

EAST BARNET 
PARISH CHURCH
St Mary the Virgin



Annual Report 2020

Contents

Statutory Reports	
About St Mary's, East Barnet	3
Rector's report and introduction	4
Churchwardens' report	8
Parochial Church Council report	9
Electoral Roll report	11
Treasurer's report	12
Independent Examiner's report	14
Financial statements	15
Fabric report	20
Building project report	20
Partnership Enabling Group report	21
Methodist Minister's report	22
Deanery Synod report	23
Safeguarding report	23
Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting of Parishioners	24
Minutes of 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting	25
Non-Statutory Reports	
2 nd East Barnet Guides and Brownies	27
Chipping Barnet Foodbank	28
Green Christians Barnet	28
Healing Services	29
Little Tots	29
Music at St Mary's	29
Open Church and Personal Prayer	30
St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided School	30
St Mary's Parish Office	32
Sunday Club	33

About St Mary's, East Barnet

The charity's full name is The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet

Its trustees are appointed or elected according to the Church Representation Rules 2020.

At the time this report was issued, the PCC consisted of:

The Revd Dr Alec Corio (Rector, PCC chair, ex officio member)

Mr Roger Melling (Churchwarden, PCC vice chair, ex officio member, and deanery synod representative)

Prof Alison Blunt (PCC secretary, representative of the laity)

Dr Chris Yates (PCC treasurer, Electoral Roll officer, representative of the laity)

Ms Sarah Baker (representative of the laity)

Mr Matthew Eade (deanery synod representative)

Mr Stephen Edwards (representative of the laity)

Mr John Hawkins (representative of the laity)

The Revd Dr Jenny King (co-opted member)

Ms Gail Phillips (representative of the laity)

Rev Shaun Sanders (Methodist minister, ex officio observer)

Mr John Savage (representative of the laity)

Mr Richard Selby (representative of the laity)

Mrs Christine Watson (representative of the laity)

The PCC exists to advance the gospel in the ecclesiastical parish of East Barnet, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, for the benefit of the public.

The PCC cooperates with the Rector to provide and maintain a building used for religious purposes; provide and maintain a building as a local heritage asset; conduct public worship, including services marking life events; sponsor cultural and artistic events; support local community formation; support educational activities; further the ecumenical and inter-faith engagement of the Church of England; and provide pastoral care to peoples of all faiths and none.

The parish church is located at:
The Church of St Mary the Virgin
Church Hill Road
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8XD

The parish office (for all correspondence) is located at:
East Barnet Parish Office
Brookside Methodist Church
2 Cat Hill
East Barnet
Hertfordshire
EN4 8JB

The PCC's charity number is 1143134

The Independent Examiners of this report were Mr Ronald Neil and Ms Victoria Neil of 30 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, EN4 8XD.

Rector's Report and Introduction

Our church's experience of 2020 began with an All Age Eucharist, followed by a very successful drinks party for the congregation; a packed East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership Covenant Service; and then a Messy Eucharist and Christingle for Candlemas. Measures of average Sunday attendance showed an increase in our congregation size, following the interregnum. Our usual Sunday attendance increased from 73 adults, 16 children in 2018 to 79 adults, 17 children in 2019. But before long, restrictions on our ability to share in these interactive forms of worship and to socialise began to make themselves felt, as news of the spread of Covid-19 led to the postponement of services involving the laying on of hands for healing; then recommended restrictions on physical contact at the peace, and on sharing the common cup at communion.

Because of an unrelated trend of low attendance at midweek services, I and the PCC made the decision to suspend midweek Eucharists, previously celebrated once a month on Wednesday; and due to the retirement of volunteer leaders, the PCC made the decision to close Monday Club. We thanked those who had given their time and energy to organising Monday Club, including Peggy Graham-Taylor, and supported the foundation of a successor group, held at Friend in Need.

Our lent course on the theology of creation care, planned within the Partnership and involving St John's United Reformed Church and Barnet Green Christians, began to an enthusiastic reception. Then, part way through the course and part way through March, it became clear that the spread of Covid-19 to England would make it unsafe to hold meetings in person. Slightly before the government lockdown, remaining sessions of the lent course were therefore cancelled. It has provided us with further inspiration for a lent course in 2021.

In response to the government lockdown, public worship in the church building was suspended. In addition to following the government's legally binding instructions to suspend public worship in church buildings from March to July, and again in November, I and the PCC took a series of legal decisions to ensure that our community has remained as safe as possible. This priority led us to suspend public worship in the church building for other periods in 2020: from July until August to allow risk assessments to be created and confirmed, and then in December following London's increasing Covid-19 infection rate and the declaration of a public health emergency by the Mayor of London. Throughout, I and the PCC have followed the best government advice on the public health crisis, as we have been able. Decisions to suspend public worship in the church building were consulted on, discussed at PCC meetings (on zoom), and took into account national church and diocesan advice. Decisions to suspend public worship were passed as PCC resolutions via correspondence, according to the provisions of the Church Representation Rules 2020.

The way that the PCC has operated throughout this public health crisis has been very encouraging, as it has taken a more creative role in imagining the future leadership of our church community. The Standing Committee of the PCC has been expanded, and become more oriented toward practical management, considering recommendations to the PCC on risk assessments, financial planning, human resources, and issues related to church fabric. I am grateful to Alison Blunt, PCC secretary; John Hawkins, Assistant Churchwarden; John Savage, Assistant Churchwarden; and Chris Yates, PCC treasurer, for their leadership and

wisdom, shared within the Standing Committee since this reorganisation. I am also grateful to David Driscoll for all his hard work as our PCC treasurer, before his family's move.

Throughout her long time as churchwarden, Chris Mears served with diligence within the Standing Committee, and has made a vital contribution to St Mary's identity as a welcoming and inclusive community. It is very reassuring to know that she will remain an Assistant Churchwarden, and our PCC Safeguarding Officer. Continuing as churchwarden after our APCM (held by bishop's permission on Zoom in October), Roger Melling has proved incredibly conscientious – and seems to always be available for advice or practical help. Roger has ensured that, whenever safely possible and during some periods where the church building has been closed for public worship, it has been as a place for personal prayer and reflection. Both churchwardens with whom I have served at St Mary's understand the heavy responsibilities of the role, and have offered their work as a pastoral gift to our church and parish community.

The importance of finding effective ways to communicate with the congregation and the wider parish under the limitations of lockdown has provided a catalyst for the development of our communications strategy more generally. Margaret Cranfield's creativity and adaptability has been a huge asset in this sphere, though operating under the difficult circumstances described in her report, below. We worked together to develop a weekly News from St Mary's email, and to increase the impact of our use of A Church Near You and social media platforms.

In May, St Mary's launched a new website, created by John Hawkins with the assistance of Chris Yates and myself. This provides us with an attractive and engaging online identity, and allows us to publicise events, information and news easily. Perhaps our most successful means of communicating with the parish community remains the East Barnet Herald, which is now edited and distributed bimonthly to 3750 homes in the local area by a team headed by Matthew Eade. The Herald was already of a high quality, and is increasing in the level of engagement and correspondence it receives. We were unable to deliver its April 2020 edition, due to lockdown restrictions, and so the Herald is now also distributed locally through stands at St Mary's, the old church hall, and Brookside Methodist Church.

To maximise the accessibility of our worship, a new pattern of services has been developing over the course of the year. During the March to July lockdown, I moved from first making written services for use at home during Holy Week and Easter, to recording audio services and making them available on Soundcloud, to recording video services and making them available on YouTube.

In times when the church building has been closed for public worship, Sunday services have taken the form of Morning Prayer. These have reflected an Anglican tradition of worship, respected equality of access to the sacraments and the practicalities of engaging with an online congregation. We have used this format to welcome some guest preachers who would not have been able to travel to worship with us in person, including Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans Cathedral; Janet Mackenzie, Archdeacon of Hertford; and Alan Wilson, Bishop of St Albans. In addition to myself, Shaun Sanders, our Associate Minister; and Francesco Aresco, ordinand on placement, have also preached. For Palm Sunday, a dramatized reading of the Gospel of the Passion was recorded, with an outstanding cast directed by John Savage.

During times when the church building has been open for public worship, the Parish Eucharist has been recorded and made available online as soon as possible after the service, as livestreaming from the church building is not yet practical. Online viewing figures for Sunday services and reflections on YouTube have averaged 37 views, many of these from couples or families. In total we broadcast 333 hours of footage on YouTube in 2020. The numbers attending the Parish Eucharist in person (between periods of closure) has obviously been reduced because of the need for social distancing, and has been low due to the demographics of our congregation. The usual Sunday attendance in October 2020 was 44 adults, and 6 children.

Special seasonal services, such as a Memorial Service for All Souls day or a Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas, have been recorded and broadcast on YouTube. These have been very well received, with, as an example, viewing figures of 183 views for the Lessons and Carols. As well as providing recordings of instrumental music to enrich our online services, Alan Danson has mastered the difficult process of online choir rehearsals, and has been able to help members of the choir record themselves so that anthems and carols can be brought into our worship at these special times of year. He has had the assistance of Mark Short in this time-consuming process.

We were able, with the help of John Batchelor, to livestream an outdoor Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday. This ecumenical and inter-faith worship was very popular, attracting a socially distanced crowd to the war memorial and online viewing figures of 600 – though it required an extensive risk assessment involving multiple organisations and the local authority. We were privileged to invite Michael Beasley, Bishop of Hertford, to lead that service. Francesco has also been livestreaming a weekly service of compline on Thursday evenings, on Facebook, and this has attracted a number of new members to our worshipping community. Online viewing figures for compline and seasonal services on Facebook have averaged 73 views.

Each week in term-time I have provided recordings of Collective Worship for St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, and other local schools, and the heads of St Mary's School, Mel Adams and Maria Constantinou, have been incredibly creative in maintaining a full pattern of Collective Worship there throughout the challenges of 2020. Since the excellence of Collective Worship was recognised as part of the school's Outstanding SIAMS inspection in February, this has been a particularly important focus for us all. The new chair of governors at the St Mary's School, Stephen Edwards, has been leading a process of reflection on the school's vision, and the PCC's support for governance has been strengthened in this.

As it has not been possible to have high attendance numbers at services in the church building or for Sunday Club to meet since September, I have been working on a new format for All Age Eucharists, so that these can be offered on a monthly basis alongside the weekly Parish Eucharist. These services are designed to be particularly appropriate for children and young families, with a talk based around a craft activity and interactive prayers at their heart. I know that many children and young families connected to the church look forward to the return of Sunday Club, and when the public health situation permits it will be wonderful to encourage the talented group of older children and parents who are part of the church into leadership roles that make this possible, and which build on the excellent work of Claire Driscoll, whose involvement has been reduced since her family's move.

Beyond meetings, the video conferencing programme Zoom has been used for some services too, especially those emphasising the Partnership, as Barnet Brookside Methodist Church and Manor Drive Methodist Church have been meeting on Zoom since March. Sharing services with our Methodist sisters and brothers has been just as important as the formal legal reauthorisation of the Partnership in deepening our shared Christian discipleship. Teams from St Mary's and Brookside collaborated on the construction of a large, colourful nativity on the terrace at Brookside Methodist Church in Advent. Working under the coordination of Francesco Aresco, this was excellent example of evangelism through the creative arts and helped the churches to articulate a public theology of incarnation at a time when public worship was constrained.

In addition, we have made extensive use of Zoom for social and learning opportunities offered throughout the year, such as regular Coffee and Catch Up sessions; a learning course on Art and Faith in October; confirmation preparation throughout the winter; and a Book Club which began in November.

Members of the congregation have also been keeping in touch through Roger and Heather Melling's doorstep deliveries of News from St Mary's to those without email access, and through networks of pastoral care – mostly delivered over the telephone. As well as the pastoral team and myself keeping in touch with those who are vulnerable, have been sick or bereaved, many members of the congregation have deepened their friendships through regular phone calls with each other. Val Selby has stood down from her caring co-ordination of the pastoral team, following her family's move, and we have welcomed some new members to that important ministry.

The church charitable work on behalf of other charities has included cash collections for the Children's Society; the promotion of Christian Aid through online fundraising; support for Chipping Barnet Foodbank through donations of goods; and partnership with Homeless Action Barnet, as they consider ways to better resource their clients in transitional accommodation and how to provide Covid-secure night shelter accommodation for rough sleepers into 2021.

Fundraising for our own charitable purposes has been incredibly creative. Heather Melling and Gail Phillips have encouraged very generous giving by making facemasks available for a recommended donation to St Mary's. Heather has also been distributing jams, jellies, and chutneys. Chris Yates has worked with Urban Alchemy Brewery to produce a morish range of St Mary's Ales, Faith Hop and Charity, with Urban Alchemy donating profits from their sales to the church. Heather has also ensured that those who wish to can continue to give, or join, the Parish Giving Scheme. Congregational giving through the PGS remains the church's largest and most reliable source of income. As Chris' financial reports below make clear, however, our finances have been running at a steady deficit for a long time. Despite this creativity in our fundraising and making a number of efficiency savings in 2020, we will need to make further efforts to stabilise our operational finances in the future by thinking carefully about how best to show appreciation for and encourage the generosity of our congregation, and seeking grant funding for work on the church fabric and projects beyond our normal operational planning.

The church fabric itself has been maintained throughout the year. The house at St Mary's School, the funds of which the PCC accounts have contained, has been completely renovated, thanks to the energy of John Savage. Finally, progress has continued on the hall

building project, which should permit building to begin in 2021. These are reported on in more detail below, and the attention given to these issues shows the importance the church attaches to providing accessible community facilities and prioritising the future use and welcoming character of our historic building.

Alec Corio
Rector

Churchwardens' report

Until our APCM on 5th October I was very fortunate to be working with Chris Mears as my fellow churchwarden, so this report is from both of us. We all know that Chris has made a huge contribution to St Mary's over 10 years as churchwarden, including leading the church through two vacancies and in other roles. I am so grateful to her for all that she taught me about the role of a churchwarden. Fortunately Chris remains active in our church life and it is a great comfort to me that she is there to consult and that I am able to take advantage of her considerable experience.

What a year! As we moved into 2020 we did not know how our lives were going to change. Quite apart from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our personal lives, our church life has been severely disrupted. But as we would expect, Team St Mary's has adapted and found new ways of maintaining our church life. We cannot thank enough all of you who have stepped forward and been prepared to help with our special stewarding arrangements at services, staffing the church for personal prayer, sacristy, music, cleaning and the other activities as and when we have been able to maintain them.

We know that our congregation has greatly missed the opportunity to worship together. When we were able to open the church building for services, we had to worship under restrictions. Let's hope that when the 2021 report is written it will be possible to report the return of singing and sharing wine as well as bread. We know that for many of you 'zooming' is not a good experience but we hope that the weekly e-mail, whilst not a substitute for meeting together, has kept you in touch. We have tried to ensure that those without a computer have received a paper copy of the weekly e-mail. The Herald has also played an important role in keeping in touch with the wider community. For the first time the Herald was entered into the National Parish Magazine Awards and was placed 15th out of 262 entries. This is a remarkable result reflecting Matthew Eade's outstanding work as Editor for which we express our gratitude.

We pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of our Rector during this very difficult year. Alec had only been in post for 8 months when the pandemic struck, hardly time for him to get to know everyone. We know that he has found the need to shield very frustrating, but from his study he has established the technology that has made it possible for our services to go online. There is much more work in preparing for online worship than in church. We were not able to celebrate Alec's first year with us in July. A new incumbent could hardly have had a more difficult first year: the pandemic; the need to shield; not being able to live in the parish and a major building development. We must all be very grateful for Alec's grip on this project. It would be possible to write a book on the legal, financial and technical complexities that have been encountered, the twists and turns and the repeated expectation of being home and dry, only to find yet another issue to be resolved.

The end of 2020 saw the retirement of Margaret Cranfield as our Administrator. We would like to thank Margaret for the extensive contribution she has made to our parish life, often working beyond the call of duty. In particular we were very appreciative of her support during the vacancy, ensuring that the church's week by week essential procedures were maintained. We would also like to thank the Assistant churchwardens, John Savage and John Hawkins, for their support and willingness to share the churchwardens' workload. We are grateful that John Savage has been prepared to devote a great deal of time to overseeing a much needed refurbishment of the School House.

Despite lockdowns preventing many of our traditional fundraising activities, many thanks to our fundraising team led by Gail Phillips for their outstanding efforts. Through the sales of masks, preserves, St Mary's Ale, and one Table Top Sale around £2600 has been raised.

We give thanks that only one or two people in our congregation, to our knowledge, have actually contracted Covid-19 and that none have died with it. We hope and pray that in 2021 we will be able to return to church life as we have known it.

Our thanks to you all for your prayers, support, friendship and love.

Chris Mears
Roger Melling
Churchwardens

Parochial Church Council report

All meetings of the PCC and Standing Committee have been held online (via zoom) since March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As online PCC meetings are not legally binding, resolutions have been communicated by correspondence and the outcome has been recorded in the minutes of the subsequent meeting.

The PCC and Standing Committee has played a crucial role in providing collective leadership for the church during the pandemic.

The Standing Committee has taken on a more focussed role in problem solving, allowing the PCC to turn its attention to leadership, oversight, and in the forthcoming year to developing a collaborative vision for the future of St Mary's.

Since November, the Standing Committee has therefore been expanded to include the Rector (Alec Corio), Churchwarden (Roger Melling), Secretary (Alison Blunt), Treasurer (Chris Yates) and two Assistant Churchwardens (John Hawkins and John Savage).

PCC business has involved: the review of COVID-19 risk assessments; resolutions closing the church for public worship due to the pandemic for two periods over the past year; the reopening of the church for public worship when it has been possible to do so; feedback on the online services and communications, and levels of engagement with them; and the provision of pastoral support.

Over the past year, PCC meetings have also focused on mission and ministry; the new building project; communications; governance at St Mary's Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School; fabric and building maintenance; finance; fundraising; safeguarding;

the East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership; and deanery and diocesan news. Two PCC meetings included break-out discussions focusing on our vision for the charitable uses of the new church hall (May 2020); and sustainable giving, fundraising and stewardship (September 2020).

The PCC thanked John Hawkins and Chris Yates for their work in redesigning the new website for the Church, which now focuses on ministry; how to access life events; and events at church. Matthew Eade was thanked for his outstanding work on the Herald, which has been recognized by coming 15th (and in the top 5%) in the National Parish Magazine Awards.

Little Tots and Sunday Club met over zoom until the end of the summer. The PCC thanked Sally Latham for all of her work in leading Little Tots when she stepped down in September. Chris Mears stood down from the PCC and her role as Churchwarden in September 2020. The PCC thanked her for her huge contribution over many years, including over two vacancies. Chris will continue as the church's safeguarding officer. The PCC also thanked Margaret Cranfield on her retirement from the post of parish administrator in December 2020 for all of her work in this role.

Alison Blunt
PCC Secretary

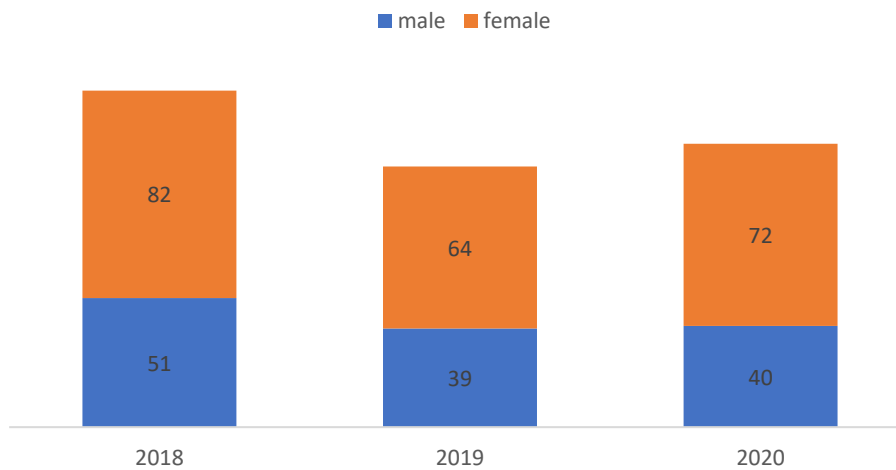
Electoral Roll report

The Parish Electoral Roll lists those entitled to vote for lay representatives to the PCC. Anyone over the age of sixteen who resides within our parish or who regularly worships at St Mary's may join the roll.

Our 2020 Electoral Roll comprised 112 names which is an 8.7% increase upon the 2019 Electoral Roll that contained 103 names. The gender balance of those listed on the Electoral Roll remained largely unchanged with the female to male balance being roughly 64% to 36%, respectively.

In accordance with the Church Representation rules, our electoral roll will be updated in 2021 and each subsequent year until 2025 when a new roll will be compiled.

St Mary's Electoral Roll



Chris Yates
PCC Electoral Roll Officer

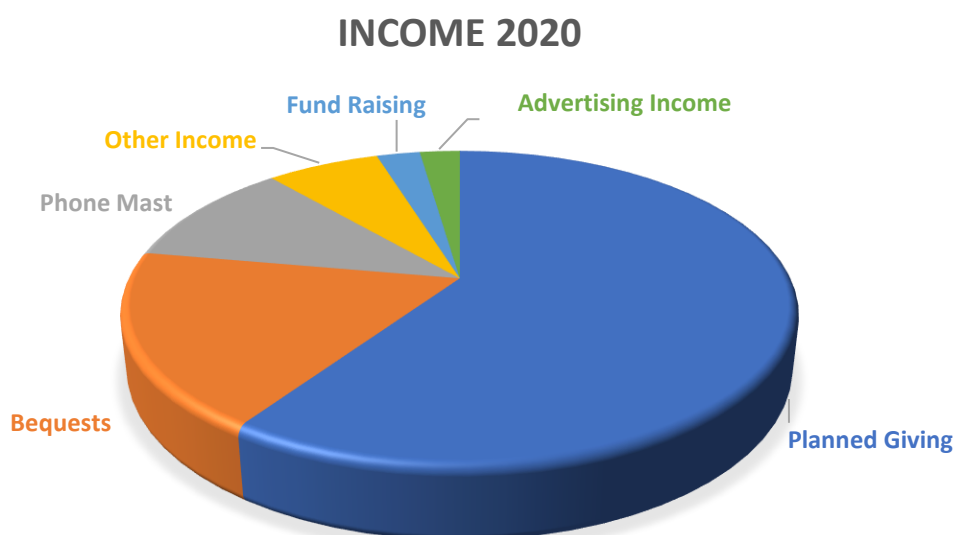
Treasurer's report

Throughout a difficult year, the Parish of St Mary's has made good progress with the reduction of administrative costs and the funding of the church hall building project.

Our cash balances over the year 2020 have seen a decrease and in total, the accounts show a deficit of £17,827. We recognised an additional loss of £11,143 on the disposal of our investment fund that was linked to the performance of stock markets.

In 2020 the Church benefited from generous bequests of £21,000. Income received from housing a phone mast was £12,550. Fundraising activity continued despite the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and raised an additional £2,881.

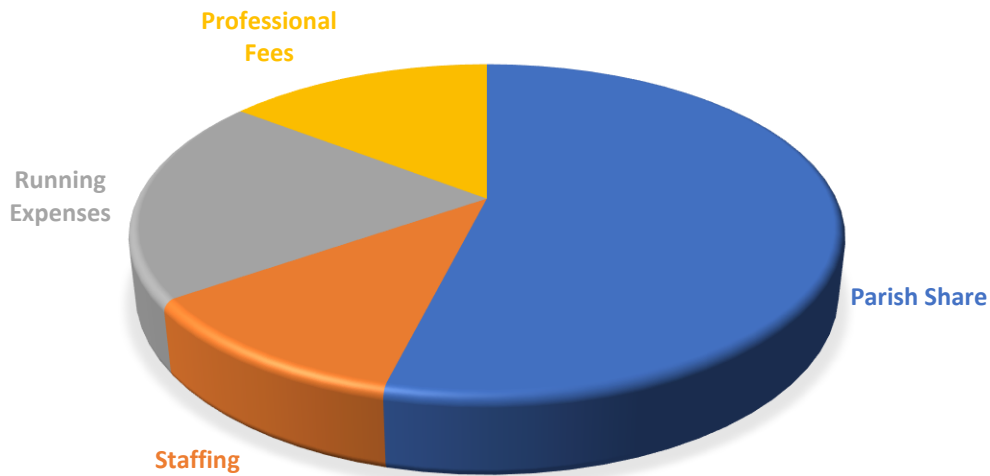
Our planned giving was down by £4.5k in comparison with 2019 at £68,589, a 6% reduction on the prior year.



In 2020 the parish share payable to the diocese, which covers the Rectors stipend, housing pension and makes a contribution to diocesan central and mission costs increased by 7.5% to £71,700. The parish share will be reduced by 4.7% to £68,308 for 2021.

Overall expenditure was reduced to £133,019 from last year's expense of £135,405 (1.7%) with savings initiatives being largely offset by the increase in the parish share.

EXPENSE 2020



Exceptional expense items in 2020 included repairs to the flat roof, repairs to the floor in the south aisle and an upgrade of the electrical distribution boards. Professional services payments for the hall building project were £19,313, up 5% from 2019.

I would like to thank Ronald Neil and Victoria Neil for their support in acting as Independent Examiners of these accounts.

Signed

Dated

5 May 2021

Chris Yates
PCC Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report

Independent Examiner's Report on the 2020 Accounts to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet.

The report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on the above pages is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("The Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts you consider the audit requirement of the Regulations and s144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records, it also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations for you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

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

- I. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met. Or
- II. To which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed



Dated 05.05.2021

Victoria Neil. ACA
Chartered Accountant
30 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, EN4 8DX

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST BARNET

– registered charity 1143134

Financial statements

Receipts and Payments Accounts
For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019	VARIANCE
Receipts			
Voluntary Receipts			
Planned Giving			
Parish Giving Scheme	40,081	51,542	(11,461)
Regular Donations	12,458	7,178	5,280
Gift Aid	16,049	14,386	1,663
Total Planned Giving	68,589	73,107	(4,518)
Bequests	21,000	-	21,000
Other Donations	2,853	3,641	(788)
Total Voluntary Receipts	92,442	76,748	15,694
Church Activities			
Phone Mast	12,550	16,930	(4,380)
Fundraising [2]	2,881	4,119	(1,239)
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	1,594	2,194	(600)
Advertising Income	2,657	2,711	(54)
Total Church Activities	19,682	25,955	(6,273)
Investment Income			
Interest Income	1,331	2,372	(1,041)
Other Receipts			
Other Receipts [3]	1,738	630	1,108
Total Receipts	115,192	105,704	9,488

	2020	2019	VARIANCE
Payments			
Church Activities			
Parish Share	71,700	66,653	5,047
Clergy and Staffing Costs	15,210	15,210	-
Church Running Expenses			
Church Services [4]	2,823	5,872	(3,049)
Buildings [5]	11,303	16,344	(5,042)
Printing & Stationery	6,735	4,424	2,311
Administration	4,433	5,654	(1,221)
Rent	1,165	1,314	(149)
Total Church Running Expenses	26,459	33,609	(7,150)
Total Church Activities	113,369	115,472	(2,103)

Hall Building Project			
Professional Services [6]	19,313	18,399	914
Mission Giving and Donations			
Home Missions	-	1,204	(1,204)
Total Mission Giving and Donations	-	1,204	(1,204)
Other Payments			
Bank Fees	338	330	7
Total Payments	133,019	135,405	(2,385)
Investment Revaluation [7]			
Investment Revaluation	11,143	-	
	11,143		

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations of 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Fundraising

The PPC is grateful for the fundraising efforts made during such a difficult year, the main activities are broken down as:

Quiz Evening	£208.05
Table Top Sale	£420.25
Concerts	£102.65
Masks & Preserves	£1,288
Fundraising Beer	£560.82
Other	£301.00
Total	£2,880.77

3. Other Receipts

Other receipts included a £1,037 grant claim from the Listed Place of Worship VAT reclaim scheme and a £200 grant from the diocese of St Albans for the purchase of a video camera.

4. Church Services

Fewer services in 2020 led to a reduction in service-related expense when compared to 2019 which also had additional costs that were incurred through the period of vaccancy.

5. Buildings

Significant expense items in 2020 included the repair to the flat roof at the west of the church; £2,010, the installation of new electricity distribution boards; £2,016, and the replacement of floor timbers in the south aisle; £420. Utility bills were lower than the prior-year as the church building remained closed through lock-down.

6. Professional Services

The Church made significant progress with the hall building project through 2020 and made payment to professional service providers in line with budgeted amounts:

Quantity Surveyors	£9,468
Architects	£4,967
Solicitors	£3,456
Accountants	£1,392
Total	£19,313

7. Investment Revaluation

In preparation for the hall-building project, the mutual fund investments were liquidated. As stock markets have been affected by the global pandemic our investments were worth less than the 2019 yearend valuations leading to a loss.

Statement of Assets
As at 31 December 2020

31 DEC 2020

Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	
CBF2 - Deposit	65,000.00
Current Account	1,051.22
Fees Account	1,872.58
High Interest Account (Tracker	0.52
Savings Account	36,515.95
Total Cash at bank and in hand	104,440.27
Mutual Fund Investments	43,536.98
Total Current Assets	147,977.25
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Fees Payable [2]	865.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	865.00
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	147,112.25
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	147,112.25
Net Assets	147,112.25
Capital and Reserves	
General Fund - Unrestricted	26,094.91
Building Project Fund [3] - Designated	83,631.87
School House Fund [4] - Restricted	37,385.47
Total Capital and Reserves	147,112.25
Current Year	
Current Year Earnings	(40,828.60)
Earnings Allocated to Funds	40,828.60
Total Current Year	-

1. Accounting Policies.

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations of 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.

2. Fees Payable

The PCC collects statutory fees for services such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms on behalf of the diocese of St Albans which are remitted quarterly.

3. Building Project Fund

In 2020 the assets held by the St Martins Church Hall fund were transferred to St Mary's PCC and have been designated for the Building Project Fund, established to create a new Church Hall annexed to the Church building. The PCC has designated an additional £30,000 from general funds.

4. School House Fund

The PCCs bank accounts are currently used to assist the administration of the School House, the funds are fully restricted and cannot be used for other Church activities.

5. Reconciliation of 2019 restated fund allocations

Historically the Church's money has been allocated across a number of funds, many of these balances have remained static for many years and the professional fees booked against the 1000+ fund have exceeded the fund balance leaving a large negative balance. Therefore, the fund allocations have been simplified to three funds. This reconciliation is provided to show how the fund allocations reported in the previous accounts reconcile to the new simplified structure. The General Fund is unrestricted, the Building Fund is designated and the School House Fund is fully restricted.

	2019	Allocations	Restated 2019 Balances
General Fund	78,771.58	-13,049.58	65,722.00
1000+ Appeal & Building Project	-62,914.48	62,914.48	0
Building Project Fund	0	72,464.20	72,464.20
Churchyard Fund	108.88	-108.88	0
Choir & Music Fund	451.00	-451.00	0
Children & Youth Fund	939.93	-939.93	0
Pastoral Care	3,266.83	-3,266.83	0
Vocational Fund	100.48	-100.48	0
Organ Sinking Fund	2,050.00	-2,050.00	0
Net Phonemast	42,947.78	-42,464.20	0
St Martin's Hall Fund	72,464.20	-72,464.20	0
School House Fund	49,243.66	49,243.66	49,243.66
Total	187,429.86	-	187,429.86

Chris Yates

Fabric report

The church fabric has been maintained throughout 2020, with minor works to the south aisle roof being undertaken; the sound system upgrade completed; repairs to the wiring and organ blower; upgrades of the distribution boards; replacement of a rotten area of flooring in the south aisle; the introduction into use of a new chalice; the update of the church sign; and the purchase of an advertising A frame.

We are grateful that Roy Mears has established a regular rolling maintenance programme covering checks to the fire extinguishers; gas safety surveys; lightening conductor tests; Portable Appliance Testing; and electrical surveys.

A large number of risk assessments have been undertaken – for fire, trip hazards, and reduction in the risks of Covid-19.

The church fabric received its quinquennial inspection in 2020. This noted a number of actions, further to those detailed above, will be necessary in the near future.

The churchyard has been inspected with a view to the establishment of a new garden of remembrance, and to encouraging Barnet Council to fulfil their statutory responsibilities to maintain the churchyard in 'decent order'. The council conducted some tree works. A plot in the garden of remembrance was reserved by faculty.

The school house at St Mary's CE VA Primary School was surveyed and found to be in a poor condition. Extensive internal and external works were recommended for the safety and comfort of the tenant. John Savage has commissioned these, and has managed the renovation of the property's interior with dedication and tenacity. He has also commissioned external works which will be completed in 2021.

It has been clarified that neither the Rector, Churchwardens, or PCC of East Barnet have a trustee relationship to the school house trust, but have served as managers on a local and uncontracted basis. The Diocese of St Albans now wishes to appoint a professional lettings agency to manage the school house on a contracted basis, and this will occur when external works are completed. School house funds and management responsibilities will then be transferred to the Diocese of St Albans.

Alec Corio

Building project report

The project to provide a new church hall as an annex to St Mary's, and a house for use by a member of staff or private rental, through the sale and development of the old church hall has progressed substantively in 2020.

The PCC was able to change the terms of the St Mary's Church Hall Trust and St Martin's Church Hall Trust with the Charities Commission, so that the contents of the St Martin's Church Hall Trust could be applied to the construction of our new church hall.

Discussions were held with Barnet Council about limiting the Community Infrastructure Levy that might be payable on the old hall site, to little effect; and on the new church hall, with the resolution that its charitable use would exempt it from CIL.

We also held discussions with a VAT consultant to confirm and limit our VAT liability.

Contracts with the purchaser of the old church hall site were drafted. Barnet Council was therefore able to issue planning permission and a section 106 agreement governing the progress of development on both sites in September, before exchange of contract.

As the Diocesan Board of Finance required the PCC to show that we had completed all financial planning for the construction of the new hall before contracts could be exchanged, a building licence was issued to the purchaser of the old church hall site to allow them to make the site secure and carry away portable rubbish ready for works to begin.

We conducted a tendering process to identify a preferred contractor for the building of the new church hall, and two rounds of value engineering necessary to bring the initial quote of our preferred contractor within budget. We also took up references on the contractor, and are confident in their ability to fulfil the project.

The value engineering process means that, in order to make the construction of a new church hall possible, some works intended to also occur within the existing church building will have to be deferred. Some areas of the specification of the new church hall in terms of fittings have also been revised.

The PCC discussed the form of contract with the contractor that would be most advantageous. Though in January 2020 we felt that a design and build route would offer us the most security in planning, a traditional contract will be pursued in the light of cost implications revealed during the value engineering process.

Roger Melling and Chris Yates have taken on increasingly supportive roles in the progress of these plans, and we are grateful to them and to the expert advice we have received from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, Alastair Woodgate, JKBS Architects, and other of our contractors.

Alec Corio

Partnership Enabling Group report

The Partnership Enabling Group met once in 2020, in February. Further meetings were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We continued our discussions on the development of shared work with children and young people. This work is at a very early stage and will be continued, subject to the effect of the pandemic.

We recognised that there was scope to improve our lines of communication to make sure that both churches were always aware of the others activities.

The legal basis for the Partnership had lapsed. A letter was sent to the Bishop requesting that the legal status be re-established. This formality was completed later in the year.

From 20 August 2020 the partnership was therefore established as a 'Local Ecumenical Co-operative Scheme', for an indefinite period, subject to a periodic review every 5 years. St Mary's was also granted permission by the diocese to suspend the requirement for a licensed Anglican priest to celebrate the Eucharist according to an authorised Anglican rite on a Sunday when there is also a Partnership Eucharist. This means that our mutual Eucharistic hospitality can be deepened.

The pandemic had a major impact on many planned Partnership events, requiring a switch from actual to virtual services. Fortunately we are able to pick up on Partnership issues at the weekly team meetings on zoom which Rev Shaun Sanders attends.

Roger Melling
Chair of the Partnership Enabling Group

Methodist Minister's report

We started 2020 with a shared covenant service at Brookside. The service is one of the treasures of Methodist worship. John Wesley borrowed it from the puritan tradition but of course, the service is rooted in God's covenant with us all.

Little did we realise that life would change so quickly in March. We had begun our Lent groups based on the book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio. These drew in our friends from St John's United Reformed Church, New Barnet. However we couldn't finish the sessions we had planned due to the start of the first lockdown.

The pandemic has meant that we've had to find new and creative ways of working together. Much of our shared mission and ministry has moved online. Our memorial service remembering those who had died and the service to mark the launch of the Royal British Legion poppy appeal in October were pre-recorded and available on YouTube. With limited numbers allowed at the war memorial for Remembrance Sunday in November, we were still able to lead a service outside and streamed it live on YouTube.

The legal re-establishment of the Partnership during the year has given a formal stability to our continuing work. At the heart what we do though is that deeply profound and theological word 'covenant'. These words from the Covenant service are very fitting in the light of what we've faced this year: "Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us".

Rev Shaun Sanders
Minister of Barnet Brookside Methodist Church

Deanery Synod report

The Deanery Synod met once in 2020, in February. Further meetings were curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In February the speaker was Canon David Morton, the Diocesan Director of Education. He gave a most interesting presentation on the role of the Diocesan Board of Education [DBE] and Church Schools. Here are the key points David made:

- The diocese has a team equating to 6.5 people supporting the work of 138 schools, educating 30,000 children.
- 'Education for All' was the founding vision of Church of England schools in 1811 and this is still very much the vision of the DBE, working to educate children regardless of race or religion.
- The role of the DBE is to promote an education consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England, creating places of care and compassion.
- The DBE advises schools in areas such as teaching Religious Education, collective worship, governance and admission policies, and provides pastoral support to Head Teachers.
- 18% of schools are academies. Church schools can only join academy chains which are part of the Church of England Multi-Academy Trust.
- Church schools are fundamentally community schools where religious education is treated as an academic subject.

Roger Melling
Representative to Deanery Synod

Safeguarding report

The year, 2020, has been like no other, since face to face services, groups and meetings have been almost non-existent. In their place we have had to contend with Zoom, YouTube, Facebook and plenty of written words. Nevertheless, it has still been of the utmost importance to St Mary's that we have taken all necessary steps to maintain a safe environment for all. In this way we show our commitment to continuing Christ's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults; and to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from any harm. We have therefore been following the Church of England's guidelines for online activities during the year.

We brought in new safeguarding documents for junior choir. We will ensure that these, and those for other children's groups, are reactivated when we can hold in person meetings again.

We brought in new confidential declaration forms and are ensuring that everyone who needs to complete one as soon as possible.

Everyone who has needed a DBS check has received one: 11 have been processed. A number of people have completed in-person and on-line safeguarding courses.

The PCC adopted safeguarding and domestic abuse policies in keeping with the relevant Church of England policies.

Please remember, it is the responsibility of everyone to continue to be vigilant.

Chris Mears
Safeguarding Officer

Annual Meeting of Parishioners
5 October 2020 (on zoom)
Minutes

1. The meeting opened with prayers and a welcome to all attending.
2. Alison Blunt was elected as clerk to the APM and APCM (proposed by Alec Corio, seconded by Roger Melling).
3. Apologies for absence had been received from Joan Harris, Chris Mears, Roy Mears, Shaun Sanders and John Savage.
4. The minutes of the last APM (28 April 2019) were accepted as a true record (proposed by Roger Melling, seconded by Gail Phillips).
5. Election of Churchwardens:

Roger Melling had been nominated as Churchwarden (nominated by Gail Phillips, seconded by Bridget Bowden) and was declared elected. The APM recorded its thanks to Chris Mears for her long service as Churchwarden. The meeting also thanked Chris and Roger particularly for their work as Churchwardens at the current time.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
5 October 2020 (on zoom)
Minutes

1. Apologies for absence were received from Joan Harris, Chris Mears, Roy Mears, Shaun Sanders and John Savage.
2. The minutes of the last APCM (28 April 2019) were accepted as a true record (proposed by Bridget Bowden, seconded by John Hawkins). Alec Corio will sign the minutes when we have an in-person meeting.
3. Annual report:

Alec Corio thanked Margaret Cranfield for all of her work in putting the report together. Alec thanked all of those who had completed their term on the PCC – Barbara Campbell, Steve Edwards, Ian Walter and Chris Watson – and as Deanery Synod representatives – Matthew Eade, Roy Mears and Roger Melling. He thanked them all for their guidance and shared leadership in our communal life. Alec also thanked Claire Driscoll for her excellent work with Sunday Club and the crib service; and Val Selby for her role in coordinating the pastoral group.

Questions were invited on the 2019 statutory reports. There were no questions.

4. Questions were invited on the 2019 non-statutory reports. There were no questions.
5. Alec noted that, whilst the meeting was about 2019, we are living through an unprecedented situation in 2020 and invited questions on how we are doing as a Church and a community in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. There were no questions.
6. Conduct of elections to Deanery Synod:
 - a. The meeting considered the following proposal (proposed by Alec Corio, seconded by John Hawkins):

‘This APCM resolves to disapply the new two term limit for those elected to serve as our representatives to Deanery Synod, as specified under M8 (7) of the Church Representation Rules 2020.’

The meeting voted in support of this proposal.

- b. There were vacancies for three Deanery Synod members for the term of three years. Nominations had been received for Roger Melling (proposed by Sue Nunn, seconded by Margaret Cranfield) and Matthew Eade (proposed by Susan Cooper, seconded by John Savage). Both were declared elected.
7. Conduct of elections to the PCC:

There were vacancies for four PCC members for the term of three years and one member for the term of one year. Nominations had been received for John Savage (proposed by J.I. Bailey, seconded by Graham Cranfield) and Stephen Edwards (proposed

by Gail Phillips, seconded by Bridget Bowden) for three-year terms. Chris Watson was proposed by Heather Melling and seconded by Kathy Horton for the one-year term. All three were declared elected.

8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner:

Chris Yates (Treasurer) and Steve Harris said that it was important that the appointment was made independently from the Treasurer. Roger Melling reported that St James has recently appointed a new independent examiner. Alec Corio will provide further details about how we will appoint a new independent examiner before the next set of accounts needs to be checked.

9. The meeting ended with the Grace at 8.30pm, followed by the loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

Non-statutory reports

2nd East Barnet Brownies

On 19 March 2020 the Brownies started making crafts for Mothering Sunday. The crafts were then left in our cupboard to be completed the following week. The crafts still remains in the cupboard!

In July we celebrated the 75th anniversary of Middlesex East County online, with activities for all ages at home, including sleeping somewhere other than your own bed!

When were able to meet in October, as only 15 people were deemed to be a “bubble” and we have 15 Brownies, 3 Young Leaders and 2 Leaders, we divided the Brownies into two groups so that each could hold a meeting.

At Christmas we also invited the Brownies and their parents to meet us at the War Memorial so that we could pass on some Christmas crafts for them to do at home.

We are very fortunate to have 3 Young Leaders who attend on a rota basis. Our other adult Leader moved away with her family during the summer. We would be delighted to have another adult volunteer as that would mean we could have more Brownies and reduce our waiting list.

Anne Malloy
Brownie Leader

2nd East Barnet Guides

Sadly 2020 has been a difficult and strange year. We just started getting ready for our Counties 75th Birthday Camp, and then everything was cancelled.

Between January and the start of lockdown we made binary bracelets, celebrated Shrove Tuesday and Thinking Day. As well a running our usual bowling evening, we attended the pantomime Robin Hood put on by Manor Drive Methodist Church.

During the first lockdown we sent activities home weekly so the children could continue working towards the Guiding programme, these also included leader videos completing challenges set by the Guides. From mid-September we were allowed to meet up again but only outdoors, so we spent 4 weeks in the park completing activities like scavenger hunts and making candle holders out of tin cans.

We were then allowed to meet indoors for a few weeks but in limited numbers so split into 2 groups meeting fortnightly until lockdown returned. Our activities included making bags out of recycled T-shirts. We have now started running meetings via zoom.

One of our Guides was the first to reach her Silver programme award and two Guides received a Jack Petchey Award.

Karen Binns
Guide Leader

Chipping Barnet Foodbank

Over the past year the Coronavirus crisis has presented Chipping Barnet Foodbank with unprecedented challenges. The pandemic has put excessive strains on many household finances resulting in a huge increase in demand for food parcels. 2,700 individuals were fed in the period April to September 2020, a 158% increase on the same period in the previous year. Fortunately, due to generous donations from the local community, the demand has been met, and the challenges have been handled brilliantly by a hugely dedicated group of volunteers.

The need to reduce the risk of infection has required a major reorganisation of operations, which have of course had an impact on the quality of interaction with clients: hopefully the Foodbank can return to a more client-friendly and indoor service before too long.

The Foodbank has been incredibly fortunate in receiving financial donations during lockdown that have guaranteed our sustainability for the foreseeable future. The trustees set up a working group, chaired by Sarah Edwards who represents St Mary's on the board, to consider how best to use these increased funds. Some of the proposals now being taken forward include provision of non-food support such as advice services, to help tackle the reasons behind people's need for emergency food.

Sarah Edwards
Chris Watson

Green Christians Barnet

The local Green Christians Barnet group provides opportunities for local Christians to meet together to explore how their faith connects to issues of creation care, such as climate change and plastic pollution, and to take action.

Over the past year we have had to meet purely online, and topics have included: connections between Coronavirus and nature and how we might 'build back better'

- fossil fuels and greening our homes, with practical tips
- two sessions on water – one domestic and one global
- hearing from our contact Rosemary Nakasiita in Uganda on the deaf school project she supports.
- Regular updates from charities who connect poverty and environmental justice to the Christian faith: Tearfund, Cafod, and Christian Aid.

Some members took part in The Climate Coalition's virtual lobby of MPs in June on the need for urgent action to tackle climate change, and participated in the Diocese of St Albans eco-church online conference 'Working together to net zero' in October.

We have contributed regular articles to the East Barnet Herald on green issues, to further raise awareness among the local community, and have helped to run sessions of the recent online Lent Course in co-operation with Brookside Methodist Church, St John's United Reformed Church and St Mary's, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'.

Sarah Edwards

Healing Services

Only two services with the laying on of hands and prayers for healing were held in 2020. Normally, healing services are held every other month. Unfortunately, we were only able to say prayers in Church during the months of January and March. A week after the March service we were in lockdown due to Covid-19.

However, thanks to the miracle of technology, a few of us had weekly prayer meetings via zoom. During these meetings we were able to say the healing prayer which we use during services. We also prayed for the safety of all sick people and for St. Mary's congregation.

In the name of God, trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make us whole. May Christ bring us wholeness of body, mind and spirit; deliver us from every evil and give us his peace. Amen.

Anne Foley

Little Tots

Prior to the lockdown in March 2020, Little Tots was meeting at Brookside Methodist Church as a busy and friendly playgroup.

When the Covid-19 pandemic led us to close the playgroup, Alec suggested that we attempted to continue to support the group on zoom and this worked well at first. The toddlers engaged with show and tell discussions, face pulling, stories and singing.

Over the summer and once children started or returned to nursery school, there was no longer much engagement with these online activities, and the decision was taken to pause Little Tots until in person playgroups are again possible within our context.

Sally Latham Birt

Music at St Mary's

As I welcomed the audience to the first 'Spring into Summer' concert of the year on 8 March, little did I realise that this and Evensong the week after would be the last occasions when choral music would be heard in St. Mary's church in 2020.

Necessity being the mother of invention, we worked hard to provide music for online services. Initially I recorded instrumental music from my home, and then when the spring lockdown eased I recorded continued to record music in the church building.

Choir rehearsals transferred to zoom, and I'd like to express my gratitude and thanks for the patience and determination of our choir members who kept singing despite the many difficulties of this new technology.

Providing music this year has been a steep learning curve for all of us. Choir members have had to learn about sound files, click tracks and home recording methods. And as a result, they have recorded eleven anthems to enrich our services. These have been mixed and balanced with countless hours of patient help and advice from Martin Short, to whom I am also deeply indebted.

Alan Danson
Director of Music

Open Church and Personal Prayer

For the first two and a half months of 2020, St Mary's Church was open on Saturdays between 10am and 2pm for people to come and visit, enjoy the historic building, and pray if they wished to do so. Two pairs of volunteers enabled this to be done safely. We are very grateful for Kathy Horton preparing the rota for Open Church in this way.

After lockdown legislation permitted, and the Standing Committee had risk assessed the possibility, St Mary's Church was open for personal prayer on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon, and Saturdays between 2pm and 4pm for much of the rest of the year.

Visitors to the church building have appreciated the opportunity it gave them to find peace and sanctuary there – and opening the church building in this way has been an important way of maintaining a prayerful presence at the heart of our parish.

Thank you to all volunteers who have helped to make it possible to continue with Open Church and then to begin to make the church available for Personal Prayer.

Margaret Cranfield

St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

St Mary's started 2020 preparing for a SIAMS inspection – the Church of England and Methodist Church equivalent of an OFSTED review, focusing on the impact of the school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. We were delighted to receive an overall "excellent" grade in February's inspection as a recognition of the quality of the school's distinctive Christian vision and character. The inspection report also graded RE and collective worship provision as "excellent".

The rest of the year was dominated by our response to the pandemic, with the school building formally closing to most children in March 2020 and teaching switching to a remote offer for all but the children of key workers. The school was able to respond effectively, and our provision of remote learning evolved continuously throughout the subsequent lockdown and other school closures. Staff have responded positively to challenging and unprecedented circumstances, putting in place new learning strategies alongside hygiene measures and risk assessments to keep children and staff safe.

There have also been changes to our Governing Board over the last year, with Stephen Edwards succeeding Keith Reynolds as Chair of Governors in April 2020. I would like to extend our thanks again to Keith for his service as chair in two separate terms over the last ten years.

Stephen Edwards
Chair of Governors

2020 has been a year of significant triumphs, challenges and surprises for all of us at St. Mary's School. We were delighted with the 'excellent' grade in our February 2020 SIAMS inspection. Our day to day work as a church school and partnership with St. Mary's church was recognised and celebrated.

Despite the enforced school closure which followed in March 2020, as soon as we were able we opened the school to the children of key workers and for those who were deemed vulnerable. We are delighted that in spite of some short term closures due to Covid cases or the national lockdown, we have been able to remain open.

We are immensely proud of the commitment demonstrated by each and every member of staff who took responsibility for this provision in school and through online learning during the crisis that Covid has presented and continues to present.

Throughout the year, we have continued to focus on Christian values such as justice, hope, peace and community. Despite periods of closure, daily collective worship, including a weekly recording from the Rector, has continued to be an essential component of the staff and children's distinctive Christian experience of education. Following full return to school in September 2020, our families and community have demonstrated immense generosity with charitable giving to the Chipping Barnet Food Bank, Homeless Action in Barnet, the Children's Society, Save the Children and Comic Relief.

Throughout this time of great turbulence and uncertainty, the children have been incredibly resilient and have responded magnificently. We are so proud of each and every one of them. Our vision, encapsulated in the school prayer which we say each day in collective worship, expresses the strength of their commitment to these values. We are also immensely grateful for our partnership with St Mary's and Barnet Brookside Methodist Church and all the members of the congregations for their ongoing support, prayers and encouragement.

*This is our school where we are inspired by Christian values,
Excited by our learning,
Proud of our achievements,
Determined to be the best we can be,
And caring for all of God's creation.
Let peace dwell here.
Let each room be full of contentment.
Let love abide here in our homes and in our school,
Love of one another,
Love of people everywhere,
Love of life itself
And love of God.*

*Let us remember that as many hands build a house, so many hearts build a school.
Help us to remember that whether we are together, or apart, you are always with us.
And may God bless and keep each one of us.
May God make his light to shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May God give us His peace.
Amen.*

Mel Adams and Maria Constaniou
Headteachers

St Mary's Parish Office

At the beginning of 2020 the usual Epiphany, pre-Lent and Lent features of the administrative year swung into action – requesting contributions to the 2019 annual report, setting up a Table Top Sale, preparing programmes for Spring into Summer concerts, and of course the weekly news sheets, posters, and materials for children at services.

In the March lockdown, not only was the church building closed, but so was the office at Brookside Methodist Church. We had a certain amount of notice, and I put together some things I could use to work at home, but my list turned out to be lacking in some essentials.

It turns out that there is a distinction between working from home (where an employee is set up to do so) and working at home, where one is a sort of administrative Robinson Crusoe, making the best of what has been hastily rescued from the shipwreck. Our elderly home computer, my Ipad, and a corner of the dining table were all pressed into service for administration.

There were a lot of changes in how we needed to communicate with you all, which had to be made very quickly. An emailed newsletter, complete with web links and resources, replaced the notice sheet, and we also explored more use of the new website, thanks to some very helpful tutorials from Chris Yates and Alec; Facebook and Twitter. I also put the newsletters up on A Church Near You, and it was gratifying that we were recognised by the Diocese of St Albans for the quality of our use of A Church Near You.

Although many life event services, social and fundraising events were not possible in 2020, there was still plenty to do. Communicating with the parish was our priority. I spent a lot of time checking through our contacts to make sure all details were up to date, and that newcomers to the congregation were included in all our communications. Heather and Roger Melling, and Gail Phillips gave me some invaluable help with this. Heather and Roger also made sure that parishioners without access to email received printed copies of the materials we were producing, and these were available from distribution boxes at the church and old church hall. I was very grateful to them for doing this.

In August, as lockdown eased, I was able to move back into the parish office again, which was really helpful. I produced posters when the church building reopened, as well as being able to have many more resources to hand. Weekly orders of service were provided and also supplemented with materials for seasonal services. In the office, we also changed our phone and broadband provider.

Weekly staff meetings continued over the year, and the timing of these had to change to fit in with Alec's childcare arrangements and also with the timetable of our ordinand on placement, Francesco Aresco, who has also been very helpful with technical and other advice. Our meetings after the March lockdown have taken place over Zoom, occasionally disrupted by our cat, technical issues and assorted other interruptions, but these were invaluable in keeping us all informed about what was coming up.

Toward the end of the year I realised that my retirement, due in March 2021, would have to be advanced for family reasons, and I retired at the end of December. I spent a lot of my last weeks in post drawing up "How to" guides for the parish office, which I hope are of use to those doing these tasks as I write, and will be to my successor when appointed.

I could not have done the job of Parish Administrator without the unfailing support of my husband, Graham, who did so much to help throughout my time as administrator. I would also like to thank "Team St Mary's", particularly Alec, Roger and Chris, for all their help and advice throughout a year which has certainly proved to be my most challenging in this post, and probably of my entire working life.

Margaret Cranfield
Parish Administrator

Sunday Club

In person meetings of Sunday Club stopped in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Alec, Sarah Edwards, Tim Sanders, Anthea Davey, Angela Johnson and I quickly set up Sunday meetings on zoom to make sure that the children could meet every week at I lam and keep learning and worshipping together.

These sessions were led by different adult volunteers and some of the older children each week and this was enjoyed by all. We had a focus on Christians needing to care for creation, and this is something the children felt passionate about. Sunday Club then took its usual break over the summer, and the children felt that they did not want to begin zoom sessions again in the Autumn.

Our Sunday Club parents and children have stayed in contact though through the Sunday Club WhatsApp group since then, sharing, stories, ideas and photos of our creative activities.

Claire Driscoll