



Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2021

Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 7.00pm

To be held via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84801436604>

Meeting ID: 848 0143 6604

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AGENDA for Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2021

Meeting of the Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens - Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Churchwardens' Reports
3. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Agenda

1. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting
2. Matters arising from the Minutes
3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
4. PCC Secretary's Report
5. PCC Treasurer's Report
6. Safeguarding and DBS Officer's Report
7. Deanery Synod Report
8. Incumbents Report
9. Intergenerational Missioner's Report
10. Election of four members to the Deanery Synod
11. Election of twelve members to the Parochial Church Council
12. Appointment of Sidespersons
13. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the Accounts
14. Organisations' Reports

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

1. Election of Vice Chairman
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Appointment of Treasurer
4. Appointment of two Deputy Wardens
5. Dates of future meetings
6. AOB

Churchwardens' Report

2020 has been a year like no other. For the first time in over 700 years the church has been closed for an extended period due to Government restrictions caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic. Restrictions are likely to continue until at least the middle of 2021.

The benefits of the new seating arrangements from Phases 1 and 2 of the re-ordering project have been amply illustrated during the Pandemic. Social distancing and sanitising of chairs have proved relatively simple, enabling us to open the church for private prayer and then for services as soon as government regulations permitted.

The efforts of Mark Sanderson and Adrian Taylor in setting up the church for Zoom services with remote choir, must be mentioned. Their efforts and knowledge have proved invaluable in keeping our church team together during this difficult year. Thankyou Both.

CHURCH FABRIC

Phase 3 of the re-ordering project, involving seamless one-level entrance arrangements via the North Porch and Chancel door is nearly completed; one benefit from the pandemic restrictions being the availability of the North Porch for work without interfering with access to the building. Most of the work has been completed during the period of no, or minimal, access for parishioners.

The Friends of Ross Church, supported by the Town Council have provided a refurbished and improved flood-lighting system with colour effects, which are proving very popular.

CHURCH SECURITY

There have been only minor incidents of pilfering in 2020. The CCTV system is proving its worth.

CHURCHYARD

The Pandemic restrictions largely prevented any volunteer work in 2020. Paid workers kept the Garden of Remembrance and some of the open churchyard in good order.

CHURCH HALL

The Food Larder has been much utilised during the year. Addaction has continued to rent the office suite, and *Farm Ideas* magazine, edited by choir member Mike Donovan, have rented the second office on the first floor. Both rentals have continued throughout lockdowns, but there have been hardly any bookings for the main hall since mid March.

THANKYOU

May we thank everyone for their support and help during this most difficult year. The support of the Ministry Team, the cleaners and the congregation in general has been invaluable.

Dr Janet Cooper

Dr John Setchfield

Parish of St. Mary's, Ross on Wye

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on **Wednesday 7th October 2020**
at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present: The Revd Sean Semple (Chairman), five members of the Ministry Team and 29 parishioners.

The Rector opened the meetings at 7.11pm with a prayer.

Meeting of the Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Caroline Pascoe, Nick and Janet Nelson, Sylvia Greer, Andrew Morris, Eileen and Keith Richards and Terry Davies

5. Churchwardens' Reports

The churchwardens' report was accepted and the churchwardens were thanked for all their work.

6. Election of Churchwardens

Proposed: Pauline Waters

Seconded: Bryan Jones

Unanimous

It was resolved to elect Janet Cooper and John Setchfield as church wardens until the next annual meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

15. Minutes of last Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Proposed: Janet Cooper

Seconded: Jean Harrison

Unanimous

It was resolved that the minutes of a meeting held on 3rd April 2019 be accepted as an accurate record.

16. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

17. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

A report had been provided by Peter Raddenbury, the last Electoral Roll Officer who resigned prior to the APCM. In September the PCC appointed Julian Hallett to the role.

Julian reported that since the report had been written, three members had died but six new members had joined the roll.

- 18. PCC Secretary's Report**
The secretary's report was accepted. The Rector thanked Rachel for her work as secretary.
- 19. PCC Treasurer's Report**
The treasurer's report was accepted. The Rector thanked Peter, the outgoing treasurer for his work over the years. There were no questions.
- 20. Safeguarding and DBS Officer's Report**
The Safeguarding and DBS Officer had included the first eight months of 2020 in her report. The Rector thanked Judith, recognising how difficult the job was at this present time.
- 21. Deanery Synod Report**
There was no report
- 22. Incumbents Report**
The incumbent's report which again included part of 2020, was accepted. Janet Cooper thanked Sean, especially for all his work during what turned out to be a horrendous year.
- 23. Intergenerational Missioner's Report**
Christine's report was accepted. The success of the various activities begun by Christine were noted.
- 24. Election of four members to the Deanery Synod**
Proposed: Freda Davies
Seconded: Janet Cooper Unanimous
It was resolved to elect Paul Eward, Gerald Atree, Rachel Lewis and Mark Sanderson to the Deanery Synod.
- 25. Election of twelve members to the Parochial Church Council**
Proposed: John Setchfield
Seconded: Pauline Waters Unanimous
It was resolved to elect Paul Cummings, Bryan Jones, Paul Mason, Roy Milnes, Anne Morris, Peter Reynolds, Tim Waters and Rosie Winyard to the Parochial Church Council.
- 26. Appointment of Sidespersons**
Proposed: Mark Sanderson
Seconded: Dene Eward Unanimous
It was resolved to appoint
- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs Valerie Allen | Mr Gerald Atree | Mr Paul Cummings |
| Mrs Marian Francis | Mr Gerald Francis | Mrs Margaret Gabb |
| Mrs Celia Glover | Mrs Sylvia Greer | Mr Julian Hallett |
| Mrs Pam Harding | Mr Terry Harding | Mrs Jean Harrison |
| Mrs Judith Hazelton | Mr William Hazelton | Mrs Susan Jenkins |
| Mr Peter Jenkins | Mr Graham John | Mrs Sharn John |
| Mr Bryan Jones | Mrs Judith Landau | Mr Peter Landau |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs Janet Nelson | Mr Nick Nelson | Mrs Anne Remmington |
| Mrs Marilyn Reynolds | Mr Peter Reynolds | Mrs Susan Ryan |
| Mr Bob Ryan | Mrs Jean Spencer | Mr John Spencer |
| Mrs Elaine Weatherhead and | Mr James Weatherhead | as sidespersons. |

- 27. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the Accounts**
 Peter Raddenbury has ascertained that David Bennett was prepared to continue as Independent Examiner for the Accounts.
 Proposed: Peter Raddenbury
 Seconded: John Setchfield Unanimous
It was resolved to appoint David Bennett as Independent Examiner for the Accounts.
- 28. Organisations' Reports**
 The reports were accepted and noted. The Rector thanked all those who had prepared them.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 7.38pm

Meeting of the Parochial Church Council

- 7. Election of Vice Chairman**
 Proposed: Paul Eward
 Seconded: Mark Sanderson Unanimous
It was resolved to elect John Setchfield as vice-chairman of the PCC.
- 8. Appointment of Secretary**
 Proposed: Peter Reynolds
 Seconded: Mark Sanderson Unanimous
It was resolved to appoint Rachel Lewis as secretary to the PCC.
- 9. Appointment of Treasurer**
 Proposed: Paul Eward
 Seconded: Mark Sanderson Unanimous
It was resolved to appoint Roy Milnes as treasurer of the PCC.
- 10. Appointment of two Deputy Wardens**
 Proposed: Janet Cooper
 Seconded: Bryan Jones Unanimous
It was resolved to appoint Clive Beddows and Gerald Atree as Deputy Wardens.
- 11. Dates of future meetings**
 The next meetings of the PCC will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesdays 11th November 2020, 13th January 2021 and 10th March 2021
- 12. AOB**
 Paul Eward thanked Sean for all he has done for the church since he has been here. Sean spoke about the vision for the church in Ross and the positions on the PCC to enable work towards this vision. He was waiting for confirmation for someone to take on the role

of convener for Inspiring Faith but was happy to announce that Paul Cummings had agreed to take on the Inspiring Hope portfolio and Rosie Winyard, the Inspiring Love portfolio.

The meeting closed at 7.49pm

Electoral Roll Report for the year 2020-2021

The annual Electoral Roll Report is runs from one Annual Meeting to the next. The Roll closes shortly before each APCM for revision and the actual number on Roll will be reported at the Meeting.

At the time of writing (23/4/2021), we have a total of 125 (an increase of 5 over the previous year's report) but there is a short period before the Roll closes for final review.

Julian Hallett
Electoral Roll Officer

Ross PCC Secretary's report 2020

Membership

At the beginning of the year, PCC members were: John Setchfield (Church Warden, Janet Cooper (Church Warden), Peter Raddenbury (Treasurer), Rachel Lewis (Secretary), Bryan Jones, Anne Morris, Keith Richards, Peter Reynolds, Karen Vitale and Tim Waters.

Ex-officio members were the Revd Sean Semple, Revd Canon Chris Blanchard, Revd Caroline Pascoe and Canon Freda Davies (Reader) and Christine Cattanach (Intergenerational Missionner), Fiona Barnaby, (Deanery Synod) Paul Eward (Deanery Synod and Mark Sanderson (Deanery Synod).

In March, Roy Milnes was co-opted to the PCC.

In May, Peter Raddenbury resigned from the PCC and as treasurer and Roy Milnes was appointed treasurer.

In July, Fiona Barnaby resigned from the Deanery Synod. Prior to her ordination, Tiffany Jackson was co-opted to the PCC. Following her ordination in September, Tiffany became an ex-officio member.

At the Annual Meeting in October, Keith Richards and Karen Vitale resigned and Paul Cummings, Paul Mason and Rosie Winyard were elected. Gerald Aintree (Deanery Synod) and Rachel Lewis (Deanery Synod and PCC Secretary) became ex-officio members.

Councillor Rob Taylor continued as the representative from the Town Council to report on the Open Churchyard.

Meetings

Six meetings were held with no extraordinary meetings being called.

From April onwards, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, provision was made for meetings to be held remotely, including the Annual Meeting and four of the six meetings plus the APCM were held using Zoom.

The Standing Committee (Chairman, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary) met twice in person, four times via Zoom and made decisions using emails which were later ratified by the PCC on four occasions.

The Rector

The Rector chaired all the meetings and gave a report at each. His focus throughout the year was based on the outcome of a parish Vision Day held in January, which helped us to discern God's vision for the parish. To help fulfil this vision, members of the PCC were appointed at the APCM to lead us in inspiring Faith, Hope and Love to those in the town and beyond.

Intergenerational Missioner

Christine Cattanaach has kept the PCC up to date with the work she has been undertaking. From April onwards, the weekly Toast meetings for parents and toddlers, LEAF group for secondary school age students, and ALPHA courses and follow up groups had to find other ways of meeting and gradually meetings were moved to zoom and the recordings of stories and activities were made for the Toast families. In October Messy Church was launched.

Finance

The treasurer has kept members up to date with accounts and a report at every meeting.

Fundraising this year was drastically curtailed but the committee expressed gratitude to the Rector for his Stair Climb which raised in excess of £2.500.

For regular giving, the Parish Giving Scheme is running but it is hoped to promote and encourage its use it more widely.

A digital card machine is now in church for donations and ways of making donations online have been set up.

In September, a music fee to cover an organist when required or provide good quality recorded music or video, replaced the organist fee for occasional services such as weddings and funerals. Live streaming was also offered to families.

Charitable giving for the year was to Age UK (in Ross), Kisiki College Uganda, St Michael's Hospice and Hereford Diocesan Mothers' Union.

The scope of work covered during the year

John Setchfield has reported regularly on the progress of building works with both Phase 2 and Phase 3 being completed over the year with a few loose ends to be tied up. Concerns over the safety of the choir vestry ceiling were expressed and builders were given the go ahead to make the necessary repairs.

The Friends' flood lighting scheme has been installed.

The south porch was emptied and the basement of the hall tidied to allow for storage of essential items. The former "elephant room" upstairs in the hall and the office adjacent to the administrator's office have been made available for all staff as a small meeting room and working space respectively.

The Wifi in church has proved indispensable, being used to stream services once churches reopened after closure in the spring.

The Covid pandemic has affected much of our church lives, not least keeping the building covid secure with regular cleaning and disinfecting. As well as a team of regular volunteer cleaners the PCC agreed to employ a professional cleaner once a month.

The website plays an important part in communication, including providing a platform for all information regarding PCC meetings. There is a dedicated page for meeting documents (available to members) and another for all minutes and dates of meetings which is available to anyone.

Judith Wiggins as Safeguarding Officer and Bryan Jones as Health & Safety Officer have continued in their roles.

Rachel Lewis, PCC Secretary

PCC Treasurer's Report 2020

See separate Accounts and Treasurers report attached.

Safeguarding and DBS Officer's Report

Given the fact that last year's APCC did not take place until September 2020 due to the Covid situation, there may be an element of repetition within this report, for which I apologise.

The PCC members will be all too aware of the fact that the Covid regulations which applied throughout 2020 to greater and lesser effect, placed heavy restrictions on those church activities which took place and prevented many from taking place altogether. However, our Ministry Team, church officers and volunteers have carried out sterling work to implement the conditions imposed on such services and activities that have taken place. All at St Mary's worked really hard to enable live services to take place for as long as that was possible. However, huge efforts also went into utilising the internet to provide services, activities and meetings. I am sure that we have all surprised ourselves with the way in which we have become much more tech-savvy. Organisers were careful to heed the fact that safeguarding issues need to be very much borne in mind when using the internet in worship and activities. This has to continue, of course.

The Ministry Team and the churchwardens were largely provided with guidance directly by the Bishop's Palace and there was relatively little communication to the Safeguarding Officers from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office. The message from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to us was very much that we would be given information when the situation had eased somewhat and we had a clearer idea as to what the new "normal" would be. That information didn't really arrive until 2021. This is slightly outside the ambit of this report, but I can assure the PCC that, as a result, efforts are being made to prepare a parish Safeguarding Action Plan and for us to be in good order for the anticipated Safeguarding "audit" in 2021.

I made two referrals of relevance to St Mary's to the Diocesan Safeguarding officer during 2020 - as I am required to do when these matters arise. One was a historic matter which was new to Sean and myself. It transpired that this was deemed to have been dealt with comprehensively and

appropriately previously. The other matter was resolved with by way of additional investigation and a change in circumstances which largely diminished the concerns.

I was heartened to see that most of the PCC members have completed their safeguarding training to the requisite level. This is essential. I continued to process DBS applications throughout lockdown.

Judith Wiggins Safeguarding and DBS Officer

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod meetings involve clergy and PCC representatives from all the churches in the Deanery from Sollers Hope in the North, Wyesham in the South, Aston Ingham in the East and Much Dewchurch in the West. The Ross Benefice is more or less in the Centre and has by far the largest Population Density.

Deanery Synod started meeting via zoom under the Leadership of Patrick Darling as Chair representing the people (or Laity in Church speak) and during 2020 the Chair representing the full time ministers, or Priests in Church speak, was Mark Johnson Vicar of Much Birch, with Sean Semple, Rector of St Mary's Benefice as acting Chair. Patrick Darling is a former cavalryman and High Sherriff of Herefordshire, now and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County and farmer. As you would expect from his background he moves the meetings along at a decent pace but with a hidden gentleness.

The meetings discuss various issues. March was dominated by reports of flooding of various Churches due to storm Dennis and the possibility of losing on full time minister in the Deanery. July was dominated by a visit from Bishop Richard with encouragement to develop an "integrated Deanery and parochial Plan". December was dominated by a presentation by Rev Penny Powdrill from Wyesham covering topics such as Worship and teaching, Management of church buildings, Management of church land, Community and global engagement, and lifestyle.

However the real news in 2020 which these discussions touched upon was the familiar tale going back years, of the Deanery's short fall of share contributions by the Archdeacons assessment. This came to a head just before the end of the year with the news that the Deanery would lose one full time minister. There is the additional issue of the very uneven distribution of clergy by population in the area. The problems stem from the decline of villages as the economic powerhouses of the region with accompanying population decline and demographic change, as well as falling church attendances.

Most people naturally assume that our ministers are paid from the Diocese finances. Unfortunately this is not the case. The massive expense of running and staffing the Cathedral is removed from the equation and it is left up to Deaneries to cover their own clergy.

Unfortunately the report ends with 2020. More positive news from the Deanery comes out of early 2021.

Paul Connell

Incumbent's Report

Our last APCM was delayed until October 2020 due to the unprecedented consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. At that meeting the year 2019 was in view, but given the lateness in the year of the APCM and the extraordinary events of the year, I referenced 2020 extensively in my 2019 annual report. Now, only 5 months on from that APCM and report, I must again reflect on 2020. To avoid repetition, I will simply make the following general points about the Ross Parishes – Ross, Walford and Brampton Abbots - during 2020.

Crises are demanding and revealing. For some people, the pandemic meant that work slowed down or stopped but for those in the “engine room” of the Ross Parishes the workload increased dramatically. As COVID restrictions changed, there was constant need to rethink, adapt, reorganise and plan so that our churches could continue ministering to their people and communities during the pandemic. These demands on us have brought out the giftedness, gritty commitment, and faith-filled “can do” attitudes of many individuals in our three parishes.

Our transition to online and livestreamed worship, including virtually recorded choral pieces deserves mention as we have done more than many churches nationally have been able to. Special mention must be made of the efforts of St Mary’s Director of Music, Mark Sanderson, and Organist Adrian Taylor for their incredible efforts to connect all three parishes through new technology, and to allow us to pray and worship together during lockdown.

Whenever it has been possible and safe to hold physically gathered services in 2020, our churches have. These services have naturally been limited by the COVID restrictions in place, but we have held Sunday services, Christmas services, funerals, and weddings. From the middle of the year there has been ever improving live streaming of hybrid face-to-face and virtual services, to include as many people as possible in worship. Some groups like Toast, Leaf, and the prayer team, have migrated online. Rather wonderfully, several new services have been launched during this time of pandemic: Messy Church, the daily Office of Morning Prayer by Zoom; a contemporary service known as “Come As You Are” and a very popular Zoom Family service.

During the year, pastoral work has been needed to be triaged which meant directing face-to-face ministry to those members of the Ministry Team who were not clinically vulnerable. These members of the team have worked at the front line of the pandemic, ministering to the dying and officiating at a high number of funerals. This work has been supported by the “Just B” bereavement support group, which has provided a valuable service to people experiencing complex grief due to the pandemic restrictions. Other members of the Ministry Team have diligently kept in touch via phone and email with parishioners. All of the Team have shown remarkable grace in learning how to use new technology and leading services in front of the camera.

During 2020 I have continued in the various roles that are either included in my ministry as Rector or form part of my wider Deanery, Diocesan or community role.

- NHS Chaplain at Ross Community Hospital
- Royal British Legion Chaplain, Ross and District
- Ex Officio Governor, Brampton Abbots CofE Primary School (School)
- Diocesan Synod representative
- Deanery Synod member
- Hereford Archdeaconry Mission & Pastoral Sub-Committee Member
- Chairman, Ross Educational Foundation
- Trustee, Diocese of Hereford Social Aid Committee

One of the most important events in 2020 was the Vision Day held in January. This day of discernment has led to clear sense of direction for the three Ross Parishes – to be inclusive and intergenerational churches that inspire faith, hope and love in their communities. This sense of direction has provided a very helpful focus for us during the pandemic, allowing us to consider how the church might be reaching out to its community during a time of national crisis. Towards the end of the year, the three main areas of the vision – Inspiring Faith (and Inspiring Faith in Schools), Inspiring Hope, and Inspiring Love gained convenors who will work on consolidating and developing the ways in which we live out these virtues in society.

Crises can bring chaos into our lives, and thus the smooth-running administration of our parishes during 2020 by our Administrator, Lou Jarvis, deserves recognition and much appreciation.

I am grateful to the work of our three PCCs who during 2020 continued to deal with many of the banal matters of parish life, but also some very challenging decisions about COVID risk management - and all through the new medium of Zoom! We offer particular thanks to all who have worked to bring the final phase of the excellent reordering project to its conclusion.

A final "thank you" to all who have contributed to the life of the church this year – those mentioned above, but those who clean St Mary's, polish the brass and decorate it with floral art; those who have not forgotten to give financially to the church; and all those whose small acts of love are known only to God – thank you for what you have done, as such things have kept the flame of faith, hope and love burning during this dark year. Empowered by God, working as a team of three parishes, and working as teams within the parishes, we have weathered the pandemic – now imagine what we might be able to do for God after the pandemic!

Your friend and Rector,

Sean

Inspiring Faith Report

In 2020 the faith of Congregation and Parish alike were challenged. By adapting and changing, we have emerged from the pandemic strengthened. None of us could have conceived at our 2020 Vision day that we would become accustomed to YouTube streamed worship, Alpha, Prayer courses, Bible study all on Zoom plus a whole new Messy Church group. We have embraced change, perhaps reluctantly, but discovered that change is neither as difficult nor disruptive as we had feared. Looking ahead, that discovery may prove to be an extremely valuable lesson.

Since the Vision day in January 2021, we have been developing the concept and thinking about the opportunities and challenges facing us as a Parish and Benefice to inspire and grow Faith not just in our existing congregations but more widely.

The CHALLENGE

To pursue our vision of inspiring faith among the people of Ross, our principal challenge is that the average age of our 9.30 Congregation is on the wrong side of 70. Without change, St Mary's, sadly, could cease to be viable in say 10 - 15 years UNLESS we can attract new, younger members, including families, to join us as worshippers and move with the Parish into the 2040's.

But do those younger folk want to worship in the traditional way we have all become accustomed to? Experience suggests many do not. As a result, we need to widen what we are offering and build a range of less traditional styles of worship so that we can appeal to and bring to faith the wider audience we so desperately need, while continuing to offer our traditional fare as well.

In other words, if St Mary's is to survive, we need to adapt and change.

The PROGRESS

Major steps along that path are already being taken. Messy Church, begun in October 2020 in church has continued online through the latest lockdown and was able to be back in church again for Holy Week, with seven families present. Several of those families attended the Easter Sunday 0930 service. The new Come as You Are Services, LEAF, and the imminent re-launch of Toast, are all indicators that we CAN appeal to a wider demographic. It will take time, it will not be easy, and will need the support and prayers of every one of us. These are the new shoots the existing congregations need to nurture and support – physically and in our prayers.

The DOWNSIDE

We simply do not have the resources in people, time, and energy to do everything we would perhaps like to do. To build on new ways of growing the church, the Ministry Team in particular will need to be ever more “diluted” in terms of their presence. This does not mean that they will not be available to us at times of crisis and need, but it does mean that we must be realistic in our expectations – we cannot expect them to be available like the clergy of the 1950s when there was typically “one vicar, one parish”.

The WAY AHEAD

During the last year, a whole new daily Zoom Morning prayer congregation has emerged with, very importantly, many of the participants taking part and helping in the services. Similarly Messy Church is led by a team of all ages, including new families. This, surely, is the model we should be attempting to establish throughout our worship, new and traditional, which will give us a jumping off point for inspiring and growing faith among people of all ages and backgrounds.

Peter Reynolds

INSPIRING HOPE UPDATE

1. Following the Church Mission Day on 23 Jan a review has been undertaken to maintain some degree of progress during this extended period of lockdown. Inevitably, most of the “Hope” initiatives have ceased or are continuing at a low key on a one-one basis through telephone calls etc over the past year.
2. A questionnaire has been circulated to all those involved in running “Hope Initiatives and a detailed report has been prepared for those involved in the development of the Church’s Vision and can be provided on request. Suffice to say that work is progressing to ensure that all the ‘Inspiring Hope’ initiatives are supported in getting back to a normal routine as soon as possible. Some further work is needed to consider the sustainability and future management of the Job Club scheme once lockdown is lifted.

WAY FORWARD

3. The following actions have been identified as important initiatives to progress the Inspiring Hope initiative:

- PCC to join the WISH website and establish links from our Home page, this is in hand.
- PCC has endorsed research into the idea of creating a Community Hub and establish what commitment and resources it would require. Initial contact has been made with the sponsors, Herefordshire County Council.
- Review future delivery of Job Club
- Consider a summer concert / festival to engage with the whole Ross community.
- PCC has joined Ross Community Development Trust (CDT) and appointed Paul Cummings as the PCC representative. We are working to identify how best to work together to avoid duplication and to make best use of our facilities.
- Consider how we can support RBL 100 Centenary events – Meeting arranged for 14 Apr.
- A Communications sub-committee has been identified and identified a number of further initiatives to improve links with the Town and Tourism including consideration of church watch and welcome.

Paul Cummings

inspiringhope@rossparishes.uk

07970 315630

Inspiring Love

Update to follow

Organisations' Reports for 2020

Altar Services

Because of the restrictions imposed due to Covid 19, Altar Servers have not been involved in services except for the rare occasions a Crucifer has been required.

Soon as normality returns, we will need to recruit new servers – not only for the ceremonial role of leading processions and attending to the needs of the priest during services but also to assist with setting up the Altar and the elements required for communion before services and for clearing up afterwards

If you feel that you would like to help with this do contact me – there is no age limit and full training is given!

Freda Davies

Bell Ringers

Objectives

The primary objectives of St Mary's bellringing team are to provide the personnel to ring the bells prior to Sunday services and other festivals, and to build and maintain an inclusive team of bellringers within the local and regional community to continually develop their ringing skills and capabilities, within a safe and secure environment.

Bells

Service and Maintenance

Regular maintenance of the installation is carried out by the local ringers (as is the case with many rings of bells across the country), who also voluntarily fund and resource the replacement and/or repair of items such as ropes, stays and clappers.

Actions this year have been limited to infrequent inspection to ensure safe operation.

Condition

Nothing to report.

Environmental

Nothing to report.

Ringers

No change.

Officers

Following our recent AGM officers of the St Mary's Ross-on-Wye Bellringers band are as follows:

- Tower Captain Roman Sadowski
- Assistant Tower Captain Elizabeth Walker
- Secretary Pauline Leggate
- Treasurer Edward Barnaby
- Social Secretary Sally Clarke
- Safeguarding representative Shared responsibility by the above

Recruitment

We welcome and encourage all new recruits (from 9 to 90!). All members of the public, and especially the P.C.C., are very welcome to visit the tower to see what we do!

We have 2 existing enquiries from new recruits but are currently unable to conduct any tuition.

Safeguarding

Our recent recruits include young people from 11 to 17 years of age, so we have adopted Church and bellringing association guidelines to fully implement safeguarding procedures for the protection of young people and vulnerable adults. 3 members of the tower who are primarily responsible for the tuition and protection of recruits have undergone DBS checks and we have added Safeguarding as a shared responsibility for all members of the band.

2 further members of the band (Elizabeth Walker and Sally Clarke) will in due course be more involved with training, so will required to undergo DBS checks and Safeguarding training.

Achievements and Events**Activities**

Within Covid restrictions we have rung before all Sunday morning services and special events over the past year, many times just one bell being chimed, occasionally more when we have a family group or 'bubble' available.

Since approx July 2020 we have implemented a weekly on-line meeting on Zoom (7.30pm on Tuesday, the same as our regular practice schedule) to maintain links between ringers, and also use an on-line ringing simulator (RingingRoom.com) to try to retain our ringing skills.

Roman Sadowski, Tower Captain

Bereavement Support Group

Perhaps this year due to all the restrictions relating to the pandemic the pain of bereavement is particularly acute and I am particularly grateful to the Bereavement Support Team who have made a valiant effort to continue to support those who need then throughout lockdown. For some time we were able to continue to run Just B our Bereavement Group Meeting, in church sadly without refreshments. Meetings were suspended in February due to another Lockdown but we will resume on April 27th and these will continue to be held each fourth Tuesday at 2-30pm.

The All-Souls Service commemorating those who have died was well attended and our use for the first time, of the Plague Cross as a place to mark the loss of loved ones during November was much appreciated. The stones placed there were later moved to surround the crosses in the Garden of Remembrance.

Two Blue Christmas Services were held one at the close of the December Just B meeting the other later that evening these too were valued by those who attended.

Freda Davies

Bible-A-Month Club

In spite of being unable to meet in person for most of 2020, the Bible Study groups of St Mary's have continued to participate in Bible Society's Bible-a-Month scheme so that others around the world can have access to their own Bible or portion.

Each month £15 has gone to provide Bibles to those who long for them; the Christian minority in Burkino Faso; Syrian refugees and those affected by the Beirut explosion in Lebanon; Bibles for children in Malawi and for new converts in China ; and even materials to bring the Bible alive to people in England and Wales! These are just some examples, every month is different.

In addition, an extra £80 was sent in August to Bible Society's pandemic appeal so that masks and other practical help could be distributed alongside portions of Scripture, and translation work continue.

We hope both to continue this work throughout 2021 and encourage other groups to join in helping to improve the balance between ourselves who have the privilege of reading the Bible whenever we choose, and those who have never had the chance.

Janet Nelson

St Mary's, Ross-on-Wye

and Bible Society Hereford Action Group.

Bible Study Groups

House Group or Bible Study Group? We have often discussed whether our groups should be called House Groups or Bible Study Groups. Clearly a House group meets in a house (but for what purpose?) and a Bible Study group meets to study the bible (does 'where' matter?) For the last nine years two groups have met on Monday evenings, twice monthly, in the homes of Pauline and Colin Leggate and Margaret and Paul Mason. All that changed in March 2020 when meeting in houses was banned and, for a time, we stopped meeting together for Bible Study.

Over the years, other house groups have met at different times e.g. during Lent or Advent or post Alpha, however the two long-stay groups have always planned together, encouraging each other and sharing information on materials that have worked well. And so, in lockdown, we came together via Zoom. For several months Colin led our discussions taking us through Paul's life and teachings, following on with the books of James and Habakkuk. However, a Zoom meeting of around twenty meant that discussion was limiting, and it was often difficult to explore issues of faith and understanding in any depth. For Advent we agreed to divide up and meet, by Zoom, in our original groupings. Both groups followed the same course, namely an Advent course entitled 'Hope' which was produced by faithandworship.com, a study course source that we have used several times in the past.

We have continued into the New Year meeting in our two Zoom groups, with one group studying Isaiah and the other following a Bible Society course entitled 'The Bible Course'.

We are bible study groups but we long for the time when we can be house groups again as well.

Paul Mason

Brampton Abbots CE Primary School 2020

The Church of England School in Ross

On 15th March 2020 the head teacher wrote to parents regarding ".....our approach to Covid-19. We are following the Public Health Government guidance and have been monitoring the situation daily..." A day later he wrote again: "...guidance has been updated.....as a consequence of this guidance, we are cancelling the theatre trip, cancelling the ... cancelling the ...". And then two days later he wrote for the third time that week to say: "that as of the end of the day on Friday (19th March 2020) all schools have been ordered to close for the majority of children." And then 2020 changed for everyone, nothing was normal any longer

In addition to the obvious and much publicised effects of Covid 19, an unbelievable amount of time has since been taken up reading through and assimilating the latest, ever changing, communiques from the authorities, and then, communicating the updated position, and its implications, to staff and parents.

In all the reporting of the Covid effects on schools; sadly, there is an underlying question, namely 'how safe is school'? Responsible adherence to established practices have, for years past, meant that UK schools were very safe places, but now

Dedicated investment in ICT devices over several years meant that Brampton Abbots was quickly able to adjust to remote learning. Led and mentored by Deputy Head, Sara Herriott, the school community adjusted and Zoom school became an enjoyable and fulfilling way of life. The Year 6 cohort even produced a 'Zoom School' video, depicting scenes fifty years hence, with grandma explaining to her grandchildren how life was

when a pandemic struck. The video was premiered at St Mary's Church; social distancing conditions necessitating that two performances be held.

The church, in the persons of Rector Sean and the Open the Book team, have not been into school since March but have accepted invitations to contribute remotely. Sean has provided recorded introductions to both Harvest and Christmas service videos and the OTB team have linked with the Walford OTB team to produce video recordings of Bible stories.

Just before lockdown the school formally federated with Bridstow School under the banner of Oak Meadow Federation. The principal effect of this change is that the two schools are governed by one governing body, with foundation governors nominated by the PCCs of Bridstow & Peterstow together with St Mary's PCC. The following from St Mary's continue on the governing body: Roger Hanson, Peter Jenkins, Paul Mason, Keith Richards and Rev'd Sean Semple.

The notion of safety is built around assurances (risk assessments?) and trust (policies?). Let us pray that staff, pupils and parents will soon feel safe again in our schools and in all places of education. May trust and faith grow as school communities, and we with them, work together to establish a new normal.

Paul Mason

Cana Ministry

A befriending initiative developed to support couples getting married within the Benefice of Ross and Walford and Brampton Abbots

The Cana Ministry was envisaged as a means to provide a link between the couples who come to be married in our churches and the church community.

Members of the Cana Team contact couples (with their permission) who are planning a wedding and offer to assist them during the period leading up to the wedding, for example they might welcome the couples to church if they attend services before the wedding, sitting with them and helping them to find their way through the service.

On the Wedding Day the 'befriender' may attend the ceremony and thanks to the generosity of the Mothers' Union, present the couple with a gift of a candle and a prayer card. One year after the wedding a Wedding an anniversary card is sent to the couple.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid Pandemic this ministry has been suspended for the time being.

For more information please contact Freda Davies on 01989 562366.

Catering team report

The catering team were only called on twice in 2020. Firstly, for the Epiphany party early in January and then for the Vision Day at the end of the month. On both occasions good fellowship and food were enjoyed. Thank you to those who worked hard behind the scenes in the kitchen.

LENT LUNCHES

It was only possible to hold three Lent Lunches before 'lock down'. We were able to send £209 to the DEC fund to help those affected by the Australian bush fires and £95.50 to the Mother's Union Appeal. Thank you to the soup makers and servers.

Margaret Mason

Christian Aid

There was no activity in the course of the year, due to Covid-19 restrictions. House to house collections were banned and it is uncertain as to whether they will continue at all. Donations were requested via a web site and through other means of advertising.

Jean Harrison

Church Hall Committee

The Church Hall was barely used during 2020 due to 'lock down' restrictions. However, a lot of maintenance work was accomplished. The windows and guttering were painted, the storage heaters repaired, the floor varnished and the guttering of the inner courtyard was cleared and the ceiling of the inner lobby repaired.

The biggest project was clearing the basement to allow plenty of storage of items previously stored in the South porch of the church and in the cupboards in the Hall.

The insurance for the Hall has now been merged with the church insurance at a slightly reduced premium.

Margaret Mason

Commercial and Industrial Chaplaincy

The first thing to report is how disconnected I have been from my role. Where the church in general has taken to the electronics to keep in contact with everyone your chaplain has done almost nothing – let me explain.

I have built up a system of visiting that keeps no records other than in my head, so when the first lock down came I whizzed around the shops and factories during the four or so days warning that we had; and tried to encourage everyone. It was humbling to hear, in very short conversations, the positive attitude that whatever happened "we will survive". Then when the release came I again whizzed around and said 'welcome back'. And as part of that welcome I put on a photographic display to publicly say how thankful the church was that so many of our shops and factories had survived.

When the second lock down was announced I did the same again, and, although a little more guarded, that positive attitude was still there. Now I am pondering what to do when the release is announced. What can our church do to support our town traders? It is nonsense to talk of reversing the shift to the internet but there will be a part for us to play in the new initiatives that come out of this pandemic. Please pray that we recognise that part.

Will I change my system to include phone numbers, e-mails, addresses etc? Probably not, but watch this space for the 2021/2022 report!

Colin Leggate

Church Watch, Welcome and Care

No report

Community Food Larder (CTRD)

From March 2020 we have, like many other organisations, had to act quickly to work out how we could continue to operate the Larder during the Covid pandemic. As our function is to 'support the vulnerable' we were exempt from lockdown and could continue to operate – albeit very differently. We decided that

the 'safest' way to operate would be to set up tables outside and offer pre-packed bags as this would limit the time needed and ensure, as much as possible, that physical contact was kept to a minimum between clients and volunteers. This has worked very well and we have been blessed with good weather every Tuesday. A number of our volunteers have had to step down from helping due to age and health conditions however for those of us still able to volunteer it has proved a practical and rewarding way of sharing our faith during these challenging times.

We have continued to be very well supplied with donations, when the initial lockdown was implemented we received very generous donations from the local restaurants and businesses that, sadly, had to close down immediately. We experienced some initial difficulty in buying stocks when shopping became so difficult but this settled down after a couple of weeks.

We are very grateful to the supermarkets who have been very generous to local Food Banks, many having nationwide appeals and also giving corporate donations which have been very helpful. We also received generous support from many organisations and charities in the town, as well as individuals, and fresh produce from the Community Garden. We were overwhelmed with support at Harvest and Christmas.

Food Banks have certainly been in the news during the last few months, we are very fortunate in Ross that our Community Food Larder is so well supported and we have never run out of food. Our sincere thanks to all at St Mary's for their continued support – both practically and in prayer.

Lindsay Cole

Contemplative Prayer Group

The Contemplative Prayer Group aims to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Sadly, this has not been possible during the Pandemic. But from April 2021 it will take place in a slightly different format via Zoom and be renamed Ponder and Pray. Do ask me for more information.

Freda Davies

Flicks in the Sticks

Nothing to report

William Hazelton

Flower Rota

As usual I would like to thank the few who generously provided and arranged flowers at the High Altar and in the Markyee Chapel until the church was closed during the first lockdown. As things slowly return to normal the flower arrangers are able to use their talents once more to enhance the beauty of St Mary's.

Unfortunately, over the last year several of our volunteers have decided that the time has come to retire so there is some urgency to recruit more. Do please get in touch with me if you would like to join the flower rota.

If flower arranging is not one of your talents perhaps you might consider donating money towards the flowers perhaps to mark some special occasion or in memory of a loved one - one of us will be delighted to arrange the flowers on your behalf.

For many years Lindsay Ray has coordinated flower arranging for festivals but felt that the time had come to hand over the reins to another and I am delighted that Sue Jones has agreed to take over from her. Our thanks go to Lindsay for the hard work over the years and we are delighted that she continues to be part of the team of flower arrangers.

Celia Glover who was our link for those coming to be married at St Mary's often liaising with florists or with the bride ensuring that where possible any special requests for colours etc were catered for. Sadly, Celia feels the time has come for her to retire and we thank her for all her hard work over the years. Hopefully those involved with the Cana Ministry will liaise on wedding flowers for us.

Freda Davies

Friends of St Mary's Church

Through lockdown we've had very few meetings, in that sense the "Friends" is effectively on hold. There are, however a number of projects that have come to fruition and others that have been worked on steadily over the past year.

But first, and most importantly, I'd like to pay tribute to our recently retired chairman, John Taylor. John has served as Chairman for several years and I for one have admired the entirely efficient way in which he has steered the ship while remaining calm, professional and in hugely good spirit. John has had to stand down, very reluctantly, on health grounds and we wish him and Avril all the very best in the continuing fight they now have. Thank you, John.

One of John's projects, more recently taken over by Ashley Letts, has been the renewal of St Mary's floodlighting. This was long overdue and came to fruition in October when the new lights were switched on before a celebratory evensong. The new lights have (very expensively) been funded jointly by the Town Council and the Friends. The result is spectacular and social media has featured many compliments (especially when the colour changes). A small amount of work continues to make the new lights properly secure, efficient and (in the case of the south east light) come on! Ashley is doing really excellent work here.

Another Friends' project that came to fruition just as lockdown hit was the purchase of new display panels for the church (the grey ones) so that we are better placed to hold exhibitions and display. A rich programme of such was organised for 2020 but ... They have however been put to good use for an ever-evolving church display linked to the development of our Vision.

Work has been continuing steadily on finding a solution for the ugly patch of plaster in an otherwise beautiful reredos behind the high altar. This too is a project that the Friends agreed to finance, in one of the final meetings before lockdown last March. We are nearly there with a solution to put to the PCC for consideration. We have, in the last fortnight, improved the lighting there.

Finally, the biannual Ross Open Gardens is the event for which we are best known around the town. That should have happened in 2021. It is unsure at present what we will do but ideas continue to evolve with the pandemic.

Thanks to all who serve on the committee and to each individual member for their financial backing which helps to make the work of the Friends possible.

Mark Sanderson

Home Communion and Visiting

Nothing to report

Celia Glover (Rota Organiser)

Hospital Chaplaincy

St Mary's has long offered hospital visiting at Ross Community Hospital. A dedicated team of lay people led by Reader, Dr Derek Glover have provided cheerful company and occasionally Holy Communion to patients on their weekly visits and also developed a warm and supportive relationship with staff. From the outset of the pandemic in March 2020, the wards were closed to all visitors, and so our visiting team stood down. In April 2021 I officially became the Chaplain to Ross Community Hospital. It became clear during the course of 2020 that the pandemic would be protracted, and that those offering ministry in high risk places like a hospital could not be clinically vulnerable to the coronavirus. As a result, suitable clergy from the Deanery of Ross and Archenfield were invited to be trained as Volunteer Chaplains to support me in his role, and to date, The Rev'd Tim Starling and The Rev'd Tiffany Jackson have undertaken this training and have shared in the chaplaincy to Ross Community Hospital. The Chaplain and Volunteers take turns to visit the two wards in the hospital on a weekly basis, and I am on call at all times if there is an emergency need for a priest. Visiting – even by clergy – has been very limited during 2020, but we were present as much as we could be to provide comfort and strength to the ill and the staff.

In 2021 it is hoped that those who have been part of the visiting team pre-2020 might be available to continue their valuable ministry to the hospital. So much is presently contingent on COVID-19 restrictions and so it is difficult to make and plans or predictions but if you would like to be part of this ministry again or join for the first time, please let me know. I wish to acknowledge the wonderful ministry that Derek and his team have offered to Ross Community Hospital over many years, and to thank them for their dedication and care.

The Rev'd Sean Semple

Chaplain – Ross Community Hospital

Job Club

Nothing to report

Derek Glover

Mothers' Union

Since the AGM in March 2020, Mothers Union have hardly met. A corporate communion service was attended by a small number of members in September and we held one meeting in church in October. Since that time no meetings have been possible.

A newsletter has been set up over the last 6 months which has kept all members in touch. We will hope to resume activities during the summer as restrictions are removed. Membership has remained almost unchanged throughout the year.

Margaret Willis

Music

It's very refreshing to have a somewhat different year on which to report! I'm conscious that these have been getting shorter over the years. Here's a longer one!

I am so tremendously proud to be at the helm of such a wonderful group. The way in which St Mary's musicians have responded to so many months of turmoil has been outstanding.

Little did we know that when we ended the 9.30 service on 15th March with the hymn "God be with you till we meet again" that we were in for quite the time we've had. By then it looked highly likely there was to be some disruption to the norm and I for one sang that hymn with something of a lump in my throat, even concern for **who** might actually "meet again" when we eventually could - something there, too, for which to give thanks! I should say in passing that the hymn was scheduled purely out of liturgical consideration, as always, and no thought at all to viruses.

It was within just a few days of the first lockdown that Sean, excellent leader that he is, began a conversation with me along the lines of "so what now then ...?" a little later Adrian suggested some idea of us all singing and recording at home ... he could mix it all together to produce the "occasional" choral contribution to services. And we were off!

I truly believe that St Mary's has been exemplary in our response to the changing phases of lockdown, and that is certainly true for the music. I don't need to give a blow-by-blow account of the last year, we've all been a part of the journey, suffice it to say that whenever the next phase of action was possible, our musicians were entirely up for it. And now we're exhausted!

The period of greatest satisfaction for the choir was that between September and just after the two Christmas carol services, when we met every Friday evening, in a large circle in the nave (usually with 20 singers), to rehearse, record and film content for the service on Sunday. A busy Saturday followed for Adrian and me as we edited audio then film so that it was ready for live transmission on Sunday. These sessions also involved recording content (unpaid) for weddings and funerals, where we have also been exemplary in what we've offered to those who have often but a fleeting encounter with St Mary's.

In 2020 we had planned to step up our programme of visits to sing at cathedrals. But Passion Sunday in Hereford, a long weekend in Ripon then Wells, were called off (happily we've managed to reinstate Wells for July 2021 – fingers crossed!). The complete antithesis to these (in terms of reward for singers) forms the bulk of our activity throughout 2020, is singing from home to the curtains in our spare bedroom.

It is an INCREDIBLE achievement for an amateur choir to have recorded and assembled a performance online, pretty much weekly when required. Not only have we managed to "keep the show on the road" but we have grown as a choir during this period. You'll find almost all of them at <https://bit.ly/RossChoir> We've been back in touch with singers from the past now living in other parts of the world (The Netherlands and the USA). Philip Hough and Neville Crabbe have been regular contributors to our singing and frequent

participants in our Friday night “in the pub” session on Zoom. We’ve attracted attention and established relationships with singers in other choirs (an ex-choral scholar from King’s Cambridge, for example).

We’ve grown musically too by expanding our repertoire with new pieces – individual singers learning the notes from home. We’ve attempted pieces I wouldn’t have dreamed of scheduling in the “real world” – several for double choir (8 parts) often with individual singers recording more than one part. We’ve exploited the facility to get “in the heads of singers” - via their headphones, you understand, to improve the way we sing some things (notably psalms).

Adrian Taylor has been the real star here and we owe him a real debt of gratitude for the tremendously hard work that he’s put in, unseen. He’s not only put the individual singers’ contributions together each week but painstakingly corrected (dare I say) timing and tuning of individual notes at times. He’s also been quietly perfecting the art over the months and trying out new solutions. To this should be added the time taken to record voluntaries, assist with streaming issues, Wi-Fi, organ tuning and generally being a good egg!

I want to thank Laurence John for his contribution of an online organ recital in June which raised around £1000 for general church funds. The event was something of an ordeal for both of us, at a point where we were very much in our infancy with live streaming technology and still working with very flaky kit.

Also (and not especially related to music, except that it has been entirely the music team that has taken on responsibility for it) my thanks to all who have helped with the development of the tech behind the pre-recording and live streaming that has been the functional bedrock of our worship for the last year. So again, thanks to Adrian and Laurence but also to Rachel Lewis who has been on hand, week by week on camera duty and joining in so many developmental discussions.

I’d like to acknowledge a handsome donation to the choir from Jan Mander in memory of David, which she has made specifically to improve the robes situation. It’s deeply touching that she considers us worthy, and it will make a difference to the way we look, with gleaming white surplices on top of cassocks of the correct length.

Finally – the whole team. Thanks to each and every member of our choir for remaining so positive through all this and being so willing to remain a part of what we’ve tried to do, under extremely difficult circumstances. They all want to be back in the same space at the same time making music to enhance our worship; that’s what we’re best at. God willing, that time will come soon.

Here’s to building on all this in 2021!

Mark Sanderson – Director of Music

Piecemakers

The group has been unable to meet during the pandemic and no group projects have been achieved. We hope to resume as soon as restrictions allow.

Margaret Willis

Prayers for St Mary’s

Prayers have continued to be said monthly for the fulfilment of a vision received over 10 years ago of a full church for every main service. During the lockdowns, prayers were made in individual homes sometimes

with the addition of Zoom but otherwise in church at 12 noon on the first Monday of every month. We would be glad of more members of the congregation to join us on a regular or ad hoc basis.

Janet and Nick Nelson

Prayer Chain

From time to time we are asked to pray for people who would prefer their request not to be made public. These requests are passed on to members of the Prayer Chain to be included in their private prayer. As co-ordinator of the Prayer Chain, I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in being part of this and am always happy to pass on requests for prayer ensuring requests are dealt with sensitively and always maintaining confidentiality.

Terry Davies Tel 01989 562366

Residential Homes

Nothing to report

Derek Glover

Sidespersons

Report to follow

Sunday Kids

There is nothing to report as we only met in January and February.

Anne Morris

Supper Club

No report

Thursday Morning Prayer Meeting

The group has continued through the months of lockdown, and has grown both in numbers and spiritually.

We have continued to pray both personal prayers, and prayers for the church, the town and for our country. Our own personal faith has grown as we have seen God answer our prayers in all sorts of ways. Many of us feel that the group is a source of personal support both emotionally and spiritually.

Meeting via 'Zoom' has meant that we have been joined by people from further afield. This means we are open to whoever wishes to be part of the group, and we are regularly joined by Heather from Cheltenham and Leila from Weston. For most of us Zoom has been a more economical way of using our time in our already busy lives..

Most of us have also enjoyed doing 'The Prayer Course 1' on Zoom with Chris Blanchard, and look forward to doing 'The Prayer Course 2' shortly.

In these times of great change, both nationally- even worldwide, and similarly in the Church, we feel the importance of prayer.

Sue Spence

Appendix – Electoral Roll

All persons whose names are entered upon the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and such persons only) are entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.

1. Subject to the provisions of rule 14(3)(c), a person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if -
 - (a) his/her name is entered on the church electoral roll of the parish and, unless he/she is under the age of eighteen years at the date of the election, has been so entered for at least the preceding period of six months;
 - (b) he/she is an actual communicant which means that he/she has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election; and
 - (c) he/she is of sixteen years or upwards;
 - (d) he/she is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these Notes.
2. (a) A person shall be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected from serving as a churchwarden, a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or any synod under these rules if he/she is disqualified from being a charity trustee under section 72(1) of the Charities Act 1993 and the disqualification is not for the time being subject to a general waiver by the Charity Commissioners under subsection (4) of that section or to a waiver by them under that subsection in respect of all ecclesiastical charities established for purposes relating to the parish concerned. In this paragraph "ecclesiastical charity" has the same meaning as that assigned to that expression in the Local Government Act 1894;
 - (b) A person shall also be disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected from serving as a churchwarden or member of a parochial church council if he/she has been so disqualified from holding office under rule 7(3) of [the Incumbent (vacation of Benefice) Measure 1997].
3. Any person whose name is on the electoral roll may be appointed as a sidesperson.