



**St. Margaret's Church
Yatton Keynell**

Parochial Church Council

Annual Report

For the year ending 31st December 2020

**Priest in Charge (Rector Designate): Revd. Marc Terry
Team Vicar: Position vacant**

**Churchwardens
Pamela Rawlins & Wanda Hall**

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Composition of the PCC 2020

Revd. Marc Terry – Chairman
Wanda Hall - Churchwarden
Pam Rawlins - Churchwarden & Chair of Fabric Sub Committee
Hannah Minty – Secretary
Alan Foreman - Treasurer
Claire Campbell – to Sept 2020 (extended 2019 due to AGM being moved)
Alison Eagles – Safeguarding Rep
Mike King – Lay Chair

Anita Parsons (Appointed Auditor)

By Brook Ministry Team

Associate Curate – Revd. Gillian Parkin
Associate Curate – Revd. Mary Gubbins replaced by Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam
Licensed Lay Ministers - Anton Campbell, Alison Flint, Mike King, Mary Pope, Diane Ross-Smith, Pam Tayler, Tim Woodward

St Margaret's Goals

St Margaret's support the Bybrook Benefice vision and mission stated below but our growth plans have specifically focussed on

- To be a welcoming church
- To partner in the local community through outreach
- To encourage children's work through Sunday School, Edward Bear and The Ark and our local Bybrook School.

Bybrook Benefice Values and Mission

The Team Council Vision below, to help us to understand our calling as Christians, based on Matthew 28:16-20 is under review and in November the Team Council began to explore 'being' as a core principle ahead of 'doing'. The focus in 2020 was to build discipleship. Pam attends the team council meetings throughout the year.

"Worshipping, Growing, Sharing."

Because of this understanding, as a group of churches, our desire is:

- To love, serve and worship God
- To love and serve one another, our local community, and the wider world
- To live and share with others the good news of Jesus Christ, because we know that we are loved by God.

In our mission, we aim:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Churchwardens' report - Pam Rawlins & Wanda Hall

Worship, Church Life and Outreach

Wanda Hall and Pam Rawlins completed their third year as Church Wardens together. They continued to split duties - Wanda focussing on the day-to-day church activities, whilst Pam deals with the administration and organising of rotas.

As we reflect back on ending 2019 with bubbles and croissants on Christmas Day in church and last years ending in 2020 – we see a huge difference in the demands placed on us as a Christian community. 2019 could be seen as 'normal' – a busy thriving open church with almost daily activities taking place in the building. Contrast that with 2020 when in March churches were forced to close due to the Covid 19 pandemic raging across the country. We are immensely proud of what we coped with and achieved as a church community – finding new ways to do things differently but hopefully still maintaining our Christian values.

Normality began in January 2020 when we held our **Christingle service**. We hosted our regular **Café Church** and the **bible course** on Tuesdays and **Tea and Toast** on Mondays. We held our annual 'sticky' **Pancake Day** feast and a '**Sing Along**' to the **Greatest Showman film** in February. Thanks to everyone who helped with these activities. Things were expanding and **Edward Bear** wanted to add in another Friday morning. We held an **Experience day** for Children from By Brook School and hosted another **Safeguarding day** for the Diocese in March.

Hannah and Pam finally completed the **Past Care Review** of 50 years of PCC records with thankfully no problems showing up. The records are now safely stored in the church attic. Pam began facilitating a church **weekly discipleship course** during Lent in her home studying the '**Live Lent**' series based on Care for Creation helping with our Eco Church work.

We hosted a full church for the funeral of Barrie Mellor led by Mike King. And then Covid 19 hit!

Pam and Marc and others in the church got involved in the **YK SOS response group** and we set up an emergency noticeboard in the porch. The church was asked to close, and Sunday services went online. The Lent group finished its series moving to skype and began an excellent new series '**Faith without walls**' previously written by Marc.

We received a faculty to install a lightening conductor but unfortunately our oil tank sprung a leak and cost us £2,500 to replace with a new metal one.

All activities in the church stopped but Cilla was able to continue contacting the Treasure seekers with songs and stories and she made banners for the gate. There was an Edward Bear zoom and a Virtual Easter Ark. We delayed our APCM in March but continued to meet as a PCC on zoom.

Our income source dropped due to cancellation of the summer Fete and open gardens, as well as no weekly collections but we created a **Giving Page** on the website. We agreed to honour our pledges to the ByBrook Group and to the Diocese, in the hope we would manage using our reserves. Bishop Viv called for feedback on how we were doing as a church during Covid and Pam responded on behalf of the church.

Gillian held a private funeral for John Gillingham in August.

We wrote **Covid 19 risk assessments** for every type of service and made adaptations for mask wearing, sanitiser, routes in and out of church and 2m distance seating which allowed us to open church in Sept for Services again. Thanks to Hannah for her care and attention in cleaning – doing it now for free alongside being at the coalface of nursing. We reduced our services to two a month to help the Ministry team cope with reduced resources.

We held our delayed APCM on 14th Sept where Claire Campbell stepped down but thankfully the rest of the PCC agreed to stay on. The Lent Bible group facilitated by Pam continued with a new series called '**Transformed Life**'. Cake sales resumed briefly. In September we carried out work on our church yard walls amounting to £4,500. Boosted by a donation of £1000 from the Parish Council. Pam raised £300 plus on the Wiltshire Historic Churches Cycle ride.

Following a successful **Harvest**, we gave produce to Doorway in Chippenham. We organised an **Alternative Halloween** annual light event as a trail around the village with displays in windows, which was well received in a dark period. Thanks to Claire, Cilla, Anjali, Alison and Pam for their efforts on this.

The bible group continued with a series on **Homelessness**, with Keith Tomasson Minister from the Charity Alabare whose materials they followed, attending on the last session.

We received a faculty approval for a new altar cloth being made by Fi Redmond (in memory of Greta Clift) and approval to lower two box tombs by the gate at the front of church as well as permission to remove the front pew plinths in the church. Many thanks to Judy Dix with help from Mike King for their hard work in securing these for us.

Advent saw the bible group move onto another series **Exploring Christianity through art, poetry and music**. We organised another outdoor trail based on previous success focussing on the **Christmas Story** and Hannah organised for us to take part in the Castle Combe tree festival again.

Mike King led the funeral of Keith Brand on 23rd December – Keith had been on our PCC in earlier years.

By Christmas it was clear we could have limited services, so we focussed and had a booking system for Christmas day and thankfully families came.

Eco Church - Due to work demands Hannah stepped down as our co-ordinator, so we need a new representative. Our application to be accredited under A Rocha's Eco Church Award Scheme is on hold.

Cleaning – This year Hannah continued to clean the church as part of her giving and made sure we were Covid safe. Thank you, Hannah, for your valued contribution.

Safeguarding Report – Mary Inder Rieden – A separate report has been produced by Mary.

Fabric Report – Pam Rawlins

Many thanks to the Fabric committee Pam Rawlins, Alan Foreman, Phil Hall and Mike King. Jim Bruce-Scott continues to manage the church yard. Pam continues to maintain the **Contemplation Garden**. As mentioned earlier work took place on the exterior wall of the church and replacement oil tank. We have faculties awaiting future work on lightening conductor, and tombs and plinth removal. Our loop system is broken, and our AV continues to work but often challenges us on a weekly basis!

Flowers in Church – Judy Dix

It goes without saying that 2020 provided limited opportunities for the Flower Team to create arrangements for the seasons of the church calendar.

At the beginning of the year, during Lent Lockdown arrived and the church was closed to worshippers for safety reasons. In the middle of the year there was a period when the church was open again for services with strict safety restrictions before the pre-Christmas return to Lockdown. During this time the team have not been able to come together to make up the joyful Easter, Harvest and Christmas displays that had become a tradition.

We have used the porch area for smaller displays reflecting the seasons and activities of the church, giving a welcome to those visiting or passing by. I have to thank Tracey Mosley and Kathy Salkeld especially for their help, support and creative flair in providing some highly original arrangements for the porch, and when the brief opportunity provided, the church too.

I look forward to the return to some normality when the team can get together for the camaraderie of some group arrangements. If you think that you might enjoy this activity, feel free to join us!

Children's work – Cilla Palfreyman

Treasure Seekers, we held some Treasure Seekers sessions at the beginning of the year both over in Church Farmhouse and in the bell tower. Then all the Covid regulations came into place and we had an amazingly blessed few weeks over WhatsApp. On the first Sunday evening of lockdown, we lit lighthouses and candles to join in a time of prayer and we shared our pictures. Another Sunday we had the story of Noah alongside songs, and we shared our rainbow pictures. And as Easter approached, we shared the Easter story through video link with lots of well-known songs and varying crafts. It was a very special and precious time of coming together.

I made a banner for the church gate and the children cut out fabric stars and decorated them. These were then sewn on to make a collective piece of Artwork during lockdown.

During July, August and September we were able to hold some sessions in the contemplation garden. We had a Bible story followed by crafts, and both Mums and children really appreciated spending time together. Sadly the weather brought these to an end.

This is most likely the end of the road for Treasure Seekers. Please pray for the children of our village as we seek a way to bring them to Jesus.

Edward Bear – Cilla Palfreyman

We ran two sessions of Edward Bear in Yatton Keynell this year but then restrictions came into place and were not lifted throughout the year. We did run one Zoom session, but we couldn't create the same atmosphere so decided not to continue online. We have included as many of our Mums as possible in a WhatsApp group and this has proved a lovely way of staying connected.

Café Church - Alison Eagles

Cafe Church ran from beginning of January 2020 until Tuesday 10 March. During those few weeks before Lockdown 1 we had some weeks where many meals were eaten, and weekly donations surpassed £100 whilst in other weeks very few people attended and only a fraction was taken in donations.

As lockdown restrictions were eased a couple of volunteers explained that they would not be available if Cafe Church was to reopen. Most other volunteers were cautious about returning to help as were most of those who used to join us for a two-course cooked meal.

No plans were made to reopen in 2020 and lockdown 2 loomed and any plans for Christmas celebrations got curtailed.

Fundraising for St Margaret's – Margaret Dyke & Gillian Parkin

Cake Stall - A total of £794.80 was raised from the sale of cakes outside the post office by Gillian Parkin and Margaret Dyke made up as follows.

£ 53.50	Cakes made for cyclist event in January organised by David Else
£160.80	Ditto for February
£100.00	donation Gillian Parkin
£106.50	Margaret held sale of preserves at Open Gardens event
£167.00	Margaret held sale of preserves at home
£156.50	September
£ 50.50	October

During December we sold £474.37 worth of Christmas cakes and preserves. This was done by people ordering beforehand and this year no puddings were produced as it would have been unsafe to have produced them as Margaret had a three-year-old living with her. There was a Christmas themed cake stall which also helped sell the items produced.

At our October cake stall, Amanda Green, proprietor of the Village Post Office, gave us a £48 donation for St Margaret's from the delivery charges they had been making to clients during Lockdown.

All stalls held during the Covid 19 pandemic have confirmed with Health & Safety regulations.

Tea & Toast - Sadly only 8 sessions of Tea & Toast were able to be held in church during 2020 owing to Covid restrictions. Our lowest numbers have been seven and highest 10 with between one and two children. Thanks go to Charlotte Bruce from Biddestone for her generosity in helping run Tea & Toast and turning up with wonderful treats each week.

Mercy Ships - The last event to be held in church, prior to the Covid 19 restrictions, was the Lent Lunch held in aid of Mercy Ships. Margaret Dyke organised a small group of helpers who made a mouth-watering variety of soups that were served with crusty bread and cheese. Friends helped out with supplying slow cookers and cafetières. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all and we saw the first elbow bump greetings being made. Lynne Melley from the Mercy Ships charity was on hand to explain about the work of the charity and was very pleased to take away a donation of £180.

Finance Report – Alan Foreman

Due to the unavoidable ill health of our Treasurer, the finance report for this year has been delayed and will be issued once he has recovered.

Bell Ringing – Claire Campbell

Ringling was limited in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, however in March, Isabel and Isaac Campbell were able to take part, with other young ringers from the local area, in a training day in Cirencester organised by the Gloucester and Bristol association. Two days later lockdown began, and ringing ceased for the remainder of the year.

28 April 2021

Pam Rawlins & Wanda Hall