



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Annual Parish Vestry Meeting
followed by
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 11th October 2020 at 10.30am
in the Church

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Agenda for 11 th October 2020..... | 3 |
| 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting, Sunday 28 th April 2019..... | 4 |
| 3. Minutes of The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 28 th April 2019 | 4 |
| 4. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council 2019 - 2020..... | 9 |
| 5. Financial Review to 31 st December 2019..... | 13 |
| 6. Electoral Roll Report..... | 23 |
| 7. Fabric Report..... | 23 |
| 8. Deanery Synod Report..... | 25 |
| 9. Reports from Groups and Activities..... | 27 |
| 9.1. Beacon Youth Trust Report – April 2019 - March 2020..... | 27 |
| 9.2. Bell Ringers | 28 |
| 9.3. Events Committee | 28 |
| 9.4. Flower Ministry..... | 28 |
| 9.5. Linton C E Infant School..... | 29 |
| 9.6. Church Links with Linton Heights Junior School..... | 31 |
| 9.7. Children and Families Ministry | 31 |
| 9.8. Together with God..... | 33 |
| 9.9. Space for the Spirit | 34 |
| 9.10. Mothers' Union..... | 34 |
| 9.11. Music Ministry | 34 |
| 9.12. The Friends of St Mary's | 35 |
| 9.13. The Monday Gang in the Churchyard | 36 |

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

1. AGENDA FOR 11TH OCTOBER 2020

Part A - Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Vestry Meeting held on 28th April 2019
3. Election of Churchwardens

Part B - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th April 2019
3. Matters Arising
4. Parochial Church Council Report 2019 - 2020
5. Financial Report followed by appointment of Independent Examiner
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Fabric Report
8. Deanery Synod Report
9. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
10. Election of PCC Members
11. Reports from Groups and Activities
12. Rector's Report
13. Questions from the floor
14. Closing Prayers

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH VESTRY MEETING, SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2019

The meeting, held in the Church, began at 11.15 with prayers. Thirty-eight parishioners were present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' Vestry Meeting of 19th April 2018 were accepted as a correct record.

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for Churchwarden: Helene Evans and David Watts. They were unanimously elected for another year. David was first appointed in 2017 and Helene in 2018.

It was noted that at the March 2017 PCC meeting, members had agreed that the normal term of office for a churchwarden at St Mary's should revert to being 3 years, with the option of extending to a maximum of 6 years if wished; and still to be elected annually in line with the guidelines in the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2019

Apologies

Rob Bricheno, Sarah Thorne.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 19th April 2018 were accepted as a true record and signed.

Matters arising

There were none.

The reports presented to the meeting are summarised below and can be found on the church website www.stmaryslinton.org.uk. Look under resources and APCM reports.

Parochial Church Council Report 2018 - 2019

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year. Regular agenda items included the progress of the seven objectives in the Mission Action Plan together with considering reports from the PCC committees and the Rector. The Finance & Stewardship committee aims to ensure that the church maintains a healthy financial position. The Fabric committee looks after the church buildings, the pavilion and aspects of the churchyard. The Events committee organises a range of social functions to enhance the family life of the church and wider community. All social events aim to break even and some generate a surplus which is donated to church funds. Reports are also received from St Mary's two representatives on the Deanery Synod.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

The Rector's report covers spiritual matters, changes to the pattern of regular services and details of the many special services which occur during the church year. Developing the ministry to children and families continues to be a focus. A summer holiday club for five mornings in August was well attended and drew on a number of volunteers (from three Linton churches) to help with activities and preparation of lunches.

A new website became live in autumn 2018 after some months of development and testing. A visual identity was created and the logo was designed to be appropriate for the website, notice boards and printed material with the aim of updating our image and enhancing communication within the church and the community.

Church ministry was enriched by the skills of Revd Dr Nicola Bown in her third year as curate. Her increasing experience enabled Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite to take two months study leave in the autumn. It was a disappointment to the parish when Nicola Bown was transferred to another placement in the Deanery six months earlier than expected.

An official opening of the Peace Garden was held and representatives of sponsoring groups were invited.

Financial Review – to 31st December 2018

Income from giving, fund raising activities and grants had increased from 2017. Expenditure had decreased. The main spending is from paying the Parish share and general running costs. The final accounts show that a small deficit was incurred, although this is reversed if the notional figure for depreciation of the pavilion is added back. The balance sheet value of the pavilion is now zero after ten years.

Sue Ellis, Treasurer, reported that 35 people had switched their regular giving to the Parish Giving Scheme although this was still less than half the number of regular contributors to St Mary's. Sue appealed for more people to consider changing from their current standing orders or the envelope system as it saves a lot of Sue's time and the gift aid refund is transferred to the church account each month which helps cash flow. Maggie Guite and Molly Warrington endorsed the benefits of the Parish Giving Scheme.

The accounts were proposed, seconded and accepted by the meeting and Sue Ellis was thanked for her considerable contribution and skill as Treasurer. Sue said that Andrew Cohen, who had acted as independent examiner for several years, was retiring and would no longer be available. The meeting agreed to delegate appointing a new person to the PCC.

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll is completely revised every 6 years and this was carried out in February and March 2018. There had been 147 names on the Roll. The current number was shown as 117 in the report but another seven applications had since been received taking the new total to 124. All those on the previous roll had been contacted and given the opportunity to complete a new form.

Fabric Report

A number of projects were being investigated and solutions developed; some arising from ideas to optimise the use of the church in the future. It is difficult to improve one aspect in isolation without impinging on other areas. The proposal to replace the notice board in the

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

churchyard had received consent from the District Council and the board was currently under construction. Storage within the church was a continuing issue. It is hoped to construct an oak screen at the western end of the north aisle to contain the new stacking chairs. A larger secure shed would be desirable outside but there may be issues with planning permission in a conservation area. In the meantime, the older orange stacking chairs need to be stored somewhere and brought out for certain events. Dr Petter responded to an appeal at the meeting and kindly offered to store them. David Watts was investigating installing Wi-Fi for the church which would be beneficial in a number of ways. Maggie Guite commented that there was currently a lot of work to do and she thanked the Fabric Committee and others involved.

Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Gore and David Parry-Smith represent Linton on the Deanery Synod. The term of office runs from 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2020 and there are three meetings per year. In addition to the ongoing discussions of finance and other deanery matters including vacancies, there were presentations about the General Synod, workshops entitled 'Confident in Sharing our Faith, opportunities for spiritual development and mental health first aid. The meetings begin with the presentations which are open to everyone and the business part follows. Linton Team is well represented on the Deanery Synod. In addition to the clergy members, Andrew Gore is also Lay-Chair, Anne Parry-Smith is secretary and Michael Younger took up the post of treasurer in July 2017. Andrew Gore commented that the Deanery Synod aims to be more relevant to the member churches than perhaps was the case previously. Simon Talbott from Great Shelford is the Rural Dean and chairs the meetings well. There are separate Deanery Chapter meetings for the clergy.

Safeguarding Report

Sue Filby had been the parish safeguarding officer for more than 5 years and was now standing down. She had extended her time to cover Maggie's sabbatical and also the transition to Cathy Watts who has taken on the role. The profile of safeguarding and safer working practice has continued to be developed by policy amendments, prayer during services and a parish training event, demonstrating that the PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding. There will in future be a regular item on the agenda for PCC meetings. Sue has continued to undertake Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for volunteers within St Mary's. In the past year, Sue has completed 8 checks for St Mary's volunteers and 3 for The Beacon Trust. Lawrence Powell proposed a vote of thanks to Sue for her commitment.

Election of Parochial Church Council members 2019

Continuing members on the PCC were confirmed as:

Elected in 2017: Mrs S Ellis, Mrs C Lockstone, Mrs S Mudge

Elected in 2018: Mr R Tonry, two places remained vacant.

Churchwardens (ex-officio): Mr D Watts, Mrs H Evans.

Mrs Gill Fraser Lee, Dr Chris Morse, Mr John Organ, Mrs Linda Richardson and Miss Rebecca Richardson (all elected in 2016) stood down, having completed their three year term of office. Mr J Thorne (elected in 2017) also resigned. Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite thanked those people for their service.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

The electoral roll number allows for up to 12 elected members. There had been two spare places throughout the year and no co-opted members. Five nominations had been received for eight possible places. Mrs Jacqui Burge, Miss Charlotte Ellis, Mrs Judy Nightingale, Mrs Gill Powell and Mrs Linda Read were duly elected. There was one further nomination from the meeting - and Mrs Jo George was elected. The Church Representation Rules state that the PCC may co-opt up to two members during the year. It is also possible to retain retiring members for one year only if no others are available and if agreed at the annual meeting. This option was voted upon and agreed with one person voting against. Mr John Organ and Dr Chris Morse were willing to continue and elected for one year on this basis, with appropriate proposers and seconders.

Appointment of Sideswomen and Sidesmen for 2019 - 2020

The names of those already appointed were read out.

At 8 am: Margaret Cox, Kate France, Michael Holden, Derek Moss, Judy Nightingale, Keith Nightingale, Linda Richardson, Judith Tonry, Richard Tonry.

At 10 am: Hilary Angetter, Tricia Lewis, Colleen Lockstone, Sally Mitchell, Di Morse, Linda Read, Rosemary Read, Catherine Richardson, Rebecca Richardson, Tim Richardson.

It was noted that, sadly, Richard Read had died during the year.

Andrew Cornell-Webb, Charlotte Hayes and Graham Locke had offered to join the list for the 10 am service. These people were proposed and agreed by the meeting.

Reports from Committees and Organisations 2018 -2019

Brief reports were included in the 2019 APCM booklet in paper form and on the website. In addition photos of activities were submitted and presented as a slide show on the screen in church during the meeting. They were received from the following groups.

Beacon Youth Trust; Bell ringers; Events committee; Linton C E Infant School; Church links with the Infant and Junior Schools; Children and Families activities including Baby Steps, Tots in Tow, Messy Church; Together with God and Space for the Spirit services; Mothers' Union; Music Ministry; The Friends of St. Mary's; The Monday Gang.

Additional comments were made and some questions taken from those present at the meeting. Lian Watkin requested that the flower ministry might be included in future reports.

Michael Younger commended those from St Mary's who are involved with the Beacon Youth Trust; Maggie Guite, Hannah Foote, Hugh Paton as Trustees and Hugh is also Treasurer and also the volunteers who help with activities. David Watts joined as a Trustee initially during Maggie's study leave and continues in the role.

Maggie Guite thanked everyone who contributes in so many ways by using their time, skills and talents for the benefit of the church activities and groups.

Rector's report 2019

Maggie Guite began by highlighting the themes of hospitality and welcome through the year; helped by the successful Scarecrow Festival, concerts and other entertainment from the Events Committee, all supported by excellent refreshments.

Maggie was disappointed to lose Nicola Bown, curate, to another parish earlier than expected but delighted that many of Nicola's ideas have continued to be developed by other St Mary's members e.g. extending ministry to children and families, encouraging young people to play

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

an active part in the all-age Eucharist on 2nd Sundays and the 'Together with God' service on 4th Sundays. The monthly Wild Church sessions have ceased. A youth group for young people age 9+ has started, initially with help from the Deanery youth worker. The Beacon Youth Trust worker, Lee Nash, moved to another job in autumn 2018. His role was covered temporarily by a number of people, and a relationship with Romsey Mill was initiated, which should give a better base for future youth work.

A book called 'Sharing Faith the Jesus Way' was studied by four groups during Lent to encourage people to be more open about their faith. One group met at Nichols Court, led by Sue Filby. Attendance at the communion services there is increasing and services are also appreciated at Symonds House. 'Space for the Spirit' continues as a monthly reflective lay-led service. Maggie named and thanked various people who contribute to aspects of ministry and worship, including the music ministry. Some people are visible in services and others have equally important background roles; all helping to fulfil the vision for St Mary's in the community.

Projects are continuing from ideas in the Mission Action Plan; although making physical changes to the church fabric is not straight forward. Most aspects require funding, as well as a considerable time commitment from people. Maggie thanked those who had worked on the new church website over a number of months and also those who had created the new visual identity and logo for church materials and the notice board.

Maggie concluded by announcing that Mel Symonds, the administrator, had resigned and the job was about to be advertised. Maggie paid tribute to Mel's calm, reliable and efficient manner.

Maggie invited comments and questions from those present.

Michael Younger commented that the lights were on most of the time when the church was in use and suggested that they need not be on in the daytime, which would help move towards a Greener Church.

Pam Richardson announced that Michael Wilcockson's priesting was scheduled for Saturday 22nd June in Eton College Chapel and she planned to organise a coach or cars for people wishing to go to support Michael.

Cathy Watts reminded people that the monthly church prayer meeting would be next Saturday followed by breakfast. Cathy also appealed for people willing to make bunting at home, ready for the Scarecrow festival.

Molly Warrington thanked Maggie, on behalf of all church members, for her commitment and continued effort to lead us forward.

Maggie responded by saying that there were so many different groups and activities and we must keep prayer at the heart of everything which we do.

The meeting ended with prayer at 1.45.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2019 - 2020

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Lane, Linton. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 4 Bakers Lane, Linton, Cambridge, CB21 4NF. The registered charity number is 1138508.

It should be noted that the APCM for 2020 was unable to be held in the spring due to the national lockdown imposed to halt the spread of COVID-19. The Bishop signed an instrument to extend the time period for Annual Meetings and to allow them to take place any time before 31st October 2020. The terms of office for Churchwardens, PCC and Deanery Synod members were extended accordingly until elections could be held. The content of this report however, covers the year from April 2019 until March 2020.

PCC members who have served from the APCM 2019 until this report was approved are:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Incumbent</i> | The Revd Canon Dr Maggie Guite The Revd Michael Wilcockson from July 2019 | |
| <i>Churchwardens</i> | Mrs Helene Evans Mr David Watts | |
| <i>Representatives to the Deanery Synod</i> | Mr Andrew Gore Dr David Parry-Smith | from 1.06.17 - 31.05.20 and extended from 1.06.17 - 31.05.20 and extended |
| <i>Elected members</i> | Mrs Jacqui Burge Miss Charlotte Ellis Mrs Sue Ellis Mrs Jo George Mrs Colleen Lockstone Dr Chris Morse Mrs Sue Mudge Mrs Judy Nightingale Mr John Organ Mrs Gill Powell Mrs Linda Read Mr Richard Tonry | from APCM 2019 from APCM 2019 from APCM 2017 - Treasurer from APCM 2019 from APCM 2017 from APCM 2019 for 1 year only from APCM 2017 - Secretary from APCM 2019 from APCM 2019 for 1 year only from APCM 2019 from APCM 2019 from APCM 2018 |

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules, updated in 2020. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary the Virgin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and for the Pavilion adjacent to the church.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Numerical performance in 2019

Attendances at each service are recorded and annual returns made to the Diocese of Ely. The average Sunday attendance, counted during October 2019, was 75 adults and 8 children - an almost identical number of adults but fewer children than in 2018. At Easter 2019, 143 people attended a service on Easter Day or the Easter eve vigil (was 197 in 2018). The number attending a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day was 372 (245 in 2018) and the carol service attracted 241 people. Attendance at Easter services decreased whereas numbers attending Christmas services increased, which was the opposite of what was recorded in 2018. It may be affected by factors outside our control such as whether families choose to spend major festivals at home or elsewhere.

As in previous years, attendance at weekday services was dominated by the service held weekly in term time for the church infant school, with an average of 48 adults and 170 children present. The Thursday service of Holy Communion, together with regular services held in Symonds House and Nichols Court, continued to draw faithful congregations.

Review of the year: April 2019 to March 2020

The PCC had six scheduled meetings during the year. The following text gives some idea of the various topics discussed but is not an exhaustive list of everything on the PCC agendas.

The **Mission Action Plan** was adopted at the 2017 annual meeting. There are seven objectives in the MAP which are:

- To train people in discernment of skills, gifts and ministry
- To de-clutter the church building and improve the music area
- To facilitate spiritual growth
- To raise the profile of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation
- To improve Communication (within congregations and across wider community)
- To develop ministries with children, young people and families
- To enhance hospitality

Progress on these objectives was reviewed in May 2019. Many of the discussions at each PCC meeting and ensuing actions relate to the MAP objectives. Improvements within the church building has been a particular focus during the year and became more complex following Geoffrey Hunter's visit in May 2019. Geoffrey, from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, recommended that we should consider the long term vision for using the church building and thus work in a cohesive way, rather than making immediate changes which may later impact adversely on another project. Music desks were designed and made for the choir area in the north aisle. Poor lighting is still an issue. Designing a complete lighting scheme is complex and more expensive than expected. The organ is in need of some refurbishment and its position is under consideration. See the fabric report in section 7.

After reviewing the trial period, agreement was given to continuing the revised pattern of **Sunday 10am services**. The services are advertised on the website and pewsheet. There is an all-age Communion service on 2nd Sundays which follows the normal liturgical pattern but allows young people to play a larger role and have more involvement. The Music Group leads the singing on 4th Sundays at the 'Together with God' service. This is a non-Communion service with extra activities linked to the readings and theme. It is a thoughtfully planned service with messages relevant to both young and not so young people and usually led by Nicola Collard and Cathy Watts. The other Sundays remain unchanged, with a Communion service and music led by the robed choir. Messy Church on 3rd Sunday afternoons continues to have a strong place in the ministry for children and families. A youth group meets on 1st

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Sundays for young people age 9 - 13 led by Maggie Guite and Michael Wilcockson, with some input from Lizzie Bottrill, the new Beacon Youth Trust worker. The 8am spoken Communion service remains unchanged and continues to serve a significant sector of the church family. The monthly contemplative 'Space for the Spirit' service is held in the evening of the last Tuesday of the month. *Note - the national lockdown from March 2020 inevitably changed the delivery of these services.*

Most of the regular responsibilities of the PCC are dealt with by sub-committees. Terms of reference are reviewed annually following the APCM and each PCC member agrees to be on various committees. Reports are presented at PCC meetings to inform other members; proposals are discussed and voted upon where appropriate. Committees also include other members of the congregation who offer their expertise and time.

The **Finance and Stewardship** committee prepares the budget which is submitted for PCC approval in November and monitors income and expenditure throughout the year - the financial year runs from January - December. We are grateful to Sue Ellis, Treasurer, for her work in keeping the accounts up to date and providing the appropriate information to the PCC. Maintaining regular giving from congregation members is a particular concern as the role of stewardship officer is still unfilled. Inevitably, loyal supporters move away or die and newer members may not appreciate the amount of regular expenditure which is beyond our control. In an attempt to address this, a Giving Sunday was held in March and David Watts gave a presentation to ask people to consider and review their level of giving. See section 5 for the financial review.

Every PCC meeting includes a report from **Cathy Watts, Safeguarding Officer**. All PCC members are required to be DBS checked and have taken online training. The PCC upholds the House of Bishops' policies of 'Promoting a Safer Church' and 'Protecting all God's Children'. There is safeguarding information on the home page of the website and also displayed in church.

Maggie Guite gives news about worship and spiritual matters in her **Rector's report**. The Ministry Team has developed more formal arrangements and devised terms of reference. The team consists of Rector and Clergy for the parish, Authorised and Licenced Lay Ministers in the parish and those in training, Verger, a Churchwarden and others who have significant 'outward-facing' ministry as discerned by the Rector. David Parry-Smith has joined the team for music ministry. Judy Nightingale has replaced Lesley Gore for Pastoral Ministry. Michael Wilcockson has been invited as curate. Notes from the meetings are circulated to PCC members. Weekday Advent Promise services were entirely lay-led and showed a variety of liturgical and prayerful gifts. A similar Passiontide Promise was offered online in the weeks before Easter.

Sarah Thorne continues to be an inspirational leader of the **Children and Families** group while also studying and training through Ridley Hall to become a Licenced Lay Minister for C&F work. A summer activity club was run for children and accompanying adults on three Wednesday mornings in August in the Infant School. The sessions ended with lunch prepared by the kitchen team. Messy Church continues once a month and Tots in Tow meets weekly in term time in the Village Hall. Maggie Guite, Cathy Watts and Sarah are regularly to be found at Tots sessions, providing time for conversations with parents and grandparents who bring their children to enjoy the activities. Sarah ran another five-week course of Baby Steps in the

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

autumn, followed by a new fortnightly initiative called Rooted, with the aim of maintaining and developing contact with parents and carers in a more spiritual way. All these activities are well prepared, underpinned with prayer and rely on volunteer helpers to talk to the participants, provide and serve food for the important hospitality element.

The PCC agreed at the March meeting to consider ways in which the Children & Families work could be developed further and to explore funding for a part-time C&F worker for St Mary's. There may be grants available but a proportion of funds would be required from the congregation to make it a viable and ongoing option. Sarah Thorne's course work has shown that there are areas of need and vulnerability within Linton. See section 9.7

Nicola Collard, **Chair of Governors at Linton C. E. Infant School**, submits a report to each PCC meeting to inform members of school events and progress. Nicola was reappointed for a further term of office in October 2019 and is the Rector's Representative Governor. There were two unexpected foundation governor vacancies in November 2019. Jacqui Burge and Hilary Angetter were nominated for these positions and approved by the Diocesan Board of Education. The other five foundation governors are Sue Filby, Hannah Foote, Moire Jarritt, Cathy Watts and Michael Younger. The PCC is very grateful to these people for their contribution to the governance and upholding the Christian ethos of our church school. See also section 9.5.

The PCC is grateful to the **Events committee** whose members enthusiastically offer a variety of social functions, often involving excellent food and drink. The scarecrow festival included an art exhibition, music, stalls and also a new experience with the Sunday morning service held outdoors on Camping Close. Members of the village enjoyed tea and cakes in the Village Hall following the usual service of remembrance in November. Thanks are due to Pam Richardson who has chaired the committee since it was formed. See section 9.3.

Thanks also go to the **Friends of St Mary's** who promote social events with the aim of raising funds to support the upkeep of the church building and the seemingly never-ending list of repairs and improvements. See section 9.12 for more details.

Two notable anniversaries were celebrated at the end of September: Alan Clarkson marked 60 years of becoming a priest and Maggie Guite celebrated 40 years since being ordained a deacon. Michael Wilcockson was ordained in June 2019 and was living in Linton full-time from July. Maggie was very pleased to welcome Michael as a part-time curate and he continues to play an increasingly important role in the life and worship at St Mary's.

Growing an active church depends on all of us in the church family being willing and able to give time, skills and financial support. The churchwardens and PCC members are all volunteers with many other demands on their time. Church does not just happen – everyone can contribute in some way! There is scope for further growth and mission if more people are able to support and help in practical ways; by prayer, by offering hospitality and much more.

In mid-March the PCC briefly considered possible COVID-19 concerns and restrictions. We now know, with hindsight, just how much worship and all of church life has been affected – but that will be covered by next year's report.

Sue Mudge, PCC Secretary

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mary's, Linton

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2019, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, SORP 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements – to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and – to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



KATE SARGEANT
16th March 2020
KateSarg

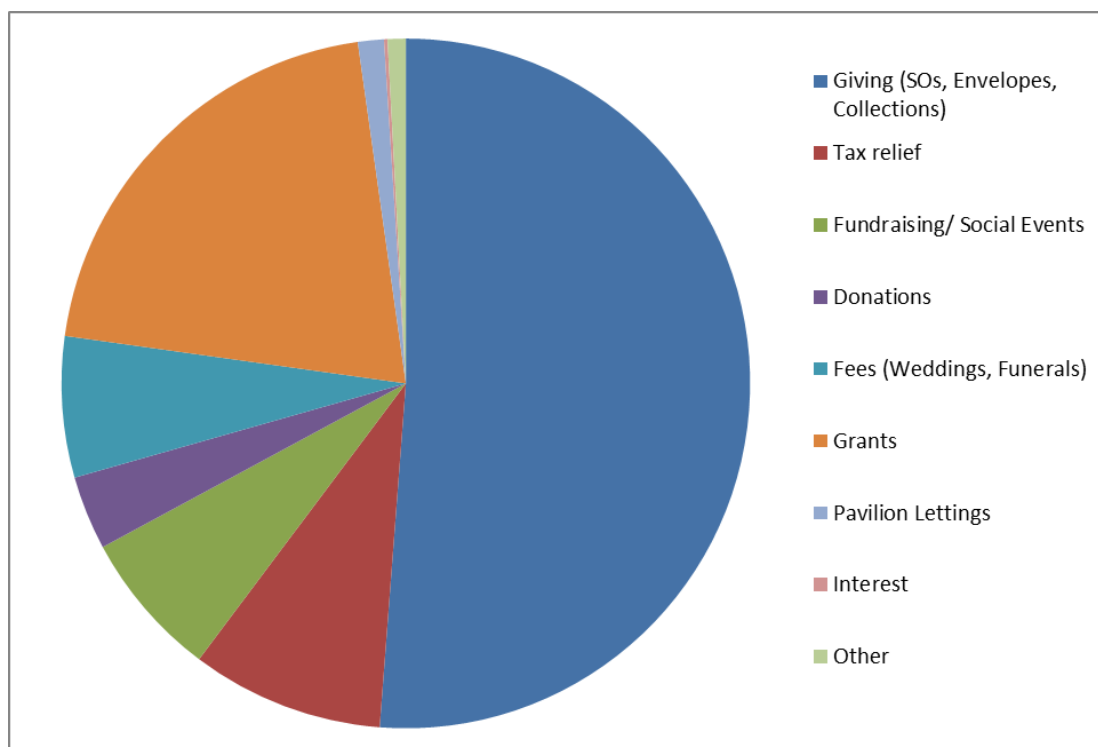
St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Where does the money come from?

In 2019 St Mary's received a total of £114,254.76 in income, an increase of £5,570.00 (5%) when compared with 2018; however of this total, £23,499.00 came from grants from the Friends of St Mary's, the Anderson Trust, and the Parish Council and the PCC would like to express its gratitude to these organisations for their ongoing support.

The chart below shows the main sources of income and highlights the church's crucial dependence on regular giving, and the vital importance of members of the congregation completing gift aid forms wherever possible. Unfortunately during 2019 our regular giving dropped due to changes in circumstances, from those who have died or moved away and without a Stewardship officer there has not been any proactivity to increase our planned giving.

Income: £114,254.76



NOTES on Income

- Although the figure for fees appears high, only a proportion of income from each wedding and funeral is retained by the PCC; the rest is sent to the Diocese.

Where does the money go?

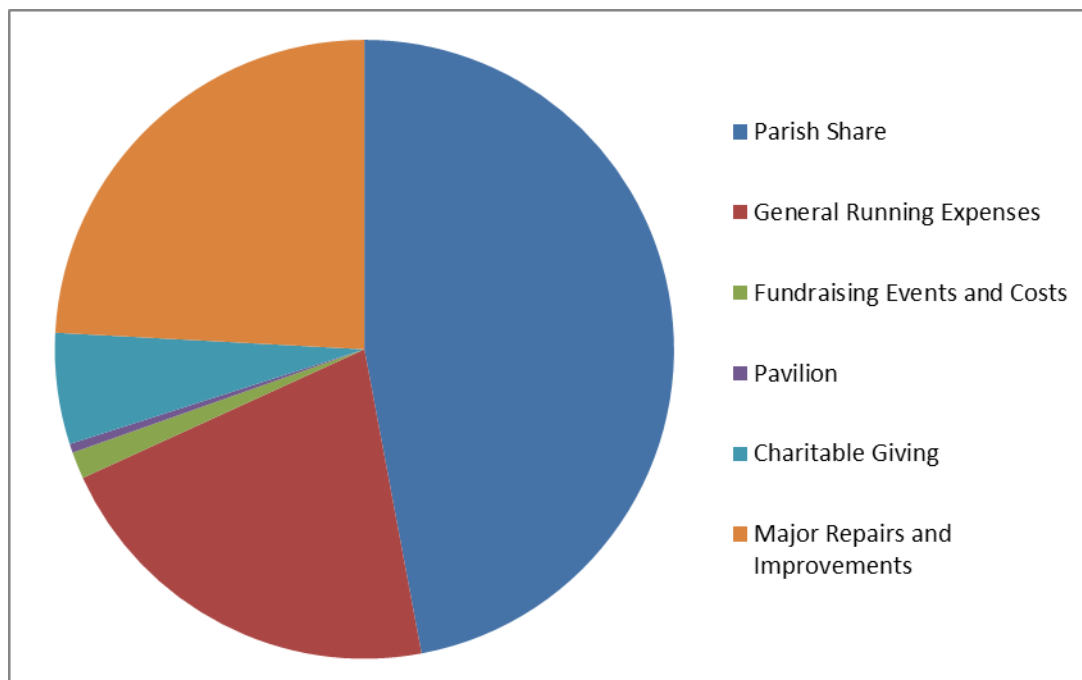
Total expenditure during the year was £134,681.05

As the chart below shows, the most significant part of expenditure goes on the Parish Share, which at £66,362.69 accounts for 62% of regular outgoings. As in previous years, the PCC (in line with virtually all other parishes in the Deanery) is committed to paying the Share in full, principally because otherwise the Diocese would not provide us with a full-time Team Rector and House for Duty Team Vicar. The amount requested by the Diocese continues to increase not only in line with inflation but also by requiring benefices to meet the full cost of their clergy as well as some of the diocesan costs and mission costs. During 2019, repairs under the Quinquennial Inspection have been carried out and we have also purchased new choir stalls and a notice board. Much of this work has been paid for by grants from the

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Friends of St Mary's and a grant from the Parish Council towards the notice board. Some further funds from the Friends were received in early January 2020 so are not shown in these accounts.

Expenditure: £134,681.05



In budgeting beyond the Ministry Share, the PCC continues to prioritise expenditure on:

- providing a welcoming and well-maintained space for services;
- supporting the valuable work undertaken with Linton's young people, through the Beacon Youth Trust;
- providing administrative support, to free up time for the incumbent to spend on pastoral activities;
- maintaining the Pavilion as both a meeting space and an asset;
- as a reflection of God's generous giving to us, giving back a proportion of income to those in need;
- developing initiatives related to the Mission Action Plan.

Summary

The final accounts for 2019 show a £27,629.39 deficit was incurred. This can be reduced by a tax refund of £1,816.59 and a grant of £4,103.29 both received in January and also by £7,203.10 which represents the depreciation of the Pavilion. This brings the deficit down to £14,506.41. Day to day running expenses of the Church continue to be kept to a minimum, however we do have a significant Parish share to pay and there is a responsibility to keep the Church in good repair.

Reserves Policy

In 2019, the PCC maintained a reserves policy; continuing to retain a sum of £22,500 for urgent repairs and as contingency cover. These reserves are currently held in the sterling bond fund. The designated Fabric Fund has been transferred to the General Fund as The Friends of St Mary's provide most of the funds for maintaining the fabric of the Church.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Financial Statements

The financial statements which follow comprise:

- A statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year, showing all resources made available to the PCC and all expenditure incurred by it, and reconciling changes to funds.
- A return of Parish Finance which shows the same information but gives a breakdown of income and expenditure.
- A Balance Sheet showing assets, liabilities and funds.

Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (2005) and applicable standards. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Linton, Diocese of Ely, charity registration number 1138508.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

St Mary's Linton Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Prior year total funds |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Incoming resources</i> | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 95,144 | 1,152 | — | 96,296 | 84,442 |
| Activities for generating funds | 7,854 | 6 | — | 7,860 | 13,423 |
| Investment income | 180 | 6 | — | 187 | 118 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 8,777 | 164 | — | 8,941 | 10,700 |
| Other incoming resources | — | 968 | — | 968 | — |
| Total incoming resources | 111,956 | 2,298 | — | 114,254 | 108,683 |
| <i>Resources used</i> | | | | | |
| Cost of generating funds | 1,296 | — | — | 1,296 | 1,153 |
| Cost of generating voluntary income | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs | 577 | 10 | — | 587 | 1,451 |
| Charitable activities | 139,539 | 460 | — | 140,000 | 106,536 |
| Governance costs | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total resources used | 141,413 | 470 | — | 141,884 | 109,141 |
| Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer | (29,456) | 1,827 | — | (27,629) | (457) |
| <i>Transfers</i> | | | | | |
| Gross transfers between funds - in | 3,566 | 876 | — | 4,442 | — |
| Gross transfers between funds - out | (183) | (4,259) | — | (4,442) | — |
| Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses | (26,073) | (1,555) | — | (27,629) | (457) |
| <i>Other recognised gains / losses</i> | | | | | |
| Gains / losses on investment assets | 3,792 | — | — | 3,792 | (911) |
| Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use | — | — | — | — | — |
| Net movement in funds | (22,281) | (1,555) | — | (23,837) | (1,369) |
| <i>Reconciliation of funds</i> | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | 100,489 | 5,169 | — | 105,658 | 107,028 |
| Total funds carried forward | 78,207 | 3,613 | — | 81,821 | 105,658 |

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

| Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2019 | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Incoming Resources | | |
| Voluntary Income | | |
| Tax efficient planned giving | | |
| Gift Aid - Bank | 42,407.64 | 45,513.60 |
| Gift Aid - Envelopes | 5,480.80 | 5,968.10 |
| Total tax efficient planned giving | 47,888.44 | 51,481.70 |
| Other planned giving | 2,854.00 | 2,458.50 |
| Loose plate collections | 7,769.67 | 5,555.12 |
| Regular Gift Days | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Giving through church boxes | 485.23 | 441.88 |
| One off Gift Aid gifts | 2,057.91 | 2,879.02 |
| Donations, appeals, etc (note 1) | 415.00 | 1,283.93 |
| Tax recovered through Gift Aid (note 2) | 10,327.23 | 16,574.86 |
| Legacies | 1,000.00 | - |
| Non-recurring one off grants (note 3) | 23,499.22 | 3,767.20 |
| Total for voluntary income | 96,296.70 | 84,442.21 |
| Activities for Generating Funds | | |
| Other funds generated (note 4) | 1,310.17 | 3,372.62 |
| Summer Event | 4,509.02 | 5,778.03 |
| Christmas Event | 650.03 | 1,112.01 |
| Social Events (note 5) | 1,391.65 | 3,160.36 |
| Total for Activities for Generating Funds | 7,860.87 | 13,423.02 |
| Bank and building society interest | 187.28 | 118.47 |
| Church Activities | | |
| Fees for weddings and funerals | 7,549.00 | 9,266.00 |
| Pavilion lettings | 1,392.25 | 1,434.00 |
| Total for Church Activities | 8,941.25 | 10,700.00 |
| Other Incoming Resources | | |
| Choir funds | 968.66 | - |
| Total for Incoming Resources | 114,254.76 | 108,683.70 |

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

| Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2019 | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Resources Expended | | |
| Costs of Generating Funds | | |
| Summer Event Costs | 1,296.36 | 679.29 |
| Christmas Event Costs | 0.00 | 474.05 |
| Costs of Social Events (note 6) | 587.45 | 1,451.70 |
| Total for costs of Generating Funds | 1,883.81 | 2,605.04 |
| All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations (note 7) | | |
| Giving to missionary societies | 1,190.00 | 776.22 |
| Secular Charities | 1,675.45 | 1,383.55 |
| Home mission | 4,958.25 | 5,758.05 |
| Total for All Mission Giving etc | 7,823.70 | 7,917.82 |
| Church Activities | | |
| Parish Share | 63,362.69 | 60,292.26 |
| Salaries (note 8) | 6,790.96 | 6,995.96 |
| Expenses (clergy, pastoral staff, etc) | | |
| Working expenses of Incumbent | 480.00 | 820.01 |
| Rector's telephone | 123.60 | 224.40 |
| Education | 1,475.25 | 1,358.01 |
| Total for Expenses | 2,078.85 | 2,402.42 |
| Parish Training and mission | 117.59 | 98.12 |
| Regular Church running expenses (insurance, cleaning, admin) | | |
| Church running - insurance | 3,674.65 | 3,573.11 |
| Organ / piano tuning | 235.00 | 241.20 |
| Church maintenance | 3,770.47 | 4,245.25 |
| Upkeep of services (note 9) | 6,442.88 | 6,390.59 |
| Upkeep of churchyard (note 10) | 128.20 | 108.90 |
| Administration | 2,701.23 | 1,910.47 |
| Flowers (note 11) | 132.08 | 67.62 |
| Total for Regular Church running expenses | 17,084.51 | 16,537.14 |

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

| Return of Parish Finance for year ending 31 December 2019 | 2019 | 2018 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Church utility bills (gas, electricity, water) | | |
| Church running - electric | 534.35 | 760.90 |
| Church running - gas | 1,829.67 | 2,737.90 |
| Church running - water | 26.58 | 26.05 |
| Total for Church utility bills | 2,390.60 | 3,524.85 |
| Costs of trading Pavilion | | |
| Pavilion running - electricity | 550.39 | 484.63 |
| Pavilion running - maintenance | 53.99 | 541.88 |
| Pavilion running - water | 28.26 | 37.90 |
| Total for Costs of trading | 632.64 | 1,064.41 |
| Total for Church Activities | 92,457.84 | 90,915.16 |
| Total for Resources Expended | 102,165.35 | 101,438.02 |
| Major Capital Expenditure | 2019 | 2018 |
| Church major repairs | 32,515.70 | 0.00 |
| Pavilion Depreciation | 7,203.10 | 7,703.10 |
| Total for Major Capital Expenditure | 39,718.80 | 7,703.10 |
| Total Expenditure | 141,884.15 | 109,141.12 |
| Total Income | 114,254.76 | 108,578.70 |
| Resources Expended | 134,681.05 | 101,438.02 |
| Depreciation | 7,203.10 | 7,703.10 |
| Total Expenditure | 141,884.15 | 109,141.12 |
| Balance | -27,629.39 | -457.42 |

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Balance sheet (Summary) As of: 31 December 2019

| | 2019 £ | 2018 £ |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | |
| Pavilion (note 12) | 500 | 7,703 |
| Investments (note 13) | 49,656 | 45,864 |
| | <u>50,156</u> | <u>53,567</u> |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 31,665 | 52,091 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year | 0 | 0 |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | <u>31,665</u> | <u>52,091</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | <u>81,821</u> | <u>105,658</u> |
| Total net assets less liabilities | <u>81,821</u> | <u>105,658</u> |
| Represented by | | |
| Unrestricted | | |
| Unrestricted - General fund | 44,485 | 59,563 |
| Designated | | |
| Designated - Contingency | 22,500 | 22,500 |
| Designated - Mission Action Plan | 10,722 | 10,722 |
| Designated - Pavilion (note 12) | 500 | 7,703 |
| Restricted | | |
| Restricted - Anderson Trust | 628 | 253 |
| Restricted - Bells | 1,411 | 1,406 |
| Restricted - Churchyard (note 14) | (41) | 66 |
| Restricted - Music (note 15) | 1,615 | 561 |
| Restricted - Sound System | 0 | 2,881 |
| Funds of the church | <u>81,821</u> | <u>105,658</u> |

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Notes to Financial Statements

Return of Parish Finance

1. Donations include £390 specifically for Christian Aid and £20 from the Guild of Vergers.
2. There is still £1800 tax awaited from the diocese in respect of a claim submitted in October 2019 (received January 2020).
3. Grants received this year are £1,100 from the Anderson Trust, £500 from the Parish Council towards the new notice board, £21,899.22 from the Friends of St Mary's who financed the new choir stalls and works identified by the Quinquennial Inspection that we have undertaken.
4. The income from other funds generated includes £57.48 from 'Give as you Live', £148 from the mini market, £45.82 from the Fair Trade Stall, £253 from Sale of Calendars and £93.00 from Ride and Stride.
5. Social events include refreshments after services as well events organized by the Events Committee such as New Year's Eve, Jancis Harvey Evening, and Great Yarmouth trip.
6. This largely relates to the cost of hiring the Coach to Great Yarmouth and the cost of the Village Hall for Remembrance Sunday afternoon refreshments.
7. Charitable giving this year includes £390 to Christian Aid from the Lent Appeal, £668.81 from the 2018 Carol service to Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, £376.83 from the Remembrance Service to the Royal British Legion, £500 to USPG, £500 to Haverhill Foodbank, £300 to Youthinc and £86.81 from the Christingle service Collection. In Addition £4,958.25 has been given to support the work of the Beacon Youth Trust.
8. Salaries relates to payments made to our organists and parish administrator.
9. Upkeep of services includes fees paid to Ely and Non Stipendiary priests for taking weddings and funerals. In 2019 this was £3,960.67. This means the cost of running our services in Church is £2,432.21 (2018: £2,288.24).
10. Upkeep of Churchyard is from money held for the Monday Gang.
11. Once again, the cost of the flowers has also been covered by separate collections at the end of some services and the generosity of the flower arrangers.

Balance Sheet

12. Pavilion at cost £77,031. This has been depreciated over the last 10 years and is now being shown at a nominal £500.
13. Investments £49,656 is the value of the Sterling Bond Fund held at Barclays. Over the past year this has shown a growth of 9%.
14. The Churchyard fund shows a negative figure as more has been spent on the Churchyard than the remaining funds held.
15. The Music restrictive fund has increased due to the closure of a dormant account held by the choir.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

6. ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors. It is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parochial Church Council and for representation on the Deanery Synod. Your membership therefore has an influence on the work of your church and helps make our voice heard at Deanery and Diocesan level.

The Roll has to be completely revised every 6 years and this was done in early 2019. The number on the Roll was 117 in March 2019. More names were added during the year, giving 129 in March 2020. Five people have died over the last eighteen months and one name has been added giving a new total of 125 in September 2020.

Jo George has recently become the Electoral Roll Officer and the PCC wishes to thank Pam Richardson who had performed this necessary role for St Mary's.

It should also be noted that support for St Mary's cannot be solely based on the people included on the Electoral Roll. There are some who regularly attend services and other events at St Mary's who do not wish to be included on the Roll. Further, there are many people in the parish who consider St Mary's to be 'their church' but may not regularly attend and who are also not on the Roll. However, it is seen by the Diocese as a measure of the 'health' of the Parish when considering whether the Parish warrants a curate or another clergy member.

You can be added to the Electoral Roll if you have been baptised and are over 16 and either: 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for 6 months' or 'are a member in of good standing at another church and have attended St Mary's for 6 months'. If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please feel free to contact me: jogeorg68@aol.com

Jo George, Electoral Roll Officer

7. FABRIC REPORT

The Fabric Committee met formally on three occasions during the year to March 2020. It has not met formally since the start of the lockdown. Members of the Committee have also met members of the committee of the Friends of St Mary's and Godel Trust trustees.

Works to the fabric of the church

The last Quinquennial repairs were carried out during 2019, primarily routine repairs to stonework, replacement of worn external guards to stained glass windows and renewal of the drainage from the south side of the roof: the south aisle floor appeared drier last winter following the works.

Specialist trial conservation repairs to worn pammments were carried out. Following this, the PCC decided that replacement of worn pammments was a more cost effective approach.

A letterbox was installed in the north porch. The north and south porch doors were redecorated.

Fixed installations and services

The heating system maintenance contract has been continued with Kershaw, whose performance has improved. The boilers were serviced in late summer 2019 and 2020.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

A minor misfiring issue with one of the boilers was resolved satisfactorily in 2019 and the heating system generally worked well over the last winter. During the 2020 service a need to replace some components in the medium term at a modest cost was identified.

Most of the steps needed to provide Wi-Fi to the church, which would allow the heating to be set remotely and enhance our ability to cater for social events, have been taken but attempts to arrange a visit by the potential service provider have proved elusive during the pandemic.

Following tenders from two companies, a proposal from E-Bound AVX Ltd to install a replacement roof security system fully compliant with our insurers' current standards was accepted and installed in 2019. To date it appears to be working satisfactorily.

The contract for the fire security installations has been maintained.

Church furnishings

Some worn out plastic chairs were disposed of. New stacking chairs were acquired. New music stands for the singers were acquired and seem to be generally satisfactory. No other articles or goods have been permanently removed from the church or acquired since the last APCM.

A survey of users confirmed a preference for forward facing chairs in the Resurrection Chapel.

The pavilion

The external redecoration of the pavilion was not carried out but it is hoped to do so during 2021.

There have been further instances of damage to the wooden structures in the Peace Garden. Visits were paid to the area by the local police after reports of anti-social behaviour. We are grateful to Glynis Younger and her group of volunteers for maintaining the area in difficult circumstances.

The churchyard

The fabric and vegetation of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish Council. A new noticeboard was installed. Following representations from two residents it was agreed to set the board back when the churchyard paths are resurfaced. Those works, funded by the Parish Council, have been delayed for reasons outside the PCC's control but should be carried out soon.

We are grateful to the Monday Gang for their continuing commitment and care of the churchyard.

Other land

At a meeting with the Chair of the Parish Council's Planning Committee, she felt the Council would after all be sympathetic to the parking area beyond Church Cottage being laid to gravel.

Relationship with the Friends

We are very grateful to the Friends of St Mary's for the substantial financial support they have given to the church over the last 18 months. At the meeting referred to above it was agreed that funding requests to the Friends should be placed on a more formal basis in future. A draft protocol setting out a formal process has been drawn up and awaits the approval of the Friends' Committee.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Future work

Henry Freeland, the church's statutory architect, has completed his report for the next Quinquennium. No major works are identified save for repairs to some stonework on the tower and replacement of worn pammments. We have identified a source of free second hand buff pammments which the Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary thought would be acceptable to the DAC and we continue to search for suitable replacement for the pink pammments. An asbestos survey is also recommended. Re-limewashing the walls was also identified as desirable. The PCC has agreed that tenders for these works should be obtained.

Lighting has been a long-standing issue in the church. Three lighting consultants have made presentations. Two have provided proposals. The third is awaited. Churches have been visited to review lighting schemes designed by two of the consultants. The PCC hopes to undertake re-lighting alongside the Quinquennial works during 2021, subject to financial assistance from the Friends.

It is hoped to take forward the replacement of some of the remaining pews with chairs similar to those in the nave. Other elements of the proposed re-ordering, such as the provision of a new oak storage area in the north aisle, will be contingent on finance.

Quotations to restore and re-orientate the organ were obtained by the Director of Music.

Andrew Gore

Chair, Fabric Committee, on behalf of the Churchwardens

8. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

There have been three meetings of the Deanery Synod in the period covered by this report. These are now all "open" meetings, anyone can attend. The aim is to have a speaker on a topic of general interest with business kept to a minimum.

In July 2019, Ann Allen spoke at Whittlesford of the work of the Haverhill Foodbank charity, Reach. This was set up in 2005, initially to provide debt counselling. Reach continues to do this as well as other support to those living in Haverhill and the surrounding area. At St Mary's we have an ongoing collection of tinned and dried food for the foodbank with a collection box in the tower vestry.

The then newly appointed Bishop of Huntingdon, Revd Canon Dagmar Winter, visited the Deanery in October to meet clergy and laity. She spoke at the evening Synod at Stapleford of her faith journey and hopes for the future. At this meeting, Geoffrey Hunter (Diocesan Buildings Adviser) reported on "Re-imagining church buildings". He had visited Linton as part of the research project and the results of the whole project including Linton are well worth [viewing](#).

In November 2019 at Stapleford there was a half-day training session on Mental Health First Aid awareness, which was attended by four people from Linton. The training was requested as a follow-up to the presentation earlier in the year by David Parry-Smith and Sarah West (Whittlesford) on their experience of mental health first aid in the workplace at the Wellcome Sanger Institute.

We continue to support the work of Youthinc financially. The Diocese has "match funded" donations for three years to 2021 to provide Christian youth work especially in parishes without regular youth work input. The part-time youth worker works with parishes in the Granta Deanery and several in the Shingay Deanery. Linton has benefitted from this in the setting up of St Mary's Youth Group (SMYG).

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Of course, the business continues. At every meeting, Michael Younger (Deanery Treasurer) keeps us well informed on the financial situation in the Deanery and the link with the Diocese. Andrew Gore continues as Deanery Lay Chair and Anne Parry-Smith continues to serve as Deanery Secretary in her usual calm and efficient way.

David Parry-Smith

And on behalf of Andrew Gore

Deanery representatives for Linton

March - September 2020 addendum

Since the lockdown in March the Deanery, like the parishes, has been operating in a limited way. The Synods fixed for March and July were cancelled, as was the Deanery Fair whose profits go to support youth work in the Deanery. The November Synod will take place, if possible with the members of the new Synod attending in person. We hope to have outside speakers as has been the case with recent Synods and make it available to everyone else via Zoom. Our aim has been to make the Synods a forum for discussion, not just business meetings.

There have been meetings at Diocesan and Archdeaconry level for Deanery officers to keep Deaneries abreast of the wider impact of the pandemic, and the Deanery has been in contact with some parishes facing financial difficulty. Some smaller parishes are now unable to pay their full parish share, and the rebate for full payment of the Deanery share to the Diocese will not be received in 2020. For this year at least we hope the shortfall will be paid from Deanery reserves and not passed to the parishes. The Diocese does not intend to increase the parish share next year. However, it is facing seven figure shortfalls in its budget for both 2020 and 2021 and some painful economies have already been made. Staff at Diocesan level have been made redundant. Bishop Woodford House, the Diocesan conference and retreat centre, has been leased to Kings School for 2 years and its long term future looks doubtful. There is also a freeze in clergy appointments to fill vacancies until at least the start of 2021.

The Hinxton/Ickleton/ Duxford benefice expected to have a new incumbent in place by now, and Sawston and Babraham hoped to do so by early 2021. Neither will now be filled until the latter part of 2021.

Andrew Gore

Deanery Synod representative and Lay Chair

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9. REPORTS FROM GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The following are reports from Church activities, including some services. Thanks to all those who have contributed reports. The text has been left in the original style provided by the author. The named individual can provide further information about any aspect.

9.1. BEACON YOUTH TRUST REPORT – APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2020

In April 2019 Beacon was without its own full-time youth worker, but was being very ably supported through its partnership with Romsey Mill, which supplied a professional youth leader to manage the work and also managed the recruitment process for a new full-time worker for Linton. Meanwhile, the Trust continued to employ Stella Blakeley as a part-time youth worker, and two long-term experienced sessional support workers. Other members of staff from Romsey Mill also came over to lead particular activities, such as football.

This gave us a very good basis for moving forward until finally (after two rounds of interviews, at each of which Beacon Trustees were represented by one of their number) Lizzie Bottrill, a qualified youth worker from Luton, joined us in October as our full-time leader, though employed, supported and managed by Romsey Mill, for which the Beacon Trust pays. The Chief Executive of Romsey Mill, and others involved in management have continued to work very well with the Trustees, providing highly professional reporting both to us and the Parish Council as the Trust's major funder. The part-time workers continued to be employed directly by the Trust.

Most of the activities from previous years have been maintained, although the Thursday evening drop-in was discontinued because of lack of demand from older LVC students. The Friday evening 'church-based' youth group held at the Free Church also was discontinued during the year because of difficulties in managing it as an open-access club, but Lizzie has honoured the Trust's commitment to church-based work by involving herself directly with the Free Church young people's fellowship, and by assisting with Saint Mary's Youth Group, particularly offering games before Michael does the reflective work in each session. Lizzie has a vision for developing church-based work in future by bringing young people of both churches together in Bible study.

Lizzie has continued the pattern of offering a variety of activities in the 'secular' programme of the club, with football, open-access drop-in, and youth club on Tuesdays (which moved from LVC to the Free church in January 2020), together with detached work and mentoring of individuals referred chiefly by LVC. Numbers of young people reached have fluctuated over the year, with monthly totals reported regularly both to the trustees and to the Parish Council varying between 40+ and 80+ on a seasonal basis.

During the year the board of Trustees was augmented by new members from the Free Church, although Alistair Wood resigned through pressure of other commitments. Stephen Munday remained Chair, with David Watts, Hannah Foote, Maggie Guite and Hugh Paton (Treasurer) from St Mary's, and Daniel Gilbert and Alasdair McBean joining Steve from the Free Church.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

The Trustees are grateful for the ongoing support of the churches and the generous grant from the Anderson Trust, as well as the confidence shown in the work by an increased grant from the Parish Council, all of which together helped the Trust to break even. Regular donations from a significant number of individuals have proved more difficult to elicit. The Trustees declined to take up the suggestion of buying the drop-in centre on the Recreation Ground from (the now inactive) Linton Action 4 Youth as the expense of responsibility for improvement and maintenance of the aging 'mobile' structure would not have been a good investment with their limited funds. However, the Trust continued to contribute towards its insurance and to have the use of it for drop-in activities.

Lockdown in March 2020 came just as new projects were about to begin – a new girls' group (the earlier 'Shine Girl' meetings having ended some time previously), and a 'fitness boot camp'. Lizzie immediately threw herself into researching the best ways to deliver youth-work on-line, which she experimented with, until, with the part-time workers, she was furloughed.

Maggie Guite, Trustee

9.2. BELL RINGERS

The bell ringers ring on Sundays before the 10am service and practice on a Wednesday from 7.30 to 9pm. We also ring for weddings, special services throughout the year and for other special occasions too. Usually anyone interested in learning to ring is welcome to come up the tower any Wednesday evening, however due to the current pandemic we are currently practicing virtually. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our secretary Sue Ellis on sue.ellis@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Stephen Croxall

9.3. EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events committee, led by Pam Richardson, was set up to enhance the social life of the church. The committee had another busy year and would like to thank all their supporters. Events included concerts, a coach trip to the seaside, bring and share lunches, refreshments after special services, a Come and Sing event (with thanks to David and Anne Parry-Smith), a film matinee, a Christmas meal and Linton's second scarecrow festival. The events committee aim to cover costs and were very pleased to know they had made a surplus of over £5,000 for church funds.

Charlotte Ellis

9.4. FLOWER MINISTRY

We are grateful to the team of flower arrangers who decorate the church so beautifully each week and for festivals and special occasions. It has been a challenging year, but with support and generosity from congregation members and the flower arrangers themselves, we were able to cover all our costs. Thank you to the team – and do get in touch if you would like to help.

Lian Watkin

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

9.5. LINTON C E INFANT SCHOOL

Governing Body

Over the last academic year the Governing Body has had a new Parent Governor, Matt McLoughlin, and two new Foundation Governors, Jacqui Burge and Hilary Angetter, join. With thanks, we wish them all the very best going forward. The other Foundation Governors are Sue Filby, Hannah Foote, Moire Jarritt, Cathy Watts and Michael Younger. I am pleased to say that we have a strong membership of individuals who are enthusiastic in their roles to hold the school to account and support and monitor all that the school does. We have been blessed to have had individuals who have volunteered their time, with a healthy diversity of skills and expertise.

Kelly Harries, (Headteacher), set a very clear and practical SIDP, (School Improvement Development Plan). This is a six point document which covers all aspects of management, teaching and learning. I have been very keen to assign Governors to be a 'link' to the school subject lead on every subject on the curriculum. Other areas have been included too, such as Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Budget. The scope of the Ofsted inspection has shifted, with the foci on subjects, i.e. Governor knowledge on Intent, Implementation and Impact in all areas. This involves Governors meeting with their subject leads at least twice a year to learn what the leads are doing and to make sure that this is being monitored and supported. Reports are written and distributed to Governors after every visit to keep us all informed.

Over lockdown we continued to meet via Zoom and contact was made via the telephone and email.

Governor monitoring was kept to an absolute minimum for obvious reasons. However, during this time there were key areas which I, as Chair, had to oversee, which were:

Safeguarding

Health and Safety

Headteacher and staff wellbeing

Continuing education

My responsibility was to share my findings with the Governing body. This was successfully and thoroughly carried out; enabling Governors to keep in touch with what the school picture looked like. The budget has also been very closely scrutinised, with governors now receiving monthly updates.

The Governors also set up a Phased Return to School Working Party to support Kelly and the team in all that was involved in managing and monitoring systems which had to be put into place, making sure that we had a confident and happy staff team.

School life

I want to start off by saying that Kelly and all the staff have coped fantastically well over, what has been, one the most challenging and stressful times in the life of the school!

Children have been separated into year group 'bubbles' now, which have been very carefully managed and staff, pupils and parents have responded well. Communication, cleaning, distancing, teaching, testing has all been working well and hasn't posed any problems as yet. Kelly and staff went to great lengths to protect our vulnerable children over the lockdown

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

period. Remote learning was thought through carefully and imaginatively and was delivered successfully. Personal phone calls were made, staff were vigilant in their local area, food parcels were distributed to FSM (free school meals) children, communications addressing mental health issues have all had a positive impact on the community. In terms of staff wellbeing and continuing education both Kelly and the staff are doing well, despite daily demands and an uncertain future ahead.

There have been no staff changes entering the new academic year, which is a real positive. There have been three additions to the team, one Midday Lunchtime Supervisor and two part time Teaching Assistants. At the time of writing, all staff remain well, happy and healthy.

The vast majority of the parent community has been incredibly resilient and positive. Kelly has been mindful about maintaining regular communication and I continue to write a Termly newsletter to update the parents and to build relationships and familiarity. In each newsletter I ask three Governors to 'introduce' themselves, a short piece of writing accompanied by a photo of themselves. I make a point of occasionally joining Kelly on the school gates at drop off/pick up times in order to meet the parents and see the children.

I must of course mention the children here! What amazing little people they are. They have adapted and overcome! They continue to be happy and enthusiastic learners, feeling safe and secure in the school environment. This is mostly due to the staff doing an exceptional job to steady the wobbles and ensure a sensitive response to the situation.

We have been very happy that all the policies and procedures which have been implemented have worked very well.

Friday Church

At the beginning of the year it was a pleasure to introduce the new cohort to St Mary's; they all embraced Friday Church with much enthusiasm and they were feeling very much 'at home' with the service and our team. Over lockdown Friday Church took on a different 'face'. I sent through videos of myself telling the stories and the Lord's Prayer, leaving the teachers to structure the usual format around the video recordings. The teachers were able to use this in individual classrooms and post on 'Class Dojo', (a mobile communication app), for those children not in school, which was particularly useful over lockdown. The feedback has been amazingly positive and it has been appreciated that there has been a rolling on of the familiar, which is important for the children. I continue with doing FC via the videos every week and look forward to the day when I can see everybody's faces in person!

The School has a very strong ethos embedded into the children's learning on many levels, which is not only encouraged and supported by the Foundation Governors but the majority of Governors, teachers, parents and indeed the children themselves. We have introduced the fruits of the spirit to be the school values which form the foundation of general Christian practice.

In conclusion

There are so many people I would like to name and thank for all the special efforts that they have made in the school's 'hour of need', but alas, the list would be too long and I fear that my report would end up being several pages long! The staff and Governors continue to do a wonderful job in negotiating life under our 'new normal'. Everyone continues to work hard to make Linton Infants a great school, a place where we are able to nurture our children, helping them to grow and develop in the best way possible. No doubt we have more challenges ahead,

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

and I'm confident that we are in a good place to face whatever comes our way. The children are very much cared for and are engaged with school life...the smiles are the evidence of this!

Nicola Collard, Chair of Governors
September 2020

9.6. CHURCH LINKS WITH LINTON HEIGHTS JUNIOR SCHOOL

Before lockdown Chris Kemshell and I continued to do assemblies once a month. James Puxley, headteacher, has always been very enthusiastic about our presence in the school, and extremely encouraging to support a Christian ethos, despite the fact that the Heights is not a C of E school.

GenR8 have been routinely invited in to do Easter and Christmas assemblies as well as doing a special half day 'moving up' session with year six pupils. This is done supporting the 'your move' booklet we gift to each child, (collectively funded by all three churches in Linton), which is packed full of fun and relevant tips and advice in friendly year six language and layout. I always go into school to support these sessions.

Since lockdown, it has no longer been possible to do any of the above. It may be a case of discussing with James about the idea of sending videos in, like I am doing for the Infant School. I haven't suggested this yet, because I am very conscious that James and all the staff are busy trying to manage school day to day; they are still in the process of implementing new procedures in so many areas. The school is doing a fantastic job in supporting the children and parents alike to help people to cope mentally and emotionally. Also, Chris and I with young families are busy trying to manage as well as we can with our various commitments, like everybody else, so I'm conscious at this stage that I don't want to put anyone under undue pressure.
However...Watch this space!

Nicola Collard

9.7. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

It has been a busy year supporting and demonstrating the love of God for children and families. Highlights include:



A successful summer holiday club provided a morning of free activities for children up to 11 years old, with a responsible adult, on the themes of the seaside, space and under the sea, plus a free nutritious lunch for all the children. Funding was generously given by the Anderson Trust.

A five-week course for babies and their carers, 'Baby Steps', looked at how we nurture a baby's spirituality through play and songs. Members included two families who have brought babies for baptism.



Growth in relationships at Messy Church, the Friday school service, at Tots in Tow and over lunch at the newly formed

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

Rooted group started in January 2020 as follow-up to Baby Steps.



Sarah regularly visits pre-school playgroups in the village and has the opportunity to share a Bible story with the children and staff.

The children's corner is well-used, especially at the Friday school service and the toys there have been supplemented this year. Activity bags continue to be popular at 10am worship services.

Training opportunities supported by the Diocese included:

- Sarah Thorne continued into the second year at Ridley Hall, training as a Children and Families Licensed Lay Minister
- Sarah attended a three-day Godly Play training course
- Cathy Watts attended a session on intergenerational worship
- Sarah, Cathy and Linda Richardson attended a paediatric first-aid course (funded by the Anderson Trust)
- Ministry to under-5s training - due in March. (COVID delay!)

We are thankful to all the wonderful people who volunteer - making drinks, moving furniture, knitting figures for story-telling, preparing crafts, preparing Godly Play props, sharing their story with the next generation and generally letting their light shine!

What does the next year hold? Plans are under way for another holiday club during the summer break. Another 'Baby Steps' group. Development of the 'Rooted' group. Application to the Anderson Trust for material and training to run a parenting course. Sarah will be licensed in October 2020.

Messy Church; highlights of the past year:



Christingle December 2019:
Raising money for and awareness of the work of The Children's Society



Messy Church 7th birthday Jan 2020:
When we discovered Jesus calls us to drop everything and follow him, just like the first disciples

St Mary the Virgin, Linton



Good Friday 2019:
Jerusalem in Lego helped us
tell the story of Holy Week



Shoebox Party October 2019:
Packing boxes for Children in
Distress in Eastern Europe

Please may I ask you to support and encourage the team in three ways?

1. Pray. All we do in Messy Church begins and ends with prayer. Knowing others are praying for us while we plan, prepare and run MC is a great encouragement. We have seen others and ourselves grow in faith and constantly thank God that he allows us to join with Him in this Messy ministry. Please pray for our ongoing journey.
2. Help. It would make a huge difference to Sarah if someone could organise the food for our Messy Tea! We are of course grateful for help following the 10am service with moving furniture and for “junk” as requested through the pewsheets. We need around 10-12 people to make Messy Church an enjoyable time for everyone. Please speak to Sarah if you’d like to know more about joining the team.
3. Come along! Messy Church is Christ-centred, for all ages, and hospitality, creativity and celebration are also core aspects of what we do when we meet. You are VERY welcome to join us at 3pm on the third Sunday of the month.

Sarah Thorne

9.8. TOGETHER WITH GOD

Cathy Watts and I plan and lead this service every 4th Sunday of the month. It is a service lasting about 40 minutes, without Holy Communion.

We endeavour to create a relaxed and friendly approach with interactive fun elements for everybody of any age. Our aim is to strike a difference with our music choices and structure of prayer, talk and visuals, often including members of the congregation. The message is kept short and simple and, we hope, impactful. As there are many levels on which to engage, the

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

hope is that everyone can really get something out of it. We usually create a little something that people can take home with them.

It is a service we both very much enjoy planning together!

Nicola Collard

9.9. SPACE FOR THE SPIRIT

The Space for the Spirit team continued to run services, as last year, until the March lockdown; then, after a gap of five months, we have returned via Zoom. We now meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7.30 pm, for around 40 minutes. Each month we choose a theme, around which we select music, readings (both secular and Biblical), images, poetry and video. The services are quiet and reflective, with no active audience participation and no chat afterwards. They aim to provide a peaceful end to the day. For more information, please email spftsp@gmail.com

Molly Warrington

9.10. MOTHERS' UNION

The Linton Branch of the Mothers' Union usually meets on the third Monday of the month, at 7.45 pm in the Church Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend. The programme for the year is on the church website. Sadly, our arranged programme of talks has been suspended since March but we hope to be able to meet again at some point in the future. We also offer each other practical support and prayer at difficult times in our lives, and aim to uphold the world wide Mothers' Union purpose and values of Christian family life. If you would like to know more about the Mothers' Union please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Smith, Denise Thurston or me, or check out www.mothersunion.org.

Sue Mudge

9.11. MUSIC MINISTRY

Writing this report in September 2020, it is important to remember all the music that has taken place at St Mary's in regular services, at festivals, and other special events and all the hard work and preparation that this has necessitated before Lockdown. I would like to thank all the choir and music group for their commitment, support and enthusiasm. Special thanks to the organists and musicians who have led the music for our services. We have enjoyed the challenges of learning new music, often encouraged by the production of service books by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) to which the church is affiliated.

Of special note during the year, are services and festivals in which members of St Mary's choir participated:

- ✓ 18 May 2019 RSCM Choirs Festival at Ely Cathedral (when I was privileged to play the Cathedral grand piano in the music group!)
- ✓ 30 May 2019 Deanery Ascension Day Service at Castle Camps.
- ✓ 21 September 2019 Archdeaconry of Cambridge Church Music Festival in King's College Chapel when Maggie read the Gospel and Pam led the intercessions.
- ✓ 7 March 2020 Come & Sing at St Mary's – Fauré Requiem.

St Mary the Virgin, Linton

This was the last live musical fundraising event in the church before Lockdown when we hosted about 70 singers from far and wide. A magnificent tea was provided by the Events Committee, which was very much appreciated. Singers are looking forward to being able to come and sing again at Linton once such events are permitted.

Although outside of the period under review, during Lockdown music has been provided for some services by the choir by means of the CD “Waiting for the King” that we made several years ago. There will be more from this CD in services to come as it is particularly suitable for Advent and Christmas. I have also recorded organ music for services and been able to play the organ at some services in church. Other music has been gathered from resources, including St Martin’s Voices through A Church Near You (CofE), and other licenced material to which we have access.

Members of the choir and congregation, I am sure, will welcome a return to singing in church. Our priority is to keep everyone safe. I am working with the Rector and Churchwardens to determine when it will be safe to resume singing in the choir at Linton. Currently, the disposition and size of our beautiful mediaeval church makes this particularly difficult.

We look forward to a time when we can all participate fully in the worship of God our Father in the strength of the Holy Spirit and in unity with Christ.

David Parry-Smith, Director of Music
September 2020

9.12. THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY’S

This report covers the year April 2019 to March 2020.

“The Friends” was formed in 1984 to help with the expenses associated with maintaining St Mary’s. Currently there are almost 100 members who pay a membership fee each year. This money goes towards the maintenance of the church. The Friends also manage the Godel Trust (a bequest from the last organist) as well as raising funds by holding social events throughout the year.

In the last year The Friends have provided over £28,000 to cover the cost of maintenance and improvements to St Mary’s.

During the year a number of Summer Teas were held as well as a New Year Coffee Morning, a BBQ, a concert by the Hadstock Silver Band, a Teddy Bear jump from the church tower and a Quiz Evening. These events, as well as being enjoyable, contributed to the funds available.

Thanks must be given to all the Committee for their work throughout the year and in particular to Judy Nightingale, our President, who stood in as Chair for the last three months of the year while I had, and recovered from, an operation.

Chris Morse
Chair – The Friends of St Mary’s, Linton

St Mary the Virgin, Linton



Hadstock Silver Band – 5th October 2019 – Concert organised by The Friends

9.13. THE MONDAY GANG IN THE CHURCHYARD

Last summer was very dry and hot so the grass did not grow much, needing less mowing than usual. In the winter there was rain and also gales, during one of which a large part of a big evergreen tree came down. Fortunately it was well away from any path. After two hours with a chain saw and loppers we had all the debris cleared away.

We started mowing later than usual this year due to Covid-19 lockdown. This turned out to have benefits as a great variety of wild flowers appeared all over the churchyard. This display of colour was much admired by people passing through the churchyard, so, in future, we will restrict grass cutting to allow the flowers to seed in many areas. The grass immediately round the church and the Garden of Remembrance will continue to be kept short.

It is encouraging that the churchyard is a wild life sanctuary as each year spotted flycatchers are recorded nesting in the churchyard. There are a lot of other birds there too. Not so welcome are muntjac deer which we have seen in the churchyard on a couple of occasions, no doubt responsible for eating some of the flowers on graves in the Garden of Remembrance. Normally, working together on Monday afternoons is very sociable for us, but this year, for our safety, we have tended to work on different days.

Margaret Cox