



**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL  
CHURCH MEETING  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

# **AGENDA AND REPORTS 2020**

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## **AGENDAS 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **Vestry Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of last year's Vestry Meeting (see page 3)
3. Election of Churchwardens
4. Closing Prayer

### **Annual Parochial Council Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of Last Year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 3)
4. Matters Arising
5. Reports
6. Elections and Appointments:
  - 6.1 Election of PCC members
  - 6.2 Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts  
(Note: Mrs Elizabeth McBride is willing to continue)
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of Next Meeting
9. Closing Prayers

### **Parochial Church Council Meeting Agenda**

To elect the following officers:

1. Vice Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Electoral Roll Officer
5. Members of the PCC Standing Committee

*Note: The PCC must appoint a Standing Committee of at least five people. The Incumbent and churchwardens are members ex-officio. The PCC must appoint at least another two PCC members, one of whom will normally be the Treasurer. The Standing Committee has authority to carry out PCC business between PCC meetings, but is accountable to the PCC.*

**ST JAMES CHURCH, SOUTHAM**

**MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING and**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

**Vestry Meeting for the Purpose of Electing Two Churchwardens**

**1. Welcome and Prayer**

Rev. Vikki Bisiker welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with prayer.

**2. Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on 7 April 2019**

Proposed Barry Parker, seconded Ruth Tresidder, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Election of Churchwardens**

Vikki reported that Barry Parker had decided, after four years as a church warden, not to seek re-election. Vikki thanked Barry for the way he had served us as a church and looked forward to him continuing to serve as one of our Deanery Synod representatives. She was also pleased that Stephen Adams was prepared to stand again. Vikki's appreciation for the amount of work put in by the churchwardens - and their wives was noted.

There being no other candidates it was unanimously agreed that Stephen should continue as Churchwarden (proposed Margo Grant, seconded Jan Ford).

Vikki prayed for Stephen and Barry, and for a candidate for the remaining vacancy, on behalf of the whole congregation.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Members present 12**

**1. Welcome and Opening Prayer**

**2. Apologies for absence:**

John Hedge and Betty Phillips

**3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 7 April 2019**

The wording to minute 7d was amended to read *was made that the 8EQs survey results had particularly mentioned the strength of our small groups*. The updated minutes were approved and signed (proposed Hilary Crosby, seconded Jenny Thorne, agreed unanimously).

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Reports**

Vikki expressed her thanks to all report writers and all those who are responsible for the many activities within the life of the church and across the community. The reports were taken as read (proposed Margo Grant, seconded Barry Parker, agreed unanimously).

## 6. Elections and Appointments

### 6a. Election of four members for the PCC

The current term of office for Pat Adams, Jenny Thorne and Ruth Tresidder comes up for renewal. Ruth Tresidder has decided not to stand for election and has also decided after being our Treasurer for a number of years to hand the reins to someone new. Jill Parker has also decided to stand down from PCC. Both Ruth and Jill have served St James' faithfully and have played a big part in moving St James' into the church it is today. They will be very much missed from PCC. John Hedge has agreed to take over from Ruth as our church treasurer although Ruth would work alongside John until the end of December 2020. Ruth has also agreed to continue as Gift Aid Secretary. John has agreed to stand for election to PCC.

Four nominations for the four vacancies had been received, being Pat Adams, Jenny Thorne, John Hedge and Andrea Hugo. They were proposed and seconded by Heather Shackleton and Tom Harriden and were elected unanimously. Jenny would serve for two years, completing Jill's term, the others would serve for three years. Vikki also thanked Jenny for all that she had contributed as a Foundation Governor at St James Academy over the years. At this point, there was a prayer of thanks for all the PCC and for the future PCC.

### 6b. Election of three members for the Deanery Synod

Proposed by Hilary Crosby and seconded by Ruth Tresidder; Stephen Adams, Margo Grant and Barry Parker were unanimously elected.

### 6c. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Thanks were expressed to Elizabeth McBride, for her voluntary work in examining the accounts. Having offered to continue, Elizabeth McBride was re-appointed unanimously (proposed Pat Adams, seconded Barry Parker).

## 7 Any Other Business

Vikki reported:

- a. With the delay to this year's APCM due to the pandemic next year's meeting was only six months away
- b. As we could not hold a Christmas fair this year due to the pandemic ideas for fundraising were urgently needed together with creative ways of raising the church profile across the community
- c. The diocese has formally confirmed that the parish share 'historic debt' of c£100,000 had been 'written' off. (When agreeing to Vikki's Interim Ministry the Diocese agreed to cancel the historic 'arrears' of Parish Share provided the church increased its Parish share by £5,000 each year over the four-year term of the license – this has been achieved.)
- d. With regard to her objectives of her extended ministry with St James Vikki had held a meeting with Tim Mitchell (Healthy Churches Co-Ordinator) and Kim Morgan-Jones (20s-30s Strategy Team Leader, Acceler8). As a result, both had been happy with Vikki's review of these aspects of the interim ministry. They agreed that, due to the pandemic, there was no value in conducting a second NCD survey at this time as the results would reflect a COVID church and not be

comparable to the first survey's results. They also confirmed that there were no further actions required from Vikki. Vikki asked Tim Mitchell to confirm this with Archdeacon Barry Dugmore.

With regard to Archdeacon Barry Dugmore's meeting with the PCC, a meeting between him with the churchwardens was in the process of being arranged. Both Stephen and Barry would attend.

- e. With the increasing list of repair work required to the building, Vikki highlighted that it is essential that we have a buildings team for the upkeep and repair. This team could be drawn not only from within the church family but across the community.

Vikki also mentioned two things that were currently on her heart:

Praying into how we move forward as a church and what future ministry might look like.

Isaiah 43 v19: 'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'

Being as well as doing .... Vikki reflected on her training and how she was encouraged to reflect on what it meant to 'be' a minister rather than all the things a minister has to 'do'. She asked us to ponder what it means to 'be' the church, particularly at this time where we are not meeting together. 'Doing' things is important, but consider what it means to 'be'. Vikki mentioned that in the Great Commission at the end of Matthew 28 our translations say 'Go and make disciples' but the original text was 'In going make disciples', meaning that it's in our normal day to day life that we make disciples 'along the way'. So, if God's doing a new thing, what does that look like?

Sarah Taylor thanked Vikki her work with Southam St James CoE Academy, particularly with the welcome service for Reception Class, which was really making a difference. (It had been hoped that the welcome service would be able to be held in church and the parents invited too. Instead, it was held in the school hall and a video made for the parents to watch online. Vikki and the Exec Head (Ali Hine) led the service and each child was given a named welcome card made by Jill Parker. The card welcomed the children into the school and church family. Ali Hine was particularly impressed and grateful for the beautiful cards that the children would treasure.)

**Date of next meeting:** Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following the 10am service.

The meeting closed in prayer.

Chair..... Date.....

**REPORTS**

**Church Management**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements for  
the year ended 31 December 2020**

**Priest-In-Charge**

Rev. Vikki Bisiker

**Parish Administrator**

Currently Vacant  
The Parish Office  
74D Coventry Street  
Southam  
CV47 0EA

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
6 High Street  
Southam  
CV47 0HA

**Independent Examiner**

Mrs Elizabeth McBride ICMA  
1 Park Lane  
Harbury  
CV33 9HX

## **Annual Report for 2020**

The PCC co-operates with the incumbent in promoting, within the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission in the Southam Deanery in the Diocese of Coventry. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC has no connected charities.

The PCC currently has no administrator.

No member of the PCC, or any connected person, has benefited financially from the PCC. Expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC have been reimbursed.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Revd. Vikki Bisiker*	Incumbent
Stephen Adams*	Warden, Reader and Deanery Synod Representative
Barry Parker*	Deanery Synod Representative, Vice Chair PCC and Lay Chair Deanery Synod, Warden to 22 October 2020
Margo Grant	Electoral Roll Officer, Diocesan Synod Representative to 22 October 2020, Deanery Synod Representative from 22 October 2020
Pat Adams	Elected
Hilary Crosby	Elected
Jan Ford	Elected
Tom Harriden	Elected
John Hedge*	Elected and Treasurer from 22 October 2020
Andrea Hugo*	Elected, PCC Minute Secretary to 22 October 2020, PCC Secretary from 22 October 2020)
Bill King	Elected
Jill Parker	Elected to 22 October 2020
Heather Shackleton	Elected, Safeguarding Officer
Jenny Thorne	Elected
Ruth Tresidder*	Elected and member of Standing Committee to 20 October 2020, Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary to 31 December 2020

\*Standing Committee members

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the fabric of the church and of the churchyard.

Following revision there are currently 85 members on the Church Electoral Roll of whom nine are not resident within the parish (2020:85 with nine not resident within the parish).

The statement of the financial activities for the year is set out in this Annual Report together with the Treasurer's Report, see pages 11 - 18. With the guidance and assistance of our treasurer, Ruth Tresidder, we maintained a very strict control over church expenditure and fully met our agreed Parish Share commitment for 2018 reflecting our commitment to increase Parish Share contributions in increments of £5,000 each year over a four-year period ending April 2020.



The full PCC met on five occasions during 2020 with an overall attendance rate of 92%.

The PCC is supported in its duties by a Standing Committee, to enable urgent decisions which have been properly delegated to be taken between PCC meetings and a Fabric Committee to look after the church buildings, etc. The minutes and reports of their meetings were received by the full PCC.

The PCC is fully aware of the risk factors involved in the running of church affairs and continues to ensure that all our properties are adequately insured, including public liability.

Mrs Elizabeth McBride has again kindly agreed to examine the Accounts and the PCC is very grateful to her for the time she has spent on this.

The PCC is also grateful to Margaret Mumford who retired this year. The church office has been closed since March 2020 because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Copies of the PCC minutes are displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church after each meeting.

As you would expect, a lot of the detail of what is discussed at the PCC meetings is covered in the following reports. In addition, detailed reports of other groups and activities associated with St James are set out in this Annual Report.

On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 the members of the Parochial Church Council approved the reports via email for submission to the APCM and signed by Vikki Bisiker on their behalf.

## **Review of the Year**

As I write this, we have just this week paused to reflect and remember the past year of living with a global pandemic. Life for all has changed significantly over this past year and for many it has been a year of loss. Loss of being able to see family and friends, to gather as the Body of Christ, loss of loved ones and so much more. BUT we have also seen neighbours and friends supporting one another and community groups working together in ways that may not have been there before. As the Body of Christ, we believe in a God who redeems and brings beauty out of ashes and there have been many ways in which this has been happening out of such tragedy. Some of the ways may have seemed small, but to the recipient it has been life giving and shown the love of God to them.

It has been a difficult year with not being able to open the church building and I'd like to thank the PCC for their time, wisdom and prayer through very difficult decisions especially regarding opening the building. In the week leading up to Christmas, the church building was open for individual drop in prayer and 4 to 5 people came each afternoon. Individual prayer in the building has been offered, only one person has requested this. All weekly services, Remembrance and the Festival services were all online on YouTube and paper copies of the services were delivered to those without internet access. Thank you for all who have been 'Pastoral Group Leaders' who have delivered copies, circulated links and generally checked that folk were ok.

The opening of the building continues to be under regular review in line with both Government and Church of England guidance. We give thanks for the vaccination program, for all of the scientists and medics behind the vaccine's development and for all of the medical staff and huge army of volunteers that are administering the jabs. We

have hope that we will be able to gather if it is safe to do so as the country gradually eases out of lockdown. There may still be social distancing restrictions and so what 'church' will look like is still being prayerfully sought.

It has been heartwarming to hear of Home Groups, the Friday Prayer Group and others 'meeting' by Zoom and that relationships between members of the congregation deepening to new levels. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged, been alongside and prayed for others through this year.

I echo the contents of Stephen's report and so I will not duplicate here. Thank you to Ruth for her Treasurer's report, for all of the work that she, with the support (and patience!) of John, has done and for helping John Hedge take on the role as Treasurer. I'd like to highlight that in the Treasurer's Report, Ruth has reported roughly a £14,000 drop in giving through the pandemic. This is an understandable but **significant** drop in giving and the church's annual giving was already not covering expenditure. If you are able to make a weekly, monthly or one-off donation then please do speak to John Hedge for more information on how to do this. We are currently having to use chunks of legacy monies for our expenditure. We are thankful for God's provision for these legacies, however with significant building work needed, difficult decisions are being made as to how our income is used. I know that these are hard times and have also brought financial hardship for some, so please do prayerfully consider your giving.

This year has been a steep learning curve of doing things in different ways. I never thought that St James would have its own YouTube channel for a start! We have been aware of isolation though and new initiatives like the Blessing Bags at Christmas have been very well received and the givers have said that they have been as blessed as the recipients. The Tree of Hope in the churchyard has been an Easter Tree, a prayer tree, a Remembrance Tree and a When Christmas Hurts Tree. It has been a place to pause and reflect and has also given many supportive conversational opportunities with folk on their daily walk. There have been new things spring up in what has also been a time of wilderness and the journey ahead will need difficult decisions to be made and so I'd value your prayers for myself and the PCC as we prayerfully consider what things we pick up and those that may need to be let go of and how we do that together.

***Rev. Vikki Bisiker***

## **Churchwarden's Report**

Church life has taken very different forms over the past year due to the pandemic, and the church building has remained closed for public worship since March 2020. Barry Parker stood down from the role as Churchwarden in order to be able to focus on his other wider responsibilities including significant work in and for the Deanery. Since that time, we have continued with just one Churchwarden.

Homegroup and PCC meetings have taken place on Zoom, weekly services have been regularly prepared by Vikki and made available for access via YouTube. "Pastoral groups" have been formed for communication of information and in order to provide support to everyone across the congregations.

As Churchwarden, along with others, I have been involved in discussions with the Diocese over the future ministry at St James. Back in March 2020 Bishop Christopher extended

the period of Vikki's Interim Ministry because of the Pandemic emergency. More recently Bishop Christopher gave his support for the PCC's long-standing request for Vikki to be interviewed on a sole candidate basis for the full-time role as Priest-in-Charge for St James. As part of the interview process a Parish Profile has been prepared by a small team from the PCC including the Churchwarden and this Profile is in its final stages at the time of this report. The actual interview itself is currently planned for late April.

A planned visit from some of the Buildings team at the Diocese to begin considering the potential for development of the church building had to be cancelled, but it is hoped this can be rescheduled for later this year. In the Profile it is mentioned that as a church we will be seeking input from the wider community for views about the future use of the building in order to inform the discussions about redevelopment.

Ideally it would be great if a group or team could be formed to take forward the discussions regarding redevelopment of the church building.

On the subject of building fabric, the necessary regular inspection and maintenance visits have continued subject to Covid restrictions. There have also been emergency repairs to the choir vestry windows and to replace chancel and tea room roof tiles following storm damage. A very small team have done some fantastic work clearing a huge amount of ivy and other growth from graves and trees in the churchyard and we want to give particular thanks to them.

Communications have taken place with the Diocese regarding the possible purchase of alternative housing for a Vicarage and visits have been made to Southam by members of the Bishop's office to look into the practicalities of this matter, so we continue to watch this space!

As Churchwarden my attention has been drawn to a report by our new Treasurer concerning the financial options for the future support of ministry at St James. In particular the analysis that our regular income is approximately 50% of what is needed to support the regular everyday outgoing costs of running the church of St James even without any consideration being given to the significant additional costs involved in the maintenance, repair or redevelopment of the building. Putting it bluntly that suggests to me that we each would need to double our giving or we need to grow the church membership by at least 100% to be in a sustainable financial position going forward.

Whilst we are in an unusual position in that we have significant financial reserves at this time due to generous legacies, these reserves will be short-lived if used to cover the shortfall of our income to outgoings. This is a matter of particular importance as we prepare for reopening the building as the restrictions resulting from the pandemic are gradually reduced, and as we plan for the future life and ministry of St James as a post-Covid church in a different post-Covid world.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to all members of St James for all they have been doing and continue to do during these unprecedented times.

***Stephen Adams – Church Warden***

### **Treasurer's Report**

What a strange year we have experienced but we can only thank the Lord that the town has been relatively unscathed compared with a number of other areas even though we have all had difficult situations to cope with.

Due to the APCM for 2019 not taking place until October and continuing COVID restrictions I continued as Treasurer until the end of the financial year at the end of December and John Hedge has taken over from the start of the new financial year.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has continued to support the church financially throughout the year. A number of people have changed their method of giving which has been very much appreciated.

General income through planned giving, blue and yellow envelopes and loose plate collections amounted to £35,228.79 compared with £43,845.66 in 2019 mainly due to the lack of church services since mid-March. Overall, during the year General income, excluding the wonderful bequest of £152,641.54 from the estate of Dorothy Elstub, decreased by £10,246.38 and our payments exceeded income by £28,876.80.

The balance of £180,188.67 in the General Account is purely made up of legacy money received in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

We paid our parish share of £55,886 in full - £5,000 of this was covered by money received from the Diocesan Acceler8 Fund to offset time spent by the Rev Vikki Bisiker up to the end of April on working locally with the 20 to 30's age group.

In 2021 our parish share will be £57,424. Following agreement with the Diocese the historic outstanding arrears of £98,809 has now be written off.

Significant items that need highlighting include:

Annual maintenance/statutory checks on the gas boilers, lightning conductor, clock, fire extinguishers and five yearly electrical test and churchyard tree inspection amounted to £2,510.94.

Overall Parochial church fees decreased due to no weddings being held in church.

Maintenance of the churchyard and emptying of the skip reverted to being the responsibility of the PCC and this cost £6,615; feedback from parishioners on the state of the grass has been very favourable.

We are grateful for the donations of £302.40, plus gift aid on some of the donations, received towards the provision of Christmas Blessings.

Last year I anticipated that around £25,000 of legacy money would be needed to cover the shortfall in income – the actual deficit increased by a further £3,876.80 on top of this. We were fortunate that our administrator's salary was paid through the furlough scheme for seven months prior to Margaret's retirement and our utility bills were somewhat less due to the church being closed for services.

We are extremely grateful to Liz McBride for examining our church accounts at no charge.

Without a substantial increase in general income once services resume there will continue to be a considerable shortfall of income over expenditure. It is hoped that the PCC will

ensure a significant amount of Dorothy Elstub's legacy is used to carry out essential work to the fabric of the church building rather than it mainly being used towards general day to day expenditure.

I hope and pray that we will soon have the opportunity to worship in church again and that gradually congregation numbers will increase but we must all very seriously consider whether our own present giving to St James is realistic. If you would like more in depth information about our accounts please do contact me.

***Ruth Tresidder – Treasurer Tel. 813524***

**Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St James, Southam**

I report on the accounts of St James' Church, Southam for the year ended 31 December 2019.

*Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees, that is, the members of St James, Southam PCC, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth McBride 1 Park Lane, Harbury, Leamington Spa

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021



**ST JAMES CHURCH SOUTHAM ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	Actual 2020			Actual 2019			TOTAL
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>								
<b>From Donors</b>								
Under Gift Aid Schemes	1a	31,375.35	300.00	277.40	34,333.59	1,336.55	4,625.00	40,295.14
Gift Aid recovered	1b	8,723.52	409.14		10,043.66		1,506.25	11,549.91
Non Gift Aid income	1c	3,853.44			3,853.44			9,512.07
Fund raising & Appeals	1d	1,356.81	244.82	215.08	1,816.71	3,994.18		5,019.51
Legacies	1e	152,641.54			152,641.54	0.20		0.20
Insurance Claims		647.01	1,046.99		1,694.00			
Grants	1f	2,415.19	5,000.00		7,415.19		622.40	15,622.40
<b>Total donated income</b>		<b>201,012.86</b>	<b>7,000.95</b>	<b>492.48</b>	<b>208,506.29</b>	<b>17,361.88</b>	<b>6,753.65</b>	<b>81,999.23</b>
<b>Fees</b>								
PCC		3,065.00			3,065.00			3,799.00
<b>Total regulated fees</b>		<b>3,065.00</b>			<b>3,065.00</b>			<b>3,799.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>204,077.86</b>	<b>7,000.95</b>	<b>492.48</b>	<b>211,571.29</b>	<b>17,361.88</b>	<b>6,753.65</b>	<b>85,798.23</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
<b>Diocesan costs</b>								
Parish share	2a	50,886.00	5,000.00		45,806.00	15,000.00		60,806.00
<b>Total Diocesan costs</b>		<b>50,886.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>		<b>45,806.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>		<b>60,806.00</b>
<b>Clergy &amp; Service costs</b>								
Clergy expenses	3a	304.20			326.87			326.87
Altar supplies	3b	35.10			191.05			191.05
Music	3c	552.37			533.71			533.71
Other	3d	100.00			190.00			190.00
<b>Total costs</b>		<b>991.67</b>			<b>1,241.63</b>			<b>1,241.63</b>

	Note	Actual 2020			Actual 2019			TOTAL	
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL
<b>EXPENSES (Continued)</b>									
<b>Administration</b>									
Administrator	4a	3,724.50			3,724.50	5,065.28			5,065.28
Office supplies	4b	1,710.97			1,710.97	1,788.93			1,788.93
Other	4c	109.14	88.78		197.92	380.27			380.27
Office telephone		438.89			438.89	459.57			459.57
Church Office	4d	4,392.05			4,392.05	4,933.86			4,933.86
<b>Total Administration costs</b>		<b>10,375.55</b>	<b>88.78</b>		<b>10,464.33</b>	<b>12,627.91</b>			<b>12,627.91</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>									
Utilities	5a	1,435.14			1,435.14	3,430.14			3,430.14
Insurance	5b	6,427.03			6,427.03	6,319.23			6,319.23
General repairs	5c	2,916.25		1,670.69	4,586.94	2,706.37			2,706.37
Churchyard	5d	7,199.08		1,048.52	8,247.60			504.00	504.00
<b>Total Maintenance costs</b>		<b>17,977.50</b>		<b>2,719.21</b>	<b>20,696.71</b>	<b>12,455.74</b>		<b>504.00</b>	<b>12,959.74</b>
<b>Ministry support</b>									
Appeals & charitable giving	6a			583.00	583.00	62.50		676.50	739.00
Children & home mission	6b	82.40	745.46	180.19	1,008.05	397.58	622.40	507.63	1527.61
<b>Total Ministry support</b>		<b>82.40</b>	<b>745.46</b>	<b>763.19</b>	<b>1,591.05</b>	<b>460.08</b>	<b>622.40</b>	<b>1,184.13</b>	<b>2,266.61</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>80,313.12</b>	<b>834.24</b>	<b>8482.40</b>	<b>89,629.76</b>	<b>72,591.36</b>	<b>622.40</b>	<b>16,688.13</b>	<b>89,901.89</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>123,764.74</b>	<b>-341.76</b>	<b>-1,481.45</b>	<b>121,941.53</b>	<b>-10,908.66</b>	<b>6,131.25</b>	<b>673.75</b>	<b>-4,103.66</b>
Transfers between Funds		<u>66.30</u>	<u>-66.30</u>						
Net movement in Funds		123,831.04	-408.06	-1481.45	121,941.53				
Add Reserves b/fwd at 01 Jan 2020		56,357.63				67,266.29			
<b>TOTAL RESERVES 31 DEC 2020</b>		<b>180,188.67</b>				<b>56,357.63</b>			



**Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2020**

**NOTES RELATING TO 2020 ACCOUNTS**

*Breakdown of totals Receipts and Payments Account*

**Income**

- 1a All tax reclaimable giving from standing orders paid into bank account, weekly numbered envelopes and yellow envelopes (unrestricted). We are grateful for the donations received towards the Christmas Blessings (designated) and the churchyard (restricted).
- 1b Tax reclaimed from above and from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 1c Planned giving that may not qualify for tax relief and loose plate collections.
- 1d Unrestricted includes additional proceeds from the 2018 Christmas Fayre, one off donations, insertions in the Book of Remembrance, reimbursement for work to the bells and work in the churchyard. Designated includes donations towards provision of Christmas Blessings and JollyJ's. Restricted includes donations to the International fund and churchyard.
- 1e We are extremely grateful for the legacy from the estate of Dorothy Elstub deceased.
- 1f Grants received from HMRC Furlough scheme towards the Administrator's wages (unrestricted) and from Acceler8 towards the parish share (restricted).

**Expenditure**

- 2a Our contribution to Coventry Diocese including the grant received from Acceler8.
- 3a Clergy expenses and telephone.
- 3b Upkeep of services etc.
- 3c Licence fee for 2020 and music for services.
- 3d Visiting clergy undertaking funerals.
- 4a Wages and tax for Administrator. Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak the Office was manned by volunteers on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- 4b Rental and maintenance of photocopier and stationery.
- 4c Refreshment expenses and administration of funerals (unrestricted) and Jolly J's expenses (designated).
- 4d Rental of Church Office and associated utilities.
- 5a Gas and Electricity supplies and Water rates for St James Church.
- 5b Insurance of buildings, contents and public liability.

- 5c Includes routine maintenance of fire extinguishers, clock and lightning conductor and statutory testing of gas boilers (unrestricted) and roof repairs (restricted).
- 5d The cost of mowing the churchyard, emptying the skip, replacement trees, five yearly tree inspection and repairs to fencing.
- 6a International donations to the Mothers' Union Gifts that Grow project, MAF and the Barnabas Fund.
- 6b Designated includes the purchase of Christmas Blessings and items for Jolly J's. Restricted includes books for children who were baptised, planned expenditure by the Open the Book team and Granny Wagon.

## **Giving Report**

Thank you to everyone who continued to support St James during the last year. I am grateful to those who altered their method of giving to ensure they continued to donate to the church on a regular basis.

With the church closed for such a long period it is not appropriate to compare the amount received by the various methods with those for the previous year.

During 2020 a total of 32 people paid by standing order into the church bank account. Giving by this method amounted to £26,329.94.

6 people donated through the blue envelope scheme and a total of £3656.00 was given by this method.

A total of 20 people contributed to the church by yellow envelope, of these 8 gave on a semi regular basis. Total giving by this method (including one-off gift aid donations) amounted to £1,966.81.

A significant proportion of our giving is eligible for tax relief and allows us to claim back from HM Revenue & Customs 25p for every £1 donated in this way. We received gift aid of £9,132.66 from HM Revenue & Customs. Tax is recovered in arrear and covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

During the year the number of people who are non-taxpayers who gave on a regular basis was 7 and amounted to £3,326.09.

£527.35 was received through cash collections up to the church being closed in mid-March.

During the year overall giving decreased by £14,001.02.

Listed below is the equivalent average weekly giving during 2020 whether paid by standing order, cheques or the envelope schemes:

Up to £5.00	23 people
Over £5.00 up to £10.00	11 people
Over £10.00 up to £15.00	7 people
Over £15.00 up to £20.00	0 people
Over £20.00 up to £30.00	5 people
Over £30.00 up to £40.00	4 people

Over £40.00 up to £50.00	1 person
Over £50.00 up to £100.00	2 people

If you would like more information on ways to contribute to St James on a regular basis, whether weekly, monthly, six monthly or annually, please do contact me.

**Ruth Tresidder**  
**Gift Aid Secretary**  
**Tel 813524**

## **Electoral Roll Officer's Report**

The electoral roll stands at 85 members.

**Margo Grant – Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

This safeguarding report for 2020 will of necessity due to the Coronavirus pandemic will be brief. Church activities ceased from March 2020 and Safeguarding, in common, with all Church administration, went on a steep learning curve to comply with the Covid19 restrictions. I have been grateful that the Diocesan Safeguarding team have been supportive for any queries that have arisen. In November 2020, I was able to update the PCC via Zoom meeting, that St. James Church Action Plan was compliant as far as was possible within the guidance at that time. Inevitably, some outstanding items have had to be held over until the Church is able to re-open and resume normal activities. In the meantime, all DBS clearance and volunteer training have been monitored and kept up to date. My thanks to our volunteers for their willingness to undertake whatever has been required to ensure Safeguarding compliance.

Blessings.

**Heather Shackleton - Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Deanery Synod plans to meet four times each year, is supported by the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee and receives reports from the Diocesan and General Synods thus providing PCCs with an important link between the parish, deanery and wider structures of the church. As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic no meetings were held during 2020.

At last year's delayed APCM Stephen Adams, Margo Grant and Barry Parker were elected as your Deanery Synod representatives, their term of office expiring on 31 May 2023. All three are ex-officio members of our PCC. During the year Margo Grant stood down as one of the Deanery Synod's appointed representatives on Diocesan Synod.

We have a small number of clergy across the Deanery supported by strong lay teams. However, over the past few years as a direct result of new housing developments, particularly in Southam and a number of our larger villages, the Deanery has experienced a significant population growth. This shows no sign of slowing and discussions on how the Deanery should best deploy its clergy over the medium to long term are continuing. The Deanery Mission Team with representatives from St James Church and across the Deanery each year organise a programme of Deanery wide evangelistic events under the

national Hope banner. Sadly, with the country going into lockdown on 16<sup>th</sup> March the programme for 2020 was severely impacted.

- An inspiring evening with Phillipa Hanna, a British singer-songwriter, author and worship leader, went ahead in front of a packed St James Church.
- 'In The Spirit', an informal, lay-led service of contemporary guitar led worship and an inspirational and challenging message held at St Esprit Church, Marton on the first Sunday of each month continued to meet following lockdown with services moving on line via Zoom and available on YouTube.
- A Deanery Lent+ course, 'Explore the BIG story', planned to be run either side of Easter managed to hold its first two sessions in the Harbury Club before being put on hold.
- As part of the Hope 2020 prayer initiative, it was planned to open a different church each month so we could gather as a deanery to pray for the work of God in our parishes. There was also a time for prayer ministry. This had to be curtailed after lockdown.

All the other events, including our regular bi-annual combined Massive Messy Church, had to be cancelled or postponed.

At the time of writing this report we are still in lockdown but with the successful roll out of the vaccine and infections rates falling across the UK the Deanery Mission Team hope that it will be able to run some sort of a programme of events in 2021.

***Stephen Adams, Margo Grant and Barry Parker***

## **Leading, Service Support & Worship**

### **Music Group**

The music group continues to provide and lead the worship songs at the 10am Holy Communion service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month when the church has been open and we have been able to hold services.

The music is chosen as far as possible, in keeping with the theme of the Sunday and/or with the readings. We aim to have a mix of 'older' and 'newish' songs/hymns that everyone is able to join in with, introducing new items as appropriate. Comments from the congregation are always listened to and are taken on board as much as possible.

The past year obviously hasn't seen many live church services, so there isn't much else to report, other than give a huge thanks to the 7 loyal people who regularly turn up to play their instruments or sing.

We hope that in the future months we can resume our work, and it would be good to expand our group. If anyone can play anything or would like to join the singers, we would love to hear from you.

***Hilary Crosby – Co-Ordinator***

## **Children and Youth Work**

### **Granny Wagon – Friday Night Hot Chocolate in the Park**

The first lockdown on 23 March 2020 deprived by two weeks the Granny Wagon team of celebrating 15 years of serving hot chocolate to the youngsters in the recreation ground in Park Lane!

After doing a prayer walk around Southam the previous week, Chris Cooke and I had arrived at the park at 8pm on Friday 5 April 2005, with flasks of hot water, polystyrene cups, tea, coffee, sugar, milk, HOT CHOCOLATE, pink wafer biscuits and custard creams.

We parked at the top of Wattons Lane just off St James Road. Chris went into the park and made it known that there was hot chocolate available at the gate, while I set up my gran's old card table to serve drinks from the back of the car.

"Some woman told us we can get hot chocolate here!"

"She's quite right, how many of you would like some?"

By the end of the evening; we had served 49 hot chocolates and one tea, plus several packs of biscuits. We explained to a friendly police woman that we were members of St James Church and having the relevant DBS checks and the backing of the clergy, we thought it would be a good plan to get chatting with the youngsters, who often created quite a racket in the park on a Friday night.

Chris and I did every Friday evening, though very soon, various other church folk offered to help: Brett & Maria Justice, Sylvia & Gerry Barrett, Elaine Barnden, Gary & Deanna White, Caroline Johnson from the Congregational Church, Glynne from the Community Church, Annie & Roger Lane, Coral Currell & Julia Cobb....

In the summer of 2019, Gary and Deanna with several others, organised a few rounders games, which were well received!

We hope and pray that we might restart this venture when it's safe to do so. Meanwhile, huge thanks to those involved for their support and encouragement.

***Jan Ford and Chris Cooke***

**JollyJ's**

This group has not continued during the year, we tried a WhatsApp group but it did not work out, it will be difficult to restart as the helpers we had are not continuing as the children are now at school.

***Chris***

## **Homegroups**

### **The Monday Evening Homegroup**

We are a small group of members who share our Christian life through friendship, support for one another, and a willingness to learn more about the bible and what it means today. We are an informal and friendly group and new members are always welcome.

This unique year has brought challenges to us all and we have had to adapt to the way in which we normally meet up. Our meetings have been mainly via Zoom and when restrictions allowed, particularly in the summer, we have met for garden gatherings which were important to maintain some face-to-face contact. A homegroup WhatsApp has been set up to communicate and contact between meetings and particularly when support or prayers are needed.

Most of our studies have been based on the book of Matthew this year, taking sections of verses and discussing the passages in detail. Prayers and a song shared followed by the grace is the usual format. On the occasional break to routine, we may have a short prayer night, a social evening or an evening of reflection/meditation.

Members have also taken part in their own methods of studies, via YouTube, zooming with other groups/family studies or taking in Christian worship listening to UCB radio. All these have helped us to broaden our understanding and share experiences with one another.

We hope that our continual growth in the Christian life will be reflected in all that we do and draw others to Christ through our example.

We trust and pray that this pandemic will soon pass and church life and activities can take place once again.

***Juliet Houghton***

### **The Tuesday Evening Homegroup**

Who would have guessed that the past 12 months would have been the way they have been? Never, in the history of our lives, has the world been 'stopped in its tracks' because of a virus sweeping through like a tornado, claiming the lives of thousands upon thousands of people!

As the pandemic developed so did our technical skills and so our home group meetings carried on ..... using zoom! What a huge blessing that has been for us. Whilst we were unable to meet physically, we could still meet virtually. We could see each other, joke and laugh together, share hard and difficult times together and pray for each other and other needs both during the evening and throughout the week. It would be true to say we have all grown closer to each other during this unusual year. How? Why? We have been cut off from our normal pattern of living but God, in His great mercy and love, has built us up together. In 1 Corinthians 12:24-26 we read, "... God has so composed the body, ..... that there may be no division .... But that the members may all have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together." Those words are as true today as they were all those thousands of years ago and they have certainly been the experience and strength of our home group over the past year.

Pre Covid, we had been studying 'Men of the Bible', but when we changed to zoom meetings, we pressed the pause button on those studies and began working through a study book about the Sermon on the Mount. Each member has a study guide with a section to study and answer questions in preparation for the next home group. This study has proved very challenging and there hasn't been very much wriggle room as we have faced up to the challenges of Jesus' teaching. We have; however, all been blessed in discussing the various aspects together and hopefully growing too.

Are you part of a home group, small group, life group? If not, may I ask you to seriously to consider joining one of the groups we have in Church. Not only may you be missing out on belonging to a smaller 'family unit' within the larger family of St. James Church but the group is missing out on your friendship too. Please don't wait until 'life gets back to normal' - whenever that may be or however that may look. Contact one of the home group leaders. You will be made so welcome. You will be both blessed and be a blessing!

Our home group will continue to meet on zoom for a while yet. To find out more details please phone Stephen or Pat on 813753. (We currently meet every Tuesday at 7pm for 40 minutes)

***Stephen and Pat Adams***

### **The Wednesday Evening Lifegroup**

We used to meet fortnightly before the first Lockdown then switched to meeting "virtually" on a weekly basis using Zoom. This strengthened our friendship during a difficult time of isolation, supporting each other in practical ways wherever possible, in prayer and sharing stories and applications from our bible studies. As a result, we changed our name from Homegroup to Lifegroup as a reflection of the lifeline our meetings had become. I'm sure we would all encourage everyone to join a group and share a similar experience. Prayer has become a central focus as we remember many needs at this time in our broken world but also much to thank and praise God for as we see good coming out of chaos. We have used a variety of source material diving into both the Old and New Testaments also screen sharing worship songs and videos - sometimes



more successfully than others being very dependent on WIFI demands! During Advent we used a study book on Ruth which gave us deeper insight into the Christmas story. We continue to meet using Zoom but looking forward to the day we can meet face to face again. If anyone would like to join us please do get in touch you would be very welcome.

***Jill Parker***

## **Church Liaison**

### **Southam St James C of E Academy**

2020 began in the same way as most years, although governors already knew that they had to address the issue of Mrs Palmizi's impending retirement in July. A highly experienced and respected teacher at the school for many years, Mrs Palmizi became Head of School at St James when it went into a formal collaboration with Long Itchington Primary School five years ago. Lengthy talks with the Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust, largely based on the financial viability of the existing leadership structure across the two schools, were ongoing at the end of the academic year.

When the country went into national lockdown in March 2020, governor meetings went onto Zoom and the frequency of meetings was greater than normal. The day to day running of the school and the education of the pupils – mostly by remote learning except for the children of Key workers – was efficiently managed by the Executive Head, Mrs Ali Hine, and the two Heads of School. The role of the Governing body became one of keeping abreast of the current legislation regarding Health and Safety, especially when the school re-opened for the brief spells to a greater number of pupils, authorising the leadership team to go ahead with their plans and supporting pastorally where possible.

My term of office officially ended in June 2020 but, due to the difficulties and practicalities of appointing new governors at that time, the Diocese asked people in my position to remain in post until early September. Unusually governor meetings continued during July and August and proved a busy time for all involved.

In September my successor, Belinda Hewer, took over and she, along with Valerie Copley from Ladbroke and Roderick Clark, representing the clergy, now make up the team of Foundation Governors. I would like to wish them well as they help the school move forward, both academically and spiritually, over the coming years.

***Jenny Thorne***

## **Mission and Outreach**

### **Home Communion and Services at Residential Homes**

As we are all aware, the giving and receiving of Holy Communion has been paused since March 2020, as has the pleasure of visiting our friends for monthly services in Galanos House, Newstead Lodge and Tithe Place which are organised in conjunction with the Community Church, the Congregational Church and Our Lady & St Wulstan's Church. Greenways Care Home is also included in regular visits. We hope and pray that these services will be resumed as soon as it is declared safe and restrictions are lifted.

***Jan Ford***



### **International 2021**

Obviously, we have are not able to hold our coffee mornings for the last year as the church has not been open and we have missed meeting up every week with our friends.

The cross of nails prayers has continued every Friday at noon with Alex and Jan on the phone, well done Alex for occasionally doing them yourself.

We have sent money from the account at Christmas to The Barnabas fund and Ministry Aviation Fellowship £200 each which leaves us £88.86 in the account.

We will resume as soon as allowed and welcome back our friends and visitors for coffee.

### ***Chris and Jan***

### **St James Strollers**

At this point it seems a very long time since St James Strollers met as a group for our monthly "stroll". The year 2020 started, as we often do, having regard to the hours of daylight in January, with a short local stroll taking in Stoneythorpe and Bascote. In February we again stayed fairly local, this time with a circuit from Radford Semele. March saw us in Northamptonshire – starting from the village of Great Everdon and via Snorscomb visiting the woods of Everdon Stubbs. Then, of course, everything changed, and our planned programme was cancelled. When restrictions eased in the summer, in September a few of us, in socially distanced groups, ventured into Oxfordshire to the villages of Cropredy and Claydon, but when we again went into "lockdown" we have not since met at all as a group. However, we have kept in touch variously and look forward to being able to resume our popular meetings on the first Sunday of the month as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. When that time comes a notice will be circulated to advertise the fact. Hope to see you soon.

***"Spike" Thorne – Southam 814468.***