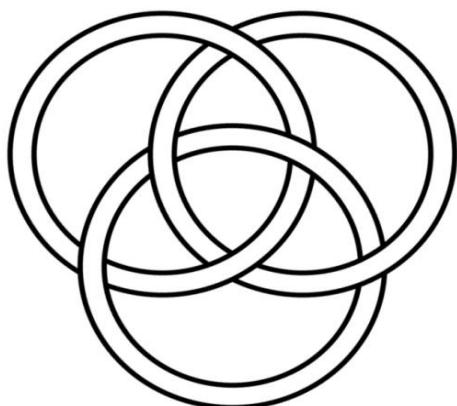


# **The Parish of Shrivenham with Watchfield & Bourton**



# **Annual Report 2019**

and agenda for the  
Annual Vestry Meeting and  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Friday 30th October 2020  
6:30pm at St Andrew's Shrivenham

**'We have found the Messiah.' John 1:4**



## Annual Vestry Meeting 2020 - Agenda

1. Prayers
2. Election of the Clerk to the meeting
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at St Andrew's Shrivenham
5. Election of Churchwardens

## Annual Parish Meeting 2020 - Agenda

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at St Andrew's Shrivenham
2. Electoral Roll
3. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
4. Election of PCC
5. Election of Auditor
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Churchwardens' Reports
9. Incumbent's Report
10. Other Reports
11. Any other business

## Minutes of the Annual Vestry and Parish Meetings 2019

The Annual Vestry and Parish Meetings were held at St. Andrew's Church, Shrivenham on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7.30 p.m. As there is no incumbent the meeting was chaired by Mr. D. Watson.

### Annual Vestry Meeting

1. The meeting opened with the reading of the Collect for the day and prayer led by Rev'd N. Fergusson.
2. **Election of clerk.** It was proposed by Mrs. J. Venables, seconded by Mrs. E. Watson and carried unanimously that Mrs. M. Jeans be elected Clerk.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. and Mrs. N. Bantoft, Mr. R. Fergusson, Mrs. P. Hockley, Miss C. Lee, Mrs. J. Morrison, Mrs. L. Skelt.
4. The minutes of the Vestry meeting held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were approved and signed.
5. **Election of Churchwardens.** Mr. Watson was delighted to report that all the Churchwardens were willing to continue in post for a further year as follows:  
**St. Andrew's** Mr. J. Stevens and Mr. D. Watson  
**St Thomas'** Mrs. R. Holman  
**St. James'** Mrs. A. Benbow and Mrs. S. Howell

These were elected unanimously.

There being no further business the Vestry meeting was closed.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 attended by twenty-four parishioners.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th April 2018 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by the Chairman and carried unanimously.

1. **Electoral Roll.** The Electoral Roll stands at 90. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. P. Hockley for her work on keeping the Electoral Roll.

2. **Election of Deanery Synod Representatives.** Mrs. J. Morrison wishes to stand down from the Deanery Synod and the appreciation of the PCC was expressed for all the time she has given this. Mrs. J. Venables will continue as a representative and it was proposed by Mrs. A. Benbow and seconded by Mr. J. Stevens that Mrs. S. Howell serves as a Deanery Synod representative. It is hoped they will be joined by a third person from Watchfield.
3. **Election of P.C.C.** The Chairman thanked the PCC for their work over the past year. The following people were elected unanimously to the P.C.C for the coming year: Mrs. J. Ahern, Dr. A. Avery, Mrs. M. Coyle, Mr. A. Crabtree, Mrs. P. Dudley, Mr. C. Holman, Dr. R. Parks, Mr. A. Peal, Mr. F. Venables. Mrs. J. Ormondroyd and Mrs. M. Jeans were seconded onto the PCC as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.
4. **Election of Auditor.** Mr. D. Watson was delighted to report that Mrs. A. Brickell had expressed her willingness to act as auditor for the coming year. This was proposed by Mrs. J. Venables and seconded by Mrs. M. Hern.
5. **P.C.C. Chairman's Report.** Mr. Watson said that at the last APCM no one anticipated that Rev'd Canon Hancock would be leaving so quickly, but it is amazing how everything has come together. So much of this success is due to Rev'd Norma and Richard Fergusson and we are deeply indebted for all they do. Without them it would be extremely difficult to maintain the work required. The biggest concern is the lack of young people in the church, but there is a service in school every week and representatives from the church are frequently in school. Mrs. Peal, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Venables liaise closely with the school on church matters. It was interesting that when children were invited to help make the Easter Garden there were seventeen adults and between twenty and thirty children present.
6. **Secretary's Report.** Thanks were expressed to the secretary acting as Clerk and for her work as Secretary to the PCC. The Secretary expressed her thanks to Mrs. L. Laird for her help particularly with the new data protection and safeguarding regulations.
7. **Treasurer's Report.** A huge vote of thanks was given to Mr. A. Willmett who has been Treasurer for the past 15 years. This is a vital role, and we are delighted that Mrs. J. Ormondroyd is taking on this task. The Treasurer explained that the Parish Share still has to be paid in full, even though there is no incumbent. He did say that it is probably time that the planned giving should be looked at to see if it could be increased.
8. **Churchwardens' Reports.** These were published in full, there were no questions on any of them.
9. **Associate Vicar's Report.** Rev'd Norma Fergusson said that no-one had anticipated Rev'd Canon Hancock's move would take place so quickly and it is amazing that the three churches have delivered what it says in the Profile. So many people have taken on unexpected roles and remarkably few services have had to be cut. The family services in Shrivenham and Bourton have improved and although Watchfield does not have the family element they are very open for different types of worship. She thanked all the churchwardens for the amount of work they have to put in and was delighted that the choir led by her husband and Becky Peal are going from strength to strength. Of particular note was the choir and bellringers together, a remarkable achievement. She closed by saying that we can look forward to the year ahead.
10. **Other Reports.** As printed.
11. **A.O.B.** Nothing further.

**There being no further business the meeting closed with the Grace at 8.20 p.m.**

## **PCC Secretary's Report**

The PCC met six times during the year. Each meeting gave the opportunity for matters concerning all three churches to be discussed. Reports from the various sub-committees are given elsewhere. Fundraising was successful both for the general work of the churches and the restoration project at St. Andrew's.

Until July we were in an Interregnum but thanks to the hard work of the Churchwardens and Norma and Richard Fergusson things were kept running well and services maintained. In July the PCC were delighted to welcome Norma as our new incumbent and her installation was a wonderful occasion with a packed church.

The PCC approved the Data and Information Policy Statement and Data Privacy Notice at the PCC meeting held on 4th June 2019. These will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The Parish Safeguarding Policy was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 4th June 2019 and will be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM. Mrs Lucy Laird is the Parish Safeguarding Officer and has attended PCC meetings to see that all members of the PCC undertook the necessary training and were fully updated on these. We were very grateful to Lucy for all her work ensuring that everyone complied with the rules regarding safeguarding and data protection.

It was with great sadness the PCC recorded the death of Colin Holman in November. He had served on the PCC for many years and his advice on decorating issues, generosity with goods and time and skill in producing tickets and posters for all events will be sadly missed.

Finally, on a personal note, I have retired as Secretary and would like to thank all PCC members, past and present who have supported me during the past thirteen years, making the work a pleasure and never a chore.

Marilyn Jeans

## **Treasurer's Report**

This year, PCC general income proved insufficient to meet our expenditure, leaving us with a deficit of £4250 to find from existing reserves/funds. This is attributable to a fall in total monies received (compared with 2018) rather than any change in expenditure which this year was slightly less than the previous year. Accordingly, it will be necessary to look at how we can increase income over the coming year to meet our obligations.

Our major source of income is planned giving with the benefit of Gift Aid attributable to these donations. The PCC is very grateful to all those who support our Churches in this way by regular bank payment or the envelope scheme. Please encourage anyone who is thinking of setting this up in the form of bank Faster Payments or standing order to contact me so that I can give them the necessary information.

We claimed £11000 in Gift Aid for this financial year and this also includes tax recovered on small cash donations (in the offertory) and the pew envelopes which prove to be popular with visitors to the Churches.

We are also grateful for the considerable generosity given in support of the two Restoration Appeals for St Andrew's and St James' respectively and for the Fabric Fund at St Thomas'. The St James' Bourton Appeal Fund, now confirmed as a restricted fund, stood at £12200 at the end of the year.

Parish Share forms the largest part of PCC expenditure from our general/unrestricted funds. This is paid to Oxford Diocese to help cover our clergy stipends and housing costs. This year saw an increase over 2018 of 4% as we were asked to find £48400 with another increase due next year.

I wish to thank Margaret Hern for her support with the planned giving envelope scheme and for the effort Margaret and John put into the highly successful bottle tombola at the Village Fete in August. All the fund-raising initiatives are very much appreciated.

Also, I should like to thank Andy Willmett for his time and patience in effecting the handover of the PCC accounts from the start of the 2019 financial year.

Jane Ormondroyd

## **Churchwardens' Reports**

### **Shrivenham, St Andrew**

The majority of work continues to centre on the restoration and improvement project, and this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. Progress to date includes the restoration to the porch parapet, the conservation work to stabilise the font and the introduction of the audio-visual system. The DAC have raised several issues in relation to the toilets and vestry/kitchen area, but we have now obtained the faculty and hopefully this will be undertaken during the summer. Fundraising continues with a number of events planned for this year.

The temperamental floodlights have been replaced with LED ones and the electrical system tested along with the lightening conductor. We are still awaiting the Vale to repair the north wall and improve some of the footpaths.

We are always happy for new people to be part of the rotas and thank all those currently undertaking these duties.

Julian Stevens & David Watson

### **Bourton, St James**

2019 saw the continuation of our Saturday morning services, at which we were pleased to welcome Julian Stevens as officiant on a number of occasions, as well as Norma and Richard. We have been pleased to see a small but loyal congregation continue to attend these services. We reinstated our monthly Sunday Communion service in November, and enjoyed our Christmas Communion service on Christmas Eve. This was a particularly musical affair this year, with not only the usual handbell ringers (many thanks to Tony and team) to start proceedings, but a children's choir regaling us with John Rutter's 'Colours of Christmas' and the dulcet tones of Stille Nacht being sung by our resident opera singer Ellie. Certainly a festive service to remember.

Fundraising efforts have slowed somewhat, however enough funds have been raised to begin work on the most pressing aspects of repairs identified in our quinquennial report. Requests have been submitted to the DAC for approval to commence work, quotes have been received from contractors, and we await the green light to proceed. Work will focus on the West Wall which is continually battered by the strong winds blowing over the facing fields.

Pinewood school continue to support the church with regular service. Their chapel service, which used to be held on a Saturday morning has now changed to a Friday afternoon on 'In' weekends. Pinewood also held a wonderful Christmas miscellany in support of the church consisting of poems, readings and hymns sung by the Parent / teacher choral society and the school chapel choir.

This wasn't the only fundraising event for the church, Sue Hayes our resident piano teacher held 2 concerts in aid of the church with her students in both piano and flute serenading a captive audience. We even welcomed a guest choir from a local primary school to her Christmas concert. WE would like to thank Sue for her continued support and her efforts in organising Ride and Stride in Bourton as well.

Finally we would like to extend our thanks to Chris Field, our organist, who despite illness continues to play the organ magnificently at all our services and to Norma, Richard and Julian who have led our services – thank you for all you do for us in Bourton – it is much appreciated.

Amanda Benbow & Sarah Howell

### **Watchfield, St Thomas**

By advertising that St Thomas is open throughout the day the church has received far more visitors as shown by the visitor's book.

Numbers attending the weekly services remain the same. However special services are well attended. The 'Songs of Praise' service was very popular as parishioners were able to visit the church to vote for their favourite hymn in the weeks prior to the service, which increased the footfall into the church. Remembrance Sunday, Harvest and the Advent service are well attended and are followed by drinks in the hall which allows time to socialise after the service. The reintroduction of Baptism at Watchfield was welcomed by the community and we look forward to many more in the future.

Fund raising for the fabric fund continues - Cream teas , Harvest Supper and a raffle at the Christmas Fayre are just some of the events organised by the village which are well supported.

The Parish Council continue to fund the grass cutting in the churchyard. This, together with the work by June Blackman ensures the churchyard is well maintained. Quotes have been obtained for remedial work on the church roof as per the Quinquennial report. Hopefully, work will begin in the spring. Other tasks such as gutter clearing and cleaning the church are carried out by volunteers.

Thank you to Roger Parks who continues to supply all the candles for the church, and thank you to all who continue to keep the church full of flowers throughout the year and who ensure the church is made ready and welcoming for each service.

Ruth Holman

### **Incumbent's Report**

I began the report for the 2019 APCMs by saying “we didn’t expect that it would be taking quite so long to find our new vicar.” By the end of 2019, we were still waiting – but this time for an Associate Vicar to replace me in Ashbury, following my appointment as Vicar in the September. This was a huge and totally unexpected honour for which I am profoundly grateful. Thank you all for your trust and confidence and for making my installation service so special. However, it was a long nine months before we got there and I would like to begin by thanking everyone who helped – either by taking on more work or by agreeing to have fewer services (taking their share of the sacrificial lamb as Sarah Howell put it). So, in no particular order as they say on TV thank you to:

- Churchwardens – David Watson, Julian Stevens, Ruth Holman, Amanda Benbow, Sarah Howell, Joanna Lambert, Jimmy Watson, Maggie Simons and Dennis Blease, as well as Charles Wickham, Neil Sutherland and Tom Lill-Arnold – not formally churchwardens but lovingly caring for Fernham-
- lay worship leaders in Ashbury, Watchfield, Compton Beauchamp, Bourton, and Shrivenham for taking over services of the word so willingly and so well
- the ASK team for their monthly communion services and the annual service for All Souls
- Neil and Sarah for revamping the Benefice Profile and making it look as good as we know the benefice to be
- PCC secretaries – Marilyn Jeans, Roger Simons, Richard Fergusson and Lucy Laird – an important but often underestimated role
- Treasurers – James Reade, Jane Ormondroyd, Keith Reid and Al Russell for keeping track of our finances
- James Reade, Peter Steele, Chris Field and Alex Peal for so willingly providing real organ music at our services
- the choir for their wonderful singing at services across the benefice
- the ringers in our three bell towers in Ashbury, Longcot and Shrivenham – as well as the handbell ringers who bless our Advent and Christmas services
- the Open the Book teams in Ashbury and Shrivenham
- Rev’d Robin Cardwell, Rev’d Frank Parkinson, Rev’d Philip Burrows and Rev’d Stuart Fisher for leading communion services
- Lucy Laird, who has continued to cope with a hugely increased administrative workload with grace and good humour, and also Sarah who has shared in the birth of our Facebook page
- Richard Fergusson– without whom I would have found this year so much more difficult
- Bishop Colin, for being unfailingly supportive throughout the vacancy and selection process

The churchwardens and PCC secretaries will give detailed reports for their churches so I will focus on the things which are common to us all.

The challenge at the start of the year was to keep the show on the road until the new vicar arrived and, by and large we have done that. The church we described in the profile has remained active in our communities, still doing the things we have always done as well as responding to new challenges. There were 36 funeral services during the year (ten in December alone), but we also had eight wonderful weddings and 13 baptisms. Despite what we sometimes read in the papers, people do still like the church to be part of important family events and all the benefice churches offer the great gift of hospitality at those times.

It has been a joy to work ever more closely with our church schools, as well as beginning to develop relationships with Watchfield and Pinewood. I am also extremely grateful to Andrew Bunce and the Ashbury Evangelical Free Church for allowing us to use their building for a weeklong Prayer Space in March. We have also continued to work with our Methodist brothers and sisters on services, at Café Inspire and over safeguarding; the covenant relationship will formally be renewed at a service in January 2020.

Fundraising remains an important part of church life. Many people still seem to believe we get money from the Diocese rather than the other way round and, of course, there is the additional challenge of funding the restoration and building projects which will give us better facilities and will enable us to welcome more people more effectively – hopefully, in time, also becoming a resource for their communities. We are blessed to have Roger Baker and Christian Randall as our church architects, as well as active groups of volunteers who care for our buildings and churchyards, making sure that we fulfil our responsibility as good stewards and that they remain beautiful, worshipful and accessible spaces for future generations

Writing as I am well into 2020, this was not a year any of us could have imagined so it would be wrong not to note the challenges we continue to face and to end with an additional thank you for all you have done during these past months both for the churches and for your communities. Looking back at 2019, it seems as though the most significant change was the development of our benefice website and Facebook page. The Facebook page went live at the start of Advent and had updates each day, which seemed quite an achievement. Little did we know how much we would come to rely on it for maintaining contact with so many members of our congregations – although we did not forget the value of phone calls and paper copies of newsletters.

Not knowing what the future will hold (the crystal ball never did resurface after the move) perhaps the only way to finish is with the words of Dag Hammarskjöld, which always seem to me to be both a prayer and a statement of faith: For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, yes.

Rev'd Norma Fergusson

### **Vale of the White Horse Deanery Synod**

The Vale of the White Horse Deanery Synod (VWHDs) has met on three occasions in the past year; 13th June 2019; 6th November 2019; 11th February 2020.

Throughout the year, payment of the Parish Share has been of concern. Discussions are ongoing to try and resolve this challenge.

Mission Action Plan (MAP). Four “groups” were set up to investigate the path forward. These included the recruiting and training for ministry, Schools/Youth worker, reaching the housebound, how to attract and retain new members in our church family. This again is an ongoing project.

In the past few years, we have been able to apply for contributions towards mission projects. This was a Bishop Colin initiative, but with his retirement this September the fund will close. The Diocesan “Common Vision” program has been set up and funding will still be available.

New appointments in the Deanery. The Rev'd Nina Summerfield was appointed House for Duty priest in Ashbury. Her licensing had to be postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic. It is scheduled for 27th September 2020.

Two retired priests have offered their part-time services. Canon Jim Mynors has been assisting at Cherbury and Gainfield. Rev'd Tim Hewes has offered his services in the same benefice.

Following the outbreak of the Covid19 pandemic at the end of March 2020, future meetings will be conducted via “zoom”.

Jane Venables

### **Standfast (St Andrew's Family Service Planning Team)**

The dedicated Standfast team have continued to work hard in organising the monthly family services. They work closely with Reverend Norma Fergusson and assist her when there is a baptism (of which we had eight – including twins Jonathan and Sophie). When there are no baptisms, members of the team will lead the service, providing suitable hymns, bible stories, prayers and talks, with the bible stories and prayers read by the children. Families continue to welcome worshippers and hand out hymn books and order sheets. Positive comments from

families attending the services are regularly received, stating how welcome and comfortable they have been made to feel and how good the cake is.

The team have also been involved in organising other events throughout the year, e.g. Christmas crib service, Easter garden and Church Fete. We believe we may currently hold the record for the world's largest Christingle. Well, Shrivenham's anyway.

Invitations to families to attend a Family Service to mark the anniversary of their child's baptism are still being sent out and any children who weren't baptised in St Andrews but are part of the village community are welcome to be added to the Baptism Diary.

Many thanks must go to the small but committed members of the Standfast team. Without their commitment, hard work, time and talents, Family Services would certainly not be as much fun and, at times, would not be possible at all.

### **ASK: Acting in Simple Kindness**

During the year the members of the ASK team continued to work quietly but pastorally behind the scenes – using practical compassion and common sense to ensure that people who would like to receive help and support were able to receive it.

Our main focus continues to be the short communion service on the first Wednesday of each month, but the ASK team also organise the annual All Souls service, where we remember those we love who have died. For me, this is one of the most moving and important services in the church year.

The team met regularly to plan the services and we continue to be encouraged by the numbers who attend. There is a theme for each service with appropriate readings and hymns and hopefully everyone gets to sing one of their favourites. The ministry of coffee and cake which follows is equally, if not more, important in making people feel welcomed and wanted. Thank you so much to everyone who takes their turn with the refreshments. And special thanks to Joyce who ensures we always have flowers

The monthly collection from the Wednesday service is used primarily to support either a local charity or a national charity with a local focus. This year these included the Royal British Legion, Cruse, Swindon Women's Refuge, Faringdon Foodbank, Pennyhooks farm, Christian Aid, Prospect Hospice and local homeless charities. The letters of thanks we receive show how much the charities appreciate our thoughts and prayers as well as our donations.

As we always say, if there is anything you need, either for yourself or someone you know, don't be afraid to ASK.

Rev'd Norma Fergusson

### **Alpha**

Alpha is a series of sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith, has now been run 8 times in total, with the last two courses run October-December 2019 and January-March 2020 jointly with the Shrivenham Methodist Church. The autumn course was run in the evenings with a meal, talk and discussion in small groups and attended by 14 people. The spring course was run in the mornings with coffee and treats, talk and discussion in small groups attended by 6 people. This course was completed via Zoom due to lockdown.

The next course is scheduled to start in early October 2020 – an evening course and online using Zoom.

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

David and Jane Ahern

### **Café Inspire**

Café Inspire, the Anglican/Methodist joint mission project, has had another successful year. We continue to meet on the second Saturday of the month in the school hall at Shrivenham Primary School. Our numbers have held steady with some days us hosting nearly 100 people. We are still able to offer free tea, coffee or squash, and the catering team continues to provide delicious cakes and bacon butties for our guests to purchase. Many thanks to the catering team for all their hard work.

The children have made great progress with their bell plate playing and were invited to play during the St Frideswide Civic Service in Christ Church Cathedral on 22nd October. They enjoyed tea with the Lord Mayor and a guided tour of the Great Hall, then performed with great aplomb as the entire congregation filed past them and around the tomb of St Frideswide at the end of the service. Our thanks to Lucy Laird and Stella Tidmarsh for guiding these young people. We continue to sponsor (through Compassion) a boy called Elijah who lives in Uganda and the money that we donate to him goes towards his schooling, his clothing and his Christian education.

Our thanks to all who assist us in making this a must in the life of the churches and village.

### **St Andrew's Choir**

In 2019, the choir enjoyed a busy schedule of services, including several choral evensongs, the usual monthly parish communion services in St. Andrew's, Shrivenham, and a full programme of Christmas services. We also had the very great pleasure of singing at Norma's installation service in September. The choir continued to grow in number and to enjoy the camaraderie that singing and supporting worship together brings.

Of course, the current pandemic brought our singing to a rather abrupt end in March 2020 and very sadly, we have not been able to sing together for some time. During the first months of the shutdown, Claire shared an 'anthem of the week' with choir members by WhatsApp and email. Members were asked to sing along, wherever they were, and to enjoy a moment of togetherness.

At the time of writing, plans are being made to bring the choir back together, with care being taken to remain within the letter and the spirit of the government advice. Whilst acknowledging that it will be a while before the choir can sing together in the same way it did, everyone is keen to reunite and to bring live singing back into services within the benefice.

Claire Hartley

### **Shrivenham Ringers**

This report was written when we were blissfully unaware of the effect of coronavirus which now threatens to do serious and lasting damage to bell ringing here and across the country.

We usually rang six of our ten bells on Sundays and often all ten. On first Sunday evenings, we invited visitors to join for advanced ten-bell ringing. We average 12 or 13 with our regular visitors at practice.

We welcomed Molly to the band. She made excellent progress and is contributing well. Mark and Christiane are still with us, but we haven't seen Stacey for a while. Having regained Sarah, we now miss her for three years while she and Al are posted to S Africa. It was nice having Katy here for six months before her new posting near Bristol. Jonathan is back and ringing regularly. We are delighted that Cynthia Howell has moved to the village and rings with us. Margaret and Mark are taking over flag and belfry duties from Julian & Alan.

Lots of people, young & old join on the Sunday chiming ropes. Hopefully, some will decide to learn. The amazing new church audio/visual system has replaced the need to run up and down all the way to the belfry twice every Sunday with the microphone for the battery loudspeaker. It is very effective provided it has been switched on at the correct volume so that the chimers in the choir stalls can hear the bells but the gathering congregation can only just hear them. Without the amplification, the chiming activity used to be nearly meaningless and sometimes highly frustrating to the participants! The congregation can also now see and hear all our bells on the screen in the church. Ringers and visitors can see via the monitor in the ringing room.

We have many training initiatives centred on Longcot & Shrivenham. Lucy, Joe, Jon, Nicola, Jonathan & I do much training, both of learner ringers and trainee teachers, ably assisted by teachers from Oxford who also learn new teaching techniques.

We continued to work with the excellent Prayer Space initiative which has been so successful with the local schools. This year's is at Shrivenham. We are expecting to do tower tours for the children on some days including the virtual visit to the belfry using the CCTV screen.

We enjoy our continued partnership with the choir and handbells. The latest, and most adventurous performance was the last scene of Benjamin Britten's "Noye's Fludde" in the recent

fundraising concert. We rang with choir, recorders, French horns, piano and Norma as "Voice of God" plus special effects.

Ann & Julian tolled in solidarity with Notre Dame after the awful fire. Thanks to everyone who participates in and supports all these ringing activities that do so much for the life of the church and the village.

Tony Crabtree

### **St Andrew's Flower Ladies**

We had a fairly busy time this year, starting with my Palm Sunday crosses and Maundy pots in the Lady Chapel (used afterwards for the porch Easter Garden), and my lilies at the Altar (generously donated by Robin Pope).

The church looked lovely when we decorated it for the Church Fete in June, and I did the flowers for in the Lady Chapel for Mrs Miles in September.

Along with the Methodists, Ashbury, Bourton, Watchfield, Longcot and the bell ringers, we decorated the church for Norma's Installation on 11th September. Some of the flowers from a wedding in Ashbury were brought to St Andrew's and we were able to re-use them. Even the Bishop of Dorchester said how lovely the church looked.

We decorated for Harvest on 22nd September along with the Garden Club, walkers, Methodists, bell ringers, Shirley Dalton-Morris (Longcot) WI and the Averys. I must say thanks here to Judy Raschen who always gives me so many Dahlias and little Asters for my pedestal arrangements. There was a wedding on 28th September and the bride was delighted that the Harvest flowers lasted for her. We also had weddings in May and July and a second one in September.

Myself and two ladies did the usual arrangements for Remembrance Day, one of the ladies did blue flowers with blue/white flags for St Andrew's Day, and I did the Advent Ring.

I did flowers in the Lady Chapel for Mrs Miles, and the Altar lilies (again donated by Robin Pope) when we decorated the church for Christmas, including the little window trees decorated with gold baubles.

As usual most of the church costs this year were for oasis as all the arrangers mentioned above provided their own flowers, and I thank them all for their continued support.

Angela Brickell

### **St Andrew's Cleaning Team**

The dedicated team continued to dust, polish & Hoover as usual until the church was closed however several members are either having a year off or withdrawing from the team so a recruiting drive will be needed to boost the numbers if a similar rota is considered to be the way in which the cleaning will be done in future.

Following the renovations and shut down the Cleaning Team were most impressed by the high standard of cleanliness the contractors achieved. We will endeavour to maintain the church in the condition visitors have become accustomed to during "normal" times when the new service pattern has been developed.

Penny Hockley

## MISSION FIGURES: FINANCE

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS		
RECURRING INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted		Unrestricted plus restricted
<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>			<b>Donations (grants) to charities</b>	
Tax-efficient planned giving	32,173.52		All donations to all types of charity	1,185.50
All tax recovered	11,002.45	1,660.68		
Collections of loose cash at services	8,408.54			
All other giving	866.97	9,582.24	<b>Activities directly related to the work of the church</b>	
			Parish Share	48,416.94
			Clergy expenses	1,861.70
			Church running expenses	16,482.14
			Cost of trading	
			Salaries and support costs	
Recurring grants			Fees to Diocese	3,125.00
Church Boxes	228.43			
<b>Other voluntary incoming resources</b>			<b>Cost of generating funds; management &amp; administration</b>	
			Fundraising costs	134.70
Dividends, interest rent etc	1,003.59		Other Payments	9,307.36
			Management & administration	2,250.74
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				TOTAL 82,764.08
Fundraising (gross)	5,177.18	15,178.95		
Bookstall, hall lettings etc	4,000.00		<b>MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	
Parochial fees paid to PCC	6,007.00	-	Major repairs to church buildings	35,117.78
Benefice Expenses Contribution	2,524.95		Major repairs to other PCC property	
	TOTAL 71,392.63	26,421.87		
<b>NON-RECURRING INCOME</b>				
Grants				
Postbox Collections	3,921.90			
Parish Share Rebate	1,291.00			
Photocopier	1,832.02			
Bequest				
Coffee	464.77			
Misc refund fees	18.45			
	TOTAL 7,528.14	-		
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>78,920.77</b>	<b>26,421.87</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>117,881.86</b>