



ANNUAL REPORTS

2021

APCM

Sunday 28th March 2021

The Vicar's Report

I don't think that any of us could have envisaged that as we approach the anniversary of a year since lockdown began in England, that we would continue to be in lockdown a year later due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are people of faith and hope and the vaccine and recent roadmap to end lockdown brings us hope and we continue to pray for an end to this pandemic.

Many of the usual group reports will not be in this annual report as many events have been on hold since March 2020. However, I want to thank so many people for the creative ways that people have kept in touch with their groups and have kept groups running via various media where possible. It has also been exciting to see new and different ways to connect with individuals and our community working themselves out in this season.

We moved to online worship on the first Sunday that we could not worship together in the church building which was Mothering Sunday 2020. We have used various different ways to worship together. The services were recorded and uploaded to YouTube and we used Facebook Watch parties to have the opportunity to worship together. In September 2020 we moved to uploading the recorded services to YouTube and watching them through Online Church where we can chat together and use the prayer room function to offer prayer and we have continued to use this platform as it seems to work well with the congregation. We also have some new people who have joined us in this time. I am grateful to Laura Ashley for her digital skills, to Simon Hare for weekly editing of services and to Mark Jarrett for trying out live streaming at Christmas when plans had to be changed quickly!

For those that do not have access to online worship, a weekly mailing goes to each person or household with a Bible Reading, thought for the day and prayer and any news and notices so that everyone can keep up to date.

We were able to re-start services in the church building at the beginning of October where we did one service in person and one online each Sunday until we had to close with the second lockdown. We then opened the church building at the beginning of December but made the decision to close this again other than a service on Christmas Day due to the rapid increase in Covid 19 cases in the area. We have risk assessed everything as we have gone along and hope that we have made safe and sensible decisions at each step.

Our Foodbank has continued to serve the community all the way through the lockdown and I am very grateful for their dedication and service as the need for the Foodbank continues to increase at this time. They have adapted well to new ways of working to keep themselves and the clients safe. The local and surrounding communities have been very generous in their donations for Foodbank and for this we are very thankful.

Occasional Offices have had to change, move and adapt as guidance has changed through the year. We were able to hold 2 weddings in 2020, however many have had plans changed, cancelled and rearranged. Our Baptism list is long, but we have started to be able to book them in. Funerals have continued including sadly Covid 19 funerals and these have been at

the Graveside or Crematorium to start with and we have then gradually moved back into church. Thank you to all those who assist me with these in many different ways.

There are many people from our church family who have looked out for others during this last year and I would like to say thank you to them and to our ALMs and LLMs who have worked hard to maintain pastoral care for people as well as maintaining contact with children and families and our young people. Thank you as well to our Homegroup Leaders who have adapted constantly in the way that meetings could go ahead, you have approached this with flexibility and perseverance.

It has been difficult to think how best to connect with our children and young people. Bubbles and Splash put videos online for many months, but we recognised that these were not receiving much interest. At about the same time Laura Ashley who has just completed her children and families ALM started thinking about children exploring their faith and so Explorers came into being. We were unable to hold a Holiday Club in 2020 but Explorers started with a Messy church video and bag of craft items and has grown and developed since in both the numbers of people joining in with us and in the team growing. It is very exciting.

Our Youth Group runs monthly through Zoom with games, chat and videos.

While many groups have not been able to meet over the last year, some new initiatives have come forward. In October we launched a Wellbeing Group through Zoom led by Katie Wells and this is supporting individuals in their own journey and continues every other week on Zoom.

We have just launched a Foster and Adoption Support Group lead by Immy Moore and Sue Grant and working in partnership with Young People's Counselling Service and Home for Good. This is also running through Zoom and we hope this will grow and develop.

We have a pastoral scheme called Egg Boxes just about ready to roll out so we have certainly not been static during this last year.

Prayer has become a real focus this year with prayer points now being shared weekly. We have prayed with The Archbishops, started a WhatsApp Group for Prayer Ministry, started using the online church prayer facility and we know that more people have been able to join us than would be able to in our usual Monday morning prayer meeting which has continued remotely for most of the last year.

There are so many people to thank for the way that people have supported each other and our church family and local community, it has been amazing to see the way that relationships and partnerships have formed and built over this time. I would like to particularly thank our Church Wardens - Mark Jarrett and Paul Russell and our Parish Communications Officer – Laura Ashley. They have worked so incredibly hard and have been so supportive as decisions had to be made and communicated quickly and at times it has felt as if we were all on call 24/7. Thank you to our PCC who have had to make some very difficult decisions through the year and come to a consensus so that we can move forward. Thank you St Peter's, Yaxley for pulling together to support each other, our community and me.

We have been given the Government roadmap out of lockdown which we hope and pray will happen over the next few weeks and months. We look forward to the opening of our new facilities in church, but most of all being able to come back together, worship and praise God together, share fellowship and just have a cup of tea together! We look forward to opening the building and welcoming the community to groups and events, for Weddings and Baptisms and continuing to reach out in love and faith.

As I read the reports that people have written, I was amazed at the hope and the life in them considering the year that has gone. We have had losses and we have had gains, we have had joys and we have had sorrows, but we rejoice as the body of Christ in Yaxley and at all that God has done and continues to do in this place. We look ahead with faith and with hope.

Rev Sarah Hare
Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Yaxley

Churchwardens' Report

Quinquennial Inspection

This took place in November 2020 and was undertaken by our new Architects – Arch:angel Ltd. of Cambridge.

No serious problems, but, within the next two years, we need to complete some roofing lead/flashing/mortaring repairs; along with the replacement of the tower floodlights; and the replacement of the tower door at parapet level (but our roofers have recently rehung the existing door to prevent birds getting access to the bell chamber.

Project Fund

We would take this opportunity to thank everyone for their ongoing generosity to the Served Project Fund – with a total of £192,000 has already been received (or pledged over the next two years). This total includes over £75,000 of grants (thanks in no small part to Chris Grant's efforts).

The works are expected to cost a total of ~£190,000 (allowing all costs, including window refurbishment, fees & 5% contingency (£9,000)), with an additional 10% donation towards 'mission' (£19,000)....so our fundraising is almost complete.

This means that we have been able to instruct a contractor to undertake the works and they are planning to start in April and finish by the end of September 2021.

Terrier

Most of our historic documents are held at the Huntingdon Records Office – where they can be viewed by anyone – leaving us with only the most recent records for our use.

Heating

Heating costs are still being kept in check through our 'use it only when you need it policy' and not depending on the timer for every activity in church, which means we have used very little this year - unfortunately.

Organ

The organ has had its annual service and no problems discovered.

Clock

You will have noticed that the clock is now striking again after the problem with its gears. The Churchwardens would take this opportunity to thank Andrew Burgess for his continued commitment to keeping the clock running.

Bells

During the last year, lockdown has precluded almost all of our normal ringing - the bells were only tolled for two funerals in the last year.

Roger Austin and Ray Porter normally carry out routine maintenance checks and lubrication of bearings and wheels during the summer but were not able to do so this year. Ray has rung the bells up and down on a monthly basis to prevent the moving parts from becoming seized. They plan to carry out safety and maintenance checks before resuming the normal ringing. The Churchwardens would take this opportunity to thank Roger and Ray for their fantastic work in maintaining our bells.

General

The problem with the pump which operates the drainage system, resulting in it 'tripping out' and the alarm sounding in the toilet, continues, but we shall now have that sorted during the Project works...!!

Fire extinguishers, portable appliances and roof alarm continue to be inspected on an annual basis - with the regular/periodic electrical installation and lightning protection tests also completed this year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the congregation who have assisted us throughout the year.

Paul Russell & Mark Jarrett
Churchwardens

Treasurer's Report

I started last year's report by saying how challenging 2019 was going to be. Little did we know at that point how much more so 2020 would prove! Who could possibly have foreseen events as they unrolled, leaving us worshipping via YouTube and meeting outdoors with masks! All of which meant, of course, that baptisms, weddings, funerals and fund-raising events were also unable to take place.

It is testament to this amazing congregation and community that we were still able to pay most of our Parish Share to Ely, albeit at a slightly reduced amount. Some costs reduced, like our gas and electricity bills, but of course others were unchanged, such as buildings insurance. And new costs for Zoom accounts, Explorers bags and subscriptions to musicians for streamed music.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to pay by standing order at this very difficult time, to those who have popped weekly giving envelopes and anonymous cash deposits through various letterboxes. To the huge number of people who have been so generous to Foodbank, with donations of money, time and produce.

We know that many have found themselves in very different circumstances, so your generosity means a great deal.

We ended the year with a deficit situation of just under £6000 but are fortunate to have some reserves and so have used them to cover this.

We have also continued to support Berthe and her work in Kabahire – this is funded separately to the general Fund and by further generous regular donations. We continue to make other charitable donations to fund Hope's schooling at the Star School and to Christians Against Poverty in the UK.

Everything that we do, as shown in our accounts, is possible thanks to your generous giving, whether by standing order, weekly envelopes or one-off donations, or indeed the giving of your time.

On behalf of the PCC, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who supports the work of St Peter's in many different ways – both in Yaxley and in Kabahire.

Many thanks, as always, to those who assist me in producing these figures, in counting cash and administering gift aid data and weddings.

Debbie Jarrett
PCC Treasurer

Report of the Proceedings of The Parochial Church Council

The PCC have met virtually six times since April 2020. The meetings have discussed a variety of matters and are always commenced with prayer and concluded with The Grace.

Matters discussed include:

- The work with children & young people, including Junior & Youth Church, Youth Group, schools, Explorers
- Financial Matters, including our 2021 Budget, YTD figures, Local Fees, Parish Share, Fundraising, Explorers Budget, Resources & Growth Fund/Funding the PCO
- Stewardship
- Served Project including Architect details
- Policies & Procedures, including Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Lone Worker, Privacy, Legacy, Complaints & Social Media
- Risk Assessments, including Foodbank, Online Prayer Ministry
- The Church Building, including Quinquennial, Roof Repairs, heating pumps
- Roles within SPC, including ALMs, LLMs, Parish Communications Officer, Band, Sound Desk, Cleaning, Junior Church, Sparks, Curate, Student Placement
- COVID Times
- Foster & Adoption Support
- Online Church
- Services – Planning & Review
- Private Prayer
- Revival Prayer
- Foodbank
- Mothers' Union
- MU Engage

- Occasional Offices: Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings
- Events Planning & Reviews
- Pastoral Care/Egg Boxes
- Safeguarding, including, Database and Training
- Eco Church
- Leadership Conferences
- Electoral Roll Figure
- Deaf Church
- Watoto
- Surveys
- Sparks
- Encounter
- Café Club
- Men's Breakfast
- Splash Walks
- Monthly Prayer Meetings
- Wellbeing Group
- The Beatitudes
- Peterborough Winter Night Shelter
- APCM
- Virtual Christmas Market
- Weekend Away
- Living in Love & Faith

Laura Ashley
PCC Secretary

Parish Communication Officer's Report

The role of Parish Communications Officer has changed somewhat over the past year, with a greater focus on our online presence as a church.

Back in early 2020, before COVID, I recall saying that this year would be a year to focus on social media and that 1.9 billion people are on YouTube, how do we reach them? Little did I know that within a month we would have launched our own YouTube Channel!

The events of the past year have changed the way people interact with our communications. Our engagement levels on social media have increased and we have gained almost 200 new followers on Facebook and 149 subscribers on YouTube.

We've introduced new Facebook groups for different purposes, such as the popular Virtual Market, which was introduced in place of our Christmas Fayre and a new Explorers Facebook Group, to connect with families.

We launched an Online Prayer Room, with different resources and the Online Church Platform. We were hoping to launch a new website in 2020, however, with all the extra demands that COVID brought, this work has been temporarily paused.

Thank you for being patient and learning with us, as we introduced new ideas along the way.

Going forward we face challenges of thinking about hybrid church (digital and in person) and what this looks like for us. This year will be another year with a social media focus for communications; extending Sunday's teaching throughout the week, encouraging others to create content and engage, and reaching and interacting with those who may never come through our doors.

Thank you to everyone who supports me in this role.

Laura Ashley
Parish Communications Officer

Children's Ministry Report

Junior Church

Due to COVID, Junior Church moved online at Easter 2020. We felt it was important that the children of the church saw familiar faces, therefore started weekly videos on our YouTube Channel, along with activity sheets. We covered the Sunday service material with fun games and crafts, and Bubbles did a series on parables.

In the Autumn term, videos were reduced to monthly with weekly activities available. This was in part due to the workload involved and an uncertainty around the reception from families. Families were encouraged to get involved in Explorers in December.

In January, with the announcement of the third lockdown, it was felt that Junior Church should be paused. With children home schooling and spending all week on screens learning, and our leaders either home schooling or working in schools, it felt like the right decision. Families were encouraged to take part in the February Explorers.

Thank you to Debbie & Claire for all the wonderful videos and activities they have produced over the past year.

Last April, the Diocese's Children's & Family Lead set up a group for family workers across the Diocese. We have fortnightly calls to check in with one another, inspire each other and learn from one another. This group has been really valuable, and we are all looking forward to planning for a time when we can meet with the children, in person, once again.

Something I take from this experience is that we don't have to return to exactly what we did before; it's a great time to embrace the change.

Laura Ashley
Children's & Families ALM

Youth Work

The last year has been challenging in how to best connect with and grow our young people in their journey with Jesus. We had just started to meet as a group in the week as well as on a Sunday when lockdown very quickly came and changed that for us. We met with the young people and asked them what they would like, and they wanted a midweek meeting every other week through Zoom which we started. We later moved it to monthly when the requirements of home schooling increased.

We have done many things over this last year. We have thought about Big Questions, we have played Zoom games, we have used various video resources particularly Intro Outro on YouTube and Limitless TV on YouTube as well as other things we have found along the way. We have chatted together, prayed together and just come together. I am so grateful to our young people for showing up every time, we have loved being able to keep in touch with you.

A huge thank you goes to Sof Tennant, our Youth ALM, Sophie Thomas, our amazing games finder and Emma Rodulfo who is currently undertaking training with Scripture Union looking at young people and the church. You are all amazing and we could not have run this without you this last year.

Rev Sarah Hare
Vicar

Schools Ministry

We have had to work out new ways to connect with our schools during this last year, and we have entered the virtual world with our schools. I continue as Governor for Yaxley Infants, William De Yaxley and Hampton Gardens Schools and enjoy being part of these schools. As it became apparent that we would not be able to go into the schools, we moved to weekly video assemblies with William De Yaxley and monthly video assemblies with Yaxley Infants which Suzanne Delegate and I have done between us. We are now providing weekly assemblies to William De Yaxley School, assemblies every other week to Yaxley Infants and I have done a standalone assembly for Hampton Gardens on Community and a virtual lesson for Fourfields School giving them a virtual tour around the church building. We have been able to welcome Yaxley Infant School into church for a morning but have not been able to do any other school trips, concerts or services but have tried to cover some of these things through the videos and many of the children and families have joined in with Explorers.

Rev Sarah Hare
Vicar

The Lighthouse Club

Due to COVID, the Lighthouse Club hasn't been able to operate in schools, since March 2020.

Sparks

Due to COVID, no SPARKS sessions have been held since March 2020.

Our Sparks coordinator, Liz Spooner, stepped down from the role in 2020. We give thanks to Liz for the time and energy she put into the group and hope she will return for a proper farewell when we can all once again meet, safely.

Explorers

Explorers launched in Summer 2020, as our usual Holiday Club could no longer take place. We originally thought it would be a one off for the summer but as plans progressed, we realised the value of having a provision like this for families, each school holiday.

Explorers provide packs for families which contain what they need to take part each school holiday. Explorers is about exploring faith at home and around our community. We're currently building links with the care homes and local businesses and look forward to building on this with future events.

The success of Explorers has been really encouraging; with 50 packs collected in Summer 2020 to 194 in February 2021! Mothering Sunday saw over 230 plants collected from the churchyard (by both church family and Explorers families) and we're currently preparing 250 packs for Easter!

I am really excited to see where Explorers takes us as we emerge out of the pandemic and look forward to planning family events so we can get to know all those who have been taking part.

Thank you to everyone on the Explorers Team for all the work that has gone into each event.

Laura Ashley
Explorers Coordinator

SPREE

Due to COVID 19, no SPREE events were able to take place in 2020.

Foodbank Report

This past year has thrown up quite a few challenges for the foodbank as it has in many areas of life. Our first priority was to make the workings of the foodbank Covid safe for both the volunteers and our clients and to make the access to the foodbank easier for clients during lockdown. We did this by introducing masks and hand gel for both the store and church, ensuring a 2 metre safe zone inside the church for our volunteers and altering our working practices so that clients didn't have to enter the building to get their parcels or visit the free items table. In the store we reduced the number of volunteers in the building and rearranged our working methods to keep a safe distance from each other. We also had to take the difficult step of asking some of our more vulnerable volunteers to step back from their duties. We hope that we will soon be able to reverse that decision.

Our first note of thanks must go to our stalwart volunteers who have kept the foodbank open throughout the entire period in a safe and efficient manner. We couldn't run this without them. Over winter they have endured some very cold days and difficult conditions. We must also give our thanks to the amazing community of Yaxley and surrounding villages who have continued to donate items to us in sufficient quantities for us to meet the increased demand. The Co-op in Yaxley have been vital as one of our remaining open collection points. We couldn't have continued without them. Special collections over the year by local schools, Meridien Gym in the industrial estate, and Apple Green garage in Stanground have also been greatly appreciated. We have also been the grateful recipient of a large number of cash donations from sources too many to mention. This has meant that since the early summer we have been able to issue £10 Fruit and Veg vouchers with each parcel in conjunction with Kemps Greengrocers in Yaxley. This has enabled us to supplement the long life foods in our parcels with fresh fruit and veg which clients can choose from the shop. We would like to thank Kemps and Paul Russell who has acted as liaison between us and the shop since we started this initiative. Feedback from clients has been very positive about this addition to our

service. Finally, we would like to thank Sarah, our vicar who has cheerfully endured a hallway and doorstep clogged with valuable food donations each week. Hopefully it won't be too long before our other collection points will reopen.

In March 2020 we decided to stop requesting external vouchers for clients as the lockdown prevented access to so many distribution centres. Demand has steadily increased over the year from 600Kg of food given out in March 2020 peaking at just under 1400Kg in November. Since October we have averaged well over 1000Kg of food issued each month. On top of this have been the toiletries and other free table items as well as the pack of dog and cat food kindly donated to us by Wood Green animal shelter on a regular basis. In December we ran our usual Christmas parcels scheme. We received 53 requests for parcels from various agencies, which resulted in an additional 2073Kg of food being issued along with new donated games and toiletries. We also issued £20 fruit and veg vouchers with each Christmas parcel.

Just before Christmas we had a break-in at the store when fortunately, not too much was taken. The parish council and Cambridgeshire police were all superbly quick with their support and help, meaning our Christmas parcel scheme was able to progress uninterrupted.

In 2021 we have developed a partnership with Hunts Forum and continue our close relationship with the Community Fridge in Yaxley. We have joined the Independent Food Aid Network and are working with them and Hunts forum to help progress routes of financial support for our clients. We look forward to welcoming new volunteers this year and some older ones back to join us in the near future

Thanks again to all who have worked with us and supported us in so many ways.

Chris Grant
Foodbank Coordinator

Mothers' Union

Although St. Peter's Mothers' Union has not been able to meet during the last year, members have been kept up to date with emails and newsletters. Some members have joined in with Ely Diocesan Zoom prayers and services.

MU-Engage has had fortnightly communications sent out. Mothers' Union prayers have been posted on the St. Peter's Facebook page.

Irene Porter
St. Peter's Mothers' Union Branch Leader

Care in the Community

Care in the Community has been on hold throughout 2020.

Impaired Senses Group

Nothing to report.

Deaf Church

At the beginning of the pandemic, we spoke about how to provide for deaf church during this time. Jan Smith has provided this service throughout the year and we look forward to inviting the community back into the building.

Sarah Hare
Vicar

Encounter

Five Encounter meetings were held at the beginning of 2020 prior to lockdown. Sadly, since then we have not been able to meet. Some intermittent contact has been maintained by email and Facebook, but it was felt that meeting via zoom or similar would not be a practical option. It is unlikely that Encounter will be able to meet again until at least September when, Covid and church building permitting, we hope to resume our meetings on alternate Friday mornings.

Encounter leaders will be prayerfully considering the way forward for Encounter, mindful of the opportunity lockdown has brought to re-think how this might look in the future.

Pauline Wallace
Encounter Coordinator

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Report

Due to Covid restrictions there has been no opportunity to run CAP money courses this year. Arrangements had been made to run the year 6 course with Farcet School in the summer term but unfortunately this had to be cancelled.

CAP have not updated their resources for the CAP Money course, and it is felt that much of the content now appears somewhat tired. This brings into question the relevance of running the course again in the future but if there is an obvious need, particularly in relation to food bank clients, we may be able to adapt the course and run something more bespoke for those who may benefit in the future.

Pauline Wallace
CAP Money Coach

Wellness & Wholeness

The Wellness and Wholeness group was set up to support mental wellbeing especially during a time when we were feeling isolated, disconnected and our mental health had been impacted due to the pandemic.

The group is a safe space to share thoughts and feelings, as well as a reminder that no matter how we are feeling or what we are going through God is always there with us. The group provides an opportunity to connect with one another and check in, as well as to explore scripture and reflect on this. We also look at what keeps us mentally well and explore activities around this. We have time for breathing exercises and to listen to worship

music. We create a space to feel safe, where we are not judged, where we can openly explore our faith and ask questions. A space to know we are not alone but to also know it's ok to not be ok and at the heart of everything we do God is there with us.

Katie Wells
Wellbeing Coordinator

Foster & Adoption Support

The Fostering & Adoption Support Group launched on Zoom on Saturday 27th February and were delighted to have their first couple join the group. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from all who attended and showed just how valued and much needed this group is.

We are looking forward to our next meeting on Saturday 27th March, and plan to meet fortnightly on Zoom until we can hopefully meet face to face when restrictions allow.

A huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers for their ongoing support and all they have done to get the group started.

Imogen Moore
Fostering & Adoption Support Coordinator