



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

The Parish of Boxmoor Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

in St John`s Church, Boxmoor

Sunday 11 October 2020 at 10.00 am

Contents

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 7 April 2019

Proceedings of the PCC

Safeguarding

Financial Affairs of the Parish & Audited Accounts for 2019

Fabric Goods & Ornaments

Deanery Synod

Vicar's Report

Please see the separate booklet for reports from our daughter churches, PCC committees and other church organisations. This will be displayed for inspection at the back of the churches and is available on the parish website at www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday 11 October 2020

After the 10.00 am Parish Eucharist in St John's Church

A G E N D A

The Goals in our Mission Action Plan are:

- Maintaining and growing our engagement with children and young people through Messy Church, Schools' work, Junior Church, Junior Choir, Youth work, Tiny Tots, Children in Worship.
- Communicating our common life in Christ by growing our 'e' presence and communications network.
- Holding bi-annual teaching/seminar series to encourage new and existing disciples in their journey of faith and discovery whilst also preparing candidates for Holy Baptism and Confirmation.
- Resourcing the Parish for the future by exploring parking solutions at St John's, improving the heating at St John's, and developing a carbon neutral footprint.

1. Apologies for Absence

Meeting of Parishioners

2. Election of Churchwardens

(To be entitled to vote one must either be on the revised Electoral Roll or live in the parish and appear on the register of local government electors).

A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards until immediately before this meeting. There are two Churchwarden positions.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 7 April 2019 with Vicar's report for 2019.
To accept these minutes and the Vicar's report as a true record of the last APCM.
4. Electoral Roll.
To receive the updated electoral roll, which has been displayed in our three churches before this meeting.
5. Proceedings of the PCC.
To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2019/2020.
6. Safeguarding.
To receive a report stating that the PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on *Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults*
7. Financial Affairs of the Parish.
To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish.
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2019 and Budget for 2020.
To receive the accounts for 2019 and budget for 2020.
9. Independent Examiner.

To appoint an independent examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year.

10. Fabric, Goods & Ornaments.

To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments for 2019 from the Churchwardens.

11. Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC

(To be entitled to vote one's name must appear on the revised electoral roll).

There are five vacant places. A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards until immediately before this meeting.

12. Election of Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod. (To be entitled to vote one's name must appear on the revised electoral roll). There are three vacant places. A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards until immediately before this meeting. Members of Deanery Synod are automatically members of the PCC.

13. Election of Sides Persons. To elect the sidesmen and sideswomen for the coming year as proposed on the list of nominations.

14. Deanery Synod.

To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

15. Daughter Churches.

To receive reports from our daughter churches of St Francis of Assisi and St Stephen.

16. Reports.

To receive reports from PCC committees and other church groups, organisations and activities.

17. Vicar's Report.

To receive a report from the Vicar on the calendar year 2019.

18. Any Other Business.

Any other legitimate APCM business.

19. Date of next APCM.

The next APCM has been provisionally set to follow the 9.30 am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 25 April 2021 in St John's Church.

Special meeting of the Parochial Church Council

(Only members of the incoming PCC are entitled to vote)

20. Election of Lay Vice Chair

21. Election of Deputy Church Wardens. Two places to fill.

22. Election of Honorary Treasurer

23. Election of Honorary Secretary

24. Appointment of Standing Committee

(The Standing Committee consists of the Chairman, Churchwardens, Deputy Church wardens, Treasurer and Secretary all ex-officio, plus two others). Two places to fill.

25. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer

26. Co-options to PCC

(The incoming PCC is entitled to make up to three co-options, should they wish)

27. Any other legitimate PCC business

28. Date of next PCC meeting.

Members of the incoming PCC may care to note that its first substantive meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday 10 November 2020 in St John's Hall.

Philippa Graham

Hon Secretary to the Parochial Church Council

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The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor
 ,St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

The Goals in our Mission Action Plan are:

- For the Ministry Team to be active in every school in the Parish
- Hold bi-monthly Bible Studies and discussion groups
- Open the doors of St John's church every day between Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer – manned or unmanned
- Facilitate transport to services where the need arises
- Support families following Pastoral Offices via greater communication concerning the life of the Parish
- Publicise that we are a church which is alive and kicking

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH 9.30AM ON SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2019

Chair: The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar of Boxmoor

Present: Clergy 2, Parishioners 58

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1. Apologies for Absence | Apologies for absence had been received from Rosie Akeroyd, Trevor Standen, Sheena Wilson, Alan and Val Darvill, Garth Bridgwood, Angela English, Richard Parsons, Margaret Delph and Mike and Sue Horsnell | |
| <u>Meeting of Parishioners</u> 2. Election of Churchwardens | Two nominations had been received to fill the two Churchwarden posts. These were for Lorraine Ioannou, nominated by Graham Gibbs and seconded by Di Tovey and for Job Rombout, nominated by Paul Davies and seconded by Josie Gower. Both were declared duly elected. Appreciation was expressed for the hard work done by the churchwardens over the past year particularly to Di Tovey who has been churchwarden for 5 years. | |
| <u>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</u> 3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22 April 2018 with Vicar's report | The minutes of the APCM on the 22 April 2018 and the Vicar's report were considered and agreed to be a true record. The chairman was authorised to sign them as such. | |
| 4. Electoral Roll | Ian Packe the Electoral Roll officer explained that this year saw the introduction of a fully new electoral which is required every 6 years under Church of England (CoE) rules. The reason | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP |
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| | <p>is that new members are easy to record but, over 6 years, some existing members will move away or change their preferred church etc. and will not always let us know. This results in a slowly increasing size of roll due to the presence of lapsed members. Ian explained that our Parish has 2 rolls, one for St Francis and one for St John's and St Stephen's combined. Taking SFH first, last year had 16 members and 2019 is also 16 members, but not all the same 16.</p> <p>Looking at SSC and SJB, 2018 had 209 members and this year it is 169.</p> <p>The total for our 3 churches is 225 in 2018 and 185 in 2019, a reduction of 40 names. Analysing the figures showed that 70 people have not renewed their memberships, but 30 new people have joined this year, which is a very good result being the best single year for new members in his time here. Marion Roff said that she knew of 4 more people who would like to be added but due to recent circumstances hadn't completed the forms. The Chairman said that people can be added at any time as long as they have worshipped in the Parish for at least 6 months. Finally, Ian spoke about data protection. Under the new regulations introduced last year, only names and postal addresses will ever be published by the Parish. The additional data on the application form, which most people have supplied, of 'phone nos. and email addresses will only be used by the clergy and churchwardens to contact people quickly should it ever be required. For safety, these items will not be printed off but stored electronically with password protection. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Ian.</p> | |
| 5. Proceedings of the PCC | The meeting received a report from the Honorary PCC Secretary, Philippa Graham, on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during the year 2018/2019. The chairman thanked her for her hard work. | |
| 6. Safeguarding | The Chairman drew attention to the Safeguarding Report on page 11. There were no questions or queries. He thanked Maran Davies for all her hard work. | |
| 7. Financial Affairs of the Parish | The Honorary PCC Treasurer, Chris Angell, drew attention to his written report on pages 11 and 12 and the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018 and thanked everyone who undertook the roles mentioned in his report. | |
| 8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2018 and Budget for 2019 | Chris Angell drew everyone's attention to the summary of the accounts on pages 13 and 14 for St John's and St Stephen's and pages 21 and 22 for St Francis. Looking at pages 12 and 20 Chris Angell proposed the budgets which were unanimously accepted. Chris expressed his thanks to the Fundraising Committee, MASJ and the Parishioner loans | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP |
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| | <p>converted to gifts which had enabled the organ loan to be paid off. He mentioned the 2 failing boilers and that the Churchwardens' appeal would be for the boilers. He said that planned giving was down since the last stewardship campaign and that would need to increase within the next few months in order to balance the books this year. Carole Lewis asked about card giving. Job Rombout said that he had undertaken looking into text giving which was now imminent and also contactless giving to have at the back of church for weddings, funerals and baptisms. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Chris Angell and Jo Fisher for their hard work on the accounts throughout the year.</p> | |
| <p>9. Independent Examiner</p> | <p>Chris Angell reported that Noel James who has been the Independent Examiner for the last 3-4 years would like to stand down so a new Independent Examiner will need to be appointed. He asked if the meeting were prepared to delegate the task to the Standing Committee. All were in agreement. The Chairman thanked Noel for his assiduous work.</p> | |
| <p>10. Fabric, Goods & Ornaments</p> | <p>The meeting received the churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments on page 26. The Chairman thanked the churchwardens for their report and for their support and guidance.</p> | |
| <p>11. Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC</p> | <p>The Chairman thanked all those whose term of office had ended, notably Rosie Akeroyd, Philippa Graham, Mark Harbour, Yvonne Laidlaw and Rosie Shaw. He said how much the PCC meetings had changed over the time he has been in Boxmoor. When he arrived, few people spoke at the PCC meetings and now everyone does. He found it very uplifting especially when the treasurer spoke about God! There were five vacant places all for the full three-year term and one vacancy for one year. Five nominations had been received prior to the meeting – Rosie Akeroyd, proposed by Philippa Graham and seconded by Marian Davies, Philip Barton, proposed by Trevor Standen and seconded by Steven Barton, Mark Harbour, proposed by James Proehl and seconded by Alan Proehl, Rosie Shaw, proposed by Dee Fisher and seconded by Ian Packe and Di Tovey, proposed by Jean Garner and seconded by Thelma Bartley. All were duly elected. At the meeting, Cathy Shaw offered to stand for the remaining one-year term. She was nominated by Jo Fisher, seconded by Rosie Shaw and was duly elected.</p> | |
| <p>12. Election of Sides Persons</p> | <p>The Chairman drew people's attention to the list of nominations on page 26. He described the duties of a side person and asked if anyone would like to be added to the list.</p> | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP |
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| | No one did. The meeting agreed the list, and all were duly elected. The Vicar thanked the sides persons them for all they did. | |
| 13. Deanery Synod | The report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod on page 27.was received. | |
| 14. Daughter Churches | The Chairman drew attention to the report from St Stephen's on page 2 of the second booklet and read out the report from St Francis Hammerfield. He added his thanks to Steven Barton, Keith Beniston and the lay leadership. | |
| 15. Reports | <p>The meeting received reports from PCC committees and other church groups, organisations and activities.</p> <p>Communications Committee Ian Williams wondered if the Easter and Christmas cards could be made of thicker card (he would be willing to pay for it) to prevent his fingers being trapped in letter boxes. It wasn't thought to be possible to use thicker card in the photocopier but suggestions were to wear gloves or use a piece of hardboard. Fundraising Andy Fisher said he was encouraged by the bucket collection the previous week but felt that there should be more requirement to help others. Gill Williams said that we should impress upon people the importance to Gift Aid all donations. Chris Angell said that to Gift Aid put into a white envelope and mark with the name of the emergency appeal and fill in all your details. He said that if you can't gift aid then to put directly into plate. Regarding Mission Giving, Marion Cowe said that it hasn't been forgotten and that she will continue to raise it at PCC meetings. The Vicar said that we need to balance own giving with a level of commitment to other charities. MASJ Ian Williams said he was saddened that so few members of St John's attended MASJ magnificent concerts and that we should make more of an effort to publicise them. The Vicar said that MASJ have good publicity.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to all the organisers of the clubs, junior church and magazine all of which involve an lot of work.</p> | |
| 16. Chairman's Report | The Chairman read out his written report from page 28 of the main booklet | |
| 17. Any other previously notified business | Carole Lewis expressed a huge 'Thank You' to the Vicar for everything he does and for being human! Andy Fisher said he was disappointed that the Easter Appeal was for the heating and felt that it should focus on something more appropriate. It was explained that the Vicar's Easter Appeal was passed to the Churchwardens a few years ago and that their appeal should be of benefit to all the congregation and fabric related as that is their area of responsibility. The quote for the boilers | |

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION | ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP |
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| | <p>only is between £60,000 and £75,000 and Job Rombout said that DAC rules say we cannot proceed without sufficient funds We have been fortunate that the heating hasn't failed but if they find rust in particular areas then it will be shut down. Gill Williams said we need to bring awareness to everyone about the importance of the Easter Appeal. The Vicar said he will mention it in notices. The Vicar confirmed that the Easter Collection was different from the Appeal. Marian Davies said that under the Ecclesiastical Insurance each event organised must have a risk assessment completed – forms available in the parish office. She said that one risk assessment could cover events for a whole year.</p> <p>On behalf of the PCC, Di Tovey made a presentation to Emma Macey for her constant support enabling the Vicar to carry out his duties.</p> | |
| <p>19. Date of next APCM</p> | <p>The next APCM has been provisionally set to follow the 9.30am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 26 April 2020 in St John's Church</p> | |
| | <p>The meeting closed at 12.20pm</p> | |

Philippa Graham (PCC Hon Secretary)
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Vicar's Report on 2018

(to be given at the APCM 2019)

Together, in the love and joy of the Lord whom we serve, we have walked with Christ another year. A year that seems to have gone by in the blink of an eye and yet one that was full of events – events that have transformed and shaped us for the future.

One of the major 'landmark' moments of 2018 was paying-off the loans for the 'new' organ and owning it outright. This has been no small undertaking. To have raised £400,000 is a phenomenal effort. I wish to thank the PCC over the years for having the determination and courage to embark on this project and in seeing it through – making the final repayments a year earlier than scheduled – and the work of Music at St John's who have raised thousands of pounds towards the organ over the years. To celebrate this momentous occasion within the life of the Parish a celebratory series of Organ Recitals was given in September and October by the various incumbents of our 'new' organ, namely Keith Beniston, Linden Innes-Hopkins, and Nicholas King. The series was superb and really showed the versatility of this impressive instrument. It was a particular delight to be able to welcome James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, to give the 'keynote' recital and launch the series. His musicality and international reputation certainly enabled us to celebrate our full ownership in style.

The organ featured at another event in 2018, this time at the capable hands and feet of our then curate, Fr Ben. In February our fundraising team organised supper and a viewing of a silent film, accompanied on the organ. Speaking for myself this was a first, and a most enjoyable evening. For others memories of former years were evoked. It is hoped that future screenings will be possible in the coming years.

As a Parish we are very fortunate to have such an able and creative Fundraising Committee. The Film Night is just one example of the new ideas they constantly proffer to raise much needed funds to support and resource the Ministry of the Church in this Parish and in our Diocese. In 2018 they not only organised our regular fundraising events such as the Countdown to Christmas Fayre, The Christmas Tree Festival, and the Quizzes, but they also tried a Summer Fayre in July. The Summer Fayre was an absolute triumph. It helped that the weather was very kind to us but that was supported by hard work, good publicity, lots to do and buy, and a great community event in which the Church was seen to be alive and kicking and here for our community. Whether it was the Cream Teas, plant stall, books, train, pimmis, or BBQ that brought people to the fayre or the opportunity to drench the Vicar in the stocks it was a most enjoyable day that brought lots of people not connected with the Church into our presence. The funds raised were substantial and it is hoped similar events might be possible in future years. I should like to thank everyone who has enabled these events to be the success they have been, especially those who have given considerable amounts of time and energy, but also everyone who has attended and supported them financially.

To accompany these fundraising events we also had various times of fellowship and social gatherings. From our Pancake Party for children on Shrove Tuesday to the Harvest Supper in October, Holiday at Home in August to weekly coffee mornings every Saturday, to monthly Friendship Teas and Lunch Club to the Parish BBQ and Fun Day in June there are lots of times throughout the year when we are encouraged to get together as friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. Emma and I are most thankful for your graciousness in letting us high-jack the Parish Fun Day with family and friends as we celebrated Abbie's baptism and welcomed her fully into the community of faith.

Welcoming people into the faith and our churches is a bit of a recurring theme for 2018. I recall that every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month we baptised children and adults into the Church and that there was even a waiting list moving into 2019. We hosted the Deanery Confirmation Service in November when 20 people of all ages and backgrounds affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ – 8 of whom were from this Parish, and we welcomed visitors and worshippers alike into St Francis for an Open Day with flowers, vestments, refreshments, organ recital, and worship, all as part of our witness and to grow the relationship with St Francis Hospice.

Throughout the year we also welcomed various organisations and schools into our buildings for concerts, educational visits, and commemorations. It is a particular joy that our relationship with the 8 schools in our Parish has been strengthened over the past year and that we are now active through assemblies, teaching, visits, services, or through *Bibles for Children* in all of them. Our thanks also go to MaSJ for the work they do in bringing children into St John's for various musical and educational events throughout the year.

Our work with children and young people took on a new lease of life in 2018 as the Deanery embraced a project to grow and develop this area of ministry. Our Junior Church Committee has been very active and proactive in thinking about new ways of ministering to children whilst affirming that which already works and flourishes. Our Tiny Tots for instance is going from strength to strength. Our Junior Church has been re-modelled and is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the children who come. Plans

were put in place to try Messy Church in 2019, along with starting a Junior Choir. Children's Praise Services were held with fluctuating numbers in attendance but always well received. And all of this whilst undergoing the necessary Safeguarding training offered by the Diocese. Plans were also put in place to explore with partner agencies the provision of a Youth Club within the Parish and I hope to be able to report on progress made next year.

Worship, however, remains our prime reason for being here. We are called to Worship God who reveals himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and offers forgiveness, love, and life. The demographic of our worshipping community has changed a little during 2018 with sadly some significant members of the community dying and being raised to glory. Among these were Anne Frogley, David Mitchell, Bob Croxford, Arthur Read, Jean Gale, Joyce Graham, Den Hudson, and Reg Farmborough. We have also welcomed a significant number of people into the Church, who I hope will grow in discipleship as fellow pilgrims on our journey with Christ. There are definitely signs of growth in our worshipping community and these are to be celebrated and nurtured. It is particularly pleasing that the PCC wishes to re-energise our Vision and MAP (Mission Action Plan) following a sermon series held in the autumn and to work towards further growth, both numerical and spiritual.

You might be interested to note that the following number of Pastoral Offices were conducted:

| 2018 | 2017 | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| Baptisms: | 33 | (4 adults) | 14 | (0 adults) |
| Weddings: | 18 | (1 Blessing) | 19 | (0 Blessings) |
| Funerals: | 50 | (22 at Crematoria) | 35 | (13 at Crematoria) |
| Interment of Ashes: | 22 | | 16 | |

As a Parish we remain fortunate to have three centres of Worship, offering distinct and engaging services each Sunday. I am particularly grateful to the leaderships at both St Francis and St Stephen's for enabling public worship to take place each week, and to the many retired clergy who assist at St Francis. Our Sunday morning acts of Worship are naturally important as that is when most of our number are present but equally important are all the other services we offer each week and the preaching ministry proffered by the Ministry Team. My sincere thanks to Sheena Wilson and Carole Lewis for the thoughtful and insightful sermons they give. Our Worship of almighty God is further enhanced by the musical offerings of our organists and choir. Their contribution assists in raising our hearts to the halls of heaven for which I am most appreciative. It is always a sadness that not more people come to our evening services but particularly Choral Evensong when the quality of music offered is frequently of Cathedral standard. Efforts are underway to rejuvenate the choir through a sponsored scholarship scheme and the emergence of our Junior Choir. My particular thanks to Keith Beniston our Director of Music for all he does for musical life of the Parish and to Marian and Paul for all the administrative help they offer.

During 2018 there were numerous liturgical 'highs' which are worthy of mentioning here. Firstly, the Festival of Lessons and Carols - augmented for the first time by a small musical ensemble - drew in the largest congregation that service has seen for many years. It was a terrific way to start the festive period and much commented on, and appreciated by both Church and non-Church folk. Secondly, The Reverend Laura Jørgenson returned to the Parish to preach at St John's Patronal Festival in May. It was lovely to be able to welcome her and her family. Thirdly, we combined with our brothers and sisters at St Mary and St Joseph's again for the All Age Stations of the Cross along the Moor. I am constantly amazed at the number of children who take part in this very public act of devotion on Good Friday. Fourthly, our services during Holy Week and at Easter were alive with passion, joy, sorrow, meaning and celebration. My thanks to all who helped in anyway especially those who

offered their feet for the Maundy Thursday liturgy. Perhaps it was our study of the Holy Eucharist during Lent and its meaning, symbols, and practice that made it so special?

In July we bade farewell to significant members of 'staff'. Firstly, Fr Benjamin Weitzmann finished his curacy to take up new responsibilities as a Vicar in Portsmouth. Over his 3 years living, ministering, and training among us he came to occupy a special place in our common life and his absence has been keenly missed. It was a delight to see him inducted into his new parishes and he continues to be in our prayers for the work he now undertakes. Secondly, Alison Jackson, resigned as Parish Administrator to follow her vocation to work with children and young people. Alison had served as Parish Administrator for over 5 years and I am most grateful to her for her diligence and support. Thankfully we were very blessed in being able to appoint Alison's successor very quickly and only a week of two passed without an Administrator. Hilary Kemp has made an excellent start in the office and I should like to record my thanks to her for the calm and effective way she organises me and the many affairs of parochial life she encounters. In November it was a particular joy to be able to welcome (back) The Reverend Canon Dr Ruth Goatly as Associate Minister. Ruth, who served her title here, has already made a significant contribution to our common life and we look forward to receiving the benefit of her wisdom and insight in the years to come. Ruth will be among us part-time and have a particular responsibility for our education and nurture programmes and for reshaping the pastoral care we offer.

At the risk of this report sounding like an Oscar's acceptance speech there are various people I should also like to thank for their support and guidance. Firstly our Churchwardens for the marvellous job they do and in particular Di Tovey for the outstanding contribution she has made to our common life over the past 5 years. I am truly thankful. Secondly to the Chris Angell and Philippa Graham for the continuous work they do to make sure our finances are well managed and we are abiding by the rules and regulations of the Church of England. Thirdly, I should like to thank everyone who has got involved in some aspect of our common life for the contribution made – from cleaning the windows to serving refreshments, helping with Junior Church to enabling communication in the Parish, assisting in acts of worship to taxi-ing people to and fro, flower arranging to cleaning – Thank you! I should also like to thank my family for the love and support they give, and for their understanding and patience which enables me to be the priest I believe God is calling me to be here among you.

2019 offers new challenges and opportunities not least in fundraising as we strive replace our failing boilers at St John's. Phase 1 of the parking project is now complete – for which I am most grateful – phase 2 is slowly moving forward. It seems to me that a new spirit of optimism is present ushering in a culture of growth, change, and renewal. I am very excited as to where our journey together will lead and how we can live God's love afresh in our community.

It has been a privilege to walk with, and lead you as your vicar this past year and I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us into the future. As we prepare to celebrate the joys of the resurrection this Easter may our lives be transformed by the God for whom all things are possible, and in whom we may have life –life in all its fullness.

In Christ,



Mike

The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC): 2019– 2020

The Parochial Church Council (PCC), comprising 24 members for the year 2019-2020, met in principle either on the first or second Tuesday of every other month. Sheena Wilson was unco-opted at the January 2020 meeting when she moved away from the Parish. Written minutes are kept of all PCC meetings and these are distributed to all PCC members and to any parishioner on the church electoral roll on request. A shortened version of the PCC minutes is published in the church magazine whenever possible. Six ordinary PCC meetings were held during 2019-2020 with attendance by PCC members throughout averaging 76% (compared with 77% in 2018-2019 and 75% in 2017-2018). There were five meetings of the PCC Standing Committee.

Routinely the PCC have approved minutes of previous meetings and monitored progress on action points. It has ratified decisions taken by the Standing Committee through approval of its minutes. Reports from the Churchwardens and Treasurer have been received at each meeting and progress on our Mission Action Plan (MAP) has been monitored and discussed. Particular attention has been paid to the needs of our daughter churches of St Francis and St Stephens and reports have been received at each meeting from both churches. Reports and minutes have also been received from the following PCC committees: Communications, Finance, Fundraising, St John's Hall, Missions, Pastoral, Social, Worship and Youth. Regular reports have been received in addition on the activities of the Deanery, Pray Hemel and Churches Together as well as as the minutes from the Board Meetings of Music at St Johns.

In September four new MAP goals were adopted as well as a new Parish vision based on 'Light, Love and Life'.

The progress of the new church boiler was monitored at meetings in the early part of the year culminating with the successful installation in the Autumn. The PCC expressed enormous thanks to Job Rombout and the heating working group.

At the July meeting the PCC received a presentation from the YMCA on Youth Provision. The PCC were supportive of providing 4 sessions a week (based on hospitality not evangelism) subject to a more concrete business structure.

Safeguarding became a standing item on the agenda at PCC meetings from the September 2019 meeting. All new PCC members now have to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check and complete an online safeguarding course. At the September meeting the PCC adopted a 'Promoting a Safer Church Action Plan'. Huge thanks go to Marian Davies our safeguarding officer for her hard work this year.

Updated Terms of Reference for PCC Committees were accepted and approved at the November and January meetings and at the March meeting it was agreed to move forward with Legacy Giving.

The parish finances have been closely observed and the successful fundraising during the last year welcomed and applauded. Text giving has now been set up and means of contactless giving has been approved. Particular thanks go to Chris Angell for his work on the accounts for St John's and St

Stephen's and Jo Fisher for her work on the accounts for St Francis. At the March meeting the PCC approved the annual accounts for 2019 and the budget for 2020 for presentation to the APCM.

Philippa Graham
PCC Honorary Secretary
March 2020

SAFEGUARDING

The safeguarding Officer is obliged to report annually to the PCC on all matters that touch the safety of children and vulnerable adults in the Parish.

The PCC Has complied with the duty under section 5 Of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Fortunately, during the past year there have been no incidents of concern but it is important that we all remain vigilant, don't imagine that 'it couldn't happen here' because it could!

All members of the PCC have had a DBS check and also completed the online course Module C1 on safeguarding.

This course has also been completed by the clergy and all those working with young people and vulnerable adults.

Those working with young people have also attended relevant training courses.

I am very thankful that we have people in the parish willing to work with young people and vulnerable adults and thank them for their efforts to comply with complex but necessary regulations.

Marian Davies
Safeguarding Officer, March 2020

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE PARISH 2019

The attached accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 have been approved by the PCC for presentation at the APCM. Both those for St John's and St Stephen's and those for St Francis' have been prepared in the format required by the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, detailing gross income and expenditure. A consolidated Parish Report and Accounts for 2019 will be prepared for Independent Examination and submission to the Charity Commission. Budgets for 2020 are also provided, although these were approved before the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic became apparent and are expected to be replaced by emergency measures to maintain a positive cashflow through 2020.

My thanks go once again to Janet Packe for dealing with St John's weekly and miscellaneous takings; to Philippa Graham and, latterly, Garth Bridgwood for performing the role of Covenants secretary; to Alison Jackson for managing the office fees account; to Graham Liddle for managing St John's Hall bookings and income; to Alan Munford and Trevor Boyce for collecting revenues from Magazine sales and advertising respectively; to Jean Garner for looking after the St Stephen's Hall and Church income and expenditure; to Jo Fisher for maintaining the accounts for St Francis; to Ian Packe and, latterly, Paul Davies for managing the bookings of St Francis Church Hall; to all involved in Fundraising and finally to Roger Taylor for taking on the independent examination of both sets of final accounts.

2019 was another satisfactory year financially for the Parish, with a small surplus on General Fund at St John's and St Stephen's before transfers to the Fabric Fund and a very modest deficit at St Francis, occasioned by the transfer of clergy costs from the now exhausted Restricted Fund to General Fund.

At St John's and St Stephen's the completion of the "Regulars" Car Park works and the Boiler Replacement Project left the Fabric Fund overdrawn despite substantial fundraising and a major legacy. Happily Parishoner Loans were forthcoming to cover the deficit, although repaying them would have been problematic even before the pandemic "Lockdown" closed our Churches and Halls and brought fundraising to a, hopefully temporary, halt.

Chris Angell
Honorary Treasurer
11th April 2020

| St John's Boxmoor P.C.C. 2019 Outturn and 2020 Budget (Version 3) | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ITEM | Budget Holder | General Fund | | | | | |
| | | 2016 Actual £ | 2017 Actual £ | 2018 Actual £ | 2019 Budget £ | 2019 Provisional £ | 2020 Budget £ |
| INCOME | | | | | | | |
| Missions | Finance Committee | 3,710 | 4,394 | 4,465 | 4,000 | 3,781 | 4,000 |
| Collections | Treasurer | 19,775 | 18,402 | 20,871 | 20,000 | 16,869 | 18,000 |
| Planned Giving | Treasurer | 67,431 | 71,015 | 69,643 | 70,000 | 71,454 | 72,000 |
| Donations | Treasurer | 2,878 | 3,169 | 6,225 | 2,000 | 2,116 | 2,000 |
| Fees (net) | Churchwardens | 15,660 | 16,437 | 15,488 | 16,000 | 11,438 | 14,000 |
| Fundraising | Fundraising Committee | 8,949 | 13,221 | 11,578 | 15,600 | 16,436 | 15,000 |
| Coffee | J.Packe | 1,321 | 1,249 | 1,340 | 1,200 | 1,221 | 1,200 |
| Magazine (net of printing costs) | Comms. Committee | 1,221 | 1,178 | 1,393 | 1,400 | 1,055 | 1,200 |
| St Stephen's Hall | J.Garner | 6,886 | 4,389 | 4,313 | 4,500 | 2,169 | 2,000 |
| St John's Hall (net of maintenance) | Hall Committee | 8,511 | 6,863 | 7,242 | 7,000 | 10,494 | 8,000 |
| TOTAL | | 136,342 | 140,317 | 142,558 | 141,700 | 137,033 | 137,400 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | | |
| Parish Share | Treasurer | 75,930 | 77,935 | 80,837 | 84,463 | 84,463 | 86,000 |
| Missions | Finance Committee | 4,135 | 4,933 | 5,190 | 4,100 | 5,356 | 4,100 |
| Vicar | M.Macey | 2,205 | 1,761 | 2,832 | 3,000 | 1,395 | 3,000 |
| 23,Beechfield Road (net of Rolph Bequest) | Treasurer | 4,235 | 3,662 | 3,958 | 4,000 | 4,036 | 4,000 |
| Assistant Priest's Expenses | R.Goatly | 1,202 | 1,354 | 502 | 2,500 | 998 | 1,200 |
| Music | K.Beniston | 7,999 | 8,970 | 10,958 | 12,000 | 12,487 | 10,000 |
| Organ Maintenance | K.Beniston | 1,485 | 1,275 | 1,534 | 1,500 | 1,363 | 1,500 |
| Sanctuary | G.Gibbs | 1,435 | 1,489 | 1,769 | 1,700 | 1,568 | 1,700 |
| Heat & Light | Churchwardens | 6,900 | 6,108 | 5,655 | 7,200 | 7,294 | 6,500 |
| Insurance | Churchwardens | 4,469 | 4,611 | 4,818 | 5,000 | 4,594 | 5,000 |
| Maintenance | Churchwardens | 2,890 | 3,329 | 2,830 | 3,000 | 1,423 | 2,500 |
| Reader Training | M.Macey | 129 | 202 | - | - | - | - |
| Printing (net of receipts) | Administrator | 655 | 1,639 | 3,425 | 3,000 | 3,695 | 2,500 |
| Telephones | I.Packe | 411 | 405 | 373 | 400 | 378 | 400 |
| Sundries | Churchwardens | 1,661 | 2,334 | 4,889 | 2,500 | 1,791 | 2,000 |
| Administrator | M.Macey | 4,752 | 4,602 | 5,681 | 6,500 | 6,394 | 6,500 |
| Transfers to Fabric Fund | PCC | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 7,500 | 3,094 | - |
| Transfers to Organ Appeal & StS Renovation Fund | Treasurer | 8,200 | 17,939 | 7,967 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | | 133,693 | 147,548 | 148,218 | 148,363 | 140,329 | 136,900 |
| Surplus + / Deficit - | | 2,649 | -7,231 | -5,660 | -6,663 | -3,296 | 500 |
| General Fund | | | | | | | |
| Opening Balance - 1 Jan | | 18,259 | 20,908 | 13,677 | 8,017 | 8,017 | 4,721 |
| Closing Balance - 31 Dec | | 20,908 | 13,677 | 8,017 | 1,354 | 4,721 | 5,221 |
| Fabric Fund | | | | | | | |
| £ | | | | | | | |
| Opening Balance | | | | | | 14,183 | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| Frogley Bequest | | | | | | 15,933 | |
| Car Park Fundraising | | | | | | 1,090 | |
| Boiler Fundraising | | | | | | 1,955 | |
| Easter Appeal (Tfr) | | | | | | 3,094 | |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Car Park works | | | | | | - | 10,524 |
| Repairs at St John's | | | | | | - | 628 |
| Quinquennial | | | | | | - | 1,920 |
| Boiler works | | | | | | - | 36,412 |
| Closing Balance | | | | | | - | 13,229 |
| | | | | | | | Overdrawn |
| C.L.Angell, Parish Treasurer 18th January 2020 | | | | | | | |

| THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES | | | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Note | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL 2019 | FUNDS 2018 |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Incoming Resources | | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from donors | 2a | 90,366 | 3,045 | - | 93,411 | 102,907 |
| Other voluntary incoming resources | 2b | 23,694 | 16,004 | - | 39,698 | 30,914 |
| Income from charitable and ancillary trading | 2c | 37,406 | - | - | 37,406 | 39,424 |
| Other ordinary incoming resources | 2d | - | - | - | - | - |
| Income from investments | 2e | 3,132 | 1,171 | - | 4,303 | 4,160 |
| Total Incoming Resources | | 154,598 | 20,220 | - | 174,818 | 177,405 |
| Resources Expended | | | | | | |
| Grants | 3a | 5,336 | 1,000 | - | 6,336 | 9,440 |
| Activities directly relating to the work of the church | 3b | 129,990 | 50,581 | - | 180,571 | 140,596 |
| Fund-raising and publicity | 3c | 4,929 | - | - | 4,929 | 1,701 |
| Church management and administration | 3d | 13,245 | - | - | 13,245 | 12,232 |
| Total Resources Expended | | 153,500 | 51,581 | - | 205,081 | 163,969 |
| Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources | | 1,098 | (31,361) | - | (30,263) | 13,436 |
| Gains and Losses on Investments | | | | | | |
| realised | | - | - | - | - | - |
| unrealised | | - | - | 44,135 | 44,135 | (276) |
| Net Movement in Funds | | 1,098 | (31,361) | 44,135 | 13,872 | 13,160 |
| Balances brought forward at 1st January 2019 (2018) | | 8,017 | 516,058 | 217,129 | 741,204 | 728,044 |
| Transfers between Funds | | (3,094) | 3,094 | - | - | - |
| Balances carried forward | | 6,021 | 487,791 | 261,264 | 755,076 | 741,204 |

| THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| BALANCE SHEET | | | | |
| AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | Note | 2019 | 2018 | |
| | | £ | £ | |
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 5a | 493,474 | 493,474 | |
| Investment Assets | 5b | 261,212 | 217,078 | |
| | | <u>754,686</u> | <u>710,552</u> | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Stock | | - | - | |
| Debtors | 7 | 7,594 | 8,042 | |
| Short Term Deposits | | 52 | 51 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 8,744 | 25,659 | |
| | | <u>16,390</u> | <u>33,752</u> | |
| Liabilities: Amounts falling due within 1 year | 8 | (2,500) | (3,100) | |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>13,890</u> | <u>30,652</u> | |
| Long Term Loans | | (13,500) | - | |
| Net Assets | | <u>755,076</u> | <u>741,204</u> | |
| Funds | | | | |
| | 6 & 9 | | | |
| Unrestricted | | 6,021 | 8,017 | |
| Restricted | | 487,791 | 516,058 | |
| Endowment | | 261,264 | 217,129 | |
| | | <u>755,076</u> | <u>741,204</u> | |
| The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10th March 2020 and signed on its behalf: | | | | |
| M.Macey | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Chairman | | | | |
| | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | | | |
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | |
| 1. Accounting Policies | | | | | |
| The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 | | | | | |
| The accounts also comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005); Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006) and Regulations made thereunder; and with applicable accounting standards. | | | | | |
| The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted | Restricted | Endowment | TOTAL | FUNDS |
| | Funds | Funds | Funds | 2019 | 2018 |
| 2. Incoming Resources | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <i>2a. Incoming resources from donors</i> | | | | | |
| Planned giving | 71,454 | - | - | 71,454 | 69,643 |
| Collections(open plate) at all services | 16,869 | - | - | 16,869 | 20,871 |
| Sundry donations | 2,043 | - | - | 2,043 | 12,393 |
| | 90,366 | - | - | 90,366 | 102,907 |
| <i>2b. Other voluntary incoming resources</i> | | | | | |
| Appeals | 6,855 | 3,045 | - | 9,900 | 17,115 |
| Legacies | - | 15,933 | - | 15,933 | 500 |
| Fêtes & other fund raising events | 16,839 | 71 | - | 16,910 | 13,299 |
| | 23,694 | 19,049 | - | 42,743 | 30,914 |
| <i>2c. Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i> | | | | | |
| Magazines | 2,200 | - | - | 2,200 | 2,592 |
| Coffee | 1,221 | - | - | 1,221 | 1,340 |
| Church halls lettings etc | 17,786 | - | - | 17,786 | 17,468 |
| Fees | 12,488 | - | - | 12,488 | 15,455 |
| Merchandising & Printing | 3,711 | - | - | 3,711 | 2,569 |
| | 37,406 | - | - | 37,406 | 39,424 |
| <i>2d. Other ordinary incoming resources</i> | | | | | |
| Insurance claims & settlements | - | - | - | - | - |
| <i>2e. Income from investments</i> | | | | | |
| Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax | 3,132 | 1,171 | - | 4,303 | 4,160 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 154,598 | 20,220 | - | 174,818 | 177,405 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | | | |
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | |
| Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) | | | | | |
| For the year ending 31st December 2019 | | | | | |
| | Unrestricted | Restricted | Endowment | TOTAL | FUNDS |
| | Funds | Funds | Funds | 2019 | 2018 |
| 3. Resources Expended | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <i>3a. Grants</i> | | | | | |
| Missionary & charitable giving: | | | | | |
| Church overseas | | | | | |
| missionary societies | - | - | - | - | - |
| relief & development agencies | 975 | - | - | 975 | 280 |
| Home missions & other Church | | | | | |
| Societies | 4,361 | 1,000 | - | 5,361 | 9,160 |
| | 5,336 | 1,000 | - | 6,336 | 9,440 |
| <i>3b. Activities directly relating to work of the Church</i> | | | | | |
| Ministry: diocesan parish share | 84,463 | - | - | 84,463 | 80,837 |
| clergy expenses | 2,394 | - | - | 2,394 | 3,334 |
| Church - running expenses | 22,342 | 1,097 | - | 23,439 | 24,839 |
| Church maintenance & Repairs | 2,786 | 49,484 | - | 52,270 | 14,446 |
| Expenditure on parish magazine | 1,145 | - | - | 1,145 | 1,199 |
| Church hall running costs | 5,123 | - | - | 5,123 | 4,983 |
| Music | 11,737 | - | - | 11,737 | 10,958 |
| | 129,990 | 50,581 | - | 180,571 | 140,596 |
| <i>3c. Fund-raising and publicity</i> | | | | | |
| Costs of fêtes and other fund-raising events | 4,929 | - | - | 4,929 | 1,701 |
| <i>3d. Church management and administration</i> | | | | | |
| Administration: | | | | | |
| Printing & stationery | 6,473 | - | - | 6,473 | 6,014 |
| Telephones | 378 | - | - | 378 | 373 |
| Administrator | 6,394 | - | - | 6,394 | 5,681 |
| Loan interest & costs | - | - | - | - | 164 |
| | 13,245 | - | - | 13,245 | 12,232 |
| Total Resources Expended | 153,500 | 51,581 | - | 205,081 | 163,969 |
| 4. Staff Costs | | | | | |
| Music expenses include payments made to St John's Director of Music and Administration costs include payments made to the Parish Administrator. Church hall running costs include payments made to the Hall caretaker and Hall cleaner. | | | | | |
| No National Insurance or pension contributions were payable in respect of any of them in 2019 or 2018 | | | | | |

| PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | |
| 5. Fixed Assets for use by the PCC | | | | |
| 5a. <i>Tangible fixed assets</i> | | | | |
| Buildings - St John`s Hall & West End £493,474 (2017 £493,474) | | | | |
| 5b. <i>Investments</i> | | | | |
| 13,657 shares in the CBF Investment Fund (historical cost at 31st December 2019: £ 15,533) | | Market Value | | |
| | | 2019 | 2018 | |
| | | £ | £ | |
| | | 261,212 | 217,078 | |
| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | TOTAL |
| 6. Analysis of Net Asset Fund | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets | - | 493,474 | 261,212 | 754,686 |
| Current Assets | 8,521 | 7,817 | 52 | 16,390 |
| Current Liabilities | (2,500) | - | - | (2,500) |
| Long Term Loans | - | (13,500) | - | (13,500) |
| Fund Balance | 6,021 | 487,791 | 261,264 | 755,076 |
| 7. Debtors | | | | |
| | | | 2019 | 2018 |
| | | | £ | £ |
| Prepayments of insurance | | | 2,758 | 2,445 |
| Gift Aid Claim | | | 4,836 | 5,597 |
| Other | | | - | - |
| | | | 7,594 | 8,042 |
| 8. Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year | | | | |
| Creditors for goods and services | | | 2,500 | 3,100 |
| | | | 2,500 | 3,100 |

| PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | |
| | Balance at | Balance at | Movement |
| 9. Fund Details | 31/12/19 | 31/12/2018 | |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Restricted Funds | | | |
| Building Reserve | 493,474 | 493,474 | - |
| Fabric Fund | (13,229) | 14,183 | (27,412) |
| Music Fund | 187 | 148 | 39 |
| Discretionary | 4,151 | 3,980 | 171 |
| Social Committee | 533 | 501 | 32 |
| Wedding Advances | 1,400 | 2,450 | (1,050) |
| Holiday at Home | 1,275 | 1,322 | (47) |
| | 487,791 | 516,058 | (28,267) |
| Endowment Funds | | | |
| Centenary Fund | 116,021 | 94,793 | 21,228 |
| Rolph Bequest | 105,002 | 88,442 | 16,560 |
| Freeman-Rolph | 40,241 | 33,894 | 6,347 |
| | 261,264 | 217,129 | 44,135 |
| The movement on the Fabric Fund comprised: | | | |
| | £ | | |
| Opening Balance 1/1/2019 | 14,183 | | |
| Bequest | 15,933 | | |
| Specific Fundraising | 3,045 | | |
| Transfer from General Fund | 3,094 | | |
| Expenditure on Car Park | (10,524) | | |
| Expenditure on Boilers | (36,412) | | |
| Expenditure on Repairs | (628) | | |
| Quinquennial Inspections | (1,920) | | |
| Closing Balance 31/12/2019 | (13,229) | | |

| PCC ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 10. St Stephen`s Income and Expenditure 2019 | | | |
| | 2019 | 2018 | |
| Income | £ | £ | |
| Collections | 376 | 438 | |
| Planned Giving | 3,805 | 3,874 | |
| Hall Lettings | 2,169 | 4,313 | |
| Donations | 85 | - | |
| | 6,435 | 8,625 | |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Heat & Light | 1,219 | 542 | |
| Insurance | 611 | 606 | |
| Maintenance & Sundries | 428 | 520 | |
| | 2,258 | 1,668 | |
| Contribution to Boxmoor Parish | 4,177 | 6,957 | |
| 11. Missions and Charitable Giving 2019 | | | |
| | Gross | | Allocation |
| | Donation | Collection | from PCC |
| Beneficiary | £ | £ | £ |
| Christian Aid | 215 | 215 | |
| Bishop's Harvest for the Hungry Appeal | 444 | 444 | - |
| Childrens' Society | 1,308 | 1,308 | - |
| Crisis | 656 | 656 | - |
| Churches Together | 75 | - | 75 |
| Disasters Emergency Committee | 316 | 316 | - |
| DENS | 656 | 656 | - |
| Ordinands Fund | 166 | 166 | - |
| YMCA re youth project | 1,500 | - | 1,500 |
| | 5,336 | 3,761 | 1,575 |
| In addition £856 was collected at funerals through the year and paid over to nominated charities. | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |

| Budget for St Francis Hammerfield 2020 | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 | 2019 | Variance |
| Income | Budget | Actual Total | Budget | To Total |
| | £ | | | Budget |
| Giving | 3,500 | 3,106 | 3,500 | (394) |
| Hall Lettings | 6,500 | 6,663 | 6,500 | 163 |
| Fundraising | 350 | 436 | 350 | 86 |
| Coffee, Magazines etc. | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Gulliver Bequest | 700 | 704 | 670 | 4 |
| Interest - CBF Account | 60 | 63 | 30 | 3 |
| Credit on Energy bills | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 11,110 | 10,980 | 11,050 | (130) |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Parish Share | 4,151 | 4,036 | 4,036 | (115) |
| Sanctuary | 100 | 0 | 100 | (100) |
| Gas | 1,000 | 1,074 | 850 | 74 |
| Electricity | 1,000 | 924 | 1,000 | (76) |
| Insurance | 930 | 907 | 910 | (23) |
| Water | 175 | 171 | 154 | (4) |
| Maintenance & Repairs | 1,500 | 385 | 2,000 | (1,115) |
| Sundries - cleaning | 900 | 611 | 900 | (289) |
| Forward in Faith | 150 | 135 | 50 | (15) |
| Churches Together | 25 | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Charitable Giving | 350 | 436 | 350 | 86 |
| Petty Cash | 0 | 1,230 | 0 | 1,230 |
| Music | 500 | 315 | 500 | (185) |
| Total | 10,781 | 10,248 | 10,875 | (533) |
| Running Total | 329 | 732 | 175 | 403 |
| Restricted Income | | | | |
| Carter Trust | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Joyce Ralphs Bequest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Michael Abbiss Bequest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sheila Howe Bequest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Donation towards new vestments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Donation towards cost of ramp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Receipt from St Johns for Boilers | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Total | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Restricted Expenditure | | | | |
| Clergy | 1,200 | 1,243 | 800 | 43 |
| Payment to St Johns for Boilers | 0 | 10,000 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Vestments from B Weitzman | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,200 | 11,243 | 800 | 10,043 |
| Balance on Carter Trust | | 0 | | |
| Total 2019 | | (511) | | |

no budget as coffee money collected for fundraising

no money left in Carter Trust hence no budget

£1000 still to be used

£300 still to be used

Funds received back from St Johns for boilers

Funds for clergy payments will be taken from the main account

Funds to be received back by the end of the year

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Endowment Funds £ | Total 2019 £ | FUNDS 2018 £ |
| Incoming Resources | | | | | | |
| Incoming Resources from Donors | 2a | 3,106 | | | 3,106 | 4,004 |
| Other Voluntary incoming resources | 2b | 436 | | | 436 | 491 |
| Income from charitable and ancillary trading | 2c | 6,671 | | | 6,671 | 6,681 |
| Other ordinary incoming resources | 2d | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 290 |
| Income from Investments | 2e | 768 | | | 768 | 729 |
| Total Incoming Resources | | 10,980 | 10,000 | 0 | 20,980 | 12,194 |
| Resources Expended | | | | | | |
| Grants | 3a | 596 | | | 596 | 150 |
| Activities directly relating to the work Of the church | 3b | 10,895 | 10,000 | | 20,895 | 10,912 |
| Fund-raising and publicity | 3c | | | | | |
| Church management and administration | 3d | | | | | |
| Total Resources Expended | | 11,491 | 10,000 | 0 | 21,491 | 11,062 |
| Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources | | (511) | 0 | 0 | (511) | 1,132 |
| Gains and (Losses) on Investments | | | | | | |
| Realised | | | | | | |
| Unrealised | | | | 3,813 | 3,813 | (309) |
| Net Movement in Funds | | (511) | 0 | 3,813 | 3,302 | 824 |
| Balances brought forward at 1st January 2019 (2018) | | 27,322 | 920 | 20,363 | 48,605 | 47,781 |
| Transfers between Funds | | | | | | |
| Balances carried forward | | 26,811 | 920 | 24,175 | 51,906 | 48,605 |

| BALANCE SHEET | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | | |
| | | | Note | 2019 | 2018 | |
| | | | | £ | £ | |
| Fixed Assets | | | | | | |
| Tangible Fixed Assets | | | 5a | | | |
| Investment Assets | | | 5b | 24,175 | 20,363 | |
| | | | | <u>24,175</u> | <u>20,363</u> | |
| Current Assets | | | | | | |
| Stock | | | | | | |
| Debtors | | | 7 | | | |
| Short Term Deposits | | | | 8,504 | 8,440 | |
| Cash at Bank and in hand | | | | 19,226 | 20,141 | |
| | | | | <u>27,730</u> | <u>28,582</u> | |
| Liabilities: Amounts falling due within 1 ye | | | 8 | - | - | |
| Net Current Assets | | | | 27,730 | 28,582 | |
| Long Term Loans | | | | | | |
| Net Assets | | | | 51,906 | 48,944 | |
| Funds | | | 6 & 9 | | | |
| Unrestricted | | | | 26,811 | 27,322 | |
| Restricted | | | | 920 | 920 | |
| Endowment | | | | 24,175 | 20,363 | |
| | | | | <u>51,906</u> | <u>48,605</u> | |
| The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts | | | | | | |
| Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10 March 2020 and signed on its behalf | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Rev'd Michael Macey | | | | | | |
| Chairman | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Accounting Policies | | | | | | | | | | |
| The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, in accordance with the Church Account Regulations 1997 | | | | | | | | | | |
| The accounts also comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005); Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006) and Regulations made thereunder; and with applicable accounting standards. | | | | | | | | | | |
| The accounts are prepared under the historical cost conventions | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Unrestricted | Restricted | Endowment | Total | FUNDS |
| | | | | | | Funds | Funds | Funds | 2019 | 2018 |
| | | | | | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 2. Incoming Resources | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>2a. Incoming Resources from donors</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planned giving | | | | | | 465 | | | 465 | 791 |
| Collections (Open plate) at all services | | | | | | 2,641 | | | 2,641 | 3,213 |
| Sundry Donations | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 3,106 | 0 | 0 | 3,106 | 4,004 |
| <i>2b. Other voluntary incoming resources</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Appeals | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Legacies | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Fetes & other fund raising events | | | | | | 436 | | | 436 | 491 |
| | | | | | | 436 | 0 | 0 | 436 | 491 |
| <i>2c. Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Magazines | | | | | | 8 | | | 8 | 7 |
| Coffee | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Church hall lettings etc. | | | | | | 6,663 | | | 6,663 | 6,675 |
| Candles | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Merchandising & Printing | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | 6,671 | 0 | 0 | 6,671 | 6,681 |
| <i>2d. Other ordinary incoming resources</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 290 |
| | | | | | | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | 290 |
| <i>2e. Income from investments</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dividends and interest including any | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reclaimed tax | | | | | | 768 | | | 768 | 729 |
| Total Incoming Resources | | | | | | 10,980 | 10,000 | 0 | 20,980 | 12,194 |

| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) For the year ending 31st December 2019 | | | | | | |
| | Note | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | Total 2019 | FUNDS 2018 |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 3. Resources Expended | | | | | | |
| <i>3.a Grants</i> | | | | | | |
| Missionary & Charitable giving: | | | | | | |
| Church overseas | | | | | | |
| Missionary Societies | | | | | | |
| Relief & development agencies | | | | | | |
| Home missions & other Church Societies | 10 | 596 | | | 596 | 295 |
| | | 596 | 0 | 0 | 596 | 295 |
| <i>3.b Activities directly relating to work of The Church</i> | | | | | | |
| Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share | | 4,036 | | | 4,036 | 3,922 |
| Ministry: Clergy Expenses | | 1,243 | | | 1,243 | 680 |
| Church - running expenses | | 5,231 | | | 5,231 | 4,467 |
| Church maintenance & repairs | | 385 | 10,000 | | 10,385 | 1,698 |
| | | 10,895 | 10,000 | 0 | 20,895 | 10,767 |
| <i>3c. Fund-raising and publicity</i> | | | | | | |
| Costs of fetes and other fund-raising events | | | | | | |
| <i>3d. Church management and administration</i> | | | | | | |
| Administration: | | | | | | |
| Printing & Stationery | | | | | | |
| Telephones | | | | | | |
| Administrator | | | | | | |
| Loan repayments & costs | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Resources Expended | | 11,491 | 10,000 | 0 | 21,491 | 11,062 |
| 4. Staff Costs | | | | | | |
| There were no staff costs payable in respect of 2019 | | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS | | | | |
| FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 | | | | |
| Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) | | | | |
| For the year ending 31st December 2019 | | | | |
| 5. Fixed Assets for use by the PCC | | | | |
| 5a. <i>Tangible Fixed Assets</i> | | | | |
| Buildings | | | | |
| 5b. <i>Investments</i> | | | | |
| | | Market Value | | |
| 1,264 shares in the CBF Investment | | 2019 | 2018 | |
| Fund (historical cost at | | £ | £ | |
| 31st December 2019 - £734) | | 24,175 | 20,363 | |
| | | Unrestricted | Restricted | Endowment |
| | | Funds | Funds | Funds |
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| 6. Analysis of Net Asset Fund | | | | Total |
| Fixed Assets | | | | 24,175 |
| Current Assets | | 26,811 | 920 | 27,731 |
| Current Liabilities | | | | 0 |
| Long Term Loans | | | | 0 |
| Fund Balance | | 26,811 | 920 | 24,175 |
| | | | | 51,906 |
| 7. Debtors | | | | |
| | | | | 2019 |
| | | | | 2018 |
| | | | | £ |
| Prepayments of Gas & Electricity | | | | |
| 8. Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due | | | | |
| Within One Year | | | | |
| No liabilities falling due within one year | | | | |
| 9. Fund Details | | | | |
| | | Balance at | | |
| | | 31/12/2019 | | |
| Endowment Funds | | £ | | |
| Gulliver Bequest | | 24,175 | | |
| | | 24,175 | | |
| 10. Missions and Charitable Giving 2019 | | | | |
| | | Gross | | Allocation |
| | | Donation | Collection | from PCC |
| Beneficiary | | £ | £ | £ |
| Forward in Faith | | 135 | | 135 |
| Churches Together | | 25 | | 25 |
| DA Mampong (Ghana) | | | | |
| | | 160 | 0 | 160 |
| At the Carols by Candlelight in December 2019 The Hospice of St Francis collected £435.79 | | | | |

REPORT ON THE FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS – 2019 2020

All Three Churches

As well as the Archdeacon's inspection, this year we also had the architects 5-year quinquennial inspection of all three churches in the parish. There are three individual building reports listing in order of priority repairs needed with number 1 being of the highest priority and number 5 maintenance items and these will be carried out when time, resources and finances permit.

In addition, all three Churches have had all obligatory annual and periodic maintenance, inspection/testing and certification of gas heating appliances and boilers (kitchen), fire protection systems/extinguishers, portable electrical appliances, lightning conductors and fixed electrical systems have all been carried out in accordance with statutory requirements and regulations. Remedial action was taken where necessary.

St John's

The main activity has been the replacement of the boiler system, after consultation with the DAC and following a tender, a heating consultant drew up the specifications for a new heating system which was approved by the PCC and a DAC facility was obtained. Following a tender process (4 companies) SafeSure Plumbing and Heating was selected and a new condensing boiler system (3 boilers linked together) with an external plate heat exchanger, this transfers heat from the new boilers to the existing church heating circuit. The system is designed to be efficient and easy to maintain, all the works were completed by early October ensuring that when the colder weather came, we had a warm church once again.

The other key job was to replace the Hall fire alarm panel/system together with all the sensors which was completed just before we went into lock-down.

St Francis'

A timer has been placed behind the cross on the outside wall of the church, and the outsides of the 6 high up semi-circular windows have been repainted

St Stephen's

St. Stephen's is causing some concern. This building was put up in 1959 and was intended to last 20 - 30 years. The architect's report says 'a simple timber-framed construction and can be described as being generally tired' It has more number 1's (the most urgent category) than either of the other two churches and it is only the hard work and dedication of the small congregation that it is being maintained. The overgrown hedge was cut down and a new lock was fitted to the front door of the church.

Other tasks undertaken this year include upkeep of the churchyard and grass cutting in the memorial garden. The barrel has been replaced on the main door of the hall to allow for easier unlocking and the door to hall 1 has been varnished and the kitchen has been given a deep clean and repainted.

There are two points on the perimeter wall where we have significant damage e.g. sections of the wall that need complete rebuilding, we have waited for the Council to repair the damage but most

likely we will need to organise the repairs ourselves. The Council and Herts CC informed us that they are not responsible for the upkeep of the footpath on the South-side so Rob Porter has kindly agreed to undertake to repair the broken slabs.

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to all the unseen army of volunteers who do so many jobs in the churches (far too any to list) which help with the day to day running and upkeep of the church to make it a clean and welcoming place for all those who come throughout the week.

Job Rombout
Lorraine Ioannou
Churchwardens

SIDES PERSONS SEEKING ELECTION

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chris Angell | Jean Garner | Leslie Lunn | Sue Proehl |
| Julie Barton | Mark Harbour | Anne Lyne | Job Rombout |
| Sally Bates | Alison Hart | Richard Lyne | Connie Shaw |
| Garth Bridgwood | Catherine Holness | Annie Mitchell | Trevor Standen |
| Peter Clayton | Marion Howard | Alan Munford | Beryl Taylor |
| Marion Cowe | Andreas Ioannou | Yvonne Munford | Di Tovey |
| Alan Darvill | Lorraine Ioannou | Ian Packe | Gill Williams |
| Marian Davies | Noel James | Janet Packe | Ian Williams |
| Paul Davies | Sheila James | Rosemary Parish | Muriel Williams |
| Ken Farmborough | Marion King | Rob Porter | |
| Jo Fisher | Yvonne Laidlaw | Yolanda Porter | |
| | Graham Liddle | Alan Proehl | |

Report of Deanery Synod proceedings (March 2019 to March 2020)

This report covers the proceedings of the Hemel Hempstead Deanery Synod for the period from March 2019 to February 2020. During the year there were three Deanery Synod meetings, covering a variety of different topics. The key areas of discussion are reported below: Tuesday 11th June at St John's Church, Boxmoor The Synod met on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at St John's Church, Boxmoor. This was an Open meeting with church members from the deanery invited. We welcomed The Revd Canon Tim Bull, St Albans Diocesan Director of Ministry who led a session on Becoming More Confident and helped us think about how we can choose to do some things that people of all ages will welcome in church, making the choice to share the good news of Jesus Christ in perhaps different ways. We were challenged to choose some things that people of all ages will welcome in our church. Every church reported back on one new thing that they are doing towards th Deanery Wildly Important Goal of Children's Ministry. Rev Mike Macey reflected how well we have done as a deanery to have all of this activity on new initiatives. A discussion on the use of the parish website as well as Facebook to advertise events was useful. The use of card readers to accept payments and donations and Text Giving was discussed. Tuesday 22rd October at All Saints, Kings Langley This was an Open meeting with church members from the deanery invited. We welcomed Margaret Pritchard Houston, St Albans Diocesan Children's Ministry Enabler who led a very interesting session on how

we can capitalise on the contact we make with families who bring their children to be baptised and build an ongoing relationship with the families. She shared some of the key findings from a Christenings Project including the language we use - Christening vs Baptism, the importance of involving Godparents before and after and not just during the service, and the building of the relationship with the baptism – involving the wider church community, and following up – keeping in touch on an ongoing basis. She also shared some ideas to make families with young children feel more welcome in church. Each parish shared what progress they have made on work with children and young people over the last year. Holy Trinity reported on celebrating their 170th anniversary and their Flower Festival 26/27 October. This was Lizzie's last synod as our Rural Dean. Thanks were given to Lizzie for her 5 years tenure. Lizzie reported that before the Lambeth Conference next July, each deanery is giving hospitality to some overseas Bishops – we are hosting the Bishop of the Windward Islands Bishop Leopold Friday and his wife, Lois. We have a few days to fill with a programme in the deanery.

Tuesday 11th February 2020 at St Mary's, Hemel Old Town Canon John Williams welcomed us to St Mary's and shared an update on the life of the parish of St Mary and St Paul. Deanery Treasurer Peter Bladon presented the accounts for 2019, and shared with us the report on Parish Share payments from 2019. This being the end of the current Triennium, Synod Lay reps are to be elected (or re-elected) at the forthcoming APCMs. Rev Mike Macey took the opportunity to thank Jean Garner who has been a lay member of Synod for more than 40 years and is not planning to stand again, and presented a bouquet of flowers. Mike shared feedback from the Rural Deans' residential where they had learned about Living God's Love 2025 – Big Conversation. Bishop Michael will be visiting all the churches in the Deanery later this year to help us start the Big Conversation. We shared updates from each parish on our Deanery Wildly Important Goal – children's ministry, and a 'Swap Shop' of news and information from the parishes. In addition more than 50 members of the Deanery enjoyed a successful Deanery Outing to Ely Cathedral in August, and a shared Deanery Ascension Day service was held at St Francis, Hammerfield on 30th May.

Carolyn Andrews Deanery Secretary

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2019

(to be given at the APCM 2020)

By the time this report is presented at the 2020 APCM, 2019 will feel a distant memory. Much has already happened in 2020 to make the pains and joys of former days feel insignificant, and yet, for us as a community, they have shaped our story and the way in which we interact with God, one another, and the wider community of this Parish.

One of the greatest joys for me has been to work closely with our Associate Minister, The Reverend Canon Dr Ruth Goatly, on various projects. Ruth is no stranger to this parish but things have moved-on since her time here as curate. Throughout the year we sought to find new ways to strengthen and renew our pastoral work and ministry and to underpin the teaching and discipleship ministry developed over recent years. Ruth was instrumental in creating and leading our Lent Course *The Gifts of the Spirit* which was both well attended and well received and prompted many into asking questions about how they can be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led disciples in our community. Our Ministry Team has been greatly strengthened by her arrival on Advent Sunday 2018 and her wisdom, patience, and thoughtfulness are invaluable to our discussions and response to the needs of the people of this parish.

Another joy came in response to the Deanery's prompting to re-examine our work with Children and Young People. Well aware that only a handful of teenagers now attend our services and our lack of a Youth Group, a small working group embarked on a series of conversations with possible partner organisations in delivering a Youth Group to the young people of our parish. After many fruitful meetings with the YMCA we commissioned them to survey as many young people in the parish as they could so that we could understand what young people would be looking for if we could organise a youth club and what activities and organisations were already operating in our community. The results were presented to the PCC who unanimously voted to continue the conversation with YMCA. But there was a snag. The survey had revealed that our premises were in the wrong place... and it would cost approximately £15,000 a year for 4 sessions each week. Undeterred, more fruitful conversations followed with more potential partners including the Liberty Tea Rooms and South Hill Church. By the close of the year we were all hopeful that a new Youth Club could be formed and that funding could be secured from various charities to ensure the Club would run for a minimum of 3 years.

Three festivals within the year also brought the community into St John's and enabled us to reach-out into the community. Among these were the annual Christmas Tree Festival - which was splendid as ever, MaSJ's Music Festival which hosted some delightful music - not least the special festival evensong, and our Flower Festival *A Year in Flowers* which was certainly one of the high-points of the year. The church looked magnificent as the various displays sought to depict a typical year, charting our various liturgical festivals and other events within our national calendar. I should like to express my thanks once again to the fabulous team who organised this event and especially to Sue Brown who was the primary driving force bringing the festival to a successful culmination.

Other joys experienced during the year were less auspicious but just as noteworthy. We continued to welcome, or be involved with, 8 of the 9 schools we are either associated with or are located within the parish. Many of these schools come to our churches for their Christmas Carol Services and for school visits, both in church and at schools where I am welcomed into classrooms to speak with the children and lead assemblies. This simple ministry, although time consuming, is incredibly beneficial even if we may not see the results immediately. One of the services I had the privilege to conduct in December was a memorial service for a young Muslim lad. He died suddenly whilst at university and due to religious customs was buried before many of his friends could return from their studies. His family approached me to see if we could hold a Memorial Service for him. For them, St John's was their special, holy place. Through various school visits over the years, assemblies and carol services this young man and his family had been made to feel welcome. This was where the veil between heaven and earth was thinnest for them. It was a remarkable service with over 150 young people all giving thanks for the short, but well-lived life. And all of them knew why they were in St John's.

We never really know how the seeds of faith that we are sowing will grow. For some, the seeds will lie dormant for many years and then suddenly take root; for others it might be more immediate. From our work with Tiny Tots, Junior Church, Baptisms, and Messy Church one hopes that the Good News of Jesus will be shared and that it will one day take hold. Many of the families whom we see through these ministries definitely regard us as their Church. The challenge for us is to see if we can help fertilise and water the seed we have sown to help it grow. We must be doing something right as 2019 saw another bumper group of candidates come forward for Confirmation. 10 people confirmed their faith in Jesus before Bishop Norman (The Bishop of Richborough) who duly laid hands on them and prayed for them, 2 of whom were also baptised, and a further 2 people were received into the Church of England. Ages varied from 11 to 80 odd. It was an uplifting occasion and again helped re-

enforce the idea that our Church is *alive and kicking*, striving for and working towards the coming of God's Kingdom here on earth. I was particularly pleased that Bishop Norman came to our Parish on that occasion. He has an ongoing pastoral relationship with the congregation of St Francis' but this was the first time he had ministered at St John's. His warm and approachable manner was tangible and heart-warming and he will no doubt be invited to return again soon.

I mentioned just now our work through Tiny Tots, Junior Church, Baptisms, and Messy Church. I should like to put on record my sincere thanks to all the leaders, organisers, chaperones and caterers who enable these ventures to be so successful. Each grew numerically in 2019 although we had an unexplained fall in the number of baptism in the second half of the year. I should also like to add my thanks to our Junior Choir leaders, in particular Katherine Cox and Keith Beniston, for slowly and patiently transforming our young choir into a delightful group of expressive singers who obviously enjoy singing in church and bring such enjoyment to the congregation.

Music has always been a central part of the way we worship as a parish. Although our choir struggled numerically from time to time their voices never ceased to offer prayer and praise to God. Our monthly services of Choral Evensong were often worthy of being sung in the Cathedral and our ensemble enhanced Festival of Lessons and Carols, in the build-up to Christmas, has rejuvenated attendance figures to those not seen at that service in over a decade. My thanks again to Keith Beniston, our Director of Music for all he does in leading our choir and to many members of the choir for all they do behind the scenes.

Another great tradition of the Parish is that of fundraising. You have had a lot of practice in the last quarter of a century: the roof, the hall and west end development, the organ project. I think I am right in saying that over £1.2million has been raised. This is staggering. And it continues. In 2019 we raised a substantial amount of money towards a new boiler system at St John's, which was installed over the summer and made for a lovely and toasty church in the winter. Fundraising is one thing. Stewardship is another. In 2019 we had a Stewardship Campaign where we were each invited to re-examine our gift of Time, Talents, and Treasure. The result was remarkable with a more people coming forward to help with various tasks, using their skills, and increasing the amount they give financially in response to the bountiful offering God has made to all creation. It should be noted, however, that our financial stewardship, although extremely generous, does not cover the real cost of ministry within the life of the Parish. We are only able to balance the books by commercially renting our halls and by significant fundraising events. 2020 looks like it will need to be another year of inventive fundraising ideas in order to make-up the balance so once again I invite you to review your financial stewardship towards the ministry of the Church. As with all these things I am deeply grateful to have people around me who understand money and in particular Chris Angell and Jo Fisher, our treasurers, who manage our finances so prudently.

Over the last 6 years as your vicar I have been incredibly fortunate to work with some fabulous people. Our current Ministry Team of Ruth, Carole Lewis, Sheena Wilson, and myself is bursting with different yet complementary gifts and skills. Our Office is excellently managed by Hilary Kemp who has a knack of getting me to do things in the nick of time. Our various committees are full of people with vision, wisdom, and a desire to see the Church in our parish grow from strength to strength. Our Churchwardens and their deputies do a considerable amount behind the scenes and regularly pass on the benefit of their wisdom. Our servers (and especially Graham Gibbs) always ensure that our worship is offered to the highest possible standard with diligent attention to detail. Our Magazine is a great tool for communication and so ably edited by Sally-Anne Bates who has the patience of an angel as she awaits my articles each month! There are so many people I could thank by name and I

apologise for not doing so now. But over the year and into 2020 the Churchwardens and I have hosted “thank you” evenings to various folk involved in our common life. We are most grateful for all the time and talent you share with us and once again I say *thank you!* I should also like to thank my family for the love and support they give, and for their understanding and patience with me which enables me to be the priest I believe God is calling me to be here among you.

A parish with 3 centres of worship makes for a busy time. Naturally the Parish Church is where the majority of my focus is required but that should not demean the importance and significance of the congregations who worship and associate with St Stephen’s Church and St Francis’ Church. I am most grateful to the lay leaders of each Church who keep those communities going, connecting with people and sharing with me in the pastoral responsibility for God’s people there.

During 2019 some much loved members of our Church community died and were raised to glory. Among these were Marie-Anne Holmes-Walker, Yzabel Field, Diana Edwards, and David Stevens. May they all rest in the eternal peace of Christ. Other members of our community have faced significant health issues and/or have moved into residential or respite care.

You might be interested to note that the following number of Pastoral Offices were conducted:

| | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Baptisms: | 27 (3 adults) | 33 (4 adults) | 14 (0 adults) |
| Weddings: | 9 (0 Blessings) | 18 (1 Blessing) | 19 (0 Blessings) |
| Funerals: | 42 (18 at Crem) | 50 (22 at Crem) | 35 (13 at Crem) |
| Interment of Ashes: | 19 | 22 | 16 |

Last year I wrote in my report:

“It seems to me that a new spirit of optimism is present ushering in a culture of growth, change, and renewal. I am very excited as to where our journey together will lead and how we can live God’s love afresh in our community.”

I stand by those words and continue to be excited about where the Spirit is leading us as a people of God. 2020 will bring its own challenges and opportunities I’m sure. The test will be how well we stand-up to these challenges or embrace the opportunities. It has been a privilege to walk with you, and lead you, as your vicar this past year and I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us into the future. As we seek to live the joys of the resurrection each and every day may our lives be transformed by the God for whom all things are possible, and in whom we may have life –life in all its fullness.

In Christ,



The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar