

# Parishes of Bickleigh & Shaugh Prior

## Annual Report, 2019 (and half of 2020 during Coronatide)

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# **Agenda for the Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meetings**

for Bickleigh and Shaugh Prior to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October on Zoom (as a result of COVID-19 social distancing measures)

## **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

- To elect our Church Wardens for each parish

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- Apologies
- Minutes of the previous APCM
- Matters arising

Each of the following will be undertaken for each Parish, which have been previously circulated and not read out. Questions may be asked on each report

### **Reports**

- Electoral roll
- PCC
- Financial
- Deanery Synod
- Other

### **Elections**

- Deanery Synod
- PCC members

AOB (to be notified to the Vicar in advance)

### **PCC OFFICERS**

To elect the following officers for each Parish

- Treasurers
- Secretary of the Benefice PCC
- Vice-Chair of the Benefice PCC
- Electoral Roll Officers
- Appointment of Independent Examiners

Closing Prayers

## **2019 Minutes of the ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING and PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS for Bickleigh and Shaugh Prior, held on Sunday 24th March 2019 at 5.30 pm at S. Anne's Church, Glenholt**

**Chairman:** Fr. Simon Rundell

**Present:** 26 parishioners (list in file)

**Apologies:** Lou Rundell, Ann and Alan Hawking, Marilyn Endacott, Edna West, Sue Cannon, Heather Harvey

### ***Annual Vestry Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens for the Parish of Bickleigh***

Fr. Simon told the meeting that Andy and Jayne Collins had reluctantly had to resign from their posts as Churchwardens because of work commitments and illness. He thanked them for their work and ministry over the past year, and was grateful to them for having stepped into the breach. Sue Shapley was nominated by Janet Liddicoat and seconded by An Trout, and elected nem. con. No other volunteer came forward; Fr. Simon pointed out that the other CW did not necessarily have to come from St. Mary's congregation. However, a vacancy remains.

#### **Deputy Church Warden - S. Annes's**

Yvonne Gray was re-elected nem. con. with thanks for her hard work.

#### **Assistant Churchwardens – S. Cecilia's**

Sue Cannon and Beryl Strange remain in office.

### **Annual Vestry Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens for the Parish of Shaugh Prior**

Paul Vann was willing to stand again and was elected nem. con. A vacancy exists for a second Churchwarden.

All the Churchwardens were commended to our prayers.

## ***Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019***

**Apologies** as above

**Minutes of the previous APCM** accepted as a true record

**Matters arising** none

**Reports:** The Lunch Club Report which Wendy Round had sent in was missing, but will be added to the other reports asap.

Diane LeGrys queried an anomaly re the Bickleigh accounts: the sum of £13.5K having been paid for the Common Fund on the Bickleigh accounts sheet did not seem to tally with the £8K mentioned in the Treasurer's Report. Sue Shapley explained it was a "catch up" from the previous year: in 2017 we had paid £5.5K owing from 2016, hence the total of £13.5K. Explanation understood.

Fr. Simon thanked all those who had written reports and said that he wished to register his thanks to all the people involved in the work of all four churches, visible or invisible by name in these reports.

The Reports were all accepted.

## **Elections**

**Deanery Synod** Diane LeGrys wished to stand down. Yvonne Gray was willing to stand for one more year. Fr. Simon asked for volunteers; Yvonne Gray explained the role of a rep. on the Deanery Synod (motions can be raised at Deanery level, then taken to Diocesan, and finally General, Synod). Rebecca Hattersley suggested that her husband Charles might be willing to stand. Fr. Simon will ask him. Karen Griffiths was nominated by Sue Shapley and seconded by Yvonne Gray, and elected nem. con.

## **PCC Members**

**S. Mary's:** Maureen McLean, Marilyn Endacott and Samantha Lindo were re-elected , and Karen Griffiths and Ruth Smales elected nem. con.

**S. Edward's:** Diane LeGrys and Dot Emony were re-elected nem. con. (Paul Vann is also on PCC by virtue of being CW). Diane LeGrys suggested that Jo Vincent be co-opted.

All PCC members were thanked by Fr. Simon for their ministry and service.

**Sidespeople** The sidespeople at all the churches were thanked by Fr. Simon for their valuable work.

**S. Mary's:** Alan Hawking, Ann Hawking, An Trout, Kathy Pitcher, Keith Fordham, Maureen Courtier, Samantha Lindo, Mark Lindo

**S. Anne's:** Wendy Round, Diane Boyd, Sue Pike, Pamela May, Shirley Hill, Christine Crosby, Lewis Downing

**S. Cecilia's:** everyone!

**S. Edward's:** Charles Hattersley, Gordon Kellaway

**AOB** None

## **PCC MEETINGS**

The following officers were elected for each Parish:

### **S. Mary's**

**Treasurer:** Mr. Mark Lindo

**Secretary (of Joint PCC):** Mrs. Janet Liddicoat

**Vice-Chair (of Joint PCC):** Mrs. Sue Shapley

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Mrs. Maureen Courtier

**Independent Examiner:** a vacancy exists, as Eric Anning intimated this would be his last year. The retiring and newly-elected Treasurers will co-ordinate a way to thank Eric for his services.

**S. Edward's**

**Treasurer:** Mrs. Diane LeGrys  
**Electoral Roll Officer:** Mrs. Dot Emony  
**Independent Examiner:** Mr. Andy Robinson, if he is still willing

**Closing Prayers**

The meeting ended at 6.10 pm

**Vicar's Report of the Year**

Fr. Simon Rundell SCP, Priest-in-Charge

**Background**

The PCCs of the parishes of Bickleigh and Shaugh Prior which comprise the **Roborough Team Ministry** have the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in Charge, the Revd Simon Rundell in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the Grade I listed Church buildings of S. Mary the Virgin, Bickleigh, S. Edward, King & Martyr, Shaugh Prior, including their respective Churchyards and the unlisted Church of S. Anne in Glenholt. The Parish also has a duty of care to the community which meets in the Church of England VA School, *Bickleigh Down Primary School* as the Church of S. Cecilia.

**PCC Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of their PCCs: (Figure in brackets indicates year of end of Office)

**Ex-Officio of all Councils**

The Revd Simon Rundell  
 Frank Hartkopf

Team Rector  
 Reader (licenced August 2020)

**BICKLEIGH PCC****Officers**

Mrs Sue Shapley

Churchwarden (Lay Vice Chair)  
 (resigned Oct 2020)

Mr Andrew Collins

Churchwarden

Mr Mark Lindo

Treasurer

Mrs Yvonne Gray

Deanery Synod (RIP Dec 2019)

**PCC**

Mrs Janet Liddicoat (21)  
 Mrs Shirley Hill (20)  
 Mrs Samantha Lindo (22)  
 Mrs Marilyn Endacott (RIP Jan 2020)  
 Mrs Karen Griffiths (22)  
 Mrs Sue Cannon (21)  
 Mr Stuart Ryle (20)

Mrs Maureen McLean (22)  
 Mrs Sue Pike (20)  
 Mrs Ruth Smales (22)  
 Mrs Yvonne Gray (RIP Dec 2019)

## SHAUGH PRIOR PCC

### Officers

Mr Paul Vann  
Mrs Diane Le Grys

Churchwarden  
Treasurer

### PCC

Mrs Dot Emony  
Mrs Rebecca Hattersley

Mr Gordon Kellaway  
Mrs Jo Vincent

## JOINT PCC

The Two PCCs continue to meet in a single meeting. Matters of common interest are discussed jointly. Matters of finance or fabric are voted on by the separate PCCs according to need. This has proved effective in improving the connection between both legal parishes.

Both Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) continue to be charities excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. As their individual incomes (receipts) do not exceed £100,000. Each PCC has produced its own Financial Statement.

For the purposes of charity law the Council of PCC members is also the Board of Trustees of the charity.

## Review of the Year

This is the eighth full year of Fr. Simon's incumbency in the Roborough Team Ministry. It has been a year of huge upheaval as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and especially the closure of the church buildings for public worship and its transfer online.

## Electoral Roll

### ER By Church

	Total		
S. Anne	25	Non-Resident	1
		Resident	24
S. Cecilia	12	Resident	12
		Non-Resident	0
S. Edward	18	Non-Resident	7
		Resident	11
S. Mary	34	Non-Resident	15
		Resident	19

### ER By Parish

	Total		
S. Mary	71	Non-Resident	16
		Resident	55
S. Edward	18	Non-Resident	7
		Resident	11

Improved ways of counting and tracking the Electoral Roll have resulted in a more accurate count of people identifying as members of the Church Roll which therefore shows significant increase.

We were sorry to report the gathering to God in glory a number of key members of our Churches, including Marilyn Endacott, Yvonne Grey, Joan Kiver and Bee Prouten this year. Many others associated with the Church, known to us and loved by us have also joined the Lord and for them we pray:

Rest eternal, grant unto them O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them**

May they rest in peace  
**And rise in glory.**

Our thanks to Maureen Courtier, who withdraws from this post this year and Dot Emony for their management of the Rolls.

### ***Worship in 2019***

Throughout 2019 we continued with **Sunday Eucharistic Worship** on alternative weeks in our four churches with lay-led **Morning Prayer** on the other weeks. Those who lead this worship are gratefully thanked and it ensures that worship happens on almost every week in the same place at the same time. Clergy cover remains difficult to come by, but we are grateful for the Ministries of **Fr. Michael Ellis**, **Fr Matt Godfrey RN** and **Fr John Money RN** in support of the parish priest.

Midweek Mass at S. Anne's continued throughout 2019 and the **Nursery Rhyme Mass** continued to be very popular at Bickleigh Down School, and has, I believe laid firm foundations for faith among a number of young people.

We continue to give thanks for the musical ministry of our churches, especially for Heather Harvey at S. Edward's and Sarah Gard at S. Mary's who continues to inspire and encourage the Choir and provide recorded music for our broadcast services. The choir is greatly appreciated and we give thanks for them. There are, however, still plenty of spare seats in the choir stalls...

**2019 Christmas** services were widely enjoyed and saw a small rise in attendance across all churches. The Christingle Services were especially popular. **Holy Week 2019** was once again primarily focused on S. Anne's which resulted in better attendance overall, with an especially good response to the **6am Vigil Mass** on Easter Day.

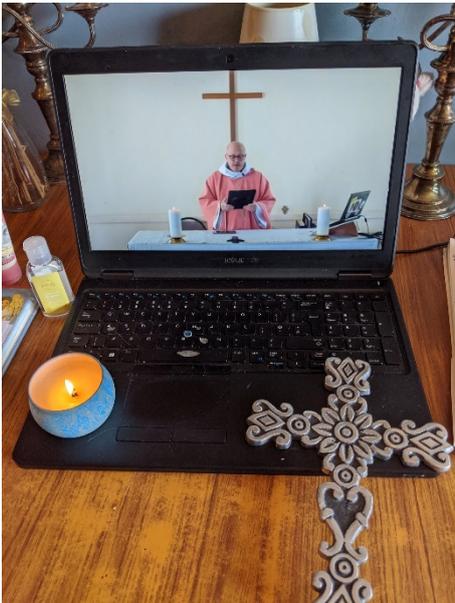
The **pastoral work** of the parish has continued, with the Eucharist offered in local nursing homes and the homes of sick individuals. There is a great deal of almost hidden pastoral support offered by a network of individuals, most notably laity. The **Pastoral Offices** have been offered widely, and Spiritual Direction and Counsel, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Care of the Dying, the Departed, Baptism and Holy Matrimony being a key if often unseen part of the work of the parish.

## *The Impact of the 2020 COVID19 Pandemic*

However, the enforced closure of church buildings at Lent 4 2020 has dramatically changed the pattern of worship and pastoral care, not least because Fr Simon was in a more vulnerable category because of underlying health issues along with a substantial number of members of the Parish.

Worship therefore had to transfer online into an unknown and largely unexplored territory. This is ironic not least because in Jan 2020 Fr Simon was awarded an MA degree in Digital Theology from Durham University, where his primary interest was in the sacramental life explored online. It was not envisioned at the time that it would be put into practice so quickly!

It was not a perfect solution, as we recognise that many are excluded from digital access by technology, income or understanding, but significant numbers of the parish have engaged over social media and others in 'digital poverty' have accessed the Parish through telephone conversations, the broadcasting of our worship over the phone or by accessing services offered by the Church of England or the BBC.



Morning and Evening Prayer was broadcast daily throughout lockdown and afterwards, with words displayed on screen so users could join in, or simply reflect on the daily prayer.

The Eucharist continued to be offered, initially from the Vicar's Study (currently resembling a TV studio) and from Sundays in July 2020 from the Churches without congregation. The Midweek continues to be recorded from the Study.

This has enabled the liturgical and spiritual life of the Churches to be continued in these difficult circumstances

In September 2020 the PCC authorised the recommencement of a Said (Low) Mass across each of the three available Churches (S. Cecilia is currently in use by the school and therefore cannot be made COV-safe). This runs alongside the online services which continue to be broadcast, now on Twitch, YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. We have conducted some experiments with live streaming the Low Mass and it is envisaged that in future a hybrid mix of Live and Broadcast worship will continue as it has enabled many more people, especially the disabled, the isolated, housebound or those with small families or mental health issues to access our worship: we cannot turn our backs on these people in need of God's word when all this is over.

## *Discipleship*

Fr. Simon devotes a large amount of time to ministry in our local **Schools**, both Local Authority and our Church School: **Bickleigh Down CofE VA School**. At **Shaugh Prior Primary School**, we continue to make good progress: leading Collective Worship monthly now and welcoming the school to S. Edward's Shaugh Prior for Harvest, Easter and Christmas. At Bickleigh Down, where the Church is well represented by its Foundation Governors and is also represented in Staff Governors, the Christian ethos is very strongly emphasised. Fr Simon is the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body and Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee, overseeing the curriculum and standards.

Collective worship over 2019 is led on a weekly basis and Fr Simon is also active in supporting the curriculum. A number of special days have been celebrated, most notably daily Collective Worship in the last week of Spring Term 2019 taking the children right the way through Holy Week to the foot of the cross and beyond to the resurrection.

From March 2020 the school was locked into year-group bubbles, and so Fr Simon has been delivering weekly videoed collective worship for use in classrooms (as the pupils cannot gather collectively). Many of these have been made available to members of the Parish through the weekly email newsletter on YouTube. They are very well received.

The Foundation Governors have continued to ensure the quality of education at the school, and look forward to working with the newly appointed Church Distinctiveness Leader, Katie Freeman who will be preparing us for the new more rigorous framework for SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) and continue our judgement as an *Outstanding* School in this sphere.

The 2019 **Lent Lunch** and Course was well received, and throughout 2019 the Bible Study group continued to meet weekly. Lockdown forced an early end of the **2020 Lent Lunches** (but £85 was still raised for the Children's Society). The resources on Parables were written and led by Karen Griffiths and Ruth Smales and they were completed online. The Bible Study group transferred onto Zoom and still meets weekly for Prayer, Study and Reflection. As it is available through Zoom, all are welcome to join it.



In May 2019, a group of six candidates were **Confirmed** by Bishop Jackie of Crediton in her first visit to this Deanery. It was a delight to welcome her for a joyous celebration of Christian initiation.

## **Stewardship**

Over the past few years we have been mindful of our outgoings and savings have been made so that over this time we are paying our way and not eating into our reserves. Everyone has been generous and diligent and we must take comfort in this small victory over our finances, even though finance remains tight.

The Treasurer's reports detail our financial position very clearly.

We have been making alternative payment methods available and have seen some success with card-giving especially at Weddings and Baptisms. Since Lockdown we have tried to move as many people as possible towards regular giving by Standing Order as the plate has been unavailable, and this has enabled our 'ministry at home' to function. We are grateful to everyone who chooses to support us in this way and continue to encourage its use.

## **Ministry**

Fr Simon has been in Ministry for 20 years now, and he is still due a Sabbatical. His postgraduate study of a Master's Degree in *Digital Theology* from the University of Durham was very stimulating and since graduation he has speaking widely at Conferences and Webinars on this topic. **A Sabbatical will be taken in August 2021.**

We welcome to the Ministry Team of the Parish, Frank Hartkopf, a Reader formerly from the Diocese of London and look forward to the flourishing of his ministry here.

## Summary

We were grateful for the stability that Andy Collins offered the Parish when he decided to re-stand as Churchwarden at Bickleigh alongside Sue Shapley, especially after the tragic and sudden loss of Jayne, another former Churchwarden. Her soul continues to be in our prayers.

All ministries come to an end, and after many many years of sterling service to our community, and with increasing personal responsibilities, Sue Shapley has chosen to withdraw as Churchwarden and take a Sabbatical from active ministry in the Parish. We give thanks to God for her work, witness, her joy and humour and Christian love and pray for her.

2020 has (so far) been a year unlike any other, with new challenges and different ways of being Church. This has placed new burdens and responsibilities upon many people and I thank you all for your perseverance. It has been a source of anxiety that I am not personally able to reach out to every member of our Church communities as frequently as I would wish but there are only so many hours in the day. I would encourage you to contact me directly if you need me: jungle telegraphs are often unreliable and pieces of paper on my desk get lost.

Your faith, resilience and constancy in this current challenging situation is most appreciated and I pray that we will remain safe and continue to grow in faith, love and Christian Service to our wider communities.



### **Fr. Simon Rundell SCP**

Priest-in-Charge

## S. Mary's Church Report

The church will look back on 2019 and think what a fantastic year it was with all the services and celebrations of weddings and the busy Christingles services. We again sing the praises of the lay members of all congregations who have been doing their bit by maintaining Morning Prayer services. If anyone would like to take a Service, they would be most welcome.

Volunteers for Sidespersons, church cleaning, flower arranging, post-service teas and coffees, silver cleaning etc. are always needed – no experience necessary. We both would like to pass on our considerable thanks to the small band who unfailingly turn up to assist at all events, but more hands are always desirable and can lighten the workload considerably.

The water leak from the roof over the vestry has had work done and hopefully dealt with that and a possibility of that may have been contributing to the damp in the wall over the altar. Now the repairs have been done we will have to see if the clergy vestry remains watertight, but I suspect we will discover another seepage point that will need to be fixed before it causes irreparable damage. We are most grateful to Ray Barber for his continued stewardship of the Church: ad hoc repairs and provision of a new carpet in the Vestry.

The boiler is old and an ongoing issue; having broken down already last year, it was repaired and is currently working. It has been serviced, and it is hoped that a contract can be agreed for the boiler to be serviced annually and that the contract includes emergency call outs for breakdowns.

On a personal note it is with very great regret and sadness that I must report that my wife Jayne passed away; whilst she had stood down as Churchwarden she still wanted to be part of the community of the church, I personally as your Churchwarden am struggling juggling my career, as well as the loss of my wife along with the stress and strain of dealing with the bureaucracy surrounding her death, if I am honest. So, if I am tardy in my role of Churchwarden as well as my attendance at church at present, please forgive.

Sue Shapley has decided to take a sabbatical from Churchwarden and is stepping down and back from other duties to allow her to concentrate on personal matters. It is hoped that she will be back in due course. Therefore, maybe at this year's Annual General Meeting would be the appropriate time for us to look in on ourselves, thereby considering to become volunteers to come forward and take up the Churchwarden role and those that do can perhaps offer more time to the role than we have been struggling to do.

### **Andy Collins and Sue Shapley**

Churchwardens, S. Mary the Virgin, Bickleigh

## **S. Edward's Church Report**

"The Bells, the Bells....."!!

Notwithstanding the vagaries of two very wet Devon winters, the Church is still standing and is in reasonable condition, particularly in light of how few services have been held in calendar 2020, a consequent lack of regular heating and the prevalent dampness of the South wall (adjacent to the Tower).

Outside, members of the congregation have done their best to keep the gutters and gullies free from debris/leaves/birds nesting, however as much of the guttering is difficult to access without commissioning professional contractors, there has inevitably been water ingress into the body of the Church after any prolonged wet period. This has tended to be at the back of the church, to the left of the Altar and the Side Chapel, which, on occasion, has required all hands to the pump. We need to employ professional roofing specialists to make good the gullies and gutters and we did in fact have a visit earlier this year (just before Lockdown) from Roofline Fascias, who specialise in church roofing work and who would be more than willing to carry out the works". However, the perennial problem is that we cannot really afford them!

The really positive news since my last report is regarding the church bells. Following the last Quinquennial Report and subsequent investigative work by Ryan Trout and his fellow bell-ringers, it was discovered that the brackets holding the (incredibly heavy) main bells had corroded so badly over the past few years that it was considered unsafe to peal them on a regular basis. Sadly, the decision was taken to severely restrict bell-ringing until the urgent repairs were completed. Ryan arranged for one of the last Bell Servicing and Repair firms in the Country, Taylors, to investigate and prepare an estimate of works. This they duly did and the

cost were estimated at roughly £7,500. Apparently, St Edwards, in common with a significant number of other churches in the area, suffered from poor galvanising of the brackets back in the 1930s which has now got to a critical state. I am however very pleased to report that we took the decision to finance the repair of the bells and to also seek outside funding. This has resulted in The Devon Church Bells Restoration Fund granting us £900 which will be paid upon certified completion of the work. Other donors are being actively sought. Meanwhile, Taylors carried out the first part of the works last month (at a cost of circa £2,300) and are scheduled to return later in the year to complete the repairs. This will enable the bells to be rung in complete safety, much to the joy of everyone. However, one additional area of concern arose during clearance/maintenance on the platform in the tower, whereby it was discovered that water ingress had damaged the timber floor between the 5th and the Tenor bell which will also need to be repaired. This has been brought to the attention of Taylors. However, overall, we are very pleased with the works to date.

In tandem with the Bell repairs was the plan to build a mezzanine floor in the Tower to give better and safer access for the bell-ringers, together with WC, kitchen facilities and creche area where the current Vestry is situated. Unfortunately, this has not moved on since my last report and realistically it is on semi-permanent hold because we simply cannot afford the works unless we can raise funds from Charities/donations. One of our principal tasks in the current year is to raise funds for both the completion of the bell repairs (although we do have sufficient reserves to pay for this work regardless), to put towards the Mezzanine floor and to maintain the Churchyard. Unfortunately, as Covid-19 restrictions continue to severely restrict services and therefore donations, we are currently hamstrung due to lack of funds.

We were, again very fortunate to receive a donation of £400 both in 2019 and the current year from Shaugh Prior Parish Council to be put towards the cost of cutting the grass in the Churchyard. I am sure that the Treasurer will outline the current state of the Churchyard Account in her Report but suffice to say that we will not be in a position to continue employing "Clean-Cut" much into the New Year without additional funds/donations. I would like to put on record the excellent job done by them for a very reasonable price, the cost of which, incidentally, has been frozen for the past three years. Unfortunately, the 2020 Annual Shaugh Prior Duck Race and Barbeque organised by Sue and Peter Burkill was one of numerous events which were cancelled as a result of lockdown, a contribution sorely missed.

Thanks to Clean-Cut and a deserved mention for Clifton who has trimmed hedges and provided his gardening services entirely gratis, the Churchyard has been kept in pretty good order throughout the period under review, with grass cutting taking place regularly throughout the Spring and Summer with a final "Winter" cut taking place before the end of the year. This includes the cutting of the entire churchyard, a big job, which has been done to a very good standard. As highlighted above, the financing of this external maintenance has only been made possible by the generous donations of several members of the congregation and the continued support of the Parish Council but we are reaching a tipping point.

Regarding the congregation of St Edward's, I am pleased to confirm that we managed to pay our Common Fund in full for 2019. I can also report that we are just about "holding our own" in terms of regular attendees, albeit at a very modest level. During the period under review, several friends of St Edwards sadly passed away, including, tragically, Carl Rugman, aged 42, who was only married in the church to Vivian, his wife a couple of years previously. On a happier note, there were also wedding and Christening services held during the period under review, where it is always a pleasure to see the church so well attended.

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank Heather Harvey, “resident” organist at St Edward’s for her continued support, notwithstanding that she has had a bit of an enforced break over the past six months. Given the modest size of our congregation, she has played a vital part in maintaining continuity and enjoyment of services, especially at Morning Prayer Services.

I have informed Father Simon that I am putting myself forward for re-election at the Annual Meeting and I sincerely hope that, if elected, my next report will include reference to regular services being re-established at all of our churches.

### **Paul Vann**

Churchwarden, St. Edward, King & Martyr, Shaugh Prior

## **S. Cecilia’s Church Report**

There is very little to report for this year’s APCM since we have not met as a congregation since the beginning of lockdown in March. There is little chance of us meeting in the school at the present time although we are hoping we might be able to get together (socially distanced of course) at St Anne's at some point.

St Cecilia's continues to be a family friendly church in the heart of Woolwell and while we cannot all meet we continue to pray for our congregation and its growth and look forward to seeing more children attending our Sunday school when times permit. Before lockdown we did welcome a few new people to our congregation which is always a wonderful thing and sees the Lord at work.

With some money which was kindly donated by Grace we purchased 2 flags that we could put outside on a Sunday morning to make us a more visible presence to people passing who might not otherwise realise that a church meets in the school. We put one just inside the main gate and one on the corner with the main road. The signs clearly announce St Cecilia's and we hope to continue to be putting them to good use when we are able. We did receive some positive feedback from a few people when they were first used so feel they will be a great addition to our church and enable people to know of His presence in the community. They are portable so can be stored in the vestry when not in use.

Donna kindly mentioned that we would be holding our Remembrance service at the school on Woolwell Matters and we decided to have our 2 minutes silence outside by the memorial garden which had been created by local people involved with Woolwell in bloom. This worked very well and we had a small group gathered (including some of those who had created the garden) for the 2 minutes. It was a chance for us to talk to them and introduce ourselves and while they did not join us for the rest of our service we felt that possibly they might well at some future point and that it was an important witness in the community.

We continue to pray for our congregations in our parish as well as for all those who have been affected in this pandemic. We trust in the Lord for his wisdom and strength in these strange and worrying times and give thanks for all of the work that Fr Simon has put in with our online services and now for the services in our churches face to face. While we may not all meet in person, the church is still a presence in our community and provides hope for us all.

Blessings to you all from all of us at St Cecilia.

### **Sue Cannon**

## S. Anne's Church Report

Life at St Anne's changed when sadly in December 2019 Yvonne Gray died after a short illness. Yvonne played a major role at St Anne's for over 40 years in the role of deputy church warden, she devoted much of her time to the running and mission of St Anne's. Her death was deeply felt by many people in the parish. Following Yvonne's death the congregation rallied round to keep St Anne's running as smoothly as possible.

The parish was very blessed by Yvonne's devotion to St Anne's and its community. Yvonne's Requiem Mass funeral was held at St Anne's on 10th January 2020 and her ashes were later interred at St Mary's Bickleigh, joining those of her husband Brian. There is a prayer candle holder at St Anne's in memory of Yvonne.

All worship and activities ceased at St Anne's in April 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Prior to the lockdown services were as usual - Sunday Mass and Morning Prayer alternate weeks, Thursday morning Mass and monthly Silver Service. Thank you to all those involved in the planning and running of these services especially Beryl for playing the organ and Wendy for doing regular homilies. Worship was then taken online, with Sunday and Thursday Mass, Morning and Evening prayer on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Thank you to Fr Simon for making the online services possible with all the challenges it brings.

St Anne's continued to hold a wide range of events and hosted many groups and activities through hiring of the hall to the community. This included Keep Fit, Yoga, Pilates, WI, Lunch Club, Ladies Group, Games Afternoon, Off Key Singers and Krafty Krafters. It was also booked for meetings including the Glenholt Community Forum. However this ceased in March 2020 due to Covid-19

In-house fundraising events held prior to lockdown were St Anne's Spring Fair in May, Friends of St Mary's Ploughman's Lunch and St Anne's Soup Lunch both in August, St Anne's Autumn Fair in November, Beetle Drive and Pancake Evening in February 2020. Thank you to all involved in the running of these events.

The Glenholt Community Market was held at St Anne's on the first Saturday of each month up until March 2020. The market offered a variety of products along with the popular cafe for visitors to meet and chat. Whilst the market can no longer run as an in-person event, there are plans for a virtual online market to commence in October.

With Covid-secure restrictions in place in late July 2020 St Anne's was opened twice a week for 2 hours for private prayer. This was made possible by volunteer members of the parish opening the church. A tree in the church garden became a Prayer tree for people to attach something to - representing a prayer. With relaxation of restrictions, Sunday Mass at St Anne's was resumed in September one week in three with Covid-secure restrictions in place; the online services also continue at present

### **Fabric matters**

- A new cooker was installed
- The vestibule area was decorated
- An area of the vestibule floor was fixed, joists repaired, solid wood floor was laid with Lino on top

Grateful thanks to Gill and Jon Nichols for tending the garden and cutting the lawn over lockdown, Gill and Jon live next door to the church.

Karen Griffiths and Ruth Smales completed the Foundation in Christian Ministry course, which we both enjoyed and felt blessed to do.

We welcome Frank as a reader and look forward to his future mission in the parish.

We would like to thank Fr Simon and all who serve and worship at St Anne's and we look forward to the future worshipping and serving the community from St Anne's.

**Ruth Smales & Karen Griffiths**

## **Bickleigh Treasurer's Report 2019**

*N.B. This report, under advice from the Diocese, has largely been written before the start of the Pandemic and resultant Church Closures, however I have added a separate section at the end as this is relevant to our ongoing plans and budget.*

### **General**

A big thank you to Sue Shapley our previous Treasurer for her many years of hard work and ongoing patience for my regular questions.

We have appointed a new Independent Examiner (Kathryn Brewer, qualified accountant) who came very highly recommended by the Exeter Diocese Finance Director. I am pleased to report that our third party collections have totalled £1,687, remitted to various worthy organisations and charities.

Eagle eyed parishioners will notice a new unrestricted funds deposit account, which has been opened to enable better recognition and identification of Friends of St Mary's excellent fund raising efforts. We hope that the Friends' invaluable and generous work will be able to resume soon.

Gift Aid: I am grateful for Samantha Lindo's help as our new Gift Aid officer and we have completed an historic claim as evidenced in the figures. We now have the source data back from the Independent Examiner and can start progressing claims for the latter part of 2019 and into 2020.

### **Our resources and the Common Fund**

2019 year end accounts show we have paid Common Fund of £12544 but £7544 of this was allocated to 2018 to achieve full payment of our 2018 obligations.

Therefore we have paid only £5000 towards this years' figure of £31,250 – some £26250 short. This aspect has been the topic of close focus during the PCC meetings and the current strategy and shortfall has been largely forced upon us by a number of factors.

At the start of 2019 we had unrestricted cash reserves of a modest £3807 and this position was brought into sharp focus when we were faced with urgent and unforeseen roof repairs bill at St Marys of £3,323.

Our strategy needed to change and the known impact was regrettably going to be the temporary non-payment of Common Fund.

We have also had meetings with our architects it is apparent that there are many areas of ongoing repair needed if we are to maintain our lovely Grade I listed church.

Taking all of this into account we have had to make the decision to

- Restore our funds and create an ongoing modest margin of safety. The PCC current strategy is to maintain a minimum of £16k unrestricted funds based equal to broadly 3-4 months costs.
- Allow for essential ongoing repairs which we cannot ignore as we have found to our cost.

As you can see from the end of year accounts, we have gone some way to restoring funds and I had produced a Common Fund related forecast that indicates we should be able to pay around £20,000 in the current year (but now see below re pandemic impact). BUT this is still at least £10k short of the £31k required.

### **Pandemic – Financial Impact and our response**

This has had a huge effect as only 16% of our income comes from regular standing order income, not dependent on Churches being open.

We had lost all envelope giving, weddings, baptisms, funerals, St Anne's Hall rentals, markets etc..

The result of this was that costs were set to exceed income by around £1k per month. In addition to which we had increased IT costs to allow for the essential switch to online services.

Actions taken to restore donations included:

- Setting up on line giving function on our website giving page with regular reference to this at services and news sheets.
- Information and appeals to parishioners on website and weekly parish news sheets.
- Mailshot to all envelope givers with focus on those not online.

The initial response was good with several envelope givers sending cheques to catch up past weeks, albeit this has now tailed off and we are considering a reminder.

**Common fund 2020** - we had forecast to pay around £20k in current year (67%) but are now forecasting £4,976 (paid July 20) 17%.

### **Summary**

Our finances therefore are not where we would like them to be but I am reasonably confident we are in a position (with the forbearance of the Diocese) where we can break even for the time being.

**At a time when we are all working hard as volunteers and parishioners and juggling busy private lives I regret a further plea but I am urging everyone please to review their giving, including standing orders which may not have changed for several years. Please review the information on our website and contact me if you need any clarification.**

I am most grateful for the generosity of all of our parishioners during these difficult times.

**Mark Lindo**

Honorary Treasurer.

# Bickleigh Parish Accounts

BICKLEIGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	This year Total £	Last year Total £
<b>Receipts:</b>					
Planned giving	19,823			19,823	20,050
Collections and other giving	5,285			5,285	7,235
Income tax recovered	6,007			6,007	595
Donations/legacies	1,662	830		2,492	4,824
Weddings, funerals, baptisms	2,590			2,590	13,399
Church hall income	4,745			4,745	3,259
VAT recovered (2017 inc.grants)	809			809	1,229
Mission/outreach	703			703	681
Lunch club	4,164			4,164	4,250
Shaugh Prior PCC/RTM	801			801	1,059
Fund raising	2,038			2,038	2,792
Friends of St.Mary	1,693			1,693	1,458
Bank interest			88	88	67
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£ 50,320</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>51,238</b>	<b>60,898</b>
<b>Payments:</b>					
Common fund	12,544			12,544	24,000
Ministry - clergy expenses	4,341			4,341	2,863
- clergy travel costs	839			839	1,622
Community worker		0		0	10,133
Organist remuneration	2,160			2,160	1,595
Wedding/funeral expenses	0			0	7,751
Regular church running costs	5,175			5,175	2,788
Fabric/equipment maintenance	3,943	2,000	3,895	9,838	6,528
Churchyard maintenance	2,791			2,791	1,745
Church insurances	3,051			3,051	2,366
Church hall costs	887			887	5,027
Lunch club costs	2,307			2,307	1,984
Charitable/mission donations	1,687			1,687	1,804
Youth work costs				0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 39,724</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,895</b>	<b>45,619</b>	<b>70,206</b>
<b>Net Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>10,596</b>	<b>-1,170</b>	<b>-3,807</b>	<b>5,619</b>	<b>-9,308</b>
Cash funds brought forward 1st January	3,709	2,000	13,318	19,027	28,332
Transfers between funds	830	-830	0	0	0
<b>Cash funds carried forward 31st December</b>	<b>£ 15,135</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,511</b>	<b>24,646</b>	<b>19,024</b>
<b>Statement of Monetary Assets:</b>					
Bank current accounts	12,640			12,640	3,709
Deposit accounts	2,630	0	9,511	12,141	15,317
Petty Cash	9			9	
<b>Total monetary assets</b>	<b>£ 15,279</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,511</b>	<b>24,790</b>	<b>19,026</b>

The notes on page 2 and 3 form part of this financial statement.

Approved by the PCC meeting held on ...17 September 2020 and signed on its behalf by: .....( Rev. Fr. S. Rundell)

**Bickleigh Parochial Church Council**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019**

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis available to small charities and the Church of England guidance.

2. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes.

Designated funds represent unrestricted funds set aside by the PCC for specific designated purposes; they can be transferred back into general funds at the PCC's decision.

Restricted funds represent income which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of a trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. These funds can only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund for future expenditure on that specific purpose, or returned; it cannot be absorbed into general funds.

3. Assets used for church purposes

The trustees of the church buildings and contents are the Diocese of Exeter who hold them on trust for the purposes connected with Bickleigh PCC. For insurance purposes the two church buildings and contents are insured for £10,712,000.

4. Other assets and liabilities:

Unrestricted funds:-	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Significant debtors: Gift Aid tax recoverable estimated	£6000	£6,200
Shaugh Prior PCC - contribution to ministry	£834	£801
Common Fund	£26250	£7,544
Significant creditor:		£948
Utilities, suppliers, charity etc.		

5. Designated and Restricted Funds

A. Designated funds:

	St. Anne's	Community
	<u>Repair fund</u>	<u>Worker Fund</u>
Opening balance	2000	0
Income - designated by PCC	830	
Transfers - General and Youth Work funds		
	-----	-----
	2830	0
Expenditure	2000	0
	-----	-----
Closing balances	£830	£0 = £830
	-----	-----

B. Restricted funds:

	<u>St. Anne's legacies</u>	Youth Work Fund (see C below)
Opening balances	3279	10039
Income	0	
Interest	23	65
	-----	-----
Expenditure	3302	10104
Transfer - Community Worker Fund	2124	1771
	-----	-----
Closing balances	£1178	£8333 = £9511
	-----	-----

C. The youth work fund has historically been classified as a restricted fund. The trustees have investigated the source of the fund and this comprised two separate funds, one to engage a Youth Worker and one to build a Sunday School annex. Neither of these schemes came to fruition. In addition the sources of the funds are partly designated and partly restricted. Following continuing investigation by the trustees further designated funds have been identified and have been transferred. The restricted classification has been retained for the balance; the trustees have completed their investigation and an application is to be made to the Charity Commissioners regarding use of the residual fund.

6. Trustees

The trustees of Bickleigh PCC assets, other than buildings, are the Church Officers and PCC members elected by the Annual Church Meeting. During the year ended 31st December 2019 £4300 was reimbursed to one trustee for expenditure properly incurred on behalf of the PCC.

7. Common Fund

Due £31250  
 £7544 was 2018  
 £5000 2019  
 £26250 overdue

8. Cheque o/s

Devon CC  
 Bibles £144  
 Unbalanced finals

## Bickleigh Auditor's Report

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ('The Trustees') of St Mary's Church, Bickleigh**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Bickleigh (the 'Trust') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Kathryn Brewer  
(formerly FCCA)  
25 Clittaford Road  
Plymouth  
PL6 6DT

## Shaugh Prior Auditor's Report

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council ('The Trustees') of St Edward's Church, Shaugh Prior**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Edwards's Church, Shaugh Prior (the 'Trust') for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

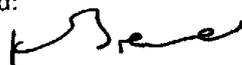
#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

21 Aug 20

Kathryn Brewer  
(formerly FCCA)  
25 Cliffatford Road  
Plymouth  
PL6 6DT

St Ewards Financial statement for the year ended 2019

		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2019 £	TOTAL 2018 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
	Note					
Regular giving	2a	5194	0	0	5194	4686
Other voluntary receipts	2b	1858	0	937	2795	4030
Income from church activities	2c	395	0	510	905	1796
Income from investments	2d	100	144	96	340	231
<b>Total income</b>		<b>7547</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1543</b>	<b>9234</b>	<b>10743</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
Church activities	3a	7847	0	1560	9407	10678
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>7847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>9407</b>	<b>10678</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>-300</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-173</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>						
Total funds at 1 January 2019		10368	19249	16371	45988	45923
<b>Total funds at 31 December 2019</b>		<b>10068</b>	<b>19393</b>	<b>16354</b>	<b>45815</b>	<b>45988</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>						
<b>MONETARY ASSETS</b>						
CBF Depoist Account		0	0	16354	16354	12709
CBF Depoist Account		0	19393	0	19393	19249
CBF Depoist Account		8706	0	0	8706	13386
Bank Current account		1362	0	0	1362	644
		<b>10068</b>	<b>19393</b>	<b>16354</b>	<b>45815</b>	<b>45988</b>

The designated fund relates to funds set aside by the PCC to meet cost of maintaing the tower and bells.

The restricted funds relate to the Churchyard Maintenance and Building Fund (see note)

**1 RECEIPTS**

**2a Regular Giving**

Tax efficient planned giving	2072	0	0	2072	2076
Income tax recovered	668	0	0	668	879
Collections at services	2454	0	0	2454	1731
	<b>5194</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5194</b>	<b>4686</b>

**2b Other voluntary receipts**

Grants	0	0	600	600	600
Non-recurring donations and appeals	1858	0	338	2196	3430
	<b>1858</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>2795</b>	<b>4030</b>

**2c Income from church activities**

Statutory fees - Weddings	395	0	0	395	820
Funerals etc	0	0	510	510	816
Mission/Outreach	0	0	0	0	160
	<b>395</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>1796</b>

<b>2d Income from investments</b>					
Bank and CBF Deposit	100	144	96	340	231
Fund interest	<b>100</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7547</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1543</b>	<b>9234</b>	<b>10743</b>

**3 EXPENDITURE**

**3a Church Activities**

Common Fund	2649		0	2649	2841
Church running costs	738		1560	2298	1782
Clergy costs	314			314	487
Services	1053			1053	284
Charity/Mission	0			0	160
Maintenance	90			90	3404
Insurance	2443			2443	1407
Sundry	560			560	313
Building work re-development	0			0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>7847</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>9407</b>	<b>10678</b>

**4a Restricted Funds**

	At 1 January 2019	Income	Expenditure	At 31 December 2019
Building fund	12809	364	0	13173
Churchyard fund	762	1179	1560	381
Churchyard Maintenance	2800	0	0	2800
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>16371</b>	<b>1543</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>16354</b>

**4b Designated Funds**

Tower and Bells	<b>19249</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19393</b>
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## Lunch Club

We have 41 people on our weekly lunch club register supported by two teams of cooks, kitchen assistants and hostesses . On average we have a weekly attendance of 30 people who enjoy coming together for both food and fellowship.

2019 ended with a lovely Christmas meal , supported by a generous contribution from City Council and entertainment from a local ukulele group which was extremely jolly. We had a giant raffle and raised £167 which we donated to the Salvation Army.

Our Spring term got off to a good start but was abruptly halted in March due to the Coronavirus.

It is with great sadness that we are unable to come together and I know the weekly lunch and fellowship is sorely missed by many of our group. We hope and pray we may be able to continue our lovely lunch club sometime in the future.

## Wendy Round

## Ladies Guild

The year from April 2019 followed the same pattern as previous years, meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month except for August and December, for a social meeting of an hour or so.

Most meetings included a quiz and a raffle (prizes donated by the ladies.)

So, all profit. Yvonne would give a report on how the bank balance stood. Always a good report, the group had a healthy account at Skipton Building Society. Followed by tea and cakes prepared by Margaret and helpers. Coffee mornings (along with generous donations) were held to help to continue to pay a gardener to cut the copious amounts of grass around the building.

A cream tea was held again at Yelverton golf club in July. Also a Christmas lunch.

Yvonne thanked the ladies for their continuing support and contribution to fund raising.

Sadly Yvonne is no longer with us.

Jean Ellwood and myself, Penny Blake, decided in January 2020 to see if we could continue with "St Anne's Ladies group". It was a success: 18 ladies attended that first get together in January 2020 .

It was agreed to continue the meetings in the same manner. We would come under the umbrella of the church. We met in February for the last time due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

We would donate to the church as funds allowed. I don't have access to the accounts at

Skipton B.S; several ladies have asked for an explanation, if this account is still open<sup>1</sup>.

We look forward to continuing with our meetings when it is safe to do so.

**Penny Blake and Jean Ellwood.**

## **Glenholt Community Market**

The Glenholt Market continued its success from April 2019 until March 2020, at which time it had to be cancelled due to Covid-19

The market, held on the first Saturday of each month at St Anne's Church, hosted around 14 stall holders, and was on occasion oversubscribed. A variety of products were offered including home made cards, food and other home made gift products. Additionally we had stalls offering skin care, clothes, jewellery, woodwork, bags, candles, food and snacks - including fresh produce. We also offered a stall free of charge each month to the Children's Hospice South West.

The cafe run by Sue Shapley and her team was as popular as ever - serving snacks including bacon butties, scones, jam and cream - as well as teas and coffees. The cafe seating area provides an area for the local community to get together and chat in between browsing the stalls. All proceeds went to the Church.

Popular as always was the raffle. Stall holders all donated prizes so the draw always had lots of winners. All proceeds from the raffle went to the Church

Donations of Stall fees were made on occasion to various charities including the Puri Community in India who were devastated by a hurricane, Children's Hospice South West and Shekinah. Otherwise the stall fees went to the Church.

The market very much serves the local community of Glenholt although visitors from further afield were known to attend. The combination of being able to browse the stalls and also having a place to sit and chat seems to work well.

In terms of mission, Ruth Smales and myself occasionally ran a stall with information on what was happening at St Anne's, and of course Fr Simon's presence and interaction with both stall holders and visitors was in itself missional.

As of now there is no prospect of the market resuming as an in-person event anytime in the near future. However, Frank Hartkopf and myself are planning on setting up Virtual Online Markets for the community during October and November.

Special thanks go to Gill Nicholls and Lynne Miller for their organisation of the market, Sue Shapley and her team for their splendid work running the cafe, and Fr Simon for his help at the markets.

**Karen Griffiths**

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<sup>1</sup> Update from Fr. Simon – unfortunately both Yvonne Gray and Marilyn Endacott were the only signatories of the account and both died before the signatures could be changed. Fr. Simon is currently trying to get this sorted with the aid of the appropriate Death Certificates, and apologises to the Ladies Guild for the delay.

## Bible Study groups

### *Lunchtime group*

Having been furloughed from my full-time job gave me the ideal opportunity to participate in the lunchtime online study/discussion group, something I have wanted to do for a very long time but due to work commitments had until then been unable to do.

The group enabled me to explore my faith more widely with informative and intellectually stimulating discussions.

It was good to hear fellow Christians' views and their take on the bible giving much food for thought. Discussing the word of Christ, Christian values, dissecting passages and encouraging each other on our path of faith.

Father Simon gave direction and inclusion to all. His hard work bringing the Parish together with online services, zoom discussion groups, after worship coffee and quizzes has been amazing and we are a lucky parish to have him and Lou.

**Dawn Edwards**

### *Wednesday night group*

The group has had a steady attendance of 6 people over 2019, when we studied the book of Ruth, followed by Peter 1. At Christmas we joined Christians Together to sing Carols at Derriford Hospital. This Season of Lent we followed a course on the Parables compiled by Karen Griffiths.

During lockdown we have been able to continue to meet weekly and virtually using Zoom, which has enabled new people to join. We went on to study some of the Psalms and recently we started a study of Revelation, and plan to return to Peter 2 later this year.

It has been an exceptionally challenging year for all but we have truly valued our ability to meet virtually, and we really look forward to the time when we can meet in fellowship in our homes again in the future.

**Grace Hooper**

## The Friends of St. Mary's (FoSM)

2019 was again a busy year of our usual, but modest, fund-raising event. These events are social events, not just for raising funds, and therefore they deserve to have good support- which sadly has not always been the case. However, we started the year with a **Pancake Party + Hallelujah** (a church version of Beetle Drive!) evening on "Shrove Monday" again. With 'new' rules in place this was great fun with less chaos than previously! Despite not having a Table Quiz as intended this year, we settled for 3 '**Paper**' **Quizzes** in early Summer, November and at Christmas.

The most special events were our **Cocktail Tasting** and **Wine Tasting** evenings with glorious and appropriate nibbles, splendidly hosted by Fr Simon and Lou at the Vicarage. Not only were they good fun for those who attended, but they were also very successful for the amount of money raised, and this was mainly due to the meticulous planning and dedicated efforts from Fr Simon and Lou, who were ably assisted by Zoe and Emma; our warmest thanks to all.

Earlier in the year Fr Simon dedicated a new **Memorial Case** donated by the Friends, with its normal place on the side altar, together with a new memorial book prepared by Mr Norman Tubbs. We also had a **Ploughman's Lunch** at St Anne's in August and a **Coffee morning** early December at 19 Woodford Road.

The **Friends** celebrated its **eighth** birthday on the **Patronal Festival of St Mary** on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 with a special communion service conducted by Fr. Simon. At the end of the year we had raised **£1693**, and after spending £1493 mainly on the vestry roof repairs, and boiler and flue work, this brought our end of year balance to **£2625**. Sadly, as we all know too well, the coronavirus pandemic has severely affected our planned events in 2020; but we were able at least to hold another **Pancake + Hallelujah** Party on 24<sup>th</sup> February before the lock-down!

Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to our Committee members for their involvement and support, particularly to Janet Liddicoat for all her time and work as both Membership and Committee secretary, and to all members who did partake in our events this year, or made special donations. Also, grateful thanks to Sue Shapley for her time and support as honorary treasurer, and to Mark Lindo who kindly took over the reins in late 2019.

We look forward to the time when we can continue events, hopefully in 2021. We are always seeking new members – an adult membership costs only £10 p.a., and will help our ever-increasing church costs.

**Alan Hawking,**  
Chairman FoSM

## Music Report

The past eighteen months have been, and continue to be, a mix of both spiritual enrichment and hope combined with sadness and uncertainty.

Good Friday 2019 and the Easter that followed was very memorable for me starting with the warmth with which we were received into St. Anne's Church by the late Yvonne Gray. We were privileged to have our Bishop of Exeter for the *Confirmation Service at St. Mary's Bickleigh 19 May 2019*. The Choir led this Service beautifully singing the antiphon 'O Sing unto the Lord' (Noel Rawsthorne) at the opening of the Service, successfully setting the tone, following it with a fitting anthem 'Thou Knowest, Lord, the secret of our hearts' (Henry Purcell). Organ music included 'Elegy in Bb' (Thalben-Ball) and 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba' (Handel). The Choir had the opportunity to join up with other RSCM Church Choirs and sing in the *Buckfast Abbey Advent Carol Service* led by Philip Arkwright (David Davies, Organist) 30 November 2020. Music included an arrangement of the well-known *Sans Day Carol* by William Llewellyn, and *The World's Fair Rose* (Praetorius). A very enjoyable experience with Jo, Dawn and a previous chorister from St. Mary's Choir and Helen supporting in the congregation.

The Christmas Carol Services in 2019 at St. Anne's and St. Mary's Churches with their usual Christmas repertoire brought everyone together for the true spirit of Christmas. A big thank you to Dawn who started the Services with the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City*. The Choir sang Carols which included *Angels' Carol* (John Rutter), *Silent Night* (Franz Gruber arranged by Donald Cashmore), *O, Holy Night* (Adolphe Adam) and *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* (Harold Darke).

Mention must be given to the following funerals:- *Terrance Legg* 9 April 2019, *Linda Warren* 13 May 2019, *Yvonne Gray* 10 January 2020 (Church Warden of St Anne's - music requested : Handel's *Messiah*), *Joan Kiver* (music requested: Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*) 15 January 2015, *Bee Prouten* 02 March 2020 (former Choir Secretary for St. Mary's Church and close friend of Janet). Hearing feedback from the family that 'they were sensing God's presence in the Service' meant a great deal and it was a fine tribute to the celebration of Bee's life. *Marilyn Endacott* 04 March 2020 (Church Warden of St. Mary's.) It goes without saying amongst this list of departed souls, I recognise what a big standing they had within the Parish and Community.

Mention must be given to the Weddings of *Gary & Justine* 17 May 2019, *Conor Baker & Chantelle Jarvis* 09 June 2019, *Ryan Preece & Kelly Temlett* 30 August 2019, *Ben & Tanya, Ashley & Nicky* 28 December 2019 and *Justin Turner & Suzanne John* 18 September 2020. Thank you to the Choir for their commitment to Weddings, for always uplifting the occasion and making the couple's day special.

Mothering Sunday 20 March 2020 saw the first of our Services online recorded in St Mary's hurriedly before lockdown. Who would have thought 7 months later that this continues to be the norm. Thank you, Fr. Simon, for allowing Worship to continue with music throughout lockdown. The Choir will be even more appreciated when normal Services are resumed; they are indeed greatly missed.

Helen (Choir Secretary) deserves a big thank you for putting up with me over the last 18 months. She has always been there, a gentle support keeping the Choir up to date, providing hard copies for Services and taking time out of her busy life schedule to re-organise the music library with me. She also enabled the Choir's Easter Anthem, *Jesus is Risen, Alleluia* to be heard on live broadcasting with the assistance of her nephew and niece, good musicians with technical wizardry. Thank you also to Maureen for always ensuring the correct hymns go on the board each week.

It goes without saying that music achievements throughout the year are only possible with the continued and loving support of the Choir members of St. Mary's Church, Bickleigh: many thanks.

**Sarah Gard**  
Director of Music