

# **The Parish of St Anne, West Heath**



## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### **Reports**

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**REPORTS FOR 2019/20**

These reports, covering mostly from April 2019 to March 2020, are presented here as they were submitted. The financial report submitted by Georgina Arnold, Treasurer, is presented in a separate paper, and Fr Paul Cho's report as Priest in Charge will be stated at the APCM as the final remarks.

## **CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**

At the start of 2019 St. Anne's continued its interregnum. During that time we continued to hold all of our regular services. We were extremely blessed with having two wonderful readers, Ian Bradley and Eileen Tudor, who ensured all Sunday services were well led. They also supported a group of vicars who regularly led our 9:15 am Communion Service and Father Paul Cho who led our 11 am Family Communion Service on the first Sunday of every month. The Wednesday Morning Prayer Service continued thanks to Ian Bradley. The Thursday Communion Service was held fortnightly thanks to retired Vicar Revd. Rob Morris. On alternate Thursdays a Morning Prayer Service was held. During May the Birmingham Bike Race meant that the roads around St. Anne's were closed one Sunday. The PCC agreed that the service should be held on Saturday evening and we were fortunate that Father Paul agreed to lead the service.

Once a month our Pastoral team took a Communion Service in to Red Hill Court Care Home and a Blessing Service into Austin Rose Care/Nursing home. Joan Ayre and I worked with members of other local churches to help with the planning and running of World Day of Prayer at St. Nicholas Church, King's Norton, on Friday 1st March. The Wednesday afternoon Bible study group ran a very successful six week Pilgrim Course during Lent on a Friday evening.

On Good Friday members of St. Anne's joined with members of other local churches for a March of Witness and led worship at West Heath Shops and outside St. Anne's. In the afternoon we held our Good Friday Vigil. On Easter Sunday, we held a Family Communion Service thanks to Father Paul Cho and Eileen Tudor.

King's Norton Area Dean, Revd. Rod Fieldson put Joan Ayre forward for Reader's training. He continued to support her through the interview stage and attended meetings with her along with myself during the period of selection. After being accepted onto the course Joan started her training in September.

Monday afternoons were filled with tea/coffee, cake and chatter. Joan Ayre hosted this chance for people in the community to get together to talk about anything and everything. It's a chance for those living on their own to meet with others in a warm, friendly and safe atmosphere.

St. Anne's Choir joined with other choirs to perform at the Choirs Against Homelessness Concert in April. The choir also performed afternoon concerts at Church to raise funds for our building project. The concerts followed 'Bring and Share' meals where the congregation gathered together to enjoy one another's company.

A pancake evening with Quiz was held on Shrove Tuesday. Chrissie and Rod Price took the kitchen over once again to turn out one pancake after another. Joan Ayre became Quiz Master for the evening. Great fun was had by all.

Members of St. Anne's PCC attended 'People and Place PCC Big Away Day'. During the day we found out that our PCC worked together in the correct way to make sure that St. Anne's runs smoothly. The only thing we were unable to do was work with our incumbent as at that time we didn't have one. So, thank you to all our PCC members for their hard work.

I attended 'Birmingham Diocese Outer Estates Residential Conference' at Holland House, Crothorne. Throughout the year I also attended Church Leaders' meetings for the Outer Estates. I was joined by Janet Bradley and Joan Ayre for Outer Estates Children's Work meetings. This was an opportunity for us to learn what worked in other Outer Estate Churches and to share our ideas.

I had an enjoyable lunch at St. Anne's with Birmingham's new Archdeacon Revd. Canon Jenny Thomlinson. Following a tour of St. Anne's I showed her all the record books that we have to keep.

In May an interview took place for a House for Duty Incumbent/Priest. It was with great joy that I was able to inform the congregation that Father Paul Cho had been appointed as House for Duty Incumbent/Priest and would take up his post later in 2019.

Thursday 22nd August saw St. Anne's come out of interregnum, as Father Paul Cho was installed as Priest in charge by Bishop Anne and Archdeacon Jenny. We also gained a 'Mrs Vicar', in Charitas who works alongside Paul.

One of the first things that Father Paul oversaw was the visit of Archdeacon Jenny for the licencing of Janet Bradley and Joan Ayre as OPCAP (pastoral team). This happened to coincide with St. Anne's Birthday. Archdeacon Jenny joined members of the congregation for a bring and share meal, followed by St. Anne's Choir Concert. It was with great pleasure I changed my role from leading St. Anne's to supporting Father Paul in his role of Priest in Charge.

Chrissie Price

## **DEANERY AND DIOCESAN SYNOD REPOT**

Two members of the PCC (Chrissie Price and Joan Ayre) sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the wider structures of the Church. This year the Deanery has again focuses its attention on the questions posed to parishes in the Deanery about the most effective deployment of stipend and non-dispensary clergy. There was also discussion about how to support the parishes who now are either in the care of a Reader or as we were till Father Paul joined us a Warden. (Chrissie)

Further to this situation the Diocesan has passed down (both the deanery reps from St Anne's also serve on the Diocesan) that the deaneries are to be extended in the case Kings

Norton we will be the size of Hereford Diocesan with a paid Area Dean were before full time parish Priest would take on the extra role. Meaning that the Area Dean will be able focuses on the parishes in interregnum.

Joan Ayre

## **FABRIC REPORT**

### **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS**

- Following the annual service of the boiler and heaters in the church hall two heaters were condemned and needed to be replaced. This was done by SMS inc. HVJ during February and cost £3,232.80.
- Saddlers Fire Protection serviced all fire extinguishers during February which cost £43.62.
- N.A. Fair Electrical Services dealt with several issues during the year:
  1. Tripping issue which meant there was no heating - £60.00
  2. Issue with flood lights and light under canopy - £405.00
  3. Issue with flood light which needed to be replaced and one flood light which was constantly on - £237.60
- PAT testing of all electrical appliances took place on 3rd May and any issues were resolved - £141.65
- Stephen Skewes tested the fire alarm system each week and installed a new battery.
- King's Norton Fire Brigade visited the site during September and said the PCC should update the Fire Risk Assessment. Chrissie Price, Church Warden, is responsible for organising this. The Fire Brigade representative will come back to discuss the Fire Risk Assessment once it is complete and will help us to prioritise any work that needs to be done.
- The accessible toilet seat was replaced - £23.95
- The doors on the external gas cupboard were replaced and the gate to the area at the rear of the church was replaced. The work was carried out free of charge, cost of materials - £50
- Lawtons Plumbing and Heating supplied and fitted a new tap in the church kitchen - £204
- The church sign at the front of the church was blown down during the bad weather. This has been repaired.
- Vandals damaged the lead canopy above the back door and caused some minor damage to the flat roof. An insurance claim was made and it was agreed to replace the canopy with plastic as this was cheaper than lead. Insurance claim - £632. The PCC agreed to replace all the lead canopies with plastic in the hope that this would deter vandals – £882 form 2019 accounts and £252 form 2020 accounts. There is still an issue with the flat roof leaking (during very heavy rain) above the church front door and McMahon Roofing have tried to resolve this but it is still an ongoing problem. This is something that the PCC will need to try to resolve during 2020.
- The light bulbs in some of the lights in the church were replaced in November and spare bulbs were purchased. The cost was covered by a donation.
- There were issues with the drains which have been resolved but it may be necessary to have them cleared annually.

- Following an act of vandalism during December the lock on the front door of the George Goodger Hall was replaced and new keys were purchased - £109
- The lock on the accessible toilet was damaged and had to be removed. A sign on the door was used instead of purchasing a new lock.
- A team of volunteer gardeners maintained the church grounds during the year and removed ivy that had started to grow up the church walls.
- Items left in the boiler room were removed.

#### SHINING LIGHT PROJECT – to improve the toilet facilities and storage in the main church building

The PCC used a Quantity Surveyor from Greenwood Projects to prepare the tender for the building project, analyse submitted tenders and provide a written report to help the PCC chose a contractor. The project went out to tender in May but the three bids were too expensive so following advice from the Quantity Surveyor the project went out to tender for a second time. Three further bids were received. Following advice from the Quantity Surveyor a meeting was held with two of the building companies to discuss their bids. The PCC chose to use Ryder Construction Company. The work is scheduled to begin at the end of June 2020. The PCC also paid for the building control work. Georgina Arnold, treasurer, is applying for grants towards the cost of the work. It was decided that if enough funding could be raised then work could be done to improve access to the George Goodger Hall. The architect prepared plans for a new accessible toilet in the George Goodger Hall to replace the existing two toilets. The architect also drew up plans for making the kitchen area more accessible. The PCC have approved these plans. Ryder construction said they would be able to do this work if enough funding had been found.

G.E. Arnold

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH REPORT**

### UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides continue to meet weekly during school term time. As part of one Rainbow meeting the girls were asked what magic words they wanted to say over their amazing treasure chest before they opened it each week. Each week the chest contains different items linked to the weekly theme. The girls chose to say “Rainbows love God.” Each week you can hear shouts of “Rainbows love God” ringing out from the Church. The Rainbows meet in church so that the Brownies don’t have to wait for the Rainbows to finish their meeting. This works well as the small tables and chairs are set up ready for Little Stars the next day.

The Brownies joined with the 86th Brownie Pack for a pack holiday and continued to work on badges both in meetings and at home.

The Guides enjoyed sleepovers in the Church Hall. They worked on “being of help in the community”, as part of this they spent one meeting working on the Church garden (under the supervision of Elaine Sparey). They also helped with St. Anne’s Holiday Club and Little Stars during the school holidays.

### LITTLE STARS, STAY AND PLAY GROUP

The group continues to flourish. Numbers vary as new members come and children move up to nursery, although some parents /grandparents /carers arrange it so their child can attend Little Stars and Nursery. Little Stars meets twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The group is blessed to be staffed by 9 volunteers who set up the equipment; provide and run craft activities; provide refreshments for both children and adults; run phonic session with music and movement, and worship sessions; tidy up all the equipment; clean toys; and carry out risk assessments. Staff also meet together to discuss how the session/meeting has gone and if things could be done better. The team is always learning and attending trainings.

### SUNDAY CLUB

The number of children who attend Sunday Club is slowly growing. It meets at the back of Church in the Children's Corner. This means that the activities that can be done within the Church are limited, but it does mean that only one adult has to be involved in running the Club. In September there was a change to the leader as Joan Ayre started her Reader's training and had to step back from some of the things she did in Church. Chrissie Price took over the running of the Club with the continuing help of Janet Bradley, who leads the group on one Sunday a month. Plans are being made to enable the children to move into the Church Hall for their meetings next year. Gill Kimber has agreed to join the team.

### MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church meets once a half term on a Friday afternoon after school. Families in the community are invited to join us; this is done by invitations being handed out to all the children's groups that meet at St. Anne's and by large posters on notice boards outside church. Janet Bradley leads a small group of volunteers who help prepare craft activities and some form of activity to do with food (always a favourite with children). Each session has a bible theme. This year's themes were Easter, Gift of the Spirit, New Beginnings, God's Love in the World, Jesus in the Temple. The crafts, story and worship are based on the theme. Families are welcomed on arrival and offered refreshments which can be taken to the activity tables. Towards the end of the meeting everyone moves from the Church Hall taking all their belongings with them into Church for the Bible Story, song and prayer. This is led by either Janet Bradley, Georgina Arnold, Eileen Tudor, Joan Ayre or Chrissie Price. Messy Church is a safe and friendly environment for families to learn about God's Love and the Christian faith. They are able to ask questions without being made to feel that they are stupid for not knowing the answer.

### HOLIDAY CLUB

Holiday Club was held on Monday Mornings on 5th, 12th, 19th August with the theme of Air. Each Monday found both the Church Hall and Church filled with tables with craft activities, games and the most important activity, as far as the children were concerned, the food-based activity. Among the activities to be found were hot air balloons, several different forms of aeroplanes and birds, as well as spaceships. Children over five years old could be left, children under five had to be accompanied. All were welcomed in the lobby by Joan Ayre. All children were welcome regardless of ability: everyone is accepted and there to have fun.

Chrissie Price

## **CHOIR REPORT**

St Anne's choir has had another successful year, leading the singing in services and entertaining a variety of groups during concerts.

We have learned new songs from the Musicals and combined these with familiar music to produce lovely singing for everyone to enjoy.

We shared this year's concerts with our Recorder ensemble which Jackie leads, thus adding a new dynamic to our performance.

Our Recorder group is certainly going from strength to strength under Jackie's very capable leadership, and we are so lucky to have such a talented, caring teacher. Thank you, Jackie, for all you do for the music at St Anne's.

2019 has been a positive year of music for St Anne's, both Choir and Recorder Ensemble work very hard and this certainly is evident in the beautiful music that is produced.

My thanks to all of you for your support and cheerfulness throughout the year, keep singing and keep smiling.

Chris Clapham

## **MOTHERS UNION REPORT**

The Mothers Union had 12 members in 2019. We were joined by Paul and Charitas Cho who transferred from St Lawrence Northfield. Also, Laura James joined at February AGM 2020.

During the year we tried to do a variety of activities, some of which were more serious than others. On the serious side we looked at "Preparation during Lent" with Rowena Nicholls and had a talk by Deidrie Moll about "Listening, Observing and Acting" in our care for others.

At the other end of the scale we indulged in craft activities which are always popular, and Eileen gave us some further hints about painting "Introducing Shadows and Light". We sang some songs from the musicals at Austin Rose care home with help from the choir which was well received. We finished the year with a combined party joining the Old Time Dance group and shared snacks and home-grown entertainment.

Janet Bradley

## **PASTORAL TEAM REPORT**

Until the current pandemic the pastoral team concentrated on visiting the sick, taking communion to those who can't get to church and helping in preparation for baptism.

We also visited people in two homes: Redhill Court and Austin Rose. When we are there, we take a service roughly linked to the communion service we use in church. We were very moved to discover that one resident had become a Christian directly because of our services. We take the music box to the homes as well, so the residents can sing well known hymns.

Since March 2020 the focus has changed. Before we entered lock down, Gill Kimber made an excellent suggestion that we should gather into small groups to keep in touch.

Janet looked at the church congregation and tried to assess which of our congregation were over 70, or had underlying medical issues, or lived alone. That was 35 of our regular congregation. Father Paul and the pastoral team asked Janet to create groups and organise people to lead these groups.

Janet decided on five groups each one having six more vulnerable people and two people to act as leaders for each group. Each leader regularly contacts the members of their group by phone to enquire how they are, to have a chat or to try to answer any questions they may have. Also, it helps everyone to feel in touch and still be part of church.

The group leaders communicate with Janet and she passes on any concerns or matters for prayer to Father Paul and the pastoral team.

We find that we can pray for the people who are brought to our notice as needing prayer. There have been other health issues that people have had to deal with, and we can always be a listening ear even if we can't see you face to face.

Charitas also has a special role to play. She contacts the congregation members who are not on the group lists and keeps them updated about services as well as checking that they are well.

Janet Bradley

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

At the beginning of the year Pat Pollard decided to stand down as Safeguarding Officer. A big thank you goes to Pat for all her hard work over the years. Chrissie Price agreed to become Safeguarding Officer for St. Anne's Church and during the year she attended all the required training.

St. Anne's Safeguarding Policy can be found on noticeboards in the Church Hall, in corridor outside the toilets, in the lobby and in the George Goodger Hall. It can also be found on the Church's website.

The Birmingham Diocese Safeguarding Team keep Chrissie up to date with all new information by email. They are also on hand for Chrissie to speak to if she needs any advice

Chrissie Price