



Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Polden

Wheel Benefice

Date: 26th April 2021

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 APCM 26th October 2020
6. Matters Arising
7. Election of Local PCC Representatives. (to be voted en bloc).
8. Election of Cashiers (to be voted en bloc)
9. Election of Deanery Synod Reps (Not elected this year as 3 year term from 2020)
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
11. 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.
12. Chair's Reflection/Votes of thanks
13. Open Discussion
14. Dates: Archdeacon's Visitation, Next PCC Meeting, Commissioning of Wardens and PCC Members.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): Polden Wheel: Monday October 26th 2020. Via Zoom



1. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Polden Wheel benefice took place across the Zoom network and had been delayed for a period of some six months because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Representatives from each of the six churches were present. All reports had been previously circulated and had been placed on the parish website. In addition the notification of the meeting and the intention to elect churchwardens had been emailed or delivered to those on the electoral role. Notices had been displayed on church noticeboards despite the fact that churches were not open every day and limited services were being held. The accounts had also been displayed in all six churches. Copies of the full accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and also placed on the website. Nominations for Churchwardens, Cashiers and PCC representatives had been carried out in the respective parishes and completed forms were to hand. In addition Deanery Synod representatives had been nominated to serve for a three year period.
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: John Harvey and seconded by Martin Melia.
4. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies were received from; Jennifer Tweedy.

VESTRY MEETING:

5. **Election of Churchwardens for 2020/21:** The following nominations had been received:

Parish	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Ashcott	John Harvey	Margaret Trimm	Lyn Harvey
Ashcott	Margaret Trimm	John Harvey	Lyn Harvey
Burtle	Rosemary Tucker	Margaret Bell	Jane Ponsillo
Burtle	Alison Everett	Chris Puddy	Barbara Vowles
Catcott	Martin Melia	Sandra Pearson	Adrian Pearson
Catcott	Corinne Reynolds	Bridget Frier	Stuart Friar
Chilton Polden	Anne Lush	Chris Lush	Sheila Chambers
Chilton Polden	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Edington	Rosie Tilbury	Mithra Richardson	Lissie Vine
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 Chris Lush, seconded by Anita Hayne.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

6. Minutes of APCM (10th April 2019).

Minutes of the previous APCM were to hand and agreed. These were signed as a true record by the secretary by agreement with those attending.

7. Matters Arising: None

8. Election of Representatives on PCC from Local Committees:

Parish	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Ashcott	Freda Prime	John Harvey	Margaret Trimm
Burtle	Margaret Bell	Alison Everett	Lorraine Simmonds
Catcott	Jackie Parkes	Julie Pritchard	Martin Melia
Chilton Polden	Chris Lush	Sheila Chambers	Anne Lush
Chilton Polden	Vacancy	N/A	N/A
Edington	Alison Sparkes	Brian Tilbury	Brian Tilbury
Edington	Brian Tilbury	Rosie Tilbury	Andrew Stevens
Shapwick	Vacant	N/A	N/A

All nominations were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Rosemary Hargreaves, seconded by Alison Sparkes

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

Ashcott	Nancy Routley	Margaret Trimm	John Harvey
Burtle	Sue Ball	Jane Ponsillo	Margaret Bell
Catcott	Stuart Frier	A Gordon Clark	Trevor Jones
Chilton Polden	Netta Meadows	Chris Lush	Anne Lush
Edington	Brian Tilbury	Mithra Richardson	Lissie Vine
Shapwick	Carolyn Fitzpatrick	Rosemary Hargreaves	Ann Cattermole

All nominations were unanimously accepted by the meeting. Proposed by; Anne Cattermole, seconded by Rosemary Tucker.

10. Appointment of Sides Persons: In line with the revised Church Representation Rules 2020, the sides persons for each church will be appointed at the first PCC meeting.

11. Appointment of Independent Examiner: Mr Stephen Fry was appointed as Independent Examiner for the coming year. Proposed by Brian Tilbury and seconded by John Harvey

12. Appointment of Deanery Synod Representatives: To serve for three years.

Ashcott	Vacant	N/A	N/A
Burtle	Sue Ball	Alison Everett	Rosemary Tucker
Catcott	Corinne Reynolds	Julie Pritchard	Sandra Pearson
Chilton Polden	Sheila Chambers	Anne Lush	Chris Lush
Edington	Rosie Tilbury	Brian Tilbury	Alison Sparkes
Shapwick	Vacant	N/A	N/A

All nominations were unanimously accepted. Proposed by Anne Lush and seconded by Alison Everett.

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 Freda Prime and seconded by Chris Lush and carried.
- b) **Churchwarden's Fabric Reports:** The inventories of all moveable items had been updated. **Ashcott;** Work that had been highlighted in the Quinquennial Report had been assessed and a plan developed. Applications for grants to assist with the work are ongoing. **Burtle** No work had been undertaken during 2019 but some non-urgent work is pending. The fence adjoining the old school remains an issue yet to be resolved. **Catcott;** structurally the church building is sound but there are concerns regarding the crumbling boundary wall and encroaching conifer roots. Graveyard space is also becoming an issue that will need to be addressed and some gravestones that are loose will need to be toppled if families cannot be traced to reset them. **Chilton Polden:** The removal of a large cedar tree means that a period of waiting for the ground to settle is necessary. Repairs to the roof, gutters and drains was made possible by a grant from LPOW and the relaying of the paths was funded from a grant from Virador. The roof on the Sunday School room will require attention. **Edington;** Although structurally sound the church suffers from some foundation movement and it may be necessary to engage a structural engineer to advise on crack stitching in order to prevent further plaster cracking. Work identified in the quinquennial report has been prioritised in order of urgency. **Shapwick;** No major work had been carried out over the past year but work has been identified through the quinquennial which will require attention. Storm damage to iron guttering had been addressed and external lights repaired. All churchyards are maintained to a good standard and some parts are left wild but managed. All reports were agreed and accepted. Proposed by Anne Lush and seconded by Anita Hayne.
- c) **Electoral Roll Report:** The revised Electoral Roll report had been prepared by Freda Prime with information from the six parishes. It had been previously agreed that contact details should not be displayed but names can be published but is purely at the discretion of the churchwardens. A certificate will be issued for display in the church porches, showing the final number on the new roll. There are 136 members on the new roll across the benefice. This showed a decrease of 7 members. Proposed by Freda Prime and seconded by Rosemary Tucker.
- d) **Deanery Synod Report:** The Synod had met four times during 2019 and an additional Away Day to discuss the Deanery Mission Plan. Regular reports following each meeting are provided. The meetings across the year were outlined, a full report having previously been

circulated. Particular attention was drawn to the need to have a website that is inviting and interesting with photos of activities rather than buildings. The Deanery Mission Plan has, as its focus the audit of all schools across the Diocese, not just faith schools. Revd. Jane Durham has taken up her role as Mission Enabler for the Deanery and had been instrumental in planning and delivering the Lay Worship Assistant's course with Rich. The need to consider how we can become Eco churches was also highlighted and the suggestion that the Polden Wheel should undertake its own audit to discover how close we are to being 'green'.

Proposed by Freda prime and seconded by Jan Jones

- 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 only one church had ended the year with a deficit. The Parish Share continues to be a heavy burden on all six churches. The finances of the benefice continue to be in good shape with cash reserves at 31st December 2019 of some £90,000 spread across the six churches and the benefice fund. It was felt to be unnecessary to make application for support from the Diocese in relation to church closures and cancelled events during the pandemic. Brian Tilbury proposed that the accounts be adopted and this was seconded by John Harvey and carried.

- 14. Chair's Reflections:** Rich began his reflections with a reminder that the APCM had been delayed for some six months due to the Covid-19 pandemic still very much with us and the cause of much uncertainty into the future. He said that it will be necessary to reflect upon the impact and implications for our benefice from Covid-19 which will be done at the next APCM in the spring of 2021.

A formal proposal to thank Fred for her work as secretary and also to Brian for a most professional job in managing and presenting the accounts across the six churches was made and seconded by Bridget Frier.

Rich went on to highlight the significant contributions made by two people who had now left the Polden Wheel. Firstly to Jan Jones who had faithfully served both the ASB group of parishes (Ashcott, Shapwick, Burtle) and latterly the Polden Wheel when it became six churches together. Rich described Jan as having been an energetic presence across the entire Polden Wheel and particularly in her funeral ministry. Jan will continue her Readership in the Wheathill Benefice. Also moving on was Andy Savage, Lay Worship Assistant. Andy had led the music group, Polden Praise throughout 2019 and was instrumental in enhancing the worship with his guitar and new songs. Prayer and Praise had also been established by Andy and has been a valued time of evening praise and prayer each month. Rich paid tribute to both as valued PCC members, leading worship and numerous other contributions. The vote of thanks seconded by Brian Tilbury.

Two PCC members had decided to stand down this time and Rich went on to thank Anita from Chilton Polden who had been involved in the selection process when he was appointed.

Anita had led the children's work in the West Poldens for many years and brought her expertise in Human Resources to the PCC. Her eagle eyed scrutiny on procedures will be much missed. Also leaving was Sandra from Catcott who has been a stalwart of the church at St. Peter's and she too will be much missed as a PCC member. Bearing in mind that God is in charge over everything, Rich expressed his gratitude and good wishes to them.

Rich commended the work and dedication of all eight churchwardens who are hardworking and loyal in all that they do for the benefice and for the respective churches. Their responsibilities are pivotal to the smooth running of the parishes. Proposed by Alison Sparkes and seconded by Ann Cattermole.

Rich highlighted some of the main activities in each parish; The Big Breakfast and Afternoon teas in Ashcott, The numerous events in Burtle that support the community that include cream teas and a turkey gobbler. The open gardens each year in Catcott attract many visitors and the church is very visible as well as their supper in the garden event. Edington celebrated its 140th anniversary in May with most interesting displays and their support for Macmillan Cancer charity was highlighted with cream teas. Lite Bite at Shapwick is a valued event attracting visitors from further afield as well as within the parish. Whilst expressing his thanks and gratitude to all involved in community events, Rich threw out the challenge of ensuring that these are not just fundraising events but need to connect with those outside of the church who need to hear our faith story.

The Lent course on Creation Care particularly resonated with parishes and the Alpha Course, largely attended by regular church members who wanted to deepen their faith, was successful and meaningful to those who stayed the course, sharing a meal at the beginning.

15. Open Discussion

- **Messy Church** was commended as a very worthwhile initiative and, although not having been able to run since the spring, will be in need of volunteers when it is able to run again.
- Jan Jones thanked everyone for their good wishes and for their loving support during her long tenure. She will keep in touch and will continue to hold the Polden Wheel in her prayers and asked that particular care be given to Rosemary in Shapwick now that Andy has left. Jan committed to her postponed leaving party at some time in the future.
- Alison said that she had greatly valued the talks from Rich, particularly since they were on defined topics that she could invite people to hear. It was noted that not everyone has access to Zoom.
- Sheila reiterated her own thanks to the churchwardens in their efforts to get the churches cleaned and open at times for services and visitors. Rosemary was particularly grateful to Rich and Jen for taking on the task of cleaning St. Mary's since she is very 'short staffed'! Martin said that it had been a team effort in Catcott and he was grateful to everyone who had helped. Anne extended her thanks to Tim and Anita for their efforts in re-opening the church in Chilton Polden.

- The issue of communication was raised as being vitally important at these challenging times. The absence of a newsletter or revamped Spokes was of particular concern. Rich will be addressing this in the run up to Christmas and will also be emailing details of plans for Remembrance when they are finalised. Tim Hayne pointed out that people have asked for Spokes and are clearly missing the connection and also pointed out that the website is not up to date with nothing added since April. Rich committed to placing the communications issue on the agenda for the next PCC meeting.
- There is to be a remote Christingle service, jointly between Chilton Polden and Ashcott on Sunday 6th December. Plans are in the pipeline for this.

16. Dates: Archdeacon’s Visitation: 2nd December via Zoom
 Next PCC Meeting: Monday 9th November 7.30pm. via Zoom.

Commissioning of PCC and Wardens TBA.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.30pm.

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

The Polden Wheel Benefice: Annual Report: January – December 2020

Covid-19:

At the beginning of 2020 it became increasingly apparent that a pandemic was spreading rapidly across the world and that life as people knew it at that time would inevitably be seriously curtailed. And so it was that in March 2020, along with non-essential shops and businesses and hospitality, places of worship would need to close as a total 'lock down' across the country was announced. This was a serious blow to all church communities on a number of levels.

The Polden Wheel sought opportunities to ensure that congregations remained connected and able to worship together albeit remotely. Informal Worship via Zoom was introduced and it has been pleasing to see an increased number of participants Sunday by Sunday. It is fair to say that some members have not been able to access these services which is sadness to us but these numbers are few. There were also recorded reflections from Rich midweek.

From March through to December, the period for this report, some churches in the benefice remained closed throughout whilst others have opened, in a covid secure way, for private prayer. It is a reality that some churches have a membership that is largely termed as 'vulnerable' which made arrangements for cleaning etc. difficult. However some services were held in each church in line with national and diocesan guidance and instructions. Some services were held between lockdowns where possible and appropriate.

The 2020 APCM, reporting on 2019 was held via Zoom at the end of October in accordance with Diocesan guidance and new instruments published.

Other events and services were held during the year including two very successful outdoor services at farms in Burtle and in Ashcott. November and December services are recorded later in this report.

The Diocesan Snapshot survey relating to how the pandemic had affected people's views and attitudes was discussed in November and it is intended to look at this in more detail early in 2021.

Background Information;

The Polden Wheel continues to operate as one Benefice with a single Parochial Church Council representing six churches. Our vicar, Rich works collaboratively with his churchwardens and Lay Worship Assistants. Six LWAs completed their training in December 2019 but have yet to be commissioned formally due to covid -19 restrictions. One fully trained LWA has now left the benefice and is undertaking training for Readership. Two Lay Readers have also moved on. It is good to have a family in the vicarage and Rich's wife, Jennifer, is proactive in all aspects of parish life and has successfully run bible study groups online.

We continue to consider prayerfully new ways of offering opportunities to learn more of the Christian faith in different settings and styles and this is ongoing.

Legal/Administration

Administrator; we are pleased to have the services of our administrator, Sue Ball, who is based part time at the Vicarage office. In 2020 the employment contract for Sue was made permanent rather than fixed term, after a continuous period of 4 years employment. Following discussions it was agreed that Sue would not be furloughed and she has worked her hours from home from March 2020.

Cashiers continue to support the Benefice Treasurer at a local level and the PCC meetings have continued online during lockdown.

Deanery Synod; four of the six churches have a representative on the Deanery Synod, all of whom were elected to serve for three years from June 2020 and will be re-elected in 2023.

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 safeguarding training in general has been on hold through 2020 due to covid restrictions and the change of training officer at Diocesan level. 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 but has yet to be completed. 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; throughout 2019 our administrator had worked on a full audit of all data held across the Benefice and this is now complete. 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; there is no specific Health & Safety Officer in post either for the benefice or individual churches. 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 first quarter of the year and subsequently via Zoom, facilitated by Jennifer Tweedy. The course on 'Women of the Bible' was particularly appreciated and attendance has been good and consistent. Weekly reflections delivered by Rich were welcome during lockdown as these could be viewed online at any time.

Music:

Music Group/Support for Services; our Music Group, Polden Praise, together with our loyal organists, continued to enhance our worship for the first part of 2020. However, with the cessation of public worship we have greatly appreciated being able to use recorded music provided by members of the congregations. The collaboration between musicians and technical support has been amazing and very much appreciated by everyone. As a backstop a digital media system of pre-recorded hymns and songs has been purchased and is being successfully used where necessary when churches are open. An individual initiative from a husband and wife team has provided 'Songs of Praise' streamed every Sunday evening throughout lockdown. Although not a church initiative it has drawn a good number of people from our congregations and further afield. There will be challenges in 2021 as key members of Polden Praise move on.

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 when Covid restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, LWAs have led Informal Worship services via Zoom throughout 2020, particularly in Rich's absence. Andy Savage was accepted for Lay Reader training but sadly moved to work in a neighbouring benefice. His services are much missed and we wish him well as his training progresses. Both Lay Readers have also moved on. Jan Jones has relocated to Wheathill and Ann Cattermole is seeking a role elsewhere at the present time. Again, our good wishes go with them and all three are warmly welcomed at any of our events and services.

Regular Services:

From January to mid-March 2020 the times of services remained the same, at 10.30am and 6.30pm (4.30pm for some during the winter months). Zoom was adopted as the platform for worship to continue during lockdown and has worked extremely well. It is hoped to retain some online worship when lockdown restrictions are lifted and other discussions will consider a way forward for worship which may

not be the same as before. The main festivals and celebrations in our churches were much missed throughout 2020 as they represent a rich pattern of worship and fellowship across the six churches. Carol services were held in each church during December but the inability to sing carols in church somewhat diminished the atmosphere. However, two outdoor carol services were held, one in Gwilliams' car park in Edington and one on the cricket field at Shapwick. These were well attended, had music and made a valuable contribution to telling the Christian story.

We have always been pleased to be able to keep all of our churches open during the day and very much appreciated 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. This has made the closure of our churches more distressing and efforts have been made to open them wherever possible. Clearly the mid-week Holy Communion, Time to Breathe and meeting for private prayer in groups all ceased after March.

Café Church; began in January 2017 and was a well-established monthly worship. It is hoped that the impetus of this initiative will not have been lost over the past months.

Messy Church; has proved to be hugely popular among a number of children and their families. The sessions were running on a monthly basis and Fiona's inspiring leadership and enthusiasm truly amazing. An average of 25 children were attending with parents and carers. An online Messy Christmas was organised and was extremely successful.

Prayer and Praise; is a devotional and praise evening held once a month in different churches and, again, continued until lockdown.

Easter Day; Sadly, Easter 2020 was a time of uncertainty and anxiety for many in the Polden Wheel and no Easter services were held. Rich's reflections continued to include Good Friday and Easter Day.

Harvest Thanksgiving; in 2019 our focus for harvest offerings was 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 decided to make a harvest collection for food and this was supported amazingly well in all the parishes and 470 kgs was delivered. Our grateful thanks to Anita Hayne for overseeing this important initiative, particularly at a time when food banks across the country have been overwhelmed with requests.

Remembrance Sunday; this year the Remembrance Service was held outside, at the Catcott War Memorial. The gathering was in line with all covid secure arrangements and a good number of people attended. The names of those who fell in conflict for all six parishes were read out.

Christmas; a good deal of discussion took place as to how we might 'do' Christmas in this most strange year of lockdown. In the event a carol service was held in each of the six churches but with no singing and small attendance.

An online Nativity and Christingle were both well received. Two outdoor carol services were well attended. The presentation of 'No Inn at the Room' was well received as an interesting way of looking at how it was in reality for Mary & Joseph at the time of our Lord's birth. The online carol service was not so well attended.

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 2020 all six churches were closed but 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. It is however, likely that in order to meet the Parish Share commitments for 2021 the Polden Wheel as one parish will need to merge funds. 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. We pray that as lockdown begins to ease through 2021, that these will continue.

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. It has been a blow throughout 2020 not to have been able to hold any fundraising events to support funds and fellowship since March.

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. It is fair to say that during lockdown it has been a particular challenge to ensure that everyone, particularly those who do not have access to online information, are upheld and connected. It is not clear how this has worked over the year.

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. and Rich has been more proactive himself in ensuring that relevant and up to date information is

uploaded. Discussion and work on improving our communication is an ongoing priority.

Advent Christingle; this year a Zoom Christingle was held with bags of Christingle makings delivered to every family who requested one. It was a very successful initiative and great fun. Contact with both schools in Ashcott and Catcott served to reach as many families as possible. The monies donated via a Justgiving page surpassed other years.

Open the Book, Men's Breakfasts, Maundy Meal, The Mobile Holy Communion, Bell ringing and all other activities ceased with lockdown restrictions.

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 2020 the amount donated amounted to 470kgs, representing 70gs more than in 2019.

History Booklet: Most churches have a history booklet that is available to visitors. Our churches are opened every day in normal times 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. Clearly the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions that have prevailed throughout this reporting year have curtailed most fundraising events but we pray for better things in 2021.

The regular Zoom Coffee Morning instigated and delivered by Anita on Friday mornings have been much valued as a regular opportunity to meet across the air waves, together with those run by Andy on Wednesdays and Rich from time to time in between.

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. It was heartening to see this continue in 2020.

Mission:

Deanery Mission & Pastoral Group (DMPG) has 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 in 2019. Again, due to travel restrictions and other covid related issues, it has been difficult to fulfil all the desired obligations but Archdeaconry Days

have taken place online, along with other initiatives such as calls to prayer across the Diocese.

Pastoral Care:

We are mindful of those in the parish who need our care and our prayers. 2020 has proved particularly challenging with covid-19 spreading across the world leaving many deaths and severe illness in its wake. We have been blessed in that we have not lost any of our parishioners to this pandemic but many have suffered from loneliness and anxiety. We have been impressed with the way in which communities have come together to support neighbours and friends. Pastoral Concern is a standing item on the local agendas.

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 in 2018 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. This remains pending.

Building Works

Given the restrictions which have been in place since March 2020, churchwardens have maintained an oversight of buildings and have carried out necessary works wherever it has been safe to do so. Details can be seen in the individual reports from each parish church included in the reporting pack.

In conclusion the PCC would like to thank everyone for their generous support, creativity and faithfulness in what has been a very challenging year for everyone.

Signed.....date.....

Secretary to the Polden Wheel Parochial Church Council

All Saints Church, Ashcott

Churchwardens/Fabric Report for 2020

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. The plan to undertake the work began but was put on hold after a rejection from one grant body and the lock down due to Covid 19 delayed it as well. 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 early part of 2020 had a service pattern 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. However the situation regarding the coronavirus meant significant changes to this, initially with a closure of the Church for services, then a partial re-opening with a service held intermittently in line with the PCC plan for services then a further lock down. We are grateful to those who have provided music to accompany our services, particularly Polden Praise, Jenny Cole and Adam Mellor albeit without singing in recent months. The take up on the Zoom church service held weekly has been good.

Despite the challenges that the pandemic has put in our way there has been a strong sense of community within the church family and this was demonstrated by the erection of the Nativity scene outside the Church around the Christmas period with a number of people involved. This showed both that the Gospel is alive and well and also that the church members continue to be seen in promoting the story.

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. When some semblance of normality returns these helpers will be needed again.

Finally we thank our Vicar, Rich Tweedy, for his contribution to the ministry in the Polden Wheel. Recent months have meant considerable changes in the way the Gospel could be and has been promoted and Rich has been heavily involved in these changes.

Margaret Trimm and John Harvey
Churchwardens

Annual Report 2020

St Philip and St James Burtle

Services

For the first two months of the year we continued with our pattern of twice monthly services. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic since the middle of March sadly our church has been closed for much of the year; however we have continued to worship with the other churches of the Polden Wheel via Zoom.

When lockdown eased in turn with the other Polden Wheel Churches we held two adapted services of Holy Communion and in August Burtle hosted an outdoor service at Catcott Burtle Farm

At Christmas we displayed a life sized outdoor nativity scene in the Churchyard and were able to hold an adapted carol service with readings and carols played on the organ but no singing.

An adapted Christmas Service of Holy Communion was held on Christmas morning .

Buildings

No building works have been undertaken.

Churchyard

Once again, we left an area in the northeast of the churchyard unmown to encourage wildflowers and other wildlife. The area was mown and raked up in the autumn.

The old school site has now been tidied up and we expect the owner will be planting a hedge soon on his side of the boundary as per the planning conditions for the site. As the boundary officially belongs to the church, we are seeking advice on what type of fence would be appropriate to replace what originally was a metal fence that had largely rusted away.

Social

We were unable to have any social events due to the pandemic but have been keeping in touch with villagers and church friends with a short Zoom meeting each week. This has been much appreciated in particular by those who have had to shield.

The churchwardens wish to thank all who have helped the church throughout the year, taking part in the Zoom and other services and help in maintaining the churchyard, supporting the church by regular giving and contributing to the food bank collection.

Alison Everett

St Peter's Church, Catcott Report 2020-21

Fabric

Only essential work was carried out on the fabric of the building during this year.

- Security lights were fitted to the outside of the building, following permission from the Diocesan Office, as a result of several reports of potential thieves examining the building.
- Lightening conductor, fire extinguisher and PAT tests were completed
- Urgent repairs to our bells were carried out

We are conscious that further work needs carrying out to render our bells safe and we are in the process of obtaining competitive quotes before carrying out the work.

We are also continuing to resolve the long-running concerns about St Peter's boundary walls. We had obtained permission from the PCC to commission the work, received tenders, appointed a builder to complete the work, set aside considerable funds to finance the work and were nearing completion of obtaining a grant from Viridor to finance the shortfall when the Diocesan Office decided to withhold the required faculty until the huge conifers on neighbouring land adjoining one of the walls were cut back or removed. I contacted Sedgemoor District Council Planning department and received agreement from the planning officer responsible for historic buildings that he would issue enforcement notice once an updated surveyor's report was completed to confirm that the walls were being damaged by the trees.

At this point I discovered that a developer had acquired the option to build upon the land and so I contacted him. He has been to inspect the walls and agreed that the trees need to be lowered/removed. He has undertaken to persuade the landowner to do this work. We are waiting to see if this does happen. The developer informed me that they wished to build around the church but would respect the requirement that any building must be at least 25 metres from the Grade One Listed Church and boundary. I have asked him to donate some land to extend our church yard, as part of his project.

The Diocesan Office has confirmed that we do not require a faculty to repoint boundary walls such as our South wall, and so we should be getting on with that this year.

All funds which St Peter's currently holds will be swallowed up by the bell and wall projects. I am aware that there are other works called for in our latest Quinquennial report that are currently in abeyance due to Covid and finances.

Activities

The lengthy closures of the church during this year meant that our activities have been limited. No fund raising activity has been completed.

Nevertheless we have endeavoured to support our village and parishioners.

During the Spring of 2020 we encouraged local children to display rainbows and later doves, in the church porch. We ensured that our church bell led the cheering and clapping for the NHS and keyworkers on Thursdays. We placed a prayer tree in our porch and were amazed by the number of prayers that folk attached – around 40 in total.

As large funerals were banned the village resumed the traditional practice of hearse and close mourners walking around the village. We acted as liaison and organisers, ensuring that many villagers lined the streets (socially distanced in front gardens) and tolled our church bell. We had much positive feedback from all these actions.

In the latter part of 2020 we commissioned a village tapestry, to be hung in the church. Over 40 villagers, the youngest 8 and the oldest 80 plus, stitched, painted wove etc an 8 inch by 8 inch square on a theme of something that summed up 2020 for them. The squares were later sewn together onto a large cloth, which now hangs above the Priest's door in the church. Many people have been in to view it and been moved by it.

At Christmas we made a point of lighting up the church and borrowed a large shed in which to display a beautiful Nativity scene. Many families came to view this and again we received very positive responses from villagers young and old.

During the opening months of 2021 we worked with the Catcott Village Association to collect items and raise funds for thank-you hampers for our local surgery, school and care home. Items were left at the church and then assembled there before delivery. We also raised over £1,300 for Hug in a Bag gift bags for Musgrove Park Hospital staff – 100 bags of goodies were delivered.

At Easter we again made use of our borrowed shed to display a beautiful Easter Garden, which attracted many visitors. Alongside this we displayed three life –size wooden crosses, one of which was dressed with crocheted flowers on Easter Day to celebrate the Resurrection.

St Edwards Church, Chilton Polden.

Our pattern of 2 Services per month started well until the Coronavirus hit. Up until the 17th of March we had seven services, in the last three quarters of the year we had three, one each in August, September and October, since then the Church has remained closed with a devastating effect on our finances.

We have had no Fund Raising events this year this has impacted severely on our finances, our only income has been through the Freewill Offerings and the 100 Club,

The 100 Club is still well supported and has been a resounding success, currently with just over 110 members and contributes around £70 per month to the Church funds.

We were not able to hold our normal Gift Aid Day due to Covid

We did hold a virtual Christingle service this year but takings were down in aid of the Children's Society

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

Fabric Report

We are still suffering from structural issues with the Church after the damage caused by the Cedar Tree in the Churchyard. The ground and Church should now have stabilised and we would like to consider undertaking the necessary re-decorating work but this is unlikely due to lack of finances as a result of the coronavirus lockdown.

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 but has been delayed due to lack of finances.

The piece of the Churchyard wall that was reported last year to have collapsed has now been rebuilt as we were able to get grants to cover over 90% of the cost.

The Quinquennial inspection is now due but has had to be postponed due to the lack of finances, this will be undertaken as soon as we can afford it.

The terrier and log book are up to date.

General

Thank you to all those who continue to try to help and support our Church through these difficult times. We have tried to maintain a presence in the community but it has been difficult. We decorated the porch of the Sunday School with a Nativity Scene, had a lovely decorated Christmas Tree in the Churchyard and set up a story route through the Churchyard which was very much appreciated at Christmas and we hope will be a feature in future years to come. Thank you Chilton Polden Parish Council who very generously give us a grant each year towards the cost of the upkeep of our beautiful 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 2020

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.
- 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

- March – Lightening conductor repairs
- Nov – Tree trunks trimmed and made good
- 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 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)

31st March, 2021

St. Mary's, Shapwick: Fabric Report 2020

Only basic maintenance has been carried out this year due to the ongoing situation with Coronavirus.

All fire extinguishers have been checked by Ball Fire Protection Services.

Our five yearly inspection of all electrical installations and appliances has been carried out and a detailed report sent to our Ecclesiastical Insurers. PAT was also completed.

Andy Ball has continued to maintain the churchyard.

The servicing of the boiler had to be delayed due to flooding in the boiler room. This has now been carried out.

We had Cafe Church on 12th January and again on 9th February. There was Messy Church on 25th January and a Taize service on 26th.

There was a communion service in St Mary's on 23rd Feb and a service of Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday. ..

There was a service of Holy Communion here on 9th August, also 20th September and 1st November. 2 services were held in December: 20th and 25th.

Rosemary Hargreaves

Churchwarden

THE POLDEN WHEEL Treasurer's Annual Report

During 2020, our churches were closed for much of the year due to coronavirus and income was reduced dramatically with very little fund raising being possible. Expenditure generally did not reduce to any great extent. 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 deficit for the year amounting to £13,448.34 where expenditure has exceeded income.

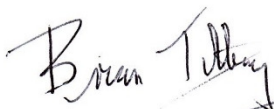
I continue to attend the individual church meetings whenever I am able and when I am advised of when they are taking place, many of which were held on zoom last year. I also continue to work very closely with the Church Cashiers and to make myself available for advice when required and I take this opportunity 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 albeit with reduced transactions.

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 is due to take place on zoom on 26th April 2021.

The accounts are all prepared on a receipts and payments basis where only receipts received and payments actually made in the year are included. No reserve is made for prepayments or accruals.

Due to the closure of churches and lack of fund raising during the year, the finances of the benefice have reduced and cash reserves at 31st December 2020 amounted to £82,300.59 compared with £94,786.05 at 31st December 2019.

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

26th March 2021

THE SIX CHURCHES WITHIN THE POLDEN WHEEL								
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020								
31.12.2019		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
RECEIPTS:								
4,883.11	Offerings - GASDS	376.20	98.50	32.50	64.30	42.00	168.66	782.16
306.44	Offerings - non GASDS	25.00	-	-	25.00	39.08	-	89.08
9,256.72	Gift Aid Envelopes	752.50	164.00	2,169.20	278.70	776.53	812.00	4,952.93
27,257.00	Planned Giving - Gift Aid	6,680.00	3,520.00	3,420.00	2,940.00	3,666.27	8,682.00	28,908.27
920.00	Planned Giving - non Gift Aid	-	120.00	300.00	270.00	-	-	690.00
10,157.00	Fees	2,503.00	930.00	1,042.00	403.00	1,567.00	477.00	6,922.00
1,881.66	Donations	264.82	575.30	5.50	1,411.40	664.55	28.87	2,950.44
95.00	Visiting Bellringers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5,500.00	Legacy's	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10,411.87	Income Tax Recovered under Gift Aid	2,275.36	1,003.88	1,493.30	1,093.85	1,516.96	2,722.93	10,106.28
31.00	Interest on late HMRC repayments	7.00	3.89	5.05	0.09	5.02	8.38	29.43
16,721.08	Fund Raising Events net of Expenses	611.67	-18.95	538.03	93.36	601.84	70.00	1,895.95
921.60	100 Club Income net of Prizes	-	-	-	759.10	-	-	759.10
1,628.81	Fund Raising Events for Specific Charities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-1,628.81	Less Amount Donated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2,920.00	Grants - Parish Council	600.00	200.00	510.00	950.00	510.00	-	2,770.00
-	Ecclesiastical Insurance	-	-	-	1,800.00	-	-	1,800.00
-	Viridor Credits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4,343.81	VAT Reclaimed on Restoration Works	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Miles & Hurman Charity Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.27	Sale of Products (Booklets, T Cloths, etc)	-	3.50	18.50	-	-	-	22.00
2,729.00	Hire of School Room	-	-	-	142.00	-	-	142.00
-	PCC Use of Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Sale of two Pews	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
527.88	Bank Interest	74.73	28.88	156.30	35.41	39.39	58.45	393.16
98,918.44		£14,270.28	£6,629.00	£9,690.38	£10,266.21	£9,428.64	£13,028.29	£63,312.80
PAYMENTS:								
35,980.80	Parish Share of Common Fund	12,577.20	5,682.96	5,114.64	5,530.32	4,546.32	4,277.16	37,728.60
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
1,758.20	Visiting Clergy, Organist, Verger & Bell Ringer Fees	270.00	-	40.00	90.00	60.00	-	460.00
238.00	Deanery Levy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5,128.79	Church Running Expenses:							
	Heating & Lighting	923.00	192.22	293.53	593.14	220.43	879.65	3,101.97
128.75	Cleaning	-	-	-	-	162.00	-	162.00
394.92	Water	40.50	25.00	-	84.83	80.60	93.36	324.29
4,535.21	Insurance	863.84	512.92	596.45	961.92	608.31	1,013.49	4,556.93
6,842.72	Upkeep of Churchyard, Gates & Paths	1,125.50	122.27	1,216.00	791.50	806.00	754.69	4,815.96
1,557.80	Maintenance of Equipment	46.20	130.80	1,453.20	206.20	116.40	277.18	2,229.98
4,167.09	Repairs to Building & Equipment	-	400.00	120.00	7,846.00	-	587.50	8,953.50
395.98	Church Consumables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2,490.30	Quinquennial Survey Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
726.28	Flowers & Refreshments for Services	-	-	-	-	-	231.82	231.82
	Other Expenses:							
66.23	Postage & Office Consumables	-	-	14.37	17.55	-	-	31.92
452.89	Donations & 10% Charity Giving	-	-	-	-	50.00	-	50.00
538.80	New Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
934.21	Sundry:	20.00	-	3,042.04	89.99	55.87	106.27	3,314.17
77,136.97		£17,666.24	£8,866.17	£13,690.23	£18,011.45	£8,505.93	£10,021.12	£76,761.14
£21,781.47	SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-£3,395.96	-£2,237.17	-£3,999.85	-£7,745.24	£922.71	£3,007.17	-£13,448.34

THE SIX CHURCHES WITHIN THE POLDEN WHEEL								
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020								
31.12.2019		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:							
59,185.88	Balance at 1st January 2020	6,919.34	7,079.36	38,918.32	9,985.61	9,887.82	8,176.90	80,967.35
15,880.12	Add Surplus for Year	-	-	-	-	922.71	3,007.17	3,929.88
-407.15	Deduct Deficit for Year	-3,395.96	-2,237.17	-3,999.85	-7,745.24	-	-	-17,378.22
-	Transfer from Miles & Hurman Repair Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to Bell Fund re Prior Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£74,658.85	Balance at 31st December 2020	£3,523.38	£4,842.19	£34,918.47	£2,240.37	£10,810.53	£11,184.07	£67,519.01
	Restricted Fabric Restoration Funds:							
3,257.92	Balance at 1st January 2020	3,257.92	-	-	-	-	-	3,257.92
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£3,257.92	Balance at 31st December 2020	£3,257.92	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£3,257.92
	Miles & Hurman Extraordinary Repair Fund:							
525.14	Balance at 1st January 2020	525.14	-	-	-	-	-	525.14
-	1/5 Transfer from Miles & Hurman General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£525.14	Balance at 31st December 2020	£525.14	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£525.14
	Restricted Bell Fund:							
973.45	Balance at 1st January 2020	-	-	-	-	-	988.45	988.45
15.00	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	54.00	54.00
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£988.45	Balance at 31st December 2020	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£1,042.45	£1,042.45
£79,430.36		£7,306.44	£4,842.19	£34,918.47	£2,240.37	£10,810.53	£12,226.52	£72,344.52
	Represented by:							
250.00	Cash	-	-	-	62.66	50.00	28.87	141.53
50,160.69	Bank Current Account	4,363.73	3,084.94	6,367.45	1,386.61	10,760.53	10,908.43	36,871.69
962.40	Bank Current Account - 100 Club	-	-	-	791.10	-	-	791.10
34,365.77	CBF Deposit Account	2,942.71	1,757.25	28,551.02	-	-	1,289.22	34,540.20
£85,738.86		£7,306.44	£4,842.19	£34,918.47	£2,240.37	£10,810.53	£12,226.52	£72,344.52

THE SIX CHURCHES WITHIN THE POLDEN WHEEL								
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS								
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020								
31.12.2019		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
Restricted Funds held in separate bank accounts:								
Reading Room Charity Interest Fund:								
487.13	Balance at 1st January 2020	493.23	-	-	-	-	-	493.23
-	Add interest transferred from Reading Room Capital Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.42	Add Interest	2.09	-	-	-	-	-	2.09
£489.55	Balance at 31st December 2020	£495.32	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£495.32
Churchyard Fund								
732.20	Balance at 1st January 2020	-	737.70	-	-	-	-	737.70
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.50	Bank Interest for year	-	3.14	-	-	-	-	3.14
£737.70	Balance at 31st December 2020	£ -	£740.84	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£740.84
Cullen Bequest Fund (Restricted):								
3,000.00	Balance at 1st January 2020	-	-	-	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
-	Add Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	Bank Interest for year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£3,000.00	Balance at 31st December 2020	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£3,000.00	£3,000.00

THE POLDEN WHEEL						
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020						
31.12.2019			The Six	The Polden Wheel Benefice		
			Churches	Bank a/c	Bank a/c	
			Street	Bridgwater	TOTAL	
	RECEIPTS:					
4,883.11	Offerings - GASDS		782.16	-	-	782.16
306.44	Offerings - non GASDS		89.08	-	-	89.08
9,256.72	Gift Aid Envelopes		4,952.93	-	-	4,952.93
27,257.00	Planned Giving - Gift Aid		28,908.27	-	-	28,908.27
920.00	Planned Giving - non Gift Aid		690.00	-	-	690.00
10,157.00	Fees		6,922.00	-	-	6,922.00
1,881.66	Donations		2,950.44	-	-	2,950.44
534.79	Messy Church		-	18.70	-	18.70
95.00	Visiting Bellringers		-	-	-	-
5,500.00	Legacy		-	-	-	-
10,411.87	Income Tax Recovered on Gift Aid donations		10,106.28	-	-	10,106.28
31.00	Interest on late HMRC repayments		29.43	-	-	29.43
16,721.08	Fund Raising Events, net of expenses		1,895.95	22.40	-	1,918.35
921.60	100 Club Income net of Prizes		759.10	-	-	759.10
2,007.44	Fund Raising Events for Specific Charities		-	-	-	-
-2,007.44	Less Amount Donated		-	-	-	-
2,920.00	Grants: Parish Council's		2,770.00	-	-	2,770.00
-	Ecclesiastical Insurance		1,800.00	-	-	1,800.00
-	Viridor Credits		-	-	-	-
4,343.81	VAT Reclaimed on Restoration Works		-	-	-	-
-	Miles & Hurman Charity Trust		-	-	-	-
55.27	Sale of Products/Piano/Scrap Metal		22.00	-	-	22.00
200.00	Rent - Chilton Polden Church Hall		-	100.00	-	100.00
2,729.00	Hire of School Room		142.00	-	-	142.00
-	Sale of Two Pews		100.00	-	-	100.00
601.24	Bank Interest		393.16	45.07	7.06	445.29
99,726.59			£63,312.80	£186.17	£7.06	£63,506.03
	PAYMENTS:					
35,980.80	Parish Share of Common Fund		37,728.60	-	-	37,728.60
-	Polden Wheel Benefice Fund		10,800.00	-10,800.00	-	0.00
1,758.20	Visiting Clergy, Organist, Verger & Bell Ringer Fees		460.00	-	-	460.00
238.00	Deanery Levy		-	-	-	0.00
	Church Running Expenses:					
5,128.79	Heating & Lighting		3,101.97	-	-	3,101.97
128.75	Cleaning		162.00	-	-	162.00
394.92	Water		324.29	-	-	324.29
4,535.21	Insurance		4,556.93	-	-	4,556.93
6,842.72	Upkeep of Churchyard including Gates & Paths		4,815.96	-	-	4,815.96
2,720.44	Maintenance of Equipment		2,229.98	844.87	-	3,074.85
4,167.09	Repairs to Building		8,953.50	-	-	8,953.50
943.71	Church Consumables		-	423.70	-	423.70
2,490.30	Quinquennial Survey Fee		-	-	-	0.00
726.28	Flowers & Refreshments for Services		231.82	-	-	231.82
846.58	New Equipment		-	499.00	-	499.00
	Other Expenses:					
452.89	Donations & 10% Charity Giving		50.00	-	-	50.00
1,084.05	CCLI & PRS Licences		-	336.37	-	336.37
105.00	RSCM Membership		-	107.00	-	107.00
5,086.36	Administrator's Salary		-	5,713.52	-	5,713.52
121.85	Clergy & Lay People's Training & Expenses		-	-	-	0.00
791.76	Photocopier Rental		-	629.76	-	629.76
613.81	Postage & Office Consumables		31.92	185.08	-	217.00
444.00	External Printing		-	-	-	0.00
1,149.81	Vicar's Expenses		-	525.25	-	525.25
298.34	Refreshments & Expenses for Messy Church		-	-	-	0.00
257.00	Website		-	380.24	-	380.24
643.46	Telephone & Internet		-	409.56	-	409.56
-	Legal Expenses		-	-	-	0.00
989.19	Sundry		3,314.17	30.00	-	3,344.17
78,939.31			£76,761.14	-£715.65	-	£76,045.49
£20,787.28	SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		-£13,448.34	£901.82	£7.06	-£12,539.46

THE POLDEN WHEEL						
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020						
31.12.2019						
			The Six Churches	The Polden Wheel Bank a/c Street	The Polden Wheel Bank a/c Bridgwater	TOTAL
General Fund:						
69,227.26		Balance at 1st January 2020	80,967.35	8,818.64	228.55	90,014.54
22,201.12		Add Surplus for Year	-	901.82	7.06	908.88
-1,413.84		Deduct Deficit for Year	-13,448.34	-	-	-13,448.34
-		Transfer from Miles & Hurman Repair Fund	-	-	-	-
-		Transfer from Restoration Fund	-	-	-	-
£90,014.54		Balance at 31st December 2020	£67,519.01	£9,720.46	£235.61	£77,475.08
Restricted Fabric Restoration Funds:						
		Balance at 1st January 2020	3,257.92	-	-	3,257.92
3,257.92		Add Contributions	-	-	-	-
-		Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-
-		Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-
£3,257.92		Balance at 31st December 2020	£3,257.92	£ -	£ -	£3,257.92
Miles & Hurman Extraordinary Repair Fund:						
525.14		Balance at 1st January 2020	525.14	-	-	525.14
-		1/3 Transfer from Miles & Hurman General Fund	-	-	-	-
-		Transfer to General Fund	-	-	-	-
£525.14		Balance at 31st December 2020	£525.14	£ -	£ -	£525.14
Restricted Bell Fund:						
973.45		Balance at 1st January 2020	988.45	-	-	988.45
15.00		Add Contributions	54.00	-	-	54.00
-		Deduct Usage	-	-	-	-
£988.45		Balance at 31st December 2020	£1,042.45	£ -	£ -	£1,042.45
£94,786.05			£72,344.52	£9,720.46	£235.61	£82,300.59
Represented by:						
250.00		Cash	141.53	-	-	141.53
59,207.88		Bank Current Account	36,871.69	9,720.46	235.61	46,827.76
962.40		Bank Current Account - 100 Club	791.10	-	-	791.10
34,365.77		CBF Deposit Account	34,540.20	-	-	34,540.20
£94,786.05			£72,344.52	£9,720.46	£235.61	£82,300.59

THE POLDEN WHEEL						
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020						
31.12.2019			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:						
489.55	Balance at 1st January 2020		493.23	-	-	493.23
-	Transfer from Reading Room Capital Fund		-	-	-	-
3.68	Add Interest		2.09	-	-	2.09
£493.23	Balance at 31st December 2020		£495.32	£ -	£ -	£495.32
Churchyard Fund						
732.20	Balance at 1st January 2020		737.70	-	-	737.70
-	Add Contributions		-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage		-	-	-	-
5.50	Bank Interest for year		3.14	-	-	3.14
£737.70	Balance at 31st December 2020		£740.84	£ -	£ -	£740.84
Cullen Bequest Fund (Restricted):						
3,000.00	Balance at 1st January 2020		3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00
-	Add Contributions		-	-	-	-
-	Deduct Usage		-	-	-	-
-	Bank Interest for year		-	-	-	-
£3,000.00	Balance at 31st December 2020		£3,000.00	£ -	£ -	£3,000.00
Approved by the Parochial Church Council on		2021 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 2020 Charity Number (if 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: 20/4/21

Name: Stephen Fry, FCA

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

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

Diocese of Bath & Wells

The Electoral Roll for the Polden Wheel Benefice: Year Ending December 2020

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 **133** members across the six churches.

Ashcott **30**, Burtle **22**, Catcott, **31**, Chilton Polden, **18**, Edington **19**, Shapwick **13**.

This figure represents an overall decrease of 3 from **136** members listed on the 2020 roll.

Freda Prime

Parochial Church Council Secretary

April 2021



Glastonbury Jurisdiction Deanery Synod **Report for Polden Wheel Annual** **Parochial Church Meeting: April 26th** **2021**



The Deanery Synod met just once during 2020 as due to the pandemic it was decided that all planned meetings would be cancelled until after the APCMs; these were subsequently postponed until October. The representatives for the six parishes completed their three year term of office in June 2020 and some agreed to stand for a further term. The current members for the Polden Wheel are:

Ashcott	Vacant
Burtle	Sue Ball
Catcott	Corinne Reynolds
Chilton Polden	Sheila Chambers
Edington	Rosie Tilbury
Shapwick	Vacant

The one meeting held in 2020 was on the 19th of February in St Peter's Church Hall in Lydford on Fosse. Mr Ted Alexander (retired lay chair) welcomed everyone and Reverend Stephen Lynas led the grace before a very enjoyable meal followed by tea, coffee and cakes. An opening act of worship was led by Reverend Jane Durham, Mission Enabler and Priest in charge of Wheathill Priory Benefice.

A discussion was led by the Reverend Jane Durham and Mrs Mary Masters regarding the outcomes of the recent school audit undertaken as part of the education pilot rural deanery project. Ed Gregory, Director of the DBE, and Cheryl Govier had attended the DMPG meeting. Ed spoke about the project and was pleased about what had been achieved in this deanery and hoped that we might participate, which was met with enthusiasm from attendees.

The Reverend Jane Durham provided an update in her role as Deanery Mission Enabler. She spoke of 2 pamphlets for members to take to circulate and the Glastonbury Jurisdiction Prayer diary which ran from March to September 2020 and included a Deanery prayer. There would a copy for each benefice and a new edition every six month. It was also hoped to increase communication by there being a benefice representative on Facebook.

The Treasurer Peter Sage explained that 50% of the expenses for the role of the Deanery Mission Enabler needs to be raised and how it has been spent so far. A levy of £3.50 per member was agreed last year and it was proposed to continue this for 2020 and this was agreed by vote.

Jill Done spoke about the election of lay members as the current term of office expires on June 30th 2020. Newly elected members will hold office for 3 years from 1st July 2020 and will be ex-officio members of the PCC. Forms to be returned by 5th June.

Reverend Stephen Lynas then provided an update on the General Synod of which he is a member.

The Deanery Synod did not then meet again until February 2021. A report is prepared following each meeting for dissemination at local meetings and PCC meetings.

Sue Ball
Deanery Synod Representative
April 2021

Food Bank

Dear Ashcott Friends,

The Trussell Trust Food Bank in Bridgwater are busier than ever in these trying times. We are so fortunate but the pandemic has had significant effects on some people who have faced redundancy and reduced income. So a huge 'thank you' to everyone that donated for our Christmas and Easter Appeals. Despite the fact that things are beginning to look up with the easing of lockdown, there is still a lot of hardship and the foodbank continues to need our support.

If you feel able to donate something please leave it in my porch, 17, High St, or in the box outside of the Everson's at 19, Farm Hill.

Thank you so much for your brilliant responses in the past and we are happy to deliver if you are happy to donate!

Freda