

Church Warden's Report April 2021

This has been an odd period of time, and it has been hard to look back at the year April 2020 – 2021, as we have been closed for so much of that time. Yet there have been positive things we have achieved as a Parish but the formats changed, encouraging us to develop new skills and ways of working. The phone support system has been a huge success and appreciated by all concerned. It meant that new relationships and friendships have developed and the congregation though personally dispersed, came together in a different way.

The closing of the churches also meant new ways of streaming our services and huge thanks go to Nigel Walsh for his You Tube output, and all who worked with him. The clergy also became expert at live streaming, Zoom coffees and meetings. Their ingenuity and hard work kept the “ship” afloat, which meant many who were self isolating continued to have engagement in worship and convivial conversations.

Ash Leighton Plomb, our new curate, started with us last summer and we welcome him, his wife Deborah, and son Alfred to our church family. Ash got to work immediately and is our voice and ears around the parish, bringing his gifts and expertise, whilst also learning along with us all. The Thrive Sunday afternoon services have been well attended, by members of the congregation and many others, some who are seeking a way forward. Thank you Ash. Also a big thank you to Deborah who has taken on our admin role.

Belinda Speed Andrews has completed her Curacy and has now joined us as Associate Priest. We welcome her, her skill and experience.

The working teams, Standing Committee, Staff Meeting, Pastoral Visiting and Green Team, all continued to grow and develop, improving and maintaining the working dynamic of the Parish and the support we offer, both within the congregation and to the outer world.

The things that arose were as follows:

The Standing Committee continues to meet before each PCC meeting and the Zoom process has actually facilitated the meeting so it will continue to use that format in the future, meeting only when required to discuss an urgent matter.

The Pastoral Visiting Team was expanded in order to manage the support required over these lockdowns, and a WhatsApp group was set up for us to have regular communication regarding illness, need and prayer requests. It is continuing for the foreseeable future, and the Zoom meetings have allowed us to share concerns and ideas.

The Social Committee has been on hold for the whole of the past year, but is getting ready to begin organising the fete we hope to hold in July.

The Fabric report will give the update regarding the Church Building. We offer many thanks to Dave Allin for his continual care of the church, and its wellbeing.

It has been a sad year where several members of our congregation have died or been seriously ill. Visiting and the funerals were restricted because of the pandemic rules, but we hold them in our hearts and prayers.

The Parish Room is currently being used by Wilmott Dixon staff, the Construction firm that is involved with building the college. They have offered to re-do the kitchen and flooring following their evacuation as part of their Community Give Back. It was a perfect time for us all as the soup kitchen has not been able to function and they needed the space. The rental goes some way to replacing the income normally generated by the hire of the church to local groups and concerts.

Whilst the soup kitchen was not possible many members of the St David's congregation were involved in putting together suppers for the homeless, who were being housed at the Great Western Hotel, during the pandemic. Thank you all for the time and generosity for this task.

We are very lucky to have a wide range of people available to run the different activities within the churches and acknowledge here the work they do. Church Fabric, Treasurer, Sides People, Servers, Musicians, Cleaning Fairies, Readers and Leaders of Prayer. Whilst some of the activities have not happened in the usual way over the past year, that support has still been available. Thank you all.

Emma White is now standing down as Churchwarden, having offered over four years to the parish and managing a number of situations that required support and development. We thank her and wish her well.

Thank you all for your continued support of us in our roles.

Emma White
Glynis Harflett
Church Wardens St David's Parish Exeter