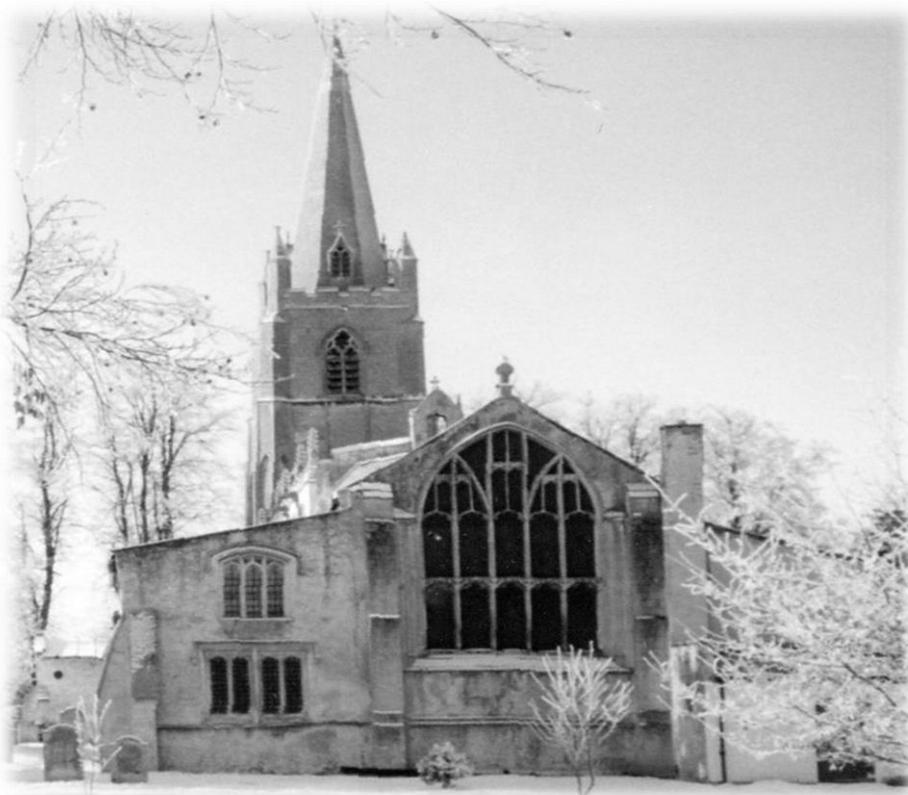


All Saints Church Walsoken
Diocese of Ely

The Annual Report

Year ending 31st December 2020

“Placing the Church at the Centre of the Community”



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Election of Church Wardens 2021

A Meeting of Parishioners will be held in the north aisle on Sunday, 16th May 2021, after the 10.30am Morning Service.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 6th September 2020
3. Elections of Churchwardens for 2021 - 2022

Peter Wadlow
Church Secretary

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow the Meeting of Parishioners.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 6th September 2020
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Financial Report and Adoption of 2020 Accounts
5. Fabric Report Electoral Roll Report
6. Safeguarding Report
7. Health and Safety Report
9. Deanery Synod Report
10. Report of Church Activities
11. Elections
 - a) 2 Parochial Church Council Representatives to serve until 2024
 - b) Sidespersons to serve for 1 year
12. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts
13. Appointment of Parish Representatives
 - a) Christian Aid
 - b) Churches Together in Wisbech
 - c) Women's World Day of Prayer

P. R. Wadlow
PCC Secretary

Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 6th September 2020 in the north aisle of the Parish Church.

Present

The Rector and 17 Parishioners.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Trevor Dyke, Mrs Janice Dyke, Rev. Dr. Richard Hines, and Mrs Christine Newman.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 28th April, 2019, as printed in the Annual Report, were approved and signed.

Election of Churchwardens 2020-2021

The Rector informed the Meeting that he had received two nominations for the position of Churchwarden.

Mr Anthony Peppercorn proposed by Mr David Poore and seconded by Mrs Viv Key and a nomination for Mr Peter Wadlow proposed by Mr John Breeze and seconded by Mr Trevor Gilbert. The 2 nominations were approved unanimously and the Rector declared that Mr Peppercorn and Mr Wadlow had been duly elected to serve as Churchwardens 2020-2021.

The Rector thanked both the Churchwardens for their support and encouragement during the past year and asked that his thanks be recorded in the Minutes.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 6th September, 2020 in the north aisle of the Parish Church.

Present:

The Rector, both Churchwardens and 15 Parishioners.

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Trevor Dyke, Mrs Janice Dyke, Rev. Dr. Richard Hines and Mrs Christine Newman.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2019 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Financial Report and Adoption of 2019 Accounts:

A brief report on the 2019 Accounts, printed in the Annual Report, and was given by the Treasurer, Mrs Peppercorn.

Income for 2019 from all sources had been £42,548-39. Expenditure had been £42,803-53.

The Treasurer pointed out a welcome increase in Standing Orders which was helping to plan both income and expenditure especially in the current circumstances of the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Meeting was informed that there had been an under payment of £10,000 on Parish Share. This was the first under payment in over 10 years mainly caused by the depletion of reserves which had been used in preceding years to complete Parish Share payment

The Adoption of the 2019 Accounts was proposed by Mr Whitehead, seconded by Mr Poore and carried unanimously.

The Rector thanked the Standing Committee of Churchwardens, Lay Chair and Treasurer for their hard work and support.

Church Reports

The Rector invited questions on the Fabric Report, Electoral Roll Report, Safeguarding Report, Health and Safety Report and Deanery Synod Report.

All these reports had been printed in the Annual Report.

A question was asked on the situation relating to the condition of the lead on the nave roof. Mr Wadlow explained that the Parochial Church Council had spent a PCC Day working on an application to the National Lottery for a major grant for re-leading the nave roof. However, in March 2020 the National Lottery had suspended all grant awards to heritage projects because of Covid 19. The application process is suspended until 2021 at the earliest.

It was proposed by Mrs Peppercorn, seconded by Mr Cox and carried unanimously that the 2019 Annual Report be accepted.

Elections:

Deanery Synod Representatives

It was proposed by Mrs Gleaves, seconded by Mrs Johnson and carried unanimously that Mr Breeze and Mr Wadlow be elected to serve as Deanery Synod Representatives until 2023.

Parochial Church Council to serve until 2023

Mr Newman was proposed by Mrs Newman, seconded by Mrs Peppercorn and Mrs Peppercorn was proposed by Mr Peppercorn and seconded by Mrs Gleaves. There being no further nominations the Rector declared Mr Newman and Mrs Peppercorn duly elected to serve as representatives on the Parochial Church Council until 2023.

It was then proposed by Mrs Peppercorn, seconded by Mrs Key and carried unanimously that Mrs Newman be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr Barry Woodhouse and to serve until 2021.

The Rector thanked all PCC Members for their commitment and work.

Sidespersons

It was proposed by Mr Wadlow, seconded by Mr Whitehead and carried unanimously that all existing Sides-persons be re-elected for the following year.

The Rector thanked the Sides-persons for their efforts.

Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

It was proposed by Mrs Peppercorn, seconded by Mr Poore and carried unanimously that Mr Kevin Brooks be re-appointed as Examiner of Accounts.

Appointment of Parish Representatives

The following were appointed:

Christian Aid – Mrs June Gleaves

Churches Together in Wisbech – Mr Ronald Whitehead

Women’s World Day of Prayer – Mrs Carrie Mills.

The Rector closed the Annual Meeting by asking for his thanks to be recorded to all Officers and Members of the Church Council, to all Representatives of Walsoken Church and to all who supported the work and activities of the church.

P. R. Wadlow
Secretary.

CHURCH REPORTS

Parochial Church Council Secretary's Report

The Church Council is made up, currently, of the Rector, the Churchwardens, the Authorised Lay Minister, two Deanery Synod Representatives and six elected members. The elected members serve for a 3 year term. The current membership of the Church Council is:

Ex-Officio:

The Rector	Revd Allan Landall
The Churchwardens	Tony Peppercorn Peter Wadlow
Authorised Lay Minister	Jacky Spooner
Deanery Synod Representatives	Peter Wadlow
Elected to serve until 2023	John Breeze

Elected Members of the Church Council:

Elected to serve until 2021	David Poore Christine Newman
Elected to serve until 2022	Chris Mills Ron Whitehead
Elected to serve until 2023	Lee Newman Gill Peppercorn

The Covid 19 pandemic caused a change in how the Church Council could operate. It was not possible to continue with the scheduled meetings and much decision making passed to the Standing Committee. Eventually as lockdown eased in the summer it was possible for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on 6th September 2020 and for a Church Council to be elected. The first meeting of the Church Council was held immediately after the APCM to elect Officers. Then a PCC Meeting was held on 18th September in the north aisle with the members adhering to social distancing.

The subsequent meetings on 11th December 2020, 15th January 2021 and 19th March, 2021 were held using Zoom.

Public Worship was suspended but it was possible later in the summer of 2020 to open the building and use a part of the north aisle for Private Prayer. The rest of the church being cordoned off. We are grateful to the rota of people who undertook the daily opening and closing of the building and cleaning down the space used.

The Church Council spent much time looking at church finance and how to reduce expenditure whilst trying to maintain income. It was not possible to hold any fundraising events in the summer and obviously the Church finances missed income from Bingo, the Hog Roast, Annual Quiz, Afternoon Cream Tea, Coffee Mornings, Rose Fair and Bazaar.

It was possible to have a Christmas Crafts Stall in church in December and a Christmas Open Afternoon on 20th December. We are grateful to Mrs Viv Key and Mrs Carrie Mills for the profits from their Christmas craft stalls.

The PCC spent time on completing the Ely Reach Audit. Each Parish in the Diocese was asked to participate, and the data was sent to the Cambridge Judge Business School for collation and analysis.

Fabric matters also occupied the Church Council and a separate Fabric Report appears elsewhere. Each Church Council Meeting has Health and Safety and Safeguarding on the agenda. The Council is also given a regular update on the Market Towns Initiative and how it is operating in Wisbech and Walsoken.

The Officers of the Church Council are:

Chairperson	The Rector
Lay Chairperson	John Breeze
Secretary	Peter Wadlow
Treasurer	Gill Peppercorn
Electoral Roll Officer	Christine Newman
Health and Safety Adviser	Tony Peppercorn
Safeguarding Officer	Jacky Spooner

P. R. Wadlow
PCC Secretary

The Rector's Report

There is little doubt that 2020 was the most extraordinary year our church has ever experienced indeed one of the most extraordinary years any of us has ever experienced. The country was caught in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic, as was the rest of the world, and it turned our lives upside-down. 2020 proved to be a year of unprecedented challenges.

However, just before we entered the first national lockdown, we did manage to hold one planned event – it was the children's Easter CSI event, "*The Case of the Missing Body*". A huge amount of work went in to staging this event, and it was our first attempt at Easter CSI. It was aimed at providing a more interesting and involving look at the Resurrection of Jesus, for the Year 6 children at our church school.

The project was led by Jacky Spooner, our ALM Children's Worker. The church building was turned into a CSI crime scene, at the heart of which was the empty tomb where Jesus' body had been laid following the crucifixion. But now the body was missing and the children, working in teams, had to try and decide what had happened to the body. Jacky was supported by a team of volunteers, both from our own congregation and also the Changing Market Towns workers, including Olivia O'Neill our own CMT worker. The Rev Claire Wilkinson, the curate from St. Peters, helped with the training of volunteers, as she had been involved in leading an Easter CSI event before. I am pleased to say all the effort and preparation paid off, the day was well received, and all those involved worked extremely hard and I'm grateful for all they did to make the event the success it was.

First Lockdown

The Easter CSI day was held on Monday 16th March, and the government announced the first national lockdown later that same week, and the two Archbishops issued a joint statement declaring that church services were suspended until further notice. This was a significant and serious development and quite unprecedented. Sunday 22nd March would have been our Mothers' Day Service, but of course, it was now cancelled. The church was even closed for private prayer - even for funerals too, which now had to be held as graveside services, with only a maximum of 12 people in attendance, even outdoors.

Lockdown was a new and very unusual experience for everyone, but something we all had to learn to adjust to. We started a daily, virtual prayer circle, which was organised by Jacky Spooner. People could send in prayer requests, and these were then circulated daily via text message. Well over 30 people were part of this digital prayer circle. I recorded an address, usually based on the Gospel Reading for the week, and this was made available on our church website both as an audio file people could listen to, as well as text document if they preferred to read it. It was called the Rector's Weekly Word.

During the course of this first lockdown, which lasted for 15 weeks, I sent out two pastoral letters to all those on the electoral roll. The purpose was to encourage people and let them know we were thinking of them and praying for them. In addition, I made regular pastoral phone calls too – again as a way of keeping in touch with the fellowship and to encourage people during these difficult times. The first national lockdown was lifted at the end June, and we were able to resume public worship once again on Sunday 5th July.

Summer 2020

During the summer, with churches being open again, the situation remained fairly stable – all things considered. Masks had to be worn at worship services and social distancing had to be observed. Holy Communion could be offered in one kind only, bread, as the chalice had to be withheld for covid safety reasons. Nevertheless, I was encouraged by the number of people who returned after lockdown was lifted, although of course, not everyone did; there were several people (about a dozen or so, in fact) who decided not to return following lockdown, choosing instead to continue self-isolating.

Although we were now able to worship again, we were not allowed to sing. This meant we needed to rethink how we could, or should worship, under the new covid restrictions now imposed upon us. It was decided that worship videos would be the obvious answer, given that we were fortunate enough to have the video screen and projector, which was now fitted in place. This made using the screen on a regular basis so much easier. Our main Sunday service throughout the summer months was based around the use of worship videos - with a mix of both traditional hymns and contemporary music. This format – whilst I acknowledge was not to everyone's taste – nevertheless proved very popular. For our 10:30am Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month, we chose not to use the video screen, and instead were able use the organ and the choir, which was now permitted sing, led the worship.

We also kept the church open on a daily basis (10am – 3pm) throughout the summer for individual and private prayer. We had to rope off parts of the church in order to limit where people could go. This was done to make cleaning the church (which had to be done at the end of each day) that much easier. My thanks to all those who volunteered to be on the cleaning team, they did a sterling job.

During this time, we also recorded the sermon, as we couldn't live-stream our services. The video-recording was done each Sunday by Ron Whitehead, and the sermon was then uploaded to our website and YouTube, for those who were still self-isolating and unable attend live services.

Outside of Sunday services, all other normal meetings, home groups and gatherings were cancelled, including all fund raising activities (and, at the time of writing, still are). In order to help with fund-raising, we signed up to the JustGiving initiative, creating a "JustGiving" page on our website. This raised over £1,500. Many thanks to Bob Cox for organising this, and also to all those who donated to our church through this scheme.

Following the lifting of the first lockdown, we were able to hold our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday Sept 6th after the morning service. It would normally have taken place much earlier in the year (at the end of April) but of course, had to be postponed. We used the north aisle for the APCM and seating had to be socially distanced and masks worn, but it went ahead without any problems.

Second Lockdown

We went into a second lockdown during the first week in November, and so our Remembrance Service (due to be held on Sunday 8th) could not go ahead. However, we were still able to hold a small act of remembrance at the war memorial in the cemetery.

The church remained closed for four weeks and were able to resume public worship once again on Sunday 6th December. Nevertheless, we decided to cancel our traditional Carol Service, as there was little point in holding such a service under covid restrictions, which prevented singing and

required social distancing in church. Neither would it have been possible to offer the usual mulled wine and mince pies after the service. We replaced our carol service with a ‘Christmas Open Afternoon’, when people were invited to come and look round the church, which had been decorated with lights, candles, angels and Christmas Trees. The choir came along to sing carols (permitted under the rules) and the organist also played carols as well. The church looked beautiful, and I offer a big round of thanks to Jacky Spooner and the small team of helpers who worked for a whole week (in a freezing cold building) to get the church ready for Christmas. But all the hard work certainly paid off as we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the afternoon.

As well as cancelling the Carol Service, we also decided not to hold our usual Christmas Eve Crib Service, but the Mid-Night Mass on Christmas Eve, did go ahead – although only 15 people (in total) turned up. Whilst Mid-Night Mass has declined in popularity over the last 10-15 years, we would normally have an attendance of about 75. So even though our church was able to open for worship, covid was absolutely keeping people away.

Third Lockdown

The third national lockdown came into effect after Christmas, but this time the government did allow churches to continue to hold in-person worship, if they so wished. The situation was discussed by our PCC and - given the circumstances - the decision was made to suspend our normal 8am and 10:30am Sunday services. However, as we do not have the facilities to live-stream over YouTube or Facebook (as some other churches do) I chose instead to offer a shortened Said Communion service at 10am, for those who still wished to receive the sacrament and/or did not have access to internet services. This was permissible under government guidelines.

I saw this 10am service as a way of metaphorically “keeping the lights on” during a time of darkness. I called it a “lockdown” service, as it was designed to be as covid-safe as we could make it, observing all the current safety regulations. A risk assessment was carried each week. Although it was a Service of Holy Communion, the sacrament was still being offered in one kind only, as the chalice was still had to be withheld. To keep the service short (approximately 30min) the address was omitted, but made available online via our church website. The lockdown service has an average attendance of approximately 16 people.

Finance

During the course of last year (2020) the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns had a serious impact on our church finances – in particular all our fundraising activities just ceased, and, as at the time of writing, have yet to restart. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the generosity of many of our church members who came forward with individual donations, as well as those who kept up their regular weekly/monthly giving. I am very grateful to those people and offer my thanks on behalf of the church for their support and generosity; it is much appreciated.

Nevertheless, despite peoples’ best efforts, we were again unable to pay our parish share in full, and the PCC, meeting via zoom, agreed we would only be able to pay approximately £18,000 of the £32,000. For further details of our financial situation, can I refer you to the Church Accounts at the end of this report.

Farewell

Although the covid pandemic has resulted in a significant loss of life nationally, within our church community, I’m pleased to say that we have come through the crisis relatively unscathed.

However, we did say a final farewell to some of our church community last year – though not as a result of Covid-19. We said goodbye to Mona Spriggs, Kathleen Heath, Patricia Butcher and also Isabel Henderson, who passed away on Christmas Day.

It's always hard to say that final farewell to a member of our fellowship, and they will all be very much missed. However, I would like to say a few words about Isabel Henderson, wife of our Lay Reader, Alex, as she made a significant contribution to All Saints Church during her years with us. She was a long standing member of our worshipping community and heavily involved in many aspects of church life. Amongst the different roles she had over the years, one of her main contributions was serving on the Parochial Church Council from circa 1985 until 2010. She was also a Junior Church leader and a school governor at St. Peter's Junior School. She ran the All Saints Ladies Fellowship for many years as well. She served as our Deanery Representative for a while, as well as also being our representative for the Women's World Day of Prayer (as it was then). She ran a church stall at the annual Rose Fair for a number of years; she was a flower arranger, refreshment provider and sides-person. Isabel was a generous, caring, helpful and compassionate lady, always ready to help out, always there if you needed someone to talk to. She will be sadly missed not just by her family and friends, but by all who knew her.

Finally

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during one of the most challenging and extraordinary years the church (and country) has ever experienced. I'm not going to name any particular individuals this year, because I believe everyone has played their part in helping to keep the church community and fellowship functioning, and I'm grateful for all that people have done.

Before closing my report, I'd just like to mention that during 2020, Ron Whitehead completed his training as a Pastoral Assistant and Working with the Elderly. Ron will be Commissioned as our Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) for Pastoral Care at the beginning of 2021 - and at the time of writing, this has now taken place.

Rev. Allan Roy Landall

Rector.

March 2021

Churchwardens' Report

It has been a most challenging time to be a Churchwarden. The Office of Churchwarden is an ancient one and dates back to medieval times. Churchwardens serve for one year which ends on 30th April but Covid 19 changed that. The Church of England passed emergency regulations suspending the elections of churchwardens and extending Churchwardens' term of Office to 30th September.

So the Meeting of Parishioners to elect Churchwardens took place in church on Sunday, 6th September 2020. The next big change caused by Covid was the cancellation of Archdeacons' Visitations. These are occasions when newly elected Churchwardens are sworn into Office. 2020 saw Virtual Visitations where newly elected Churchwardens signed up to one of a series of Visitations on Zoom.

Three separate lockdowns in England during 2020/21 saw the church closed for several months with no Sunday Services permitted. In the late summer and autumn of 2020 when Services were permitted the singing of hymns by the Congregation was not allowed and face masks had to be worn and social distancing followed. However, it was possible to hold our Harvest Service in October and thanks are due to those who decorated the church for that occasion. And those who brought food items for the Wisbech Food bank.

It was not possible to meet for worship in church on Easter Day or Remembrance Sunday and the programme of Christmas Services was disrupted. The annual Carol Service could not be held and the Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve went ahead but with a very poor attendance Morning Worship on Christmas Day was held.

Thanks are due to those who helped with the Christmas Open Afternoon on 20th December which was organised for people to view the Christmas trees and decorations in church. We wish to thank those who helped decorate the church for Christmas and those who helped on the afternoon itself.

Thanks are also due to the Organist and Choir for singing from the chancel when services were permitted.

Most of the normal church activities ceased during the lockdowns but a Prayer Circle was established and members kept in touch by telephone. Other members shopped for those unable to get out and even delivered hot lunches.

It has been a very strange time to be a Churchwarden. We have done our best to keep up spirits and to support the Rector in his Ministry in such difficult circumstances.

The Rector has worked hard to devise new ways to worship and is to be thanked for all his efforts to keep the Parish together.

The worshipping life of the church has been disrupted but the care of the actual building itself has continued. One of the major responsibilities of Churchwardens is the fabric of the building. All Saints dates back over 800 years and in the past 30 years much has been spent on modernising and improving the interior of the church. A report on the fabric of the church is included.

We very much hope that as lockdown eases some activities and fundraising events may start up again.

Peter Wadlow
Tony Peppercorn
Churchwardens.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The provisional numbers for the electoral roll is 63, with 6 being removed and potentially four to go on. Final numbers will be confirmed at the Annual meeting.

Christine Newman
Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric Report

The Churchwardens have the legal responsibility to oversee the repair and maintenance of the church fabric.

In the last 30 years largely funded by 2 major legacies from the estates of the late Claude Coates and the late Arthur Ward much work has been done inside the church. The list is long and impressive and the church is well adapted to meet the future of worship and general church and community activities.

The urgent need to attract major grants for the re-leading of the nave roof and improvements to the drainage on the north side of the church was dealt a blow by the suspension of applications to the National Lottery for all heritage projects. This was to enable the National Lottery to channel funds into projects to help deal with the immense social implications of lockdown.

It is hoped that as the national situation returns to some sort of normality funds will become available once more for heritage projects like ours.

However, any ancient building requires regular maintenance and repairs whether services are being held or not.

A major item of work on the fabric was the Electrical Fixed Wire Installation Inspection carried out by Harnwell Electrical. The Inspection Report identified many items requiring remedial action. Norwich Electrical were given the first phase of work to undertake and this was carried out at a cost of £2,696-40.

It is disappointing to report continued problems with the roof beam alarm system.

For some months, part of the roof beam system was not working although at the time of writing this the system is functioning again. However, it will need a major upgrade in order to meet the conditions set by the Church Insurers to qualify for full cover for lead theft.

CTS installed and maintained the system but are now are unwilling to go onto the church roof unless and until a fixed wire safety system is in place, The Church Council has for many months been trying to get the technical details of what is required in order to get permission from the Diocese.

Photographs of the lead roofs and a video of the roofs undertaken by a drone have now been sent to a firm in Somerset who specialise in installing such safety systems.

The Church Council awaits a price for this work which will need to be approved by the Diocese. It will be necessary to seek grants for any work to be carried out.

Normal items of annual maintenance and servicing have been carried out as usual. These have included servicing of the heating system, testing and maintenance of fire equipment, maintenance of the roof beam alarm system, organ tuning, the inspection of the lightning protection system and maintenance of the bells.

We can also report that the 84 sections of guttering on the aisle roofs and the 6 down pipes have been cleaned out thoroughly by a local tradesman at a cost of £600. The sections of guttering have also had the joints sealed. The cost of this work has been met by a very generous donation.

The Church Council as the legal owner of the churchyard continues to be grateful to Walsoken Parish Council for the way it is maintaining the churchyard and looking after the trees.

Peter Wadlow
Tony Peppercorn
Churchwardens.

Bell Tower Captains Report

As we finish the 5th calendar since I was appointed Tower Captain the annual report for our Bell Tower has become the time to review the past year and then to take a look forward.

In the year of COVID-19 most ringing activities have been severely curtailed. The many COVID-19 restrictions meant that having 6 people from different households less than 2m apart has made ringing anywhere in the country against COVID-19 Regulations.

Nonetheless we had a few months in summer where three or four ringers could ring for Sunday Service.

During the year tolling of the tenor was allowed and this was carried out for the following occasions.

- 1) For Remembrance Sunday.
- 2) For Captain Sir Tom Moore's Funeral.
- 3) At various 6 O'clock evening rings showing appreciation for the NHS and lives lost due to COVID-19 etc.

During the last year bells maintenance has to continue. We finally had the tower roller boxes refurbished by the bell founders (Taylors) and Jeanette and I refitted them – all bells now are incredibly easy to handle. It is with my appreciation that this was paid for by a 'crowd-funding' from Walsoken residents who love hearing our church bells.

During our routine bell maintenance, it was noted that the clapper bearing on the Tenor needed to be re-bushed. This has been quoted for and as soon as the 'essential travel only' directive from the government is lifted we'll take that to the bell founder for repair.

Looking forward into 2021, and assuming the current government COVID-19 recovery plan is achieved, we'll need to rebuild the tower ringing. After well over a year of little or no ringing, people have found other interests. It will take some time, starting in May, with full ringing permissions by the end of June.

Any societal lack of ringing for such a long time was last experienced during the Second World War and ringing recovery took a very long time. This world event will see a similar bell ringing downturn and I project it will take 2 to 3 years to get back where we were, at Walsoken, once ringing resumes.

Bob Cox
Tower Captain

Deanery Synod Report

Representatives: John Breeze and Peter Wadlow

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 Pandemic, there were two Zoom meetings in 2020, 21st October and 2nd December.

On 21st October the main topic of discussion concerned:

Revised Approach to Deanery Share Apportionment

Each PCC would be required to confirm annually its parish share with reference to an initial formula-based 'Provisional Parish Share' and also to the full and actual annual costs of their ministry. Support, advice and guidance will be given to those parishes whose circumstances indicate that they require it. It was seen as a step towards providing the basis for the future of a coherent, sustainable and effective mission and ministry.

A parish share system needs to be seen to be fair, easily understood and transparent.

It was agreed that 2020 had been challenging. It may be that the deanery is saying they cannot afford the share, but no assumptions are made and each PCC will have to make their own decision.

The motion to adopt the Revised Approach for apportioning parish shares for 2021 was passed with 21 votes for and 1 abstention.

Deanery Share Apportionment for 2021 -

Actual Request Share for 2021 totalling £249,821 amongst parishes – no increase on 2020. This is 45% short of the Deanery's full Target Costs of £454,630. This would be a £100k shortfall on the £249,821 figure. It was estimated that there would be a £100k shortfall on the £249.821 figure. **Mr Alan Cable** was stepping down as Leverington's representative and also as Parish Share Officer. He was thanked by the synod and also on behalf of the diocese.

Rev Nigel Whitehouse was attending his first deanery synod and was welcomed.

On 2nd December, the topic was elections.

Election by the House of Laity of Lay Chair

Alex Gullon was duly elected.

Commissioning of the new Rural Dean and newly elected Lay Chair by the Venerable Hugh McCurdy, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech

Rev Dr Richard Hines was thanked for his work as Rural Dean over the past 18 months and **Rev Nigel Whitehouse** was commissioned. Alex Gullon was thanked for continuing as Lay Chair.

Appointment of Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Parish Share Officer

Secretary –, Liz Jordan.

Treasurer - Ted Otter.

Parish Share Officer - David Peet

Assistant Secretary - Rev Sandra Gardner

Elections to Standing Committee

It was agreed that the Standing Committee should be composed of the Rural Dean, Lay Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Parish Share Officer.

John Breeze

Deanery Synod Representative

Health and Safety Officer's Report

2020 was a year no one had experienced before and Health & Safety was of the highest concern.

Unfortunately, we had to close the church for several months due to strict lockdown rules laid down by the Government. However, when we were able to open up and hold services these looked much different to pre Covid.

In order to conform to the Government and Church of England coronavirus guidelines during our services we have concentrated on providing measures to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus within the church. We have provided hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes and cloths. Every other pew has been roped off in order to keep members of the congregation at a safe distant during the service. During this time special measures have been taken to sanitise parts of the church if they have been used within 24-48 hour of one another. We have also set up a simple track and trace system, which fortunately we have, as yet, not needed to use.

Sadly, we have been unable to provide refreshments as this was deemed unsafe at this time.

We have still been able to hold funerals with limited numbers and extra cleaning where necessary.

I feel we have all worked hard to keep our church open and our congregation as safe as possible during this time of uncertainty.

Tony Peppercorn

Health and Safety Advisor

Safeguarding Officer's Report

While the church has been in lockdown and all activities halted, safeguarding “house-keeping” continues.

Each year our parish policy and procedures need to be checked and adjusted where necessary. Our notice board needs to have up to date contact information for any issues which may arise, and we

need to ensure all personal files contain the required documents, and to check that training and DBS information is up to date.

Confidential Declaration Forms and DBS Certificates have to be renewed every 5yrs, while training is refreshed on a 3yrs basis.

During the lockdown safeguarding training has been available via Zoom for Leadership training and Networking, and via the Church of England on-line training portal for Basic Awareness (CO) and Foundation modules(C1)

At All Saints Church we have 19 people who have been DBS checked with 2 more beginning the process. We also have 15 people with safeguarding training to at least foundation level.

Jacky Spooner
Safeguarding Officer

Children's Ministry

With the introduction of Covid-19 guidelines all children's activities had to cease and have now been closed for over a year.

For the Scout Group, most of the Cub Pack are now too old for that section and will need to move on, Beavers will become the new Cubs when we are able to restart, but that does mean there will need to be a publicity drive to attract children to join that section.

Currently though, we have nowhere to hold the meetings. The Beavers are held in the Village Hall, unfortunately the hall is not reopening until next year 2022, and the Cubs are unable to return to the school hall just yet. While we are able to use the church this is not really suitable over the long term - so it's with this in mind that we have decided to suspend the group until the situation improves.

Things are looking brighter for Messy Church which should restart later this year, possibly with something running through the summer holidays to encourage children and their families to join us. And hopefully, school visits for the Christmas and Easter Experience, CSI and the services they attend, should restart as the seasons for each event come's round.

Jacky Spooner
ALM for Children's Ministry

World Day of Prayer

Thank you all for your support

Carrie Mills
WDP Church Representative

Walsoken Parochial Church Council

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2020

General Account

(Community & Business Premium Account)

(Barclays Bank PLC)

(12, Old Market, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1NN)

Receipts and Payment Account

Unrestricted Fund

INCOME

	2019	2020	
Incoming Resources from Donors			
Planned Giving- Weekly Envelopes	5108.45	4227.70	
Planned Giving- Annual and Monthly Collections	12028.40	11884.40	
Income Tax recovered- Gift Aid	4966.21	6665.51	
TOTAL	27,228.99	26,792.51	
Other Voluntary Resources			
Donations	3650.87	3184.80	
Tea/Coffee Donations	329.08	94.81	
Fund Raising activities incl Bingo Sessions	6206.03	3886.41	
TOTAL	10,185.98	7,166.02	
Bank Interest			
TOTAL	38.61	20.20	
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals			
Fees	TOTAL	4,067.00	2,822.00
Church Box			
Donations (inc. candle box)	TOTAL	322.41	141.30
Miscellaneous			
Coffee Mornings etc.	350.40	26.08	
Memorial Book Entries/Chair	80.00	30.00	
Meeting Room		50.00	
Advertising in Magazine	275.00	-	
TOTAL	705.40	106.08	
CHURCH INCOME	TOTAL	42,548.39	37,048.11
			--
Balance brought forward	9718.31	9448.65	
TOTAL	52,266.70	46,496.76	

General Account Unrestricted Fund

EXPENDITURE

Activities relating to the work of The Church

	2019	2020
Parish Share	20455.04	17592.46
Fuel, Electric and Water	3323.57	2596.35
Church Running Expenses	1889.95	1533.29
Rector's Expenses	2279.41	1594.31
Fundraising Expenses	374.00	362.00
Donations and Gifts	1145.00	50.00
Kitchen Area and Catering	390.48	-
Rectory Telephone	900.19	993.06
TOTAL	30,757.64	24,721.47

Church Management and Administration

Stationery etc. Postage, and Books	192.86	172.85
Subscriptions and Fees.	455.67	624.98
Visiting Clergy	210.00	60.00
TOTAL	858.53	857.83

Miscellaneous

Church Insurance	4901.58	4970.10
Parish Magazine/Printing	1498.82	312.00
Church Cleaning	655.99	675.77
Projector Screen/projector	3939.97	-
Web Site	191.00	175.00
Maintenance		3966.76
TOTAL	11,187.36	10,099.63
Church Expenditure	42803.58	35678.93
To carry forward	9448.65	10818.71
TOTAL	52,252.18	46,497.64

General Investment Central Board of Finance London

	2019	2020
Balance brought forward	3626.51	3626.51
TOTAL	3,626.51	3,626.51

Restricted Funds

Fabric Fund

Community & Business Premium Accounts

Barclays Bank PLC.

Receipts and Payment Account

	2019	2020
<u>INCOME</u>		
Brought forward	1943.53	1148.11
TOTAL	1,943.53	1,148.11
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Maintenance	544.02	
Electric/heating maintenance	251.40	
TOTAL	795.42	
To carry forward	1148.11	1148.11
TOTAL	1,943.53	1,148.11

Bell Fund

Community & Business Premium Accounts

Barclays Bank PLC.

	2019	2020
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations	668.48	
Interest	2.22	1.24
Brought forward	1244.49	1532.99
TOTAL	1,915.19	1,534.23
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Bell Service	210.00	
Ropes	172.20	
John Taylor Refurbishment roller boxes		1534.04
c/f	1532.99	0.19
TOTAL	1,915.19	1,534.23

Restricted Funds

Fabric Fund

Central Board of Finance - London

	2019	2020
Balance brought forward	1.39	1.39
To Carry Forward	1.39	1.39

F. S. Young's Legacy

Community & Business Premium Accounts

Barclays PLC

Interest	0.54	0.23
Balance Brought Forward	294.04	295.18
Balance to Carry Forward	295.18	295.41

Walsoken Parochial Church Council
Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31st December 2020
Monetary Assets

Unrestricted Funds

	2019	2020
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
Barclays Bank Community Account	9,448.65	10,818.71
GENERAL INVESTMENT		
Central Board of Finance, London (Sale of Land, A. G. Ward Legacy)	3,626.51	3,626.51
 Restricted Funds		
FABRIC ACCOUNT		
Barclays Bank Community Account	1,148.11	1,148.11
 F. S. YOUNG'S LEGACY		
Barclays Bank Business Premium Account	295.18	295.41
 BELL FUND		
Barclays Bank Business Premium Account	1,532.99	0.19
GRAND TOTAL	16,051.44	15,888.93

Other Monetary Assets – General fund – Unrestricted.

Gift Aid Tax Refunds for the period October to December 2020

ASSETS

Church Furnishings – Inventory Assets vested in the Churchwardens on special trust.

Printer and Binder	7 Microphones and 1 Stand
Laser Printer	7 Music Stands
Laptop and software	2 Radio Microphone Systems
Digital Projector and Screen	Vacuum Cleaner
CD Music System and PA System	CCTV Security system
Electric Piano and Accessories	Lawn Mower
Amplifier Loop System	Set of Handbells
Coin Sorter	Bingo Machine.
Radio Cassette	Printer for Magazine etc.
Amplifier, 2 Speakers and Stands	2 Amplifier/Speakers
Wheelchair	

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:	Air Cubes
	Four in a Row
	Chime Bars Note Set
	Puppet
	Earth Ball