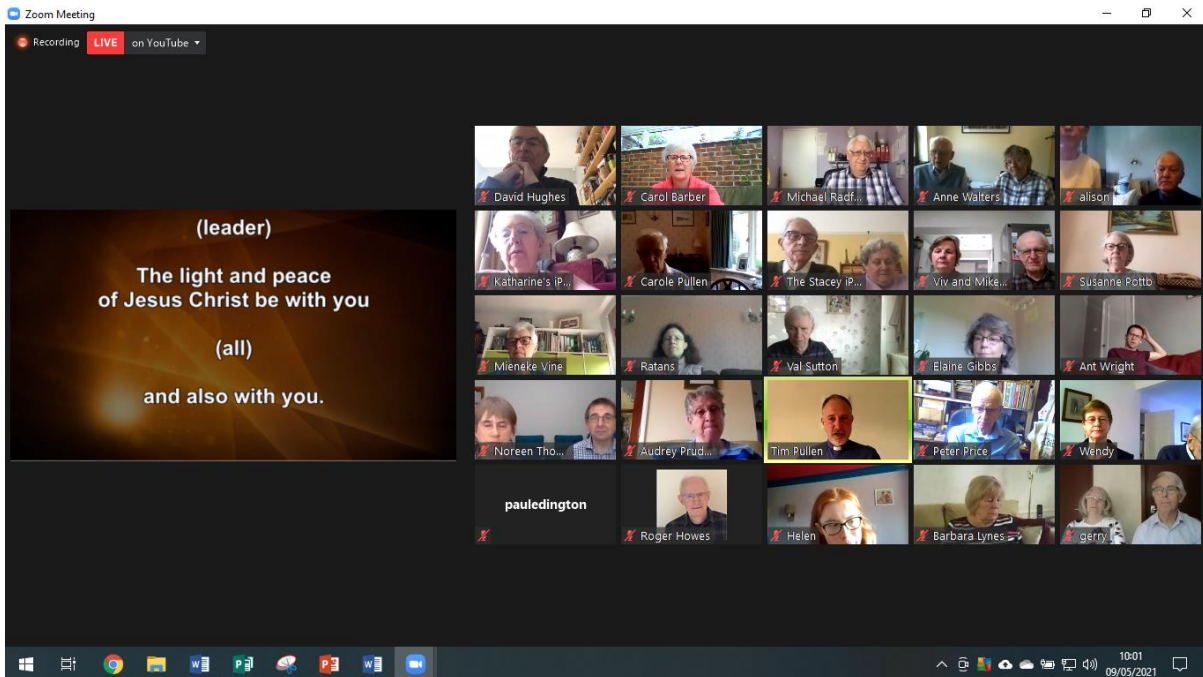


# WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual report and summary of accounts 2020

A celebration of the year 2020

at St Leonard's



# **St Leonard's Vision and Values Statement.**

## **Our Missional Vocation:**

Living for Jesus

## **Our Vision:**

Our vision is: To be a joyful and vibrant church empowered by the Holy Spirit, committed to sharing God's love with the wider community, welcoming partnership with others, so that all may be drawn into the abundant life of Christ.

## **Our priorities in mission:**

- Building the next generation of church
- Building relationships with people who find themselves in marginal and vulnerable situations
- Building authentic community

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## **Foreword**

2020 was a challenging year for all of us, and indeed the entire world. Little did we realise as we entered it what lay ahead. Covid-19 shaped everything. Much of what we used to call "normal life" ceased. Our ability to meet with others, to travel and, of course, to gather together for worship and to engage in many areas of ministry were seriously curtailed, particularly during the lockdown periods.

Nonetheless we managed to pivot quickly to the online world. Many of us had to climb a very steep learning curve; discovering how to video ourselves, record songs, meet on Zoom and livestream on YouTube. For some without internet connection, or unable to navigate the new world we found ourselves in, this presented major challenges. Yet technology enabled us to stay in touch and indeed to connect with some who otherwise would not have been able to join with us.

In this difficult year when many areas of our lives were dramatically impacted, our church community continued to seek ways of "loving one another and loving our neighbours". Our Link Neighbours system played a vital role in maintaining a basic level of communication and care for those already linked to the church. Our Connect groups (and other small groups), which had only just been set up as we entered the pandemic, enabled members to support and encourage one another. The Mothers Union also kept its members in touch with one another. We set up a small support network for those who needed shopping or prescriptions collecting.

Our Sunday worship moved online and, when possible, we held onsite services in St Leonard's, opening the building for individual prayer when we could. Messy Church adapted over the course of the year from onsite to online, to doorstep delivery! The Youth and Children's team continued to provide online meetings for our families and younger members, joining in a monthly "All Together"

service. The worship band battled with the restrictions to record songs when they could. Carols round the Pump became Carols round the community with some wonderful smaller gatherings in various streets around the parish to sing carols – we even had some visitors dropping in to the livestream from Sweden! Thy Kingdom Come was taken out into the community inviting all in the community to pray and express their hopes for the future.

For most of the year we managed to keep supporting the work of the Food Banks, at times working directly with the Hope Centre and when we could, taking supplies to St Martha's, Broxtowe when it was open. The Contact Home and Away group enabled us to keep supporting external charities and mission organisations. We were able to have some engagement with our local schools, particularly in the lead up to Christmas – a Christingle service with Fernwood over Microsoft Teams, some Christmas activity bags for Firbeck and some recorded talks for Bluecoat Wollaton.

These were just some of the ways in which our life as a church community continued through the year. In the midst of everything we experienced God's faithfulness and found things to be thankful for.

As we moved towards the end of the year the news of successful vaccine developments provided light at the end of the tunnel and hope of change. The recovery and rebuilding from the pandemic will take time. We became acutely aware of the significant disparities which characterise our society and indeed the world. 2021 will continue to be a pandemic year for much of the global community.

As someone put it "we have all been through the same storm, but in very different boats". Our experiences during the pandemic have been very varied and the outworking of those will also be quite different. And there is little doubt that we will have to continue dealing with the consequences of COVID-19 for a considerable time to come.

Yet we are a people of hope. God has not changed, and his kingdom of justice and peace will continue to break in. His promises stand firm, and he has promised never to leave us or forsake us. Whatever lies ahead we have solid grounds to look forward with faith and trust. Our challenge is to keep discerning where God is leading us in a changed, and changing, world. We all found ourselves dealing with considerable change in 2020, whether we wanted to or not. No doubt the future will involve more, but God is for us and for his world. There is good news for us to share; praying that John's vision from Revelation will be realised and many find their way into the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.

*<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,*

*'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'*

**WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**In St Leonard's Church (and online via Zoom) at 12 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening prayer and Dwelling in the Word
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020. *(to be confirmed)*
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Notification of any matters to be raised under any other business (to be submitted in writing to the Hon. Secretary by the previous evening to ensure an informed response)
6. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2021/2022
7. Presentation of Electoral Roll, Erica Bailey
8. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council (see blue pages)
9. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 (see blue pages) and budget for 2021 (white pages), Ian Hall
10. Appointment of Auditor
11. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church Val Sutton and Mike Smith
12. Summary of Reports from Team Leaders (see white pages)
13. Report from Deanery Synod Anne Walters
14. Report from Diocesan Synod Roger Howes
15. Elections.
16. Date of next Annual Parochial Church Meeting: with the agreement of the annual meeting to be decided by the new PCC.
17. Any other business
18. Rector's review and closing prayers Tim Pullen

## **WOLLATON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in St Leonard's Church, Wollaton at 12.00 pm and by Zoom. (*unconfirmed*)

Presenting: Tim Pullen (in the chair), Alison Hatton, Val Sutton.

Minute taking: Kate Breckles.

***Documents provided included hard copies of the Annual Report and Accounts 2019 (also available in large print).***

#### **A1/20. Opening prayer and Dwelling in the Word.**

The meeting was opened at 12.08. TP greeted everyone, on Zoom and in church. He read 1 John 4: 7-16, the passage we have been using for Dwelling in the Word. This was followed by prayer.

#### **A2/20. Apologies for absence.**

Wendy Sutton-Pryce, Peter Welsh, Graham Birkett, Peter Price, Rosie Breckles, Joan and Jenny Eaton.

#### **A3/20. Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

The minutes were read and approved. The Rector signed the minutes.

#### **A4/20. Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

#### **A5/20. Any other business.**

No notifications of AOB.

#### **A6/20. Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2020/2021.**

Election of Church Wardens to serve to the end of May 2021. Farewell to Ali Hatton after 6 years of faithful service. Two nominations have been received.

Val Sutton, proposed Charlotte Bolton, seconded by Ali Hatton. All in favour.

Mike Smith, proposed by Charlotte Bolton, seconded by Anne Walters. All in favour.

#### **A7/20 Presentation of the Electoral Roll.**

At the meeting on Sunday Erica said "last year there were 308 people on the roll (214 resident in the parish), now 305 (216 resident). However, this is not what it says in the Annual Report]. The year opened with 420 (419 in 2018) names on the electoral roll. Following a complete revision of the roll in April 2019 the year ended with 307 (420) names on the roll.

The Electoral Roll was accepted by the meeting.

**A8/20. Report of the Hon. Secretary on the activities of the Council.**

Report of the Hon Sec is on page 2 of the Financial Report, there were no comments.

**A9/20. Report of the Hon. Treasurer, presentation of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and budget for 2020.**

The accounts to the end of 2019 are in the Financial Report. Drawn up by our accountants, Haines Watt. They have been checked and approved by the PCC and sent to the Diocese. It was a reasonably straight forward year. Expenses were slightly higher than expected, investments did well. The Community Centre income has been severely affected for 2020. Regular giving has remained stable and unaffected.

Barbara Lynes asked how the Treasurer saw the investments doing in 2020. There has been a dip due to Covid but there is likely to be a recovery by 2021/22. The long-term outlook is good, now is not the time to sell.

**A10/20. Appointment of Auditor.**

Ian Hall proposed that we continue with Haines Watt, Barbara Lynes seconded, all in favour.

Tim Pullen thanked Ian Hall and Liz Norris for their roles in managing church finances. David Martin was thanked for managing the Planned Giving.

**A11/20. Churchwardens' report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church.**

The Church Wardens' report on the fabric is in the Annual Report. The work on the roof is now complete. Tim Pullen thanked all who worked on the fabric, including Mick Wagstaff, Carol Barber, Trev Hatton, Roger Howes and the wardens.

**A12/20. Summary of reports from team leaders and The Community Centre Management Team.**

Team leaders' reports: in the Annual Report. Tim Pullen asked people to pray for all involved, and to consider becoming involved. Barbara Lynes pointed out that there is no Link Neighbours report. Tim Pullen thanked all Link volunteers, Karen Hanford and Alison Brooks for leadership, Mary Stacey for administration and communication.

**A13/20. Report from the Deanery Synod.**

The Deanery Synod report can be found in the Annual Report. No comments received.

**A14/20. Report of the Diocesan Synod.**

The Diocesan Synod report can be found in the Annual Report. No comments received.

**A15/20. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod.**

Elections: Tim Pullen thanked all PCC members. Tim Pullen listed all those standing down this year – Ali Hatton, Anne Walters, Wendy Sutton-Pryce, Peter Price. Victoria Yeomans is standing down as she is moving to Cardiff.

Deanery Synod – 5 places, 5 nominations.

Name	Proposed	Seconded	All in favour
Erica Bailey	Elaine Thompson	Liz Norris	x
Emma Twissell	Sally Smith	Erica Bailey	x
John Withers	Malcolm Stacey	Mary Stacey	x
Kate Breckles	Joan Williams	Rosemary Breckles	x
Charlotte Bolton	Anne Walters	Alison Hatton	x

PCC – 4 x 3-year vacancies, 1 x 2-year vacancy (due to resignation of VY), 2 x 1-year vacancies (due to KB and ETw moving to DS). Only 3 nominations.

Name	Proposed	Seconded	All in favour
Andy Holbrook	Anne Walters	Kim Holbrook	x
Sally Smith	Alison Hatton	Emma Twissell	x
Catherine Fry	Rosemary Breckles	Gemma Fry	x

**A16/20. Election of sides people and welcomers, and vote of thanks.**

Tim Pullen thanked all who served in 2019 and all those listed for 2020. All those named were appointed by a show of hands.

**A17/20. Date of the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

The meeting agreed this would be decided by the new PCC.

**A18/20. Any other business.**

None.

**A19/20. Rector's review and closing prayers.**

During the year, the two curates moved on. Peter to St John's, Bilborough and Chris to Farnsfield. Both did much to contribute to the life of St Leonard's, especially to the music.

Tim Pullen thanked the following people:

David Thompson, Matt Green, Kerry Pashley and Roger Alton – Community Centre.

Carol Barber – works above and beyond her hours and job description. Pastoral care as well as administration.

Tim Pullen thanked Lindy Jones for keeping young families connected during the lockdown.

Refreshments – Josie, Penny, Jo and many volunteers.

Floral arrangements – Mienke and her team.

Alison Hatton – card and gift to thank her for everything she has done as church warden.

Kate Breckles and Gill Moore for administration of the PCC.

Jo – keeps TP on the straight and narrow.

Ali Hatton thanked everyone for their support. Thanked Tim Pullen, especially for 2020!

Tim Pullen asked for prayers for Messy Church, restarting after a 6-month break.

Prayers and thanks for 2019.

Meeting closed at 1.25.

## **Item 7**

### **Presentation of the Electoral Roll.**

The year opened with 307 (420 in 2019) names on the electoral roll. The Electoral Roll at 31/12/20 was 304. The figure I present at the APCM will be the number on the revised ER which will be different to the figure as at 31/12/20.

**Erica Bailey, Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Item 8**

### **Hon. Secretary's Review of 2020**

The PCC has met six times this year, and the Standing Committee and Resources Team six times also. Key decisions made during the year included the following.

- The Adult and Children Safeguarding Policies were revised and adopted.
- Encounter commenced in February – a new monthly service aimed at people wishing to explore Christian faith. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown in March prevented any further meetings.
- A Governance Policy was adopted, documenting roles and responsibilities. This document has also been used as the basis for a more consistent approach to induction for new PCC members.
- A Financial Policy was adopted, documenting for the first-time existing practices.
- Following government regulations in relation to the pandemic and places of worship and Church of England guidance, we undertook a risk assessment as the basis of re-opening the church building. At all times, our approach since March was to follow guidance and re-assess risks regularly.
- We began reviewing our financial position due to the pandemic and the shutting of the Community Centre and reviewed the Budget for 2021 considering the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
- We chose an online giving process provider, which went 'live' in the Autumn.
- The broadband was upgraded to facilitate better streaming.
- An increase in our annual giving was agreed, across eleven charities.

Redecoration of the vestry and church office was agreed in 2019 and took place this year.

In the Autumn Kate Breckles stood down as Honorary Secretary after many years. On behalf of the council, I would like to thank Kate for her knowledge and guidance. Also, on behalf of the council, I would like to thank Gill Moore for her tireless work as our Minutes Secretary.

Mr Andrew Holbrook, Honorary Secretary



## **Item 11**

### **Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments 2020**

Firstly, an enormous 'Thank you' to Alison Hatton now that she has stepped down from her role as Churchwarden after 6 years devoted service. She made sure before she retired that I was well versed in all that was involved in the job so that I was able to pass on the information to Mike Smith, who agreed to take Ali's place. An enormous 'Thank you' to Mike for not leaving me on my own!

Over the past months Mike, together with the parish safeguarding officer (Rachel Higginson), has conducted a review of several aspects of safeguarding. This has included updates to the church website, implementation of a robust system for recording and monitoring safeguarding training, as well as significant progress in renewing expired DBS checks and training amongst those who either work with or have responsibility for young people and vulnerable adults.

The church building, of course, has been used far less than normal this past year because of the pandemic. The kneelers are piled in the vestry and the Bibles are stacked away. But there is still rigorous cleaning to be done after every short, socially distanced service. And for this a big 'Thank you' to Matt Green; and to the welcomers for wiping down door handles, etc.

And, as last year, a big 'Thank you' to Roger Howes for his ongoing care of the church roof, work on which is now complete (he says, "Until the next problem"!) Also supervised by Roger, minor interior decoration work was finished in 2020.

And thank you to Trevor Hatton, who is always around when there are DIY jobs to be done and for his artwork outside the church door bringing the Good News of God's kingdom to the whole of Wollaton.

The wooden notice board outside the church was in danger of collapsing every time the notices were changed so it has now been replaced with a metal board which should last for many years.

Finally thank you, as always, to our clergy and retired clergy for their inspirational leadership of our worship. And especially a massive 'thank you' to Tim who has spent many long hours enabling us to worship online when our church building has been closed.

Val and Mike

## **Item 12**

### **Summary of team reports 2020**

These reports come from each group reflecting on where God has been at work in the past year. Each group has also committed to one action for the next year to enable them to work towards one of the St Leonard's Priorities. All activities in the church are overseen by the PCC under the headings of Mission, Worship and Discipleship and reports are presented under these headings.

## **Mission**

### **Parent and Toddler Group**

God was at work in our group as we mourned the loss of our committed volunteer Sue. God was at work as we joined the country in closing our public space and learnt new ways to support and receive support from our closest neighbours. God was at work as we met and reminisced and dreamed and planned to meet face to face with families again. God was at work as the year ended and we were able to open a group for those with young non mobile babies.

### **Schools**

Despite the challenges God has provided us with opportunities to keep in touch with schools although we have been aware of the challenge to keep looking for ways of supporting all our local schools. God prompted us to organise "Christmas in a bag" for Firbeck School, including some activities and a book of the Christmas story, and a gift to bless the hard-working staff, and of course we have continued to pray for the schools throughout this immensely difficult year. God has also had his hand on the way we were able to use technology to deliver a Christingle act of collective worship to Fernwood, interacting with the class groups in Foundation and Key Stage 1, and to offer some recorded talks for Bluecoat Wollaton to use in their online services.

### **Baptisms**

There were 12 baptisms during this period, some held at the 4.00pm service on Sunday afternoons. These included some older teenagers and adults. God is ensuring that new people are being brought to faith despite seeming difficulties.

### **Wollaton Care Group and Come for Coffee**

Neither of these groups has been able to meet due to Covid restrictions and concerns over those attending and the volunteers. Some informal contact has taken place with Group members and God has been at work in future planning.

### **Contact Home and Away**

God has been at work in the prayers for our Mission Partners and partner organisations at these particularly challenging times. The group have given thanks to God for the substantial contribution for work in UK and overseas from the congregation – prayers, food donations and financial contributions. At the end of 2020, we have welcomed several new members to the group and are excited for renewed work to raise awareness of the campaigns, for prayer and to work with our Mission Partners and partner organisations.

### **Dads n Kids**

Like so many others we have not met since Feb '20. None of the government guidelines have allowed us the freedom to get together. Due to broken laptop and loss of address book we have not been able to stay in touch other than through the WhatsApp Group, but we received only one response to messages sent out. The off time has given us time with God to review the purpose of DadsnKids and to realise that without the help of some younger men in the church, it is going to be difficult to get going again. Has God been active? Quite honestly, we've no idea: we will let you know next year. Hoping to restart in September, assuming we get the needed support.

### **The Foodbank Volunteers**

We have given thanks to God for the valuable contributions of so many, at a time when there has been a need to feed an ever-increasing number of people from all walks of life during the Covid epidemic. Help from volunteers to prepare and distribute food bags and the overwhelming number of monetary gifts online and in person, have enabled us to provide for more families and isolated people than we could ever have envisaged. God has truly been at work in all this so Thank you all.

### **Wollaton Link Magazine**

LINK reaches homes that do not contact their church through the internet, so it gives succour and support to many who are feeling isolated. Challenges of distribution and safe delivery have been overcome. The distributors have incorporated delivery as part of their permitted exercise – for which we give thanks.

### **Uniformed Organisations**

Praise to God for links through technology. This has enabled groups to meet online and keep in touch with their leaders.

### **Welcomers**

We thank God that he has provided those who have ‘stepped up’ to be a Welcomer during all the Covid restrictions and all that it has entailed. Many have been so grateful as this has enabled them to Worship in the Church building and see people, they have been apart from for so long.

### **Weddings and marriage preparation**

God has been at work in the relationships we have developed with the couples as they faced the challenges of trying to organise weddings as restrictions have changed throughout the year. God enabled us to support some of the couples through incredibly stressful circumstances - a reminder to us of our calling to serve.

### **Bereavement Team**

We have all experienced thanks and appreciation for the cards sent approximately one month after the funeral and for the phone calls that followed. It has enabled the bereaved to talk if they wished to an independent person and the fact they are being thought about and not forgotten after the initial round of sympathy. The bereavement service (usually in November) has always been well attended and it helped people to know others were in the same position as themselves. I am sure there were several people who would have liked a home visit had it been possible. However, friends among the congregation and particularly Carol in the office have played a big part this year. Surely God was helping us to continue with this work and in private prayer has comforted those who felt alone, but in fact, were not alone.

### **Wollaton Churches**

The Wollaton Churches Committee had a somewhat different year from usual. Unable to send out Easter cards and Christmas cards to the community to publicise the services of all the churches and to indicate how support could be accessed, the Committee had to find a different way of making God's love known. Carols Round the Pump became a walk round the parish with people standing at their doors and putting posters in their windows. United services could not take place in the churches, but two were Zoomed. Churches mounted displays outside their buildings to catch the eyes of passers-by. All this was a proof to church members and the general community that God was at work in Wollaton.

### **Mission Possible**

God has been alive and working in our Community during the pandemic, inspiring many to deeds of kindness and concern for others. Helping us to get to know our neighbours. sometimes for the first time. Volunteers have stepped up to deliver food where necessary and foodbanks have adapted to feed those in need. We have managed to stay strong in our own faith through prayer, by joining together for worship on Zoom and keeping in touch with our link friends. Preparations are also underway for the next stages of our collective Mission. Moving out from the comfort of our Church building and taking the Good news of Jesus into lesser-known areas of our Parish. A mission for the whole church here in Wollaton. Please pray for our community and all that is in store for us as we return to some sort of normality in 2021.

### **Discipleship**

Although some aspects of being a disciple were not physically possible in 2020, there are many signs that God has indeed been at work among us in many ways. Those aspects that have required close physical contact have not been able to be maintained, so Home Communion and Pastoral Visiting in their usual forms have not been possible. However, we can see God's hand in the ways of service and discipleship that we have been able to carry out.

### **Pastoral Visiting**

Again, this has not been possible in the normal way, but a lot of work has gone into keeping in touch with others, including the relatives of those of our Church family who are in Care Homes. There has been a wider use of prayer ministry offered in phone calls which has been greatly appreciated. We see God at work here in expanding and introducing Prayer Ministry in a very new and innovative way. Fellowship and communication have been maintained as well as an outward looking mission.

### **Children and Young People**

- We have seen spiritual growth in long standing members in the way they are building confidence to pray and share their understanding when discussing stories with the group. God is at work with us every week as we plan and lead the sessions.
- God has been at work through our committed, encouraging, and dedicated CYP leaders and helpers who have amazing gifts. The children are always engaged and have fun.
- God has been at work in our leaders and helpers, with their willingness to adapt to a new way of working and delivering groups virtually from 23<sup>rd</sup> March until the end of the year.
- God has been at work through our group members who have grown in confidence and have wanted to contribute by appearing in videos and services for the wider services including a virtual nativity. This has provided a good link with the online congregation and children's groups.
- God has been at work with supporting communication with the leaders and helpers and together we have found new and interesting resources.
- God has been at work when parents have also engaged with the online groups, this has provided opportunities to build relationships, support one another and provide a whole family approach to living for Jesus.
- God was at work when we have experienced the children teaching us new things such as using technology whilst providing patients with each other through technology issues.

## **Connect Groups**

In summary: we have seen God at work sustaining the members of the groups facing vastly different circumstances and been encouraged by hearing from each other about how we have experienced God with us through the challenges. Sharing in our Connect Groups has reminded us of how God works through the everyday circumstances of our lives, and we have been encouraged by the way God has spoken to us through the bible passages we have looked at together.

### **Robert and Liz Norris' Connect Group**

THG, run by Robert and Liz Norris, has operated on Zoom for most of 2020. They have felt blessed to be able to meet regularly – albeit virtually- to enjoy fellowship and encourage one another through reflecting on God's Word, using BRF Holy Habits and Advent material. It was also good to have a couple of in-person gatherings in Robert and Liz's garden in the summer (keeping to the rule of 6 of course!).

### **Trev and Ali Hatton's Connect Group**

Trev and Ali's Group have been very aware of God's provision in enabling the group to meet via Zoom. For those who could not meet on Zoom contact has been maintained by phone and personal contact when possible. Again, Psalms were found to be both wonderfully enlightening and challenging in Zoom meetings.

### **Pete and Erica Bailey's Connect Group**

This Group meets on alternate Monday evenings, led by Pete and Erica Bailey and managed to meet face to face twice before lockdown! The time spent together in Zoom meetings has been important for fellowship in the whole group. The group has looked at a variety of material, including the life of Paul, aspects of Fellowship using the BRF Holy Habits resource and looking at Christian faith in art. The group has also experimented with different ways of praying and prayer requests are shared on the group's WhatsApp.

### **Tim and Jo Pullen's Connect Group.**

We met on alternate Tuesday evenings through most of the year. We have seen God at work sustaining the members of the group facing very different circumstances and been encouraged by hearing from each other about how we have experienced God with us through the challenges. Sharing in our Connect Group has reminded us of how God works through the everyday circumstances of our lives, and we have been encouraged by the way God has spoken to us through the bible passages we have looked at together in BRF Holy Habits resource and a series on Psalms.

### **Off the Point**

God has been at work in [Off The Point](#) by encouraging members to keep in contact and support each other through WhatsApp, phone calls and Zoom meetings. More recently the group has seen God encouraging and reminding of His love and faithfulness as the group have shared in Bible Study, looking at the Psalms, which they have found to be a real blessing.

### **Lead Links**

God ensured that a network of people linking the Parish was already in place before Lockdown. The structure of this pastoral scheme had been established so people were already used to keeping in touch with each other. God's work has also been seen in the willingness of people to keep up regular contact with their Link people and this has been a great help for many, especially those who have been unable to get out at all.

## **Worship**

### **Cleaning Team**

Hopefully, the team will be able to continue when services resume following the lifting of Covid related restrictions and under the new leadership of Alison Hatton.

### **Messy Church**

God has been powerfully at work in Messy Church in 2020. We had a troubled and wobbly start to the pandemic using Facebook which did keep some contact and gave families activities and a celebration each month, and certainly taught the team a huge amount about trust, faith, patience, and technology as well as keeping them meeting and praying together on Zoom. Fortunately, God then gave us the courage to abandon using Facebook for communication and to use Messy Church bags instead. This had given us the amazing opportunity to meet with 30 families each month on their doorsteps and have intentional conversations with adults and children. God has given us the courage to ask families if there was anything our prayer team could be praying for, and they have been open in their responses. At 2 face to face sessions in the autumn families worked together exploring the gospel as families, which was God enabling our long-held dream in a totally unimagined way. For the first time in our history God has given us 6 youngsters who will be starting secondary school in September 2021 and we are looking at how we help them continue to grow as disciples. Some of these youngsters God has kept faithful for many years, and some were new to Messy Church in 2020. The smaller core planning team have grown closer to each other and to God as we have learnt to rely on him when going forward has seemed impossible, and we are grateful to those who have held us in prayer throughout the year. Many parents thought Christmas would be cancelled and so were delighted when Mary and Joseph and Donkey landed on their doorsteps (but not as excited as the children). Though Mary, Joseph and Donkey were not able to stay overnight, families experienced the love of Jesus visiting them in some very tough times.

### **Thy Kingdom Come**

God was at work in giving people the vision and imagination as to how we could still take part in TKC despite lock-down. God used the materials to connect with several people across the parish. Through the 24-hour prayer vigil people were enabled to engage with prayer, often in a new way: it was particularly encouraging to have members from other Wollaton churches taking part.

### **All Together @10**

God has been at work:

- in encouraging us to explore new ways of "doing" worship and "being church".
- in providing technology that has allowed experimentation with different media, and in gifting us with the skills necessary to use it.
- through the use pre-recordings and video clips the children and young people have been able to contribute in new ways that encourage us all.
- in Zoom services which have allowed people to join our worship from across the country (and the world!) which has been a real blessing.
- in the use of "break out" rooms that have encouraged fellowship and support between those who may not normally meet (or who attend different services).
- in strengthening our sense of what it means to be the Body of Christ together.

### **Readers Report**

The readers who can access our online services have been wonderful throughout 2020. We never missed a service! Everybody changed seamlessly first to recording readings then to reading live online. Readers also were willing to read at Sunday afternoon services. So, a great big thank you to our wonderful team and to our God for giving us the technology to make it work.

### **Worship Band**

It was the third Sunday in March just over a year ago, that I realised that we would not be able to play in church, for quite some time. Then into the first lock-down, I found myself compelled to continue to play and sing the worship songs I was familiar with and some new ones I had been wanting to learn. Two or three months into lockdown, it was Tim who asked if I could record a song for the service on Sunday, which is really what I felt I was being called to do. At this point, I had to just put my trust and thanks in God, as I was out of my comfort zone, had never recorded anything before, and chose the song Consuming Fire (There must be more than this) and among the words, "Spirit of God, we wait for you, fan into flame, a passion for your name, Lord have your way with us". So, now I do my best to listen and continue with the band, taking encouragement from Tim, Jo, Karen, and others.

Special thanks to Pete Butcher, who has made sure we rehearse every week, since it was deemed possible to meet and to Trev Hatton and Gemma Whiley for making possible all the songs we played over Christmas. More recently, we have had help on vocals from Emma Scothern, which was much welcomed and enjoyed.

As a band, we do feel very privileged to be able to serve in this ministry, in thanks and praise to God, a calling which is rewarding, fun, but also can take some time - so huge thanks also, to Ali, Katie, Catherine, and other halves who can spare their band members to come out to play!

It does seem sometimes hard to remember, the last time we played as a band for a service in the community centre, or the church, but what I do remember, is Mike Smith pitching up early to help set up, drive the mixing desk, and help take down, a lot of hard work, which I am sure God had a hand in too, but thank you Mike.

### **Choir and Music Group**

There is little to report this year as we have not met for rehearsals nor services. Contact on a mostly one/two weekly basis has been by email about events, Notes from the Director of RSCM, local news of services, topics for prayer, etc., and phone calls. On-line RSCM services and festivals were enjoyed by several members of both choir and music group.

A longing to be able to meet, rehearse and worship together is regularly expressed by many and we are all praying and looking forward to the time when that can become a reality. It would seem that with expressions of a sense of loss without the opportunity to meet, that God is bringing home to us the importance of fellowship and community and being together in our activities and especially our worship and that in so doing we serve Him and each other.

### **Banner Group**

God inspired us to create the handmade Nativity scene with two knitted sheep and the also knitted 'Twelve Days of Christmas' in church, which gave pleasure and hope to lots of people around Christmas. We were blessed to have help from a few extra members of the church and resources with this Nativity.

We thank God that the group's 4 members still could support each other via email or phone and last summer even to meet up in the garden.

### **Flower Arrangers**

As we could not arrange flowers in church, we still were able to support each other by phone or face to face in good and sad times. We thank God that we were able to put the Lenten Cross outside the church this Easter 2021, which was brought alive by so many posies!

### **Handbell Ringers**

Sadly, we have not been able to meet and ring the Handbells. We thank God that we were able to keep contact via our What's App group and gave each other hope for the future. We supported each other in good and sad times.

### **Church Office**

This year has been challenging for many but also exciting in the office where I have had some truly clear and meaningful conversations via my 'church office window'. Not only with parishioners already known to me but also other callers. People specifically calling up to see me regarding prayers for their loved ones where I have been able to further my conversations. One person comes to mind who during Covid has chosen to come to a service when we have been able to hold them in church and is talking about being more involved. Feeling blessed and much to be thankful for.

### **Mother's Union**

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian Charity Organisation under the auspices of the Church of England. It is based on prayer and aims to support family life. Meetings start with a short service, then usually a speaker, followed by refreshments and fellowship. There are interesting Members and Friends Days, and services where we meet up with members from other branches. The year started well with an Epiphany Service, led by the Rector. This was followed by our AGM. We were able to meet in February and March, and to attend a Members and Friends meeting at which we bid farewell to Bishop Tony and Mrs Lucille Porter, a former Diocesan President. April and May were spent coming to terms with the shock of lockdown before, in June, our wonderful Branch Leader, Patsy Fletcher, introduced a newsletter with prayers, a quiz and a colouring sheet, to replace our monthly meetings. We were unable to hold a cake sale or a coffee morning to support MU projects at home and abroad. Members have seen God's gifts given to the leaders in the imagination and creativity they have shown in the production of the Newsletter and the fellowship encouraged by mutual support and regular phone calls by members to each other. On a practical level we were able to give the Police Aid Convoy knitted hats, teddies, and blankets. The Children's Society Boxes were collected and counted. We would love some new members to share our fellowship and support our work. You do need to be a baptised Christian, but you do not have to be a mother or married or a woman.



## **St Leonard's Community Centre Wollaton**

### **1. SUMMARY**

We closed the Centre on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 due to Covid-19.

Now, throughout May 2021, we are seeing a steady and encouraging rise in bookings and enquiries.

Larger groups that generally comprise the slightly more elderly members, for example Probus, Historical Society, Day Time Voices, UAE etc, are understandably more cautious. I expect these groups to return after the summer, providing everything goes well.

### **2. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The SLCCW Management Committee has not met since the Centre was closed, although I have kept members updated with the occasional 'newsletter'.

The committee is made up as follows:-

Matthew Green – Caretaker & cleaner  
Kerry Pashley – Office Manager  
David Thompson - Chair of SLCCW Management Committee  
Roger Alton – Treasurer  
John Tordoff – Community  
Manjit Kaur-Jones – Community  
Tim Pullen – PCC

### **3. ACCOUNTING**

There has been no hire income since mid-March 2020.

We entered lockdown in March 2020 with a bank balance of £31,197. At 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 this balance stands at £17,486, a drop of £13,711 over the Covid period to date.

### **4. STAFFING**

Our paid staff have been on the government's furlough scheme since its inception. We continue to claim a portion of their wages through the scheme.

### **5. H&S**

As the Centre opens up, we continue to work to make it Covid-safe. We have on-going risk management protocols, based around Government advice.

### **Item 13**

#### **Nottingham North Deanery Synod Report**

Due to the unprecedented year, we only held one Deanery Synod during 2020 and this was on 13<sup>th</sup> February at St Leonard's in Wollaton. We were joined by Revd James Halstead who shared about "Whole Life Discipleship" and the opportunities for thinking about this further and training in the Diocese. We also gave out a small gift to every parish to thank them for their generous giving in 2019.

As always, we welcomed some new people and said some fond farewells. We said goodbye to Lydia Cartwright at Stapleford and welcomed Jess Savill, Anna Clarke and Lydia Corbett to the Woven group of churches.

Our Deanery Prayer meetings have also continued the first Tuesday of each month on Zoom. The Synod would like to thank all churches for your generous and faithful giving during 2020. We may not have achieved payment of the full 100% of our parish share allocation but 93.1% in these difficult circumstances was fantastic! We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to have the opportunity to meet again in person in July.

### **Item 14**

#### **Diocesan Synod Report**

The Diocesan Synod is the main policy-making body of the Diocese and met twice remotely during 2020.

As well as the normal reports on finance, education and mission, particular attention was given to practical issues relating to the Covid pandemic.

Bishop Paul addressed both Synods, concentrating his thoughts on the effects of the pandemic. In April he expressed heartfelt gratitude to all responding to the coronavirus across the diocese and thanking churches for their kindness and creativity in providing pastoral care and spiritual encouragement. In October, Bishop Paul urged us to be outrageously hopeful, compassionate, outwardly focused and willing to take faith-based risks with wisdom and courage. He further added that churches cannot and should not expect to return to the same former patterns of ministry after the pandemic.

The Diocese, including the North Nottingham Deanery Woven churches, continue to receive significant funding from the national Strategic Development Fund to support the Diocesan vision of 'growing disciples wider, younger and deeper'.

Roger Howes

## St Leonard's operating budget 2021 (excl. special appeals & SLCCW)

<b>Income</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Collections	5000	5000	2000
Appeals (specific purpose)	1400	1400	1000
Planned giving	170000	160000	150000
Other income			
Fees	8000	8000	6000
Investment	4500	4500	4000
Monuments (investment)	50	50	50
Fundraising	1500	1500	1000
Parent and toddlers	4200	4200	2000
Publications	100	100	50
<b>Total income</b>	<b>194750</b>	<b>184750</b>	<b>166100</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Parish share<sup>1</sup></b>	114000	117000	117000
<b>Giving <sup>2</sup></b>			
Overseas	3750	3500	3200
Home	4250	4470	4300
Appeals (specific purpose)	1400	1400	1000
<b>Church costs</b>			
Gas	3500	3500	3000
Electricity	2500	2500	2200
Insurance	3900	3900	3900
Maintenance	2000	2000	2000

**Other costs**

Community centre	4500	4500	4500
Salaries	22200 <sup>3</sup>	22600	22900
Clergy	3000	3000	3000
Worship	4000	4000	2000
Administration	4000	4000	3000
Fabric	5000	5000	5000
Ministry	100	100	0
Pastoral	200	200	200
Contact	500	500	500
Wider links	500	500	200
Audit fees	3000	3000	3000
Parent & Toddlers	2500	2500	2000
Youth work	2000	2000	2000
Mission and outreach	3000	3000	1500
Security	1000	1000	1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>190800</b>	<b>194170</b>	<b>187400</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>3950</b>	<b>(£9420)</b>	<b>(21300)<sup>4</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> The Deanery share allocation for 2020 has been increased to £117,000 figure for 2021 not yet available

<sup>2</sup>giving has been agreed by PCC as a fixed % of regular giving income.

<sup>3</sup>figure adjusted to reflect actual salary costs and annual increases based on predicted annual increment

<sup>4</sup>note in addition that the community centre is forecasting a deficit of ~£25000 for 2021. There is a possibility some of this will be offset by support from the Diocese. The salary figures used do not include any element of reimbursement for furlough schemes.

## Notes to budget

- 1 Any major expenditure on church fabric would need to be the subject of a separate bid against reserves.
- 2 The operating budget income does not include estimates of income from legacies, nor funds raised from special appeals.
- 3 The SLCC has a separate budget although accounts are incorporated into the main PCC accounts for audit purposes (see note 4 above).

The PCC has agreed to ring fence £100,000 of legacy income to support missional priorities arising from its recent priority setting work. Neither the legacy income, nor this spend, is shown in the operating budget.

IPH/ budget for 2021