510.00	500.00	2,920.00
4,500.00	Listed Places of Worship	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
90.45	Viridor Credits	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
4,350.66	VAT Reclaimed on Restoration Works	-	-	-	4,343.81	-	-	4,343.81
-	Miles & Hurman Charity Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
303.00	Sale of Products (Booklets, T Cloths, etc)	-	43.00	10.60	-	1.67	-	55.27
3,096.00	Hire of School Room	-	-	-	2,729.00	-	-	2,729.00
90.00	PCC Use of Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
377.57	Bank Interest	102.09	34.02	228.33	42.73	53.76	66.95	527.88
90,389.38		20,928.54	10,828.47	19,028.28	20,236.96	10,662.46	17,233.73	98,918.44
PAYMENTS:								
37,272.84	Parish Share of Common Fund	10,937.04	5,600.16	4,569.24	6,145.56	3,977.04	4,751.76	35,980.80
10,800.00	Polden Wheel Benefice Fund	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	10,800.00
1,976.28	Visiting Clergy, Organist, Verger & Bell Ringer Fees	570.00	288.20	370.00	170.00	-	360.00	1,758.20
-	Deanery Levy	77.00	35.00	31.50	35.00	28.00	31.50	238.00
Church Running Expenses:								
5,256.07	Heating & Lighting	1,037.10	240.00	376.70	1,000.12	747.86	1,727.01	5,128.79
108.00	Cleaning	-	-	-	-	128.75	-	128.75
407.02	Water	79.00	29.50	-	119.98	80.20	86.24	394.92
4,448.12	Insurance	847.90	511.78	595.14	960.47	606.95	1,012.97	4,535.21
10,235.32	Upkeep of Churchyard, Gates & Paths	1,116.90	87.41	1,348.80	1,376.90	1,414.89	1,497.82	6,842.72
3,380.72	Maintenance of Equipment	80.00	43.20	238.80	188.40	632.40	375.00	1,557.80
20,719.06	Repairs to Building & Equipment	998.40	35.00	1,417.58	663.82	509.40	542.89	4,167.09
104.91	Church Consumables	19.54	-	340.89	17.55	-	18.00	395.98
780.00	Quinquennial Survey Fee	-	400.30	780.00	-	660.00	650.00	2,490.30
610.28	Flowers & Refreshments for Services	-	-	-	-	-	726.28	726.28
Other Expenses:								
66.12	Postage & Office Consumables	-	-	29.67	36.56	-	-	66.23
4,599.98	Donations & 10% Charity Giving	-	152.89	-	-	300.00	-	452.89
-	New Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	538.80	538.80
1,176.28	Sundry:	77.50	65.00	193.92	318.55	184.12	95.12	934.21
101,941.00		17,640.38	9,288.44	12,092.24	12,832.91	11,069.61	14,213.39	77,136.97
-£11,551.62	SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	£3,288.16	£1,540.03	£6,936.04	£7,404.05	-£407.15	£3,020.34	£21,781.47

THE SIX CHURCHES WITHIN THE POLDEN WHEEL								
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019								
31.12.2018		All Saints Ashcott	St Philip & St James Burtle	St Peter's Catcott	St Edward's Chilton Polden	St George's Edington	St Mary's Shapwick	TOTAL
General Fund:								
70,737.50	Balance at 1st January 2019	3,631.18	5,539.33	31,982.28	2,581.56	10,294.97	5,156.56	59,185.88
674.35	Add Surplus for Year	3,288.16	1,540.03	6,936.04	7,404.05	-	3,020.34	22,188.62
-12,225.97	Deduct Deficit for Year	-	-	-	-	-407.15	-	-407.15
-	Transfer from Miles & Hurman Repair Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to Bell Fund re Prior Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£59,185.88	Balance at 31st December 2019	6,919.34	7,079.36	38,918.32	9,985.61	9,887.82	8,176.90	80,967.35
Restricted Fabric Restoration Funds:								
3,257.92	Balance at 1st January 2019	3,257.92	-	-	-	-	-	3,257.92
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£3,257.92	Balance at 31st December 2019	£3,257.92	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£3,257.92
Miles & Hurman Extraordinary Repair Fund:								
525.14	Balance at 1st January 2019	525.14	-	-	-	-	-	525.14
-	1/3 Transfer from Miles & Hurman General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£525.14	Balance at 31st December 2019	£525.14	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£525.14
Restricted Bell Fund:								
917.45	Balance at 1st January 2019	-	-	-	-	-	973.45	973.45
56.00	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	15.00	15.00
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£973.45	Balance at 31st December 2019	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£988.45	£988.45
£63,942.39		£10,702.40	£7,079.36	£38,918.32	£9,985.61	£9,887.82	£9,165.35	£85,738.86
Represented by:								
456.24	Cash	-	-	-	200.00	50.00	-	250.00
28,502.83	Bank Current Account	7,805.98	5,329.54	10,488.01	8,823.21	9,837.82	7,876.13	50,160.69
924.00	Bank Current Account - 100 Club	-	-	-	962.40	-	-	962.40
34,059.32	CBF Deposit Account	2,896.42	1,749.82	28,430.31	-	-	1,289.22	34,365.77
£63,942.39		£10,702.40	£7,079.36	£38,918.32	£9,985.61	£9,887.82	£9,165.35	£85,738.86

THE SIX CHURCHES WITHIN THE POLDEN WHEEL								
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019								
31.12.2018		All Saints Ashcott	St Philip & St James Burtle	St Peter's Cotcott	St Edward's Chilton Polden	St George's Edington	St Mary's Shapwick	TOTAL
Restricted Funds held in separate bank accounts:								
Reading Room Charity Interest Fund:								
487.13	Balance at 1st January 2019	489.55	-	-	-	-	-	489.55
-	Add Interest transferred from Reading Room Capital Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.42	Add Interest	3.68	-	-	-	-	-	3.68
£489.55	Balance at 31st December 2019	£493.23	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£493.23
Churchyard Fund								
728.58	Balance at 1st January 2019	-	732.20	-	-	-	-	732.20
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.62	Bank Interest for year	-	5.50	-	-	-	-	5.50
£732.20	Balance at 31st December 2019	£ -	£737.70	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£737.70
Cullen Bequest Fund (Restricted):								
3,000.00	Balance at 1st January 2019	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Bank Interest for year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£3,000.00	Balance at 31st December 2019	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£3,000.00	£3,000.00

THE POLDEN WHEEL						
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019						
31.12.2018			The Six	The Polden Wheel Benefice		
			Churches	Bank a/c	Bank a/c	
				Street	Bridgwater	TOTAL
RECEIPTS:						
4,970.28	Offerings - GASDS		4,883.11	-	-	4,883.11
278.85	Offerings - non GASDS		306.44	-	-	306.44
10,797.57	Gift Aid Envelopes		9,256.72	-	-	9,256.72
23,404.45	Planned Giving - Gift Aid		27,257.00	-	-	27,257.00
1,100.00	Planned Giving - non Gift Aid		920.00	-	-	920.00
8,549.48	Fees		10,157.00	-	-	10,157.00
3,411.41	Donations		1,881.66	-	-	1,881.66
380.00	Messy Church		-	534.79	-	534.79
130.00	Visiting Bellringers		95.00	-	-	95.00
-	Legacy		5,500.00	-	-	5,500.00
8,183.71	Income Tax Recovered on Gift Aid donations		10,411.87	-	-	10,411.87
25.70	Interest on late HMRC repayments		31.00	-	-	31.00
13,924.36	Fund Raising Events, net of expenses		16,721.08	-	-	16,721.08
993.55	100 Club Income net of Prizes		921.60	-	-	921.60
7,064.92	Fund Raising Events for Specific Charities		1,628.81	-	378.63	2,007.44
-7,064.92	Less Amount Donated		-1,628.81	-	-378.63	-2,007.44
2,270.00	Grants: Parish Council's		2,920.00	-	-	2,920.00
4,500.00	Listed Places of Worship		-	-	-	0.00
90.45	Viridor Credits		-	-	-	0.00
4,350.66	VAT Reclaimed on Restoration Works		4,343.81	-	-	4,343.81
-	Miles & Hurman Charity Trust		-	-	-	-
303.00	Sale of Products/Piano/Scrap Metal		55.27	-	-	55.27
100.00	Rent - Chilton Polden Church Hall		-	200.00	-	200.00
3,096.00	Hire of School Room		2,729.00	-	-	2,729.00
-	PCC Use of Church		-	-	-	-
440.90	Bank Interest		527.88	60.86	12.50	601.24
91,300.37			98,918.44	795.65	12.50	99,726.59
PAYMENTS:						
37,272.84	Parish Share of Common Fund		35,980.80	-	-	35,980.80
-	Polden Wheel Benefice Fund		10,800.00	-10,800.00	-	0.00
1,991.28	Visiting Clergy, Organist, Verger & Bell Ringer Fees		1,758.20	-	-	1,758.20
-	Deanery Levy		238.00	-	-	238.00
Church Running Expenses:						
5,256.07	Heating & Lighting		5,128.79	-	-	5,128.79
108.00	Cleaning		128.75	-	-	128.75
407.02	Water		394.92	-	-	394.92
4,448.12	Insurance		4,535.21	-	-	4,535.21
10,235.32	Upkeep of Churchyard including Gates & Paths		6,842.72	-	-	6,842.72
4,421.14	Maintenance of Equipment		1,557.80	1,162.64	-	2,720.44
20,719.06	Repairs to Building		4,167.09	-	-	4,167.09
835.10	Church Consumables		395.98	547.73	-	943.71
780.00	Quinquennial Survey Fee		2,490.30	-	-	2,490.30
644.08	Flowers & Refreshments for Services		726.28	-	-	726.28
145.80	New Equipment		538.80	307.78	-	846.58
Other Expenses:						
4,599.98	Donations & 10% Charity Giving		452.89	-	-	452.89
1,045.08	CCLI Licence		-	1,084.05	-	1,084.05
103.00	RSCM Membership		-	105.00	-	105.00
4,710.98	Administrator's Salary		-	5,086.36	-	5,086.36
106.10	Clergy & Lay People's Training & Expenses		-	121.85	-	121.85
788.80	Photocopier Rental		-	791.76	-	791.76
437.39	Postage & Office Consumables		66.23	547.58	-	613.81
144.00	External Printing		-	444.00	-	444.00
1,311.17	Vicar's Expenses		-	1,149.81	-	1,149.81
178.25	Refreshments & Expenses for Messy Church		-	298.34	-	298.34
210.00	Website		-	257.00	-	257.00
1,018.52	Telephone & Internet		-	643.46	-	643.46
1,220.90	Legal Expenses		-	-	-	0.00
1,527.09	Sundry		934.21	54.98	-	989.19
104,665.09			77,136.97	1,802.34	-	78,939.31
-£13,364.72	SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		£21,781.47	-£1,006.69	£12.50	£20,787.28

THE POLDEN WHEEL						
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019						
31.12.2018			The Six Churches	The Polden Wheel Bank a/c Street	Bank a/c Bridgwater	TOTAL
General Fund:						
82,591.98	Balance at 1st January 2019		59,185.88	9,825.33	216.05	69,227.26
685.68	Add Surplus for Year		22,188.62	-	12.50	22,201.12
-14,050.40	Deduct Deficit for Year		-407.15	-1,006.69	-	-1,413.84
-	Transfer from Miles & Hurman Repair Fund		-	-	-	-
-	Transfer from Restoration Fund		-	-	-	-
<u>£69,227.26</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019		<u>£80,967.35</u>	<u>£8,818.64</u>	<u>£228.55</u>	<u>£90,014.54</u>
Restricted Fabric Restoration Funds:						
	Balance at 1st January 2019		3,257.92	-	-	3,257.92
3,257.92	Add Contributions		-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage		-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to General Fund		-	-	-	-
<u>£3,257.92</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019		<u>£3,257.92</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£3,257.92</u>
Miles & Hurman Extraordinary Repair Fund:						
525.14	Balance at 1st January 2019		525.14	-	-	525.14
-	½ Transfer from Miles & Hurman General Fund		-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to General Fund		-	-	-	-
<u>£525.14</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019		<u>£525.14</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£525.14</u>
Restricted Bell Fund:						
917.45	Balance at 1st January 2019		973.45	-	-	973.45
56.00	Add Contributions		15.00	-	-	15.00
-	Deduct Usage		-	-	-	-
<u>£973.45</u>	Balance at 31st December 2019		<u>£988.45</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£988.45</u>
<u>£73,983.77</u>			<u>£85,738.86</u>	<u>£8,818.64</u>	<u>£228.55</u>	<u>£94,786.05</u>
Represented by:						
456.24	Cash		250.00	-	-	250.00
38,544.21	Bank Current Account		50,160.69	8,818.64	228.55	59,207.88
924.00	Bank Current Account - 100 Club		962.40	-	-	962.40
34,059.32	CBF Deposit Account		34,365.77	-	-	34,365.77
<u>£73,983.77</u>			<u>£85,738.86</u>	<u>£8,818.64</u>	<u>£228.55</u>	<u>£94,786.05</u>

THE POLDEN WHEEL					
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019					
31.12.2018					
		The Six Churches	The Polden Wheel		
			Bank a/c Street	Bank a/c Bridgwater	TOTAL
Restricted Funds held in separate bank accounts:					
Reading Room Charity Interest Fund:					
487.13	Balance at 1st January 2019	489.55	-	-	489.55
-	Transfer from Reading Room Capital Fund	-	-	-	-
2.42	Add Interest	3.68	-	-	3.68
£489.55	Balance at 31st December 2019	£493.23	£ -	£ -	£493.23
Churchyard Fund					
728.58	Balance at 1st January 2019	732.20	-	-	732.20
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-
3.62	Bank Interest for year	5.50	-	-	5.50
£732.20	Balance at 31st December 2019	£737.70	£ -	£ -	£737.70
Cullen Bequest Fund (Restricted):					
3,000.00	Balance at 1st January 2019	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-
-	Bank Interest for year	-	-	-	-
£3,000.00	Balance at 31st December 2019	£3,000.00	£ -	£ -	£3,000.00
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 2020 and signed on its behalf by					
Reverend Rich Tweedy Chairman of the Parochial Church Council					

Independent Examiner's Certificate for the PCC Accounts

Report to the trustees of: THE POLDEN WHEEL **Parochial Church Council**
 On accounts for the year ended: 31ST DECEMBER 2019 Charity Number (if applicable): not applicable

Set out on pages One to Seven

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: Stephen Fry Date: 23 | 5 | 20

Name: Stephen Fry

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

FCA - Retired

Address: "September Cottage", Weares Lane, Catcott, Somerset TA7 9HS.

Diocese of Bath & Wells

The Electoral Roll for the Polden Wheel Benefice: Year Ending December 2019/20

As a Benefice of six churches with one Parochial Church Council, there is now one central Electoral Roll which is currently overseen by the PCC secretary. Each church displays its roll for 14 days prior to the APCM and, in anticipation of new GDPR regulations and general concerns, only names will be displayed.

The Polden Wheel Benefice listed **136** members across the six churches.

Ashcott **31**, Burtle **23** , Catcott, **31**, Chilton Polden, **19**, Edington **19**, Shapwick **13**.

This figure represents an overall decrease of 7 from **143** members listed on the 2018 roll.

Freda Prime

Parochial Church Council Secretary

March 2019



Glastonbury Jurisdiction Deanery Synod Report for Polden Wheel Annual Parochial Church Meeting: October 10th 2020



The Deanery Synod met four times over 2019 and meetings were spread across the parishes and a meal served before most of them. Good fellowship and networking are cornerstones of these meetings which are generally well attended. The representatives for the six parishes will complete their three year term of office in 2020. The current members for the Polden Wheel are:

Ashcott	Freda Prime
Burtle	Sue Ball
Catcott	Corinne Reynolds
Chilton Polden	Sheila Chambers
Edington	Rosie Tilbury
Shapwick	Jan Jones

The Deanery Synod met for the first time in 2019 on 26th **February** at Street Mission Church. We were welcomed by Area Dean, Revd. David McGeoch and a delicious meal was served. An opening act of worship was led Revd. Jane Durham our newly appointed Mission Enabler and Priest in charge of Wheathill Priory Benefice. The Area Dean welcomed our speaker, Gillian Buzzard, Head of Diocesan Communications. She spoke about the need to tell our stories from the parishes as a means to feeding into the bigger story. Her involvement with the local media was an asset and she indicated a willingness to use this for any parishes wanting publicity. She emphasised that our story is primarily about people and this needs to be reflected on our websites and publicity in order to make ourselves an attractive shop window.

The annual levy on parishes was outlined by Peter Sage, Deanery Treasurer and invoices had been sent to parishes. Largely the levy is to cover the travelling and other expenses incurred by the Mission Enabler which had been agreed in 2018.

On Sunday **23rd June** a Deanery Synod Away Day was held at Abbey House, Glastonbury. The day began with Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel and the first session was led by Revd. Jane Durham. The aim of the day was to look again at the Deanery Mission Plan and to set priorities. Lunch was provided and the afternoon session was led by Cheryl Govier from the Diocese 'Go' Team who spoke about the audit which had been completed across all schools in the Diocese. Grant funding had been secured for all the costs of the day but unfortunately I was not able to attend.

The next meeting was held at the Church Rooms in Meare on **13th September**, where, once again a delicious meal was served by the host church. Revd. Sharon Walker led the act of worship. Lay Dean, Mary Masters outlined the work of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG) which had met to draw up a programme of aspirations for the Deanery by framing a 'vision' for the future. This was then presented at a meeting held at St. John's Glastonbury on 26th September to which churchwardens were invited. The DMPG plan has since been produced and circulated.

The speaker for this meeting was The Venerable Anne Gell, Archdeacon of Wells. This was the first Deanery Synod that had invited her to speak and she outlined her life journey and family situation. She had been appointed Honorary Canon of Guildford Cathedral. She hoped to be part of important opportunities and challenges in and around our Diocese in the future.

Following this address members split into small groups and discussed their own individual journeys towards their Christian lives

On **5th November** we found ourselves once again at Street Mission Church where we were welcomed by Mary Masters, Lay Area Dean and after a delicious supper provided by Street members an act of worship was led by Revd. Chris Hopkins.

Mary Masters reported on the Diocesan Synod which had been held in October. A written report was handed out due to time pressures for the evening. Topics covered were - **exploring chaplaincy, aligning resources to mission, budget for 2020, renewal and reform, Magnificat parishes**

It was reported that the MOMSS group vacancy has now been filled. Revd. Angela Harwood was licensed on 28th November. Street, Walton and Compton Dundon are about to complete their profile prior to advertising their vacancy. Revd. McGeoch, Area Dean will do another two years as assistant AD in Shepton Mallet with a reciprocal arrangement from there.

Revd. Jane Durham gave an update on her role as Mission Enabler which included the current Lay Worship Assistant Course being run at Shapwick. She shared a leaflet, 'Exploring Worship' which sets out the course for those interested in leading worship or to find out more about intercessions etc. The Deployment Group are seeking responses to their research into issues of deploying clergy and lay roles to include Deaneries. The competing demands across the deaneries need to be appropriately resources and must support mission. A prayer diary has been drawn up whereby different areas can be prayed for at a certain time. We are to respond with views by 8th January if we want to be included and how we want our slot to be filled.

Revd. Caroline Pomeroy is the Diocesan Environment Advisor and was previously the lay dean for Frome. She spoke about the challenges of climate change and explored the

staggering impact that we humans have had and that by 2050 it is expected that there will be more plastic than fish in the sea! She looked at what the problem is, sharing data that was quite shocking. This led on to what our faith tells us about our responsibilities and how we can become greener churches. She referred to the 'green bible' that has every reference to the environment written in green which is some 2,000 passages. What we can do about it followed with attention given to transforming unjust systems, responding to human need and striving to do the very best that we can at a personal level to change our day to day habits to reduce waste and harmful practices. We were encouraged to undertake an audit of our churches to see how close we come to being eco churches such as not using oil or gas when we undertake new installations. God's Acre was also felt to be really important. A leaflet setting out the five marks of mission – proclamation, teaching, responding to human need, transforming unjust structures and striving to safeguard the integrity of creation.

The Deanery Synod will begin again in February 2020 and new representatives will need to be elected at the 2020 APCM. A report is prepared following each meeting for dissemination at local meetings and PCC meetings.

Freda Prime
Deanery Synod Representative
March 2020