

**THE PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY MINCHINHAMPTON
with
ST BARNABAS BOX**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
FROM
CHURCH COMMITTEES
AND
ORGANISATIONS
MAY 2020 - APRIL 2021**

RECTOR'S REPORT – Revd Canon Howard Gilbert

Well, what a year it has been! The church has been called upon to minister to the flock, and the wider parish, in a whole raft of new and important ways. As the whole world entered lockdown, we re-learned how to care practically for our neighbour. We set ourselves many goals to focus on this year but COVID-19 has massively changed everything. So, before we look back on the goals we set ourselves, let us first take stock of the unprecedented challenges we have faced.

Most importantly, we are grateful to a huge number of people, both inside and outside the church, who have done a lot of caring for each other. I do hope that one legacy of these awful times will be a better community spirit, both within the church, and without.

We have tried really hard to keep in touch with people regularly through lockdown. Our pastoral care team have been regularly on the phone, and I have been writing weekly to the wider congregation (around 500 email addresses and around 50 by regular paper letters). Each week I have thought that I would have nothing to say the following week, but times have been changing and shifting so fast, that there has always been something important to share.

Broadcasting engaging and high quality worship has been a priority, both whilst people have been locked down at home, and also for a period when the church was closed for worship (possibly for the first time in getting on for 1000 years!) Broadcasting worship has been a continual challenge, and getting the IT straight has taken a great deal of time, effort, and heartache; but after many months, we do seem to have achieved good reliable quality.

As we begin to emerge from lockdown, and people increasingly return to church in person, we should consider the targets we set ourselves before lockdown:

- Paying our full parish share was a priority, and despite massive financial challenges through lockdown, I think we can be very proud to have maintained our financial position, even if there is still more work to do.
- Encouraging young people to worship with us is something that has not been possible, but is an ongoing priority. As soon as we can we shall be renewing our Junior Church, and restarting Junior Choir.
- Renewing our liturgy and worship has not been possible, but as and when we no longer need to socially distance, it will be time to look at this.
- Developing excellence in pastoral care is still something we aspire to, and when we can drink cups of tea in each other's houses, we will get back onto this. In the mean-time, I shall keep up the pastoral dog walking!
- In some ways, this enforced retreat from the world has lent itself to developing our spirituality in new ways. We began lockdown with a number of weekly spiritual challenges, and our Zoom Lent Groups are now enjoying exploring prayer.
- Engaging in mission to our community (both in outreach but also, hopefully, with in-drag) is something I have been strategically considering and praying about a lot. It does seem that we are on the verge of a massive breakthrough in terms of opportunity, and we shall shortly be looking for lots of volunteers!
- Being as welcoming as we can be to people from all different backgrounds is again something we need to come back to. However, we have made big strides towards

engaging with this, both as a church and as Churches Together; and we pray that soon these plans and negotiations will start to bear fruit.

- Opening up our church building to the community has gone quite well. Despite lockdown restrictions Warwick has put on some wonderful concerts, and events like Experience Christmas saw many people in church who would not normally be seen here.

As I said in last year's report, the future for the church is quite a bleak one, and the last year has drawn this into sharp focus. The deanery is struggling to work out how to engage more fully in Godly ministry and mission, whilst shedding stipendiary clergy. Meanwhile, Minchinhampton and Box have had a very encouraging year, and are exploring partnerships with other parishes, with Churches Together, and with pioneer ministry providers. We are determined to ensure that the church is just as healthy as it is now, in the decades to come.

So, looking to the future, we live in interesting times. It is difficult to quite plot a path to the future for us, but we trust that God, in his mercy, will lead us through these times; and above all, lead us to himself.

The Revd Canon Howard Gilbert

Rector

STATUTORY REPORTS

ELECTORAL ROLL – Jackie Natt, Electoral Roll Officer

Our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) was held late in the year in 2020 due to the COVID restrictions. Our numbers on the Electoral Roll have reduced again over the year due to deaths and those moving away and we have only had a very few join.

We are now at a total of **223** people.

The Church Electoral Roll is our parish church's register of electors. It is the list of those qualified to attend and vote at the APCM.

The APCM is where the elections take place for the PCC (Parochial Church Council) and the parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod. By enrolling, you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help ensure that all the church councils are fully representative of its members.

The Electoral Roll has to be displayed once a year just before the APCM and it has been on the church notice board for the past 2 weeks.

We take GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) very seriously and the only people with access to the ER are myself (as ER officer) and the clergy.

If you are not on the ER and would like to be a member, please use the application form at the back of the porch room. Once completed, the forms can be left in my pigeon hole in church under 'N'.

Thank you.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL – Margaret Sheather, Honorary Secretary

Because of the delayed APCM due to the Covid restrictions, the PCC membership continued unchanged until October. At the APCM it was confirmed that Linda Jarvis, as Reader, should be an ex officio member of the PCC. New lay members to the PCC are Joan Goldsmith, Caroline Thackray, Ian Jarvis and Tracey Clements, Mike Gwilliam having stood down due to ill health. Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton was re-elected as Churchwarden and was joined by Angie Ayling. However, Jamie resigned in November and the PCC agreed that Mandy should take up the role again for the remaining part of this year. At its first full meeting the PCC co-opted Charlotte (Lottie) Roberts and John Jutsum was co-opted to continue as Honorary Treasurer. Margaret Sheather and Jackie Natt continued as Honorary Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer respectively.

There were four members of Deanery Synod. The Synod brings together all the clergy and representatives of the laity from across the Stroud area. It provides a forum for sharing ideas (or problems!), hearing about developments across the diocese and is a channel of communication through from the parishes to the leadership of the diocese. It elects representatives onto the Diocesan Synod and onto the General Synod. Our lay members elected for a three year term in 2020 were Jackie Natt, Julian Elloway, Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton and Margaret Sheather.

The Parochial Church Council has met six times during the past year for a full meeting and in February for an extraordinary meeting, dealing with urgent fabric matters. There was no meeting in April or May and meetings were held in person or via Zoom depending on the Covid restrictions in place at the time. The average attendance was 9 out of 12 elected members.

Ministry in the Parish was carried out by Revd Canon Howard Gilbert as Rector. Linda Jarvis has continued as Reader. They were also supported by a number of retired priests.

PCC meetings covered a wide variety of issues which were thoroughly discussed.

- arrangements for worship during Covid restrictions and how to ensure good quality streaming of services for those unable to attend
- our vision for the future and our hopes for the church in Minchinhampton (presented also at the APCM in October)
- the role and function of the PCC
- The wildflower and wildlife project
- The future of the Youth Club and the Hub
- Continuing consideration of the work required on the organ and two large windows
- improvements to wifi and installation of CCTV
- Agreeing the Christmas and Easter charities
- Safeguarding
- Standing items on Fabric and the Churchyard

The December meeting took a different form from the usual business agenda. There was an opportunity for members to introduce themselves more fully to each other and then the Rector led a discussion about the role and function of the PCC. Positive aspects of our meetings were identified along with some areas for improvement, and also ideas about improving communication of our business.

The Treasurer provided quarterly finance reports and at the meeting held on 23rd February he presented the year end accounts which were agreed.

Warm thanks are due to Alison Whittaker, Peter Petrolito and Christine Gibson whose term of office ends this year.

Further detail of the parish's activities can be found in the reports from Committees and Organisations later in this report.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – John Jutsum, Honorary Treasurer

These are provided in a separate report.

FABRIC REPORT – Mandy Jutsum, Angie Ayling and Jamie Dalrymple-Hamilton, Church Wardens

6Ps progress - Entrance Porch

The installation of the glass lantern and new sliding doors was completed on March 20th 2020 just in time for the planned celebratory evening with HRH Princess Anne the Princess Royal in attendance. Unfortunately this and the fund raising 'histories' evening with Professor James Daybell and Sam Willis were both cancelled as a result of Covid restrictions. The planned

celebratory evening has been rescheduled for later this year, confirmation of which has yet to be received.

Unfortunately there is a fault with the new sliding doors in that rain water gets blown under the doors making the carpet wet. This only occurs if it's raining and the wind is blowing from the south or south west. Tormax have attempted to rectify the problem by lowering the doors slightly but further action is needed. Further photographs of water running along the sill and of the wet carpet have been sent to Tormax to inform their plans for putting this right. The Managing Director of the company is now involved.

Looking ahead organ and windows:

William McVicker updated his report on the organ in September 2020 and recommendations were made.

In terms of the windows, the 2017 Quinquennial report pointed to the replacement or repair of the large south and east windows. The recommended timescale for this work being from 3 to 5 years, the cost in the region of £100,000 to £150,000. Dan Humphries, a stained glass window expert, inspected the windows last year and is intending to provide us with his report after the end of March. He is currently heavily involved in Covid Recovery Fund projects at both Wells and Gloucester Cathedrals.

The 6Ps fund raising is now directed at the organ and windows and funds are gradually building up, although more slowly than expected as a result of the suspension of fund raising events. The chair sponsorship scheme continues although only 25 chairs remain free. The sale of the Holy Trinity painted pottery continues. We thank Peter and Diana Lapping for acting independently on this project when the Fund Raising Group have not been meeting. We also thank the people, whose regular covenanted payments have continued during this time, for their ongoing generosity. Experience tells us, that the only way the amount of money needed for the windows and organ will be achieved in full is through grant applications to specialist trusts of which there are many. The Diocese keep an updated list of grant awarding bodies for specific areas. Over 70% of the £900,000 spent on the reordering of the church so far has been achieved through grant applications. At the end of 2020 the 6Ps funds stood at £46,398. Many grant awarding bodies offer matched funding which will be supported by the gradual growth of the amount already raised.

Other Fabric matters

It's been a busy year.

Wifi in the church has been extended more effectively throughout the church and as far as the bell ringing chamber which, with the two CCTV cameras installed this year, will enable the bell ringers to see when the bride arrives as well as adding to the security of the church.

The North wall was repainted early in 2020 after repairs to the parapets and roof lining on the north side of the church had been undertaken. This work was required as new areas of damp were discovered in the north wall resulting from cracks in the roof lining and parapet area outside. The drains around the church and the coronet on the tower are cleared annually after all of the leaves have fallen, usually by the builder John Cooper. This is particularly important as any build up can cause leakage of rain water into the church. An area that is particularly vulnerable to this happening is above the tall chair cupboard by the sacristy.

Another area of damage over the past year: several roof tiles on the south side of the chancel roof were dislodged during a storm. These have been replaced, the cost covered by insurance.

The breaking up of the floor tiles and wall plaster on the north side of the chancel has considerably worsened in the past 3 years. The drainage system taking the rain water from the roof on the north side of the chancel and east side of the choir vestry has completely broken down leading to damp coming in to the building. Initial investigations revealed that the drain runs east outside along the chancel wall not, as thought, under the church. Further investigation and the installation of a new soak away is planned with work starting on March 15th. If a suitable lissom is found during the digging then this will be used instead of the soak away. As this is in the graveyard a condition of the Faculty is that an archaeologist must be in attendance at all times to monitor the work and advise the builders accordingly. There may be delays to the completion of the work as a result. The architect, Antony Feltham-King, has designed the new drainage system and Nick Miles, the builder, appointed to undertake the work. A grant from Historic England's Emergency Covid 19 Recovery Fund of £25,000 has been received. This should cover a substantial amount of the cost of this work.

The Fabric fund has been much depleted by the extent of repairs required over the past year. In the meantime the Porch room needs attention: replastering the walls; decorating; a new carpet and curtains. Antony, our architect, has also advised that the French drain outside around the edge of the porch room needs replacing and has drawn a plan to support this work. The surrounds of the windows in the kitchen are badly in need of redecorating and de-rusting in the case of the lintels over the windows. A grant from The National Lottery Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage has been applied for to help with this work. The results of this application are expected to be heard at the end of March 2021.

Included in the national lottery grant application is a request for £10,000 towards the cost of installing fixed cameras and more microphones for the purpose of live streaming of services, concerts and other events. During the past year a temporary camera and computer have been used to enable people not coming to church to view the services. This has been recognised as a very important facility which is likely to be of great value well after restrictions are lifted, encouraging wider participation, which is part of the focus of the National Lottery grant. The temporary recording system takes time to erect and has to be located in amongst the chairs raising health and safety issues. The quality of the sound is problematic: the computer needs to be near the camera which is too far away for the sound to be taken directly from the sound system. Quotes and further advice are being sought for this work. Extensive additional cabling was laid below the floor at the time of the reordering for this potential use. A Faculty, probably at the Archdeacon level, will be needed for the installation of fixed cameras and microphones. This will be applied for once the detail of the design has been worked out. If the grant application is unsuccessful an appeal is planned to, hopefully, raise enough funds for one camera and a further microphone.

Recently it has been noticed that the beams running across the ceiling in the nave have cracks in them some of which look as if they might be new. The advice from both the architect and conservation builder is that closer inspection is required which they will undertake on Wednesday March 17th Access to the roof will be achieved using a hydraulic lift which has

extendable legs which will be placed on boards to ensure that the load is spread across the floor.

Churchyard

It has been a busy year in the Churchyard and much progress has been made. The Wardens are especially grateful to all those who took part in the autumn 'Clear Up' day when sufficient material was collected to fill two waste skips. A magnificent effort by all involved and a major 'thank-you'. In particular, the long-neglected area behind Vestry cottage was completely cleared and a start was made on removing ivy and reducing intrusive shrubs which were in danger of damaging some of the historic monuments in the Churchyard. Many of you will have also noted that sadly due to its diseased state, the large Lime tree on the west side of the Churchyard has been expertly pollarded since it was becoming dangerous. It is to be hoped it will recover. Finally just a reminder that it is currently costing over £2,500 a year, to maintain the churchyard (grass cutting, providing a skip for rubbish etc), so if we do not get it right all the time, we are doing our best!

DEANERY SYNOD – Synod Representatives

The Deanery Synod has maintained its meetings over the last year, though all via Zoom and with as much formal business as possible sent out in written reports in advance, so that the meeting itself can focus primarily on the speaker and discussion time.

In addition to routine items such as reports from Diocesan and General Synod, Parish Share allocation and implementation and discussion of developments across the Deanery there has been a series of interesting speakers.

At the May meeting **Bishop Rachel** addressed the Synod and responded to questions. She thanked everyone for the way church communities are "living in these very strange times" and spoke about what that might mean for us both in the present time and how it will shape the future. She asked 'how will we remember so that we might sustain that which has been life-giving and dare to change where we need to live differently?'

The bishop reflected on the diocesan Life vision as the fourth anniversary of starting its development approached on Ascension Day, and shared some reflections about that.

She then responded to a range of questions about central decision-making, what she was missing in the current circumstances, on-line worship and access to buildings.

In October **Revd Dr Sandra Millar**, Head of Life Events for the Church of England and formerly on our Diocesan team, spoke about the "Stranger to Friend" project. This is about being a really welcoming church and the importance of the first contact in creating an initial relationship that might become the start of a journey of faith. She gave a detailed presentation and then answered questions. It is a national project that was intended for roll out in 2021, but this may have been delayed by the pandemic.

In February we took the **Deanery Strategic Planning** process to the next stage, with a presentation from Revd Dana Delap and the Standing Committee, followed by substantial times for discussion in break out rooms. The feedback from those discussions was collected and will be developed to form a proposed strategy.

COMMITTEE AND ORGANISATION REPORTS

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, BOX – Colin French

Covid has caused difficulties for us all. However, at St Barnabas we have coped quite well. The church has been open for private prayer most days and our Sunday Services have taken place with very few cancellations. We can safely accommodate a congregation of up to 14, observing all rules of social distancing. Our regular congregation at our 9.00 a.m. service is between 8 and 10 people. Of course we follow the rule concerning singing, however, we have appreciated the piano music provided by David Whitaker, immediately before the service. As always we are very grateful to the clergy who conduct these services. We look forward to the time when the congregation (small in numbers as we are) can take pleasure in singing hymns throughout the services. When that time comes we shall yet again be appealing for a pianist to join the rota.

As always, our particular thanks are due to Sarah Moseley and her team of flower arrangers. Flowers appear and decorate the church throughout the year. They are much admired by visitors to the church. The decoration for Christmas were particularly fine, however the restrictions of the epidemic meant that they were not appreciated by the usual full congregation. We are also indebted to the quiet and dedicated group of volunteer brass polishers and sacristans who ensure that everything is in order for the services. Our thanks also go to Beris and Jacque Hanks who ensure that the church is opened and locked each day.

One notable success of the year has been the re-gilding of the spire. This now shines out brightly across the village. The cost was approximately £12,000. This sum was raised by donations received from various charities sought and obtained by Mark Rogers our treasurer, gifts from villagers, the sale of pens organised by Chris Ames and the sale of plants from a stall outside the church. (This stall is currently there again selling plants to help with the cost of minor repairs to the Cotswold tiles on the roof)

WORSHIP, PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE – Margaret Sheather, Chair

The Committee has not met this year as all the arrangements for worship have been largely dictated by whichever Covid restrictions have been in place at the time and have been agreed by the Standing Committee and/or PCC. As restrictions start to be lifted over the coming months it will be important to re-establish the membership and role of the Committee.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Tim Mowat, Chair

The following were the members of the Stewardship Committee: Tim Mowat (Chairman), The Rev'd Canon Howard Gilbert (Rector), Peter Lapping, John Jutsum (PCC Treasurer), Mandy Jutsum (Church Warden), Geoff Lloyd, Pat Swift (Recorder).

In 2020 receipts were above forecast by £2,850.00. The Rector had provoked this increase in a series of addresses and presentations to all congregations during October 2019. The Rector challenged each of us to dream what we hope to enjoy in our church life, and for each of us to examine how we can help to achieve that.

Our 2021 forecast returns (figures for 2020 in brackets) are:

Number of regular contributors	- 163	(168)
Total pledged incl. Gift Aid	- £123,583	(£129,842),

For 2021 we hope to raise the profile of Stewardship further during a campaign in the autumn. We hope to increase the number committed to the Parish Giving Scheme. I hope that we can promote a Legacy appeal to our congregation too.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Tim would like to thank all who have supported the churches over the past year, not only with their money but also their time and talents insofar as regulations permitted! The committee members are grateful to you all. We are pleased that the 6P's Appeal has achieved the success that it deserves. We hope to see support for our living church increase in 2021.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM (PCT) – Linda Jarvis, Co-ordinator

This year has been like no other. Due to the pandemic the PCT has not been able to visit anybody since March 2020. Neither has communion been taken to the residents of both Cecily Court and Horsfall House. However the team has been active in other ways, phoning up those who normally receive visits together with making numerous phone calls to those who have requested them.

The PCT has increased by one since last year and we welcome Jane Walden to the team.

Howard and Linda would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Pastoral Care Team for their continued and much appreciated support.

For your information here is a list of all those who are currently DBS checked and who are on the PCT.

Paul Boon	Judy Lucas (Box)	Margaret Sheather	Roy Wilson
Mick Evans	Jackie Natt	Jo Smith	Alison Whitaker
Christine Gibson	Gill Price	Lynne Swift	Jane Walden
Linda Jarvis	Cheryl Ritter	Louise Thomas	John Walden

Please phone Linda Jarvis on 01453 884545, if you know of anyone who would welcome a call or a visit when lockdown is over.

HOSPITALITY AND SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Mary Codling, Chair

Sadly, the Hospitality and Social Events Committee has been inactive throughout the year due to the Covid restrictions.

SAFEGUARDING – Deborah Smith, Safeguarding Officer

I took over as PSO in September 2020 - and then discovered that there is more to this role than just ensuring that everyone who should have an up-to-date DBS certificate. The parish has adopted policies in accordance with the guidance as set out on the Diocese of Gloucester's safeguarding web pages. The links to this are on the church's website.

The PCC has asked all members to do at least the Basic Awareness Safeguarding Course on the Church of England website, and so far I have received confirmation that three people have done this – I am sure others have done so but I know that one person at least has had problems with the website and as soon as Covid rules allow I will be glad to help anyone having difficulties.

The diocese has a new dashboard to keep track of what each parish has done and this could be quite a useful tool. Angie Ayling and I attended a Zoomed meeting where the benefits of the dashboard were presented to clergy and PSOs of several parishes.

Several people, including me, have had their DBS renewed during last year under Judy Little's care. I now have a log-on for the website and will be calling on the four or five individuals whose DBS has expired as soon as Covid rules allow us to get together for face to face meetings and I can examine their documentation.

Although I am not on the PCC I understand that Safeguarding is a regular item on the agenda and I have confirmed that I am willing to attend from time to time to address any particular issues which may arise – such as introducing the new Dashboard. I also intend to contact all groups within the church community to ensure that they continue awareness of ongoing safeguarding issues. Ideally those organising groups should also do the basic awareness on-line course. During the last year when meeting together has not been possible many regular events have not taken place, but I am well aware that the support offered to many vulnerable people has presented different challenges.

Although I am new to this position I am willing to discuss any safeguarding issues that arise and my contact details are in the parish magazine.

MUSIC – Warwick Cole, Director of Music

The closure of churches for three months and the outright ban on congregational singing for a whole year has thwarted or curtailed many musical plans in the past twelve months. If that were all there was to report, it would be depressing indeed. But there are lots of positives. At the time of Lockdown 1 both the adult and junior choirs were gaining confidence and accuracy in singing and we were about to welcome two junior members to sing with the adults as fledging choristers. Despite not being able to meet physically since last March, there has been some online singing for the Juniors ably organised by Lottie Roberts. For the adults, socially-distanced rehearsals have continued where possible which enabled some particularly accomplished singing for the Nine Lessons and Carols. Where group singing has been prohibited, we are enormously grateful to those who have volunteered to sing as solo 'cantors' and thanks are due particularly to Helen Terry, Caroline Hensley and David Wood, and to the co-opted members of my family.

Other musical developments, I hope, promise much for the future. Two 'Coffee Concerts' (without coffee of course) were to be the start of a series of such concerts which have subsequently had to go online. But we hope to reinstate those for real as soon as is allowed. Over the summer, a report on the options for the renovation of the organ was received from William McVicker and action will soon begin on this project. And finally, the Music at Minch YouTube channel has begun to raise the profile of the musical life of Holy Trinity to a wider audience not just to those more closely involved with the church. Plans are also afoot to being to promote the building as a concert, recording and broadcast venue.

In short, there's much to be positive about, and I look forward to the opportunities to develop these aspects of our musical life together.

BELLRINGING – Angie Ayling, Tower Captain

There has been no actual ringing in the tower since the beginning of March 2020. However, the Ellacombe device has been rung for most 10 am services and also for one funeral.

Meanwhile, weekly practices have continued using a website called 'Ringeroom' which enables ringers to practise methods on any number of bells (so we are not restricted to the 6 that we have in the tower!) Unfortunately, 4 of our ringers have not been able to join in with this but we have been joined by a lady from Dorridge (near Solihull) and a man from Leonard Stanley so we have grown to regularly having 8 ringers present. I am extremely grateful to Tony Natt for leading these practices. Very good progress has been made in method ringing which we hope will transfer to real ringing once we are back in the tower- perhaps in June.

We are hoping to get the ringing chamber redecorated – something we actually began planning in January 2020 – hopefully with the aid of some grant funding. This has not been done since about 1975 when the 5th bell was recast and rehung.

FLOWER GUILD – Kathy Hurst, Co-ordinator

It has been a very difficult year for everyone especially trying to make plans without being able to have a meeting or talk things through.

Since the church reopened in early July we have provided flowers throughout the year and for Harvest Festival, Remembrance and Christmas. We also added flower displays to Experience Christmas which proved to be very popular.

We had no weddings last year. The wedding due to take place last June is now going to be held in July this year. We were paid for the flowers last year and have kept the money in our account! The same thing happened with Easter lilies and we will have a display this coming Easter also using the money collected last year.

We shall be decorating the Church for Easter on Saturday 3rd April and hope to make an impressive display.

We have a new Treasurer in Jane Stevens. Jane has brought us all up to date and we now have internet banking.

We are working towards an exhibition of "Art & Flowers" which is due to take place in Church from 17th September which hopefully should raise some funds for the Church and the Flower Guild. We already have a number of local artists and sculptors who have agreed to support us in this venture.

WELCOME STEWARDS (Sidespeople) – Mandy Jutsum

Thank you to the stewards who welcome and guide people at both the 8am and 10am Sunday morning services and assist at special services throughout the year

The rota of people welcoming at the 8 o'clock Sunday service sprang into action as soon as the church was able to open again from the first lockdown. Thank you to Colin and Anne Brookes,

who retired during this time, for their years of service to the church in this and so many other ways. We were delighted to welcome Darren and Tracey Clements in their place.

There are two people on duty each week with 10 people involved each month: Diana Farn, Alison Whitaker, Paul and Rosemary Boon, Roy Wilson, David White and Alison Weller and Gerry Robbins on the fifth Sunday. Thank you to everyone for taking on this role and to Paul Boon, in particular, who has for many years coordinated the rota.

With the requirement to minimise social interaction and to keep our distances the welcome steward's rota at the 10am service has not been operating during the pandemic. The role of overseeing the service has been taken by a church warden, with volunteers helping out as necessary, especially with sanitising the chairs. Thanks must go to Simon Ritter for consistently acting in this voluntary role, as well as looking after the candles whenever they are needed, ably assisted by Cheryl, when her work allows.

Normally there are four people on duty at the 10am service: 20 people all together. This role is very suited to people who are newer members of the church congregation as it provides an excellent way of getting to know people. For this reason, at Holy Trinity church, it has been customary for welcomers at the 10am service to serve on the rota for a limited period of 3 to 4 years, to allow for new people to come on board. The rota normally runs from May to April with the PCC informed of the names of people at the time of the APCM.

We look forward to the time when the 10am welcome stewards are able to step into action again. There will be some vacancies so, if you would like to help with the formal welcome of people to the church on a monthly basis, please let a church warden know. It's a very rewarding task and one we are all looking forward to getting back to!

A very sincere thank you to all of the welcomers and ex-welcomers who occasionally stand in, for carrying out this important role and to those who willingly help at other services, such as at Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

TRAIDCRAFT – Deborah Smith

As you can see from our trading financial history we have done amazingly well during what has been a particularly difficult year. In the previous year we were unable to have many Sunday sales or our usual Christmas event because of building works and as soon as that was finished Covid struck! I need to say a big thank you to all those who responded to my emails particularly during the first lockdown when I had £600 worth of unsold stock. Of course there have only been two Sunday sales so almost all our sales have been individuals contacting me with a shopping list.

We were able to send £500 to Traidcraft Exchange and the reason we haven't sent the other £500 yet is because they are bidding for fundmatching in early 2021 so obviously would rather have our money later.

Particular thanks to Jackie Natt for her monthly magazine articles and to Clare who started Traidcraft trading in Minchinhampton, and continues to be our most loyal customer.

	Minchinhampton and Amberley Summary of transactions			
	2020	2019	2018	2017
	£	£	£	£
Sales of Traidcraft products, raffles, donations and coffee mornings	3,823.25	3,597.93	4,997.09	7,113.57
Cost of goods sold = Goods purchased PLUS stock brought forward LESS stock in hand at year end	3,461.05	3,287.08	4,377.08	4,993.97
SURPLUS on year's trading	362.20	310.85	620.01	2,119.60
Add cash and goods brought forward	1,250.46	1,439.61	1,619.60	
Less Donation to Traidcraft Exchange	500.00	500.00	800.00	500.00
Balance carried forward	1,112.66	1,250.46	1,439.61	1,619.60
Cash in hand (floats and unbanked cash)	45.00	45.00	45.00	115.00
Bank balance	917.66	605.46	794.61	308.96
Approximate value of unsold stock at end of year	150.00	600.00	600.00	1,195.64
	1,112.66	1,250.46	1,439.61	1,619.60

SERVERS – Margaret Sheather, Senior Server

The servers' role is quietly to support the dignity and the drama of our worship, whether at a routine Sunday Eucharist or one of the major festival services of the church's year. However, the Covid restrictions on public worship and the requirements for physical distancing mean that the Servers have not been involved in worship this year. We look forward very much to being able to resume our duties.

MASASI GROUP – Stephen Jarvis

Plans for 2020, like everything else, were curtailed due to the restrictions as a result of the Covid pandemic. The major casualty was the Lambeth Conference, which has been postponed until 2022, meaning Bishop James and Veronica were unable to visit Minchinhampton as planned.

However this has not stopped us supporting the diocese of Masasi when asked.

In February 2020 there were severe floods in the northern part of the Diocese, with the loss of life, and many homes destroyed. A collection was made after two Sunday morning services and £339.50 was raised. The Bishop used this money to buy food for the homeless.

Through the Cornwall Bursary and with the support of the PCC, the parish has been supporting Raymond Richard Tayari to study towards a Degree in Mathematics. In June 2021 he will finish his studies. It is his wish, and that of the School Rector, that Raymond will teach Maths at the Church run secondary school for boys, at Rondo, starting this summer.

The Rector at Rondo school, in 2021, has requested that the Cornwall Bursary assists three pupils in paying their fees. This has been agreed

In 2019 the numbers of students at Rondo school dropped, but this has been reversed in 2020 and there are now 115 pupils, and the aim is to increase the numbers further to be nearer the capacity of 200. This is against the background of the Church charging fees for their students, whilst the Government is offering an alternative free secondary education. The quality of the education taught at

Rondo is recognised by the parents, who are willing to pay the fees, which are one of the lowest in the Region.

Financial support has been given for two projects at Rondo. The first was to use our restricted funds for the chapel. There are now metal grills protecting the stained glass windows from bird strikes, and all the clear glass windows that open, have been fitted with the correct window catches, so as they can be fastened properly.

The second project was to start a poultry unit, which will be run by the students, under supervision, as part of their education. The aim of this enterprise is to provide meat and eggs to supplement the diet of the young men.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our friends in Masasi, they really appreciate our link and our support, both in prayer, and in what we have given financially.

MOTHERS' UNION – Linda Jarvis, Deborah Smith, Jane Walden, Chrissie Eccles

An exciting programme was planned back in April last year but sadly because of the Coronavirus pandemic and government restrictions on social distancing, MU was not able to undertake this programme. However, as worship was an allowable 'activity', the Rev'd Jane Walden led us, at the end of October, in a contemplative service based around the subject – Emmanuel, God with us. Over 20 people attended. Part of the service included a period when we were invited to contribute a small picture or something written that represented the service theme of living in hope. Chrissie then pinned the contributions onto a cloth creating a collage which she is keeping, until it can be displayed, once we are able to meet again. Jane, thank you for organising and leading a much needed service which helped us to cope with the problems that we were and still are facing due to the pandemic.

In the New Year Members' opinions were sought about leaving the world wide MU organisation and the overwhelming response was that we break away, however the members made it clear that they wanted to continue to meet and remain a spiritual and prayerful group within the church, which is definitely our intention. The branch has had to give 6 months' notice of closure, which began on the 22nd January. Therefore on the 22nd July there will no longer be a Minchinhampton MU but an independent Christian organisation which will continue to meet monthly. A new name is now required. If you have any ideas please let us know.

Thank you to all committee members for their hard work during the year especially with all the frantic emails that have been passing between us and Deborah for keeping tabs on the money.

PARISH MAGAZINE – Angie Ayling, Editor

The magazine has continued to be printed and distributed for the usual 11 months of the year, with many copies being emailed to subscribers during the first Covid Lockdown time -thanks to Tim Mowat for sorting that out. With many organisations and societies not operating over the past year, there has, at times, been a shortage of copy, but several individuals have come to the rescue and supplied a range of interesting articles and poems so that the magazine has not grown too thin!

Distributors have continued to do an excellent job, delivering over 700 copies each month. Peter Holmes has taken back organising the advertising and this continues to bring in sufficient funds to enable the magazine to make a profit overall.

Kathleen Gwilliam is giving up being treasurer, so a new volunteer is now needed.

CHURCH CLEANING GUILD – Mandy Jutsum, Church Warden

Another year goes by and again we must thank the many people who contribute to keeping the church clean and cobweb free and the church silver and brassware sparkling. The people on the rotas have continued to do this work when access to the church was made available again after the first lock down.

There are sixteen people who **polish the brass and silver and dust** the church. Very special thanks must go to Barbara Philpots who had been on the rota for many many years and remained on it despite increasing care responsibilities. We are grateful that Barbara continued with this contribution to church life until her sudden death last year. Very special thanks are also due to Barbara and Allan Weager who joined the rota in more recent times and really enjoyed sharing this role together. Sadly Barbara also died suddenly last year. Allan had hoped to continue but understandably found it too difficult without his partner of so many years. We thank them both for their contribution.

Geoffrey Lloyd has rejoined the rota to help Alison Weller. There remain two vacancies on the brass and silver cleaning rota which involves a commitment to doing this task four times a year. Please contact a church warden if you would be interested in contributing in this way.

There are 12 people on the **Vacuuming rota** who, in pairs, vacuum the church four times a year. Thanks go to David and Liz Brown who retired from the rota this year and to Judith and Paul Munro-Faure who have stepped in to take their place.

The annual “**Big Clean**” is now due: higher level dusting of window ledges and washing the floor. This is best done by a small group of volunteers (three of us washed the floor last year) and should have occurred by the time of the APCM.

There are normally a wide variety of users of the church and the Porch room but this year ‘Hospitality’ has been on hold and the kitchens have been out of use. However Cheryl Ritter has continued to keep an eye on the kitchen and regularly cleans the toilets which we are grateful for especially at the current time when good hygiene is so important.

If anyone is interested in joining the cleaning guild and contributing to the life of the church in this way, or indeed, any other please do talk to a church warden. Many hands really do make light work!