

## Church Warden's Report October 2020

This has been an odd eighteen months, and it has been hard to look back at the initial year April 2019 – 2020, and the positive things we achieved as a Parish over that time, but there were in fact many. The working teams, Standing Committee, Staff Meeting and Pastoral Visiting 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 is now authorised funding up to £500 for projects without having to go to the PCC for approval each time, which facilitates the work of the parish and the group.

The Pastoral Visiting Team arranged two training events for the Parish, one on becoming a Dementia Friend, and the other on Loss and Bereavement. These were well attended and appreciated by all who came.

The Social Committee has been a great success, in raising money for the Parish and local charities, and offering a superb range of events that were well attended and enjoyed by the community. The physical changes to the St David's Church building gives us an effective kitchen and the new toilets, and has meant that a bigger range of events is possible. Thank you to the Social Committee members and members of the congregation who organised and ran the events

We are nearing completion of the Transformation Project, with just a small amount of woodwork on the kitchen to be completed.

The DAC visited St David's last December, at their request, and it was a very difficult meeting. The DAC members were not happy about a number of factors that had been done and have produced a report that has been presented to the PCC. Dave Allin, the Church Wardens and Nigel Guthrie have been working with the Architect to decide what issues we will be able to address and a timescale. The changes required will have a financial consequence for the Parish. Covid 19 has obviously delayed this work.

We were blessed with an offer from a local community group Good Gym, who do charitable work and produced 14 plus people over three nights to enable us to decorate and transform the Parish Room. We thank Peter Harflett for co-ordinating the project. Unfortunately Covid prevented us from finishing the task, but they have been in contact with us again and we hope to decorate the downstairs kitchen and toilets when Covid Rules allow it.

Several things initiated last year have continued, and been enjoyed by those who came. The Quarterly Brunch and the Knit and Natter, that had its first non-congregation member just before lock down.

Over the past year there was an increased use of the St David's for concerts and community events. This gave us a boost in income, but also gave us the opportunity to show off the beautiful church that we have to offer.

St Michael's has continued along side St David's, and their GoodWill table continues to provide an income and a sharing of produce that benefits all. Stephanie Aplin and Glynis Harflett have completed the inventory at the Church. St Michael's is now no longer a DCC so their meeting is in line with that at St David's.

Since March 2020 the church and its presence changed dramatically. We were very organised and within a few days had set up a comprehensive support system at St David's, for which we give particular thanks to Howard Friend, and his WhatsApp group. St Michaels were able to offer contact with most of their congregation as well, which was much appreciated. The development of our online presence, both on YouTube and Facebook enabled congregation members and people in the outer world to access our services and outreach. Thank you Nigel Guthrie and Nigel Walsh for your hard work at that time.

We have cautiously re-opened the churches, begun services and are starting to open the churches to groups requiring space, for rehearsals or activities. We are running these in live with the Covid Regulations put out by the Government and are reviewed regularly.

The Churchwarden team at St David's has proved to be an effective model, and we thank Paul Adams and Alan Baker. Alan's work commitment now means his time is limited and we would welcome offers from the congregation to join our team.

We are very lucky to have such a wide range of people running the different activities within the churches and acknowledge here the work they do. Sides People, Servers, Musicians, Cleaning Fairies, Readers and Leaders of Prayer. Thank you all.

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

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

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