



ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

PARISH OF ST. PETER'S HALLIWELL

The BIG Vision

Lunches
Teaching
Smithills
St. Andrew's
Worship
Outreach
Connect Groups
Leadership
Funerals
Fellowship
Toddlers
Faith

Storehouse
Pantry
Weddings
St. Peter's
Barrow Bridge
Young People
Teaching
Parish Centre
CAP
National & International
Ministry
Prayer
Community
Baptisms
Children

*"We are therefore
Christ's ambassadors..."*

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APCM REVIEW 2020/21 (1)

2020 has been a challenging year in the life of our churches, with the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns during most of the year. On the first Sunday of lockdown (March 22nd) during our first online service, I spoke about the storm on the lake when Jesus was asleep in the boat and the disciples feared for their lives: *'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'* (Mark 4:38). Who would have thought that the whole world would be overwhelmed by the pandemic during 2020 and that our lives would be turned upside down! Jesus calmed the storm: *'He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!''* (39). He is the Lord of the storm and 2020 was a year when we were called to trust him rather than being fearful, assured that he is with us to protect and guide us. The year has turned out very differently to what we expected, with many things achieved and lessons learnt! Let's use our **Mission Action Plan Priorities** to review the past year:

Priority 1: To repair, refurbish and extend St Peter's Building

During the year we have continued to work on Phase I of our repairs, to replace the decaying **link corridors** with a new, welcoming and spacious entrance. Working with Chell Perkins Fundraisers we secured a number of grants, including a £100,000 grant from Viridor Credits, towards the cost of the work. We raised over half the cost ourselves through gifts and it's good to report that by the end of March 2021 we achieved our target of £320,000. This means that the work should commence in the summer of 2021.

Priority 2: To develop a strategic approach to mission across the parish

A major evangelistic outreach planned in 2020 was **Believe in Bolton**, a Mission Weekend in May. This was to be led by the Archbishop of York, involving churches across the town. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to scale down the event and the Archbishop of York was unavailable. Instead we held an online evening with Bishop Jill Duff (Bishop of Lancaster) and Warren Furman (Ace from Gladiators). It worked very well and we are planning a follow-up weekend in September 2021, with the evangelist J John in person.

Priority 3: To work for the establishing of God's kingdom in Bolton and beyond

A couple of weeks before lockdown on March 1st, **Revd David Brae** was licensed as Associate Minister at St Peter Halliwell and Young Adults Pioneer in Bolton Town Centre. While being involved at St Peter's, Dave's increasing focus will be on planting a church for 18-30s in the centre of Bolton. During the year we partnered with Urban Outreach in providing households with food on Johnson Fold Estate. We also contributed to their major initiative of distributing food across the town.

As a parish, a major work during the year has been working on our **online presence**, which represents a massive leap forward for us! It has enabled us to live stream our weekly service on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube and increase significantly our presence of social media. Thanks to our Technical and Comms teams for their hard work and commitment in this area. A major issue has also been to maintain contact with those who are not online. At the start of the lockdown, we set up **Neighbourhood Churches**, involving everyone linked to the church. The aim was to support each other and also to offer care to the wider community. This has largely worked out well and thanks to all who have acted as Neighbourhood Church Co-ordinators over the year.

Yours,

Paul Hardingham

Parochial Church Council -Trustees of the Parish (2)

Clergy:

Rev. Canon Paul Hardingham

Rev. David Brae

Rev. Craig Watson

Wardens:

Paul Gray

Elian Winstanley

Deanery Synod:

Jean Mort, Shirley Clark, Peter Caffrey,

Stephen Brierley*, Craig Vincent

Barrow Bridge Helen Yarwood

Smithills Helen Stainthorpe

St. Andrew's Steve Walsh

St. Peter's Linda Forster

Elected:

Phi Weaver – Treasurer

Amanda Blease

Malcolm Peake

Rita Wright

Joan Johnson

Brian Johnson

Steven Johnson

Stephanie Mawhinney

Dave Starkie

Co-opted:

Andrew Reid - (Secretary)

** Stephen Brierley is Deanery Budget Secretary and attends the Diocesan Board of Finance.*

The Parish of St. Peter's Halliwell (3)

Comprises four fellowships meeting in:

St. Peter's Church, 419 Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5RR.

St. Andrew's Church, Tattersall Avenue, Johnson Fold.

Barrow Bridge Mission, Barrow Bridge Road.

The Chapel of Smithills Hall & St. Peter's Smithill's Dean Church of England Primary School.

Each of the four churches has its own Leadership Team to deal with matters particularly concerning its own fellowship. These Leadership Teams are sub-committees of the Parochial Church Council. With the exception of St. Peter's, each fellowship holds its own General Meeting and issues its own Annual Report.

By the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 the PCC is required to co-operate with the Minister of the Church in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – this the PCC continues to do very readily.

Average Church Attendances: 365 adults & 146 children under 18.

Bankers: Each Fellowship banks with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Funds are also held with the Central Board of Finance and CAF Bank.

Funds are held with the Central Board of Finance.

Legal Advisor: Jane Monks (Diocesan Registrar)

Architects: Byrom Clark Roberts & Bradshaw, Gass and Hope.

Auditor: A.L. Bentley and Co.,
Accountants.

Parish Office: St. Peter's Parish Centre
347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR

Chartered

Review of PCC Meetings for the APCM May 2021 (4)

(To be read in conjunction with the Wardens Report).

The PCC held meetings on seven occasions during the 2020 financial year when members of the committee considered the matters of parish business. Each of the four churches was represented at the PCC Meetings.

With the onset of the Coronavirus epidemic in March 2020 & the introduction of the national lockdown, the day to day functioning of the Church was radically changed, but the PCC & the Standing Committee continued to function, dealing with an increased work load, & held regular meetings on-line using 'Zoom'.

Rapid developments were required to the Parish Website to suit Covid 19 lockdown to include online services, giving etc.

A Comms team was set up to deal with all Parish activities on-line. Live streaming of Services established far reaching implications for how we 'Do Church' with much greater use of Social Media. This has created a lot of extra work for many people, with major technical implications requiring the upgrading of Church Systems & the purchase of new equipment.

In July, the Church was opened for limited Services & the PCC established a Risk Assessment made for the re-opening, & a 4.00pm service was started. There were many issues regarding cleaning. 10.30am & 4.00pm services have been livestreamed for people to 'attend' at home.

Parish Salaries increased by 2.75% per annum backdated to April 2020.

Safeguarding in Churches was reviewed with training requirements for individuals at relevant levels.

The Planning & Building Control Approvals for the Replacement Corridors & Galleries was applied for & received.

A lot more work was done by Roy Attwood & Chell Funding on the potential for Grants for the repairs to the Church Tower. Unfortunately, there will be no Heritage Lottery funding until 2021 at the earliest.

The PCC have approved the continued use of the services of Chell Funding on a Retainer Contract to seek Funding for the CAP Centre & Youth Ministry.

St. Andrews House will be rented out to Lindsey & Rachell Flintoff so that they will have somewhere to live when they return to Bolton.

Exterior lighting to Church has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Board after a public consultation.

Essential maintenance & tree work carried out in the Churchyard.

Problems with Burials an exhumation being required for one that was too shallow.

The PCC considered their response to the extensive Vandalism in the churchyard. Ways were discussed to make safe & repair as far as limited insurance will permit. (It is the responsibility of the PCC to attend to vandalism).

The PCC has decided to replace the signage in front of St. Peter's Church & The Parish Centre. The Comms team have developed various designs for the new signs.

To suit the limitations of Covid19 the format of the Christmas Services was revised with a mix of limited in situ attendance & online participation by members of the Congregation.

A post-pandemic Action Plan has been developed for the full opening of the Churches with personal attendance, but also retaining & developing our on-line presence.

The Church of England Safeguarding Policy has been formally adopted by the PCC.

The PCC have accepted, subject to contract, the Tender from Bullens Conservation Ltd. for the Replacement Corridors subject to review by the Architects Bradshaw Gas & Hope. (An Award of Grant Aid from Viridor Ltd. Of £100,000 having been accepted).

The East Window has been examined by a specialist restorer & will require £22,000 for the work involved. The other stained-glass windows around the Church will require £19,557 to be cleaned.

Rev. Canon Paul Hardingham will be retiring as Vicar of St. Peter's Halliwell in September 2021.

A Vacancy Flow Chart, Parish Profile & Strategic Action Plan are being prepared to aid the appointment of potential candidates for his replacement. This cannot be instigated until after Paul Hardingham has retired when there will be an Interregnum period.

The members of the PCC give thanks & prayers to God for their service during the past year & to be granted the privilege to continue for the year ahead.

Finance Report for the year to 31st December 2020 (5)

2020 was, as we all know, severely impacted by Coronavirus which affected not just the way we went about our daily lives, but also how we could meet for corporate worship and social events. The pandemic meant the closure of all our buildings in March and whilst we were able to return to St Peters, for Sunday services, the congregation allowed was much reduced to adhere to social distancing regulations. From April onwards the Parish Centre has only been used by Zac's, on an ad hoc basis, when Government guidelines allowed.

All of this has had a knock-on effect on the Parish finances, which I will detail later, although thanks to the faithful giving of God's people across the parish we have been able to meet our obligations in all areas, apart from the Parish share. Regarding the share we have still been able to pay £110,000, 70% of that requested, a shortfall of £46,000.

The accounts for 2020 show that the offerings and donations decreased at each of the four churches, resulting in a total decrease across the Parish of £22,800 (around 9.5%). The primary cause was the closure of the church buildings resulting in the loss of the plate collections and the associated Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme income. The reduced income was partly offset by donations received online through the CAF Donations facility added to the parish website. Rental income for the Parish Centre has also fallen due to the enforced closure meaning overall income was £42,348 below 2019 levels, accounting for the reduced share contribution.

Support for our National and International Mission work remains strong. Income did fall, by around £5,800, which again was due to the building closures and the resulting loss of the plate collections on 'World Focus Sundays'. Donations to our mission partners increased in 2020 to £47,610 a much-needed resource as, like ourselves, their income is under pressure due to the pandemic. The N&IM reserves remain strong and sufficient to support the commitments made for 2021.

The direct donations to support both the Youth Minister and the CAP centre do not cover the full costs of these ministries, both of which are led by salaried members of the Parish ministry team. The reserves for these funds have been used to support the ministries through 2020 and additional income needs to be generated in 2021 to cover the salary costs. The PCC are looking at all options available for this including grant applications through Chell Perkins, who have proved highly effective in securing grants for the Repair and Build projects. My thanks go to Shirley Clark and Cath Hargraves have agreed to prepare the grant applications under the guidance of Chell Perkins.

Expenditure of £16,310 was incurred from the Repair and Build for the Future fund primarily for site investigations, professional fees connected to planning and Faculty Applications and fund-raising costs connected to grant applications. At the end of 2020, the balance held in the fund amounted to £72,721. This though only gives a fraction of the picture and, as recently announced, due to the success of the grant applications and the amazing response to the December appeal, we have now reached the target of £320,000 required to fund the glazed links and new entrance between the church and the lounge. Whilst Chell Perkins have guided us through the grant application process there has been a substantial amount of time and effort invested in putting the applications together and for this I am extremely grateful to Roy Attwood.

Whilst on the face of it 2020 was not the ideal year to become Treasurer of St Peters Parish, I can only say that it has been a privilege to see at first-hand how our gracious God, through this community of believers and beyond, continues to provide the resources needed to continue his work in the community.

I would like to thank all those who have provided me with the support and encouragement needed to carry out this role, in particular:-

Peter Caffrey for bringing me up to speed with the intricacies of the way finance works across the parish and for the foresight to install a computerised accounting and online banking system. Without either of these our ability to operate under the Covid restrictions would have been severely limited.

Elian Winstanley for acting as interim Treasurer in the months between when Peter stood down and I was able to take over.

Paul Gray for his online technical expertise enabling the Parish to make full use of the CAF Donate facility.

Amanda Blease for her work, as Parish Business Manager, both in her day-to-day staff management role and her support of the finance team.

Elaine Vincent, in her role as Parish Finance Administrator, for maintaining detailed accounting records, close monitoring of income and expenditure and her willingness to adapt to accommodate the changing Covid regulations.

The Treasurers at the sister churches Dave Park at Barrow Bridge, Val Beasley at Smithills and Bruce Sibanda at St Andrews and also Geoff Gunshon for his work on the National & International Mission accounts.

The banking team of Sheila Bateson, Dave Willescroft and Roy Schofield for their help prior to the lockdown starting.

The sides people, especially Jennifer Hulme and Ray Unsworth for their continuing support.

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2021 (6)

As a church, we have both a legal and moral responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of children and adults with care and support needs. This commitment is fully shared by the Church of England nationally and by the Diocese. The Diocese formally approved and published a new, comprehensive Handbook of Policy and Procedures entitled "Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk" in 2016 (last revised in 2017) which can be viewed on the Diocesan web-site (<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/safeguarding>). This document was formally adopted by our PCC in January as our Safeguarding Policy and copies are displayed at each of our worship centres. Group leaders in particular should ensure that they have read and understood the document and fully comply with the policies and procedures therein.

During the COVID pandemic the Diocese kept us informed of new safeguarding guidelines. I am grateful to Sarah Saxon and her team for their willingness to embrace and develop the guidelines so that they could continue to have meetings, mostly over Zoom, with the young people in a safe environment during lockdown.

We continue to use the Church of England Safeguarding Handbook. It stipulates that any adults working with children or adults at risk should have been checked under the Government's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This check needs to be updated every five years. In addition, they are required to attend refresher training at least every three years. We also require new volunteers to provide two references who will testify to their good character. The DBS check is required even if volunteers have been checked by another organisation or agency such as their employer.

Each fellowship within the Parish has its own safeguarding representative who can perform tasks such as checking identity documents. These are as follows:

Fellowship	Representative
St Peter's	Cath Hargraves
Smithills	Jill Jones
Barrow Bridge	Nicola Caffrey
St Andrews Hope Centre	Chris Winstanley

I would like to extend my thanks to Paul Gray for his technical assistance so that I could update our record-keeping systems to ensure that we comply with current safeguarding guidance. I keep records of when DBS certificates need renewing and these have been updated as required.

It's now three years since our last Safeguarding training session with the Diocese. Because we've been unable to hold in-person training, we have been using the Church of England on-line training modules. Which are currently being completed by those who need to do them.

If you have a concern and would like to discuss a safeguarding issue, please contact me directly on 01204 844313 or by email to childprotection@stpetersparish.info.

Finally, may I extend a huge thank you all of our volunteers for their co-operation and commitment in ensuring that we uphold the highest standards of protection for the people we come into contact with.

Chris Winstanley

Parish Safeguarding Officer

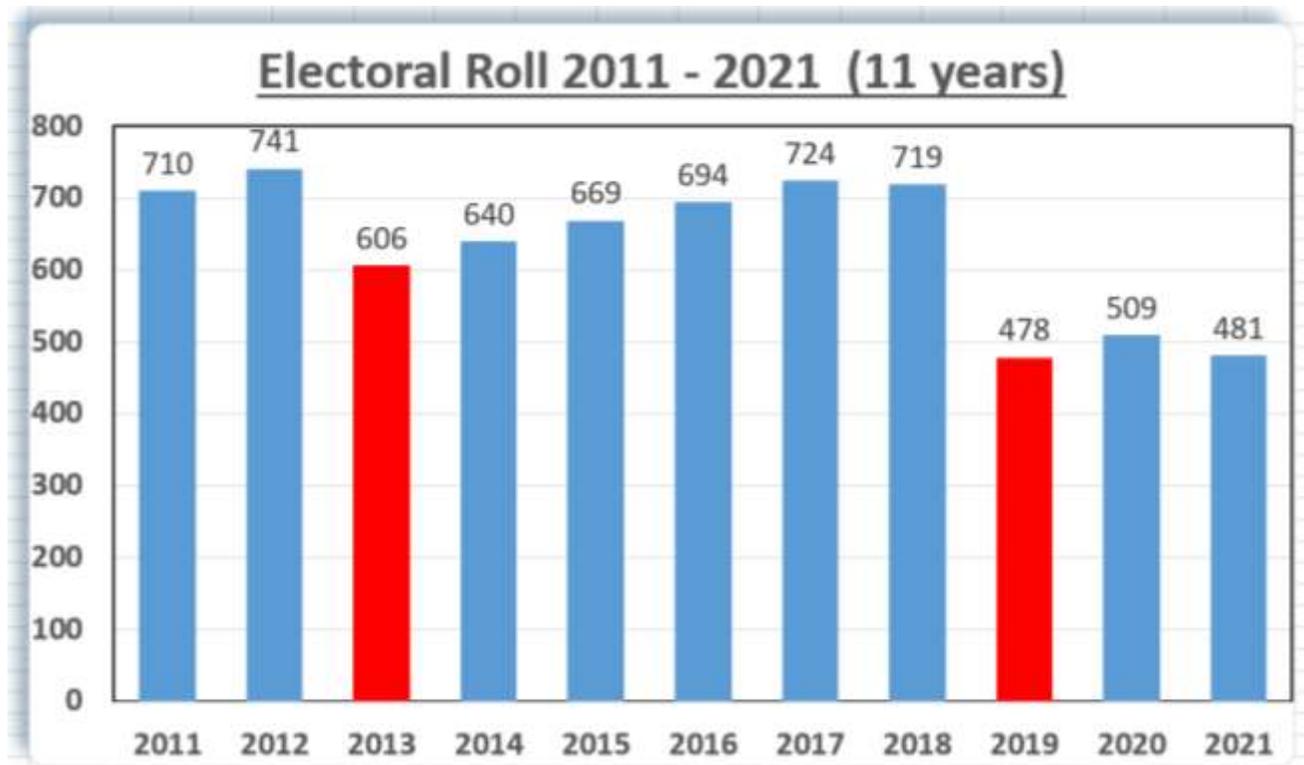
Electoral Roll Report for APCM May 2021 (7)

There are presently **481** people on the Electoral Roll for the Parish.

A breakdown by church as follows:

Affiliation	Resident in Parish	Non-Resident	Total
Barrow Bridge	56	22	78
Smithills	73	27	100
St. Andrews	11	15	26
St. Peters	122	155	277
Total	262	219	481

11 year profile



Red indicates a full revision of the Electoral Roll was carried out that year.

The most accurate figures are therefore those shown in red.

In the six years from 2013 to 2019 membership fell by 128 or 21%.

Deanery Synod Report for APCM 2021 (8)

Representatives on Deanery Synod in 2020-21: David Brae, Stephen Brierley (Deanery Budget Secretary), Peter Caffrey, Dave Cieszynski, Shirley Clark, Paul Hardingham, Jean Mort and Craig Vincent.

Introduction

Deanery Synod has met less frequently this year due to Covid-19. The meetings usually comprise of a presentation from a guest speaker (to which any one is welcome); news from the host church; reports from Diocesan and General Synods and local matters from the Area Dean (presently Rev Chris Bracegirdle but he will be replaced in the new reorganisation). Some issues that were relevant to us at St Peters are summarised below:

Deanery Structure and 'Missional Communities'.

The new Deanery Structure (which reduces the number of Deaneries from 20 to 7 and employs a new Area Dean for each amalgamated area) will come into effect in June 2021. This will mean that Bolton Deanery will merge with 2 others (Deane and Walmesley). The Area Dean for Bolton will be Rev Simon Cook who will start on 1st June.

There are plans to place all churches in 'Missional Communities' sharing resources and working closely together on projects. Each will be run by one of the local ministers who will coordinate the work of the local C of E churches. More information can be found on the Manchester Diocesan website, although questions remain (such as who will be in charge of the Missional Community St Peters will be in, what will they do etc). St Peters would be in a group with ASTLEY BRIDGE, ST PAUL, BELMONT, and half of WEST BOLTON team.

Diocesan Finance

There has been a 25% drop in the number of 'practicing Anglicans' in the Manchester diocese in the last 5 years. It costs £46,000 for the diocese to supply a vicar and 97 parishes in the diocese have congregations less than 25. Last year Manchester Diocese overspent by £2.5million. Closure of church services due to Coronavirus has further reduced the amounts churches have been paying in Parish Share so significant cost-cutting measures are needed. For example, it is planned to reduce the number of paid clergy in the Diocese from 199 to 160. This could be done by not replacing clergy immediately when they leave their parishes, each member of the clergy looking after more churches etc.

Canon Slade Governor

David Brae was elected to become a governor of Canon Slade School.

Wardens Report – APCM May 2021 (9)

Introduction

2020/2021 has been an especially busy and challenging year for the churchwardens. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic generated a great deal of additional work in the form of keeping up to date with government restrictions, attending various Diocesan meetings, preparing risk assessments, live streaming our services, updating our parish web site etc. We have also tried to maintain momentum on the various maintenance and enhancement projects even though progress has been slower than we would have liked as a result of the public health situation. The following summarises the activities during the year.

Build and Repair for the Future

Tower

- The Faculty application for the tower repairs was submitted and has been duly approved by the Diocese.
- A pre-tender estimate (PTE) was commissioned to provide an idea of the likely costs involved and this came to about £350,000.
- The primary source of funding for this type of project on a Grade II listed building is the Heritage lottery Fund. Unfortunately, this has essentially been closed due to COVID and we currently await its re-opening.

New Modern Entrance and Glazed Links

- After a great deal of design work and various surveys and inspections, the faculty application for a modern south entrance and link corridors has been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Board. During the year a funding appeal was made together with grant applications. We are now delighted to share we have raised £165,000 from the church family and a further £155,000 from grants, meaning the work can now go ahead. A major grant contributor was Viridor Credits Environmental who will provide £100,000 of funding.
- A contractor has been selected and project planning discussions are underway. It is hoped work will begin in June.

East Window

- Research has revealed that our East Window was designed by Thomas Willement who was one of the most successful of England's early 19th century stained-glass artists. Therefore, whilst it is in very poor condition, it has considerable provenance and will probably need to be restored rather than replaced.
- The PCC commissioned a specialist report on the condition of the window which confirmed that it is in poor condition and in need of major restoration work.
- A faculty for this restoration is expected in June and it is hoped the majority of the cost of c£20,000 will be met by specialist grant funders.

Fundraising

- The Wardens, along with Roy Attwood, our Partnerships Manager, have worked extensively with Chell Perkins Ltd (<https://www.chellperkins.com/>) who are a Christian company specialising in charity fundraising. This relationship has proven to be very successful and we look forward to working with Chell on a number of projects.
- Cath Hargraves and Shirley Clark are continuing to work with Chell with the aim of obtaining grants to help support our Youth Minister and CAP Centre ministries.

- The PCC determined that grants could be sought from the Heritage Lottery fund for the tower repairs, as this is now the major source of funding for heritage buildings. However, the heritage lottery funding streams have been closed until at later in 2021 due to COVID-19. Even when they restart accepting applications, we have been advised that the possibility of successfully obtaining grants from Heritage Funds is negligible, as they will focus on funding organisations who are likely to become bankrupt as a result of COVID-19, leaving the buildings in their care to deteriorate. Consequently, we have temporarily suspended work on applications for the Tower works, focusing on the new south entrance and glazed link corridors.
- The Wardens would like to thank Roy for the incredible amount of work he has put into the fundraising effort to date.

Church

Pathway Illumination

- Three LED floodlights have been installed to illuminate the pathways and graveyard to the north side of church. These were first used to good effect for the outdoor carol service in December 2020.

Carpeting

- A group from The Leadership Team and PCC has met to discuss floor covering in church and a Faculty application was made but rejected. However, we have now identified a contractor with extensive experience in church carpeting and are working with them to develop a new faculty application.

COVID-19 response

- The Wardens have continually reviewed the current guidance from the government, the Church of England and Bolton Council to ensure that we are fully compliant. The Wardens would like to thank our church family for their understanding, patience and compliance as we all cope with these restrictions.
- The Wardens have also attended various webinars organised by the Diocese and hosted by the Bishop of Bolton and the Archdeacons. The agenda covered topics such as: closure of buildings for worship, care of buildings, finance implications, implications for corporate worship, website information details, APCM and Archdeacons' visitations, churchwardens training etc.
- Risk assessments have been prepared for our various buildings including St Peter's Church, the Parish Centre, Smithills Chapel, the Hope Centre and Barrow Bridge Mission. Our thanks go to the leadership teams in the sister churches for their assistance in this.
- We have updated our website to support the lockdown situation. This has included a revised home page, the addition of sections covering Sunday Live (with Catchup), Thought for the Day, prayer, Preacher's Notebook and more.
- An online donation facility has been added to the Parish website. This offers three options – General Fund, Repair and Build for the Future, National & International Ministry, CAP and Youth Ministry.
- A booking system enabling worshippers to reserve seats at our in-person services was developed and is available on our web site.
- While our church buildings were closed, we have livestreamed a service weekly over Zoom.
- Thanks to a couple of generous benefactors, we have been able to design and install a live-streaming solution within St Peter's Church. Our services from the church building restarted in September 2020. Since then, we have added live music and we continue with in-person services. It is intended that live-streaming of at least one service every week will continue indefinitely, and a policy document has been prepared to ensure that privacy and safeguarding requirements are fully complied with.

- The chairs in church were temporarily replaced with plastic chairs from the Parish Centre as a result of difficulties in sanitising the upholstered chairs as they are in a heritage building.
- In church, the chairs have been spaced to allow 1.8m between pods in all directions, as per Diocesan guidelines.

Comms Team

- A 'Comms Team' has been set up. They take responsibility for developing communications across all social media. Additionally, they have received training on the management of the website and now manage this on an ongoing basis.
- After having some issues with bulk email delivery, a new service provider has been engaged and delivery rates are now regularly 100%.

General Maintenance

Church

Bees

- Ben and Colin's work to remove the bees from the organ loft has been more difficult and complex than first envisaged. However, the removal has now been completed successfully and the voids that the bees were occupying has been filled with roof insulation.

Roof Repairs

- Now that the bees have been successfully removed, the roofer has been able to access the vestry roof and carry out repairs.
- Loose slates have been fixed, two new slates fitted, some leadwork re-seated and pointed.
- Undergrowth from the chancel wall has been removed and the wall repointed.

Organ

- The organ has continued to have its 6-monthly service during COVID and thanks go to Rev. Michael Taylor for making regular visits to church to exercise the instrument.

Heritage Open Day

- Following the success of the heritage open days held in 2019, we are planning to hold another one in September this year. Andrew Reid has kindly offered to co-ordinate the planning but would appreciate support from PCC members. As a by-product, such days provide good evidence as to how we are encouraging the local community to engage with their local heritage, which is a requirement of most heritage grant applications.

Graveyard

- There has also been a great deal of work done to keep our churchyard safe and tidy. The Wardens would like to thank Ben Mitchell for his work in this area.
- Several faculties have been applied for and approved covering graveyard maintenance. These include pruning, felling and planting of various trees.
- Ben and Phoebe Mitchell have planted 4 oak saplings that they have grown from acorns taken from the oak at St. Peter's (Smithills Dean) school. This is to replace trees recently removed and formed part of Phoebe's Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- The Wardens have recently been shocked and saddened by the wanton vandalism of memorial headstones in our graveyard. Some of the graves affected are relatively recent and still tended by

local families. The Police were immediately informed. We have sought and received legal advice regarding the PCC's responsibilities in this matter and the PCC will consider what further actions we could take to make good the damage.

Two stonemasons have visited the graveyard to review the damaged headstones with a view to making them safe. We are currently awaiting details but indicative costs are around £500 per headstone to lay them flush to the ground. We have insurance cover for up to £5000 and plan to make a claim once the most serious cases have been identified.

Parish Centre

- The lift in the Parish Centre is now 20 years old and parts are becoming difficult to obtain. A recent repair cost £2038 and £3000 was spent on repairs in 2017. The lift has had a long life due to relatively modest usage but is now in need of replacement. A replacement lift will cost circa £30,000.
- An installation issue has been identified with the Parish Centre heating in that the boiler only fires when hot water is needed, rather than when heating is needed. A modification to the wiring is required to resolve this, and we are currently awaiting a specialist heating electrician to complete this work

St Andrew's AV project

- Members of the Technical Team have completed work on the Hope Centre AV project which includes the installation of large screen monitors and a new sound system.

St Andrews House

- St. Andrew's House became vacant once Oli and his family moved to Bridlington.
- We are pleased that Lindsay and Rachel Flintoff are now renting the house during their time of furlough from their ministry in Thailand.

Clergy

- Our Vicar, Reverend Canon Paul Hardingham plans to retire in September. The churchwardens, together with a small team, have prepared a 'Parish Profile' which will be both a document describing the parish and one describing the role and gifts desired for our next Vicar. Results of a parish-wide survey have been fed into this document.
- The process of advertising and appointing a new Vicar can only begin after Paul has actually retired.

IT and Documents Sub-Committee Report for APCM May 2021 (10)

Paper documents continue to be stored in the Parish Centre Office.

However, electronic documents continue to be stored in the parish-wide Google Drive cloud storage. This is safe and secure. Where appropriate certain files may be shared with specific users. Storage of important files on individual PCs is discouraged for security and safety reasons. Currently about 100 church members have access to at least part of the Google Drive.

A recent failure of a staff desk top PC was painless as all the files were held in the Google Drive, and once the PC had been rebuilt it was business as usual.

Over 100 parish members also have @stpetersparish.info email accounts. Behind the scenes these are actually hosted by Gmail. Use of a professional corporate email address offers the benefits of trustworthiness, branding, spam filtering, security, privacy, backup, accountability and business impression.

In response to COVID, video streaming equipment was purchased. This was made possible by two generous donations designated for this purpose. Church services are now streamed to Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. The average number of households connecting for the live transmission is around 180. The services remain available on the YouTube platform for later viewing.

Also, in response to COVID and the changing needs of our website, several web developments have been made.

- Bulk emails delivered directly from the electoral roll and now provided by Amazon Web Services and we are now seeing a 100% delivery success to the 400 members who elect to receive our communications.
- An online booking system for church services has been developed. It is able to account for the social distancing requirements of attendee groupings and managing seating allocation accordingly.
- An online donation system has been developed with CAF Bank and this allows card donations to various parish accounts.
- A subscription service to “Preacher’s Notebook” has been developed to which users can sign up for free.
- A new home page to the website has been developed to support communication with our fellowship and beyond.
- A safeguarding database has been developed to support our legally required safeguarding processes.
- The website also offers links to our catch-up online services, social media sites and the latest COVID guidelines.
- Three members of the Comms Team have been trained in the website content management system and are able to update and modify webpages.

CAP Report for APCM May 2021 (11)

2020 was, of course, a year that none of us wants to go through again. January to March should have been fairly 'normal' but CAP was in the middle of their 'Time to Breathe' period so no new clients were taken on between October 2019 and January 2020. The reasons were varied and complex but essentially the high demand for the CAP service meant that, month on month, their workload was 37% more than their Debt Operations teams were able to handle. They needed 'space' to give the proper care to their current clients. Then from February onwards we were only taking on 2 clients per month instead of the usual 4.

During this period we focused our energy on social and evangelistic initiatives and ran a START course and Alpha course before lockdown, and Café Church, along with the Coffee Room and the Well, offered a safe place for clients to come and explore faith and find friendship.

The pandemic brought client visits to an abrupt end and Sam was furloughed for 3 weeks while CAP adapted their processes to an online model. This proved to work well with those clients who were able to organise their paperwork, but we lost 4 clients partly because we could not give them the same face-to-face support. We had 17 clients on first 'visits' and 13 of those worked well with us and moved forward on a CAP plan. This is half the usual number. Despite a difficult year, we thank God for the 21 clients who went debt-free in 2020 - our second largest number of debt-free clients in one year!

We continued to look after and bless our 'long term' clients, many of whom were impacted detrimentally by the pandemic. ACTS 435 requests, food parcels, Easter gifts, loneliness packs, cleaning buckets filled with products, and Christmas gifts were distributed by the CAP team, along with some fabulous Christian literature to offer hope and comfort. The genuine gratitude of our clients was captured on video for our special 10 year anniversary CAP Sunday in November. We launched the Climb Any Mountain Challenge as part of our celebration. Please do read our 10 year journey booklet if you missed it in November:

<https://www.stpetersparish.info/documents/10th%20Anniversary%20Booklet%20v2.pdf>

We look forward to the future as lockdown eases and it is possible to welcome more clients into the Centre. We are grateful for the financial support of many in the parish, and welcome all offers of support in prayer, as support workers or financially. Thank you.

Sam Wolstencroft

Youth and Children's Ministries - APCM Report May 2021 (12)

To start, I, as youth minister would like to thank the leadership in the parish, the vicar and the wardens for deciding not to furlough this role. The youth minister has continued to work full time throughout the pandemic and 2020, and I believe this communicates to the whole church and the local community just how valuable this ministry is, and recognises the support young people have needed during a very difficult year.

All of the youth team, and most of the children's leaders, have also continued to volunteer throughout the year, serving faithfully, courageously and creatively when our normal means of connection were taken away.

Online Sessions

Within a few weeks, risk assessments and policies were written, and as many youth and children's sessions as possible went online- many increasing their commitment to weekly if they were bi-weekly before, and running through school holidays at first to give some routine and stability to the young people. There was a significant loss of numbers, (reflected nationally in statutory youth work as well as church based youth ministry), however for some young people the online platforms were less intimidating than in person, and they were able to thrive there, and develop positive relationships and have meaningful conversations.

Doorstep Visits and Detached Work

When restrictions started to ease a little in the summer, alongside the continued online engagement, the team visited 160 young people from the Tread and Johnson Fold Youth Clubs, and any known year 6s across the parish, on their doorsteps. They took goody bags, listened to their experience of lockdown, met family members, and invited them to the online youth clubs, events and church services.

In Johnson Fold there were an additional 50 Christmas gift deliveries in December 2020, and The Real Easter Eggs, containing copies of the Easter story, were delivered in March 2021. Since July last year the team have been walking round the estate once a week, safely connecting with any young people out on the streets, encouraging them to stay safe, and being a consistent prayerful presence in the area.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Even though all the expeditions had to be postponed, many of the young people still participated in the Award throughout 2020. They have been contributing to charities and their communities, and looking after their physical and mental health and wellbeing throughout the different sections of the Award.

Some examples from young people in the parish include: dancing lessons over Zoom, basketball skills in their back garden, dog walking for neighbours who are self-isolating, baking cakes as gifts for neighbours, running the AV at church, debating and communication skills in discipleship groups and regularly practising musical instruments.

Young people have continued to sign up for the Award during this last year, and it serves young people in our community, but also it is highly successful in engaging young people aged 14 – 18 in meaningful ways in the worshipping community of St. Peter's Parish.

Fusion University Preparation Course and Holiday Events

We were able to run the Fusion Student Link Up course in person in September between lockdowns. This course helps prepare young people for faith and life at university – helping them explore the culture and the opportunities at university, and to think about who they are and how they identify with their faith before they start there.

Bolton was in and out of lockdown more than most last year, so it was difficult to plan anything, but when we could we made the most of meeting safely in person - watching some of the cancelled summer youth festivals on the big screen together, having a Christmas event, summer picnics, and the youth band met again to record some worship songs to be streamed during the Sunday morning services.

Children's Events

On the 31st October we were still able to celebrate our Light Party - even if separately in our own homes! Excellent party bags were designed and assembled- including treats, games, crafts and prayer activities- and were collected by families at church to do together at home.

Our very different year of youth and children's ministry ended with quite the finale - our very own film - *A NortherNativity!* It starred 18 children and young people, and retold the Christmas story of Jesus being born, in modern day Bolton. The exceptionally talented members of the team who filmed and edited this have continued to use the creative medium of film to engage children and young people in worship at church, such as Easter dramas and sung worship music.

Thank you to those who committed to support this ministry prayerfully and financially through a difficult year, we thank God for the positive impact you are having on the youth and children in the parish and beyond, and for enabling the teams to serve.

St. Peter's Parish Centre report for the APCM May 2021 (13)

As I review a quite extraordinary year, I am pleased to report that, up until lockdown in March, we had our usual full and varied programme of activities taking place in the Parish Centre.

Examples of just some of the regular sessions that took place in the first quarter of the year include our Toddler Groups, Open Door, The Well, Stressbusters, TREAD, BOOM, LIGHThouse, Connect groups, a Recovery group, Café Church and a Faith Pictures course. As always, my sincere thanks and gratitude go to the clergy and amazing team of leaders and volunteers who so generously give of their time to enable all this activity to take place at the Centre.

External hirers used the Centre for Singing for the Brain (Alzheimer's Society), aerobics and pilates, INTERACT (school of performing arts), Sweaty Mamas and Church Road School PE sessions too. Manchester Diocese again held their Foundations for Ministry course and an ALM event here. The BREATHE conference (a gathering for youth workers) also returned for a second time, following on from the success of the previous year. It was great to also be able to welcome a couple of new activities – Baby Bloom and a ballet workshop – who started their sessions in January. However, once lockdown hit, all activity stopped overnight with only Zak's Childcare (a long-term hirer, since 2015) using the Parish Centre for childcare provision for keyworkers and their before/after school and holiday club - as and when permitted under government restrictions, in compliance with risk assessments - and they effectively remained the sole users of the Centre for the most part of the year. From the first lockdown, with the Centre in effect closed, the decision was also taken to furlough our caretaker, Lewis, throughout most of the year.

Aside from the obvious effect of the loss of all this activity and opportunity for fellowship, discipleship, friendship and coming together as a community in the Parish Centre, the inevitable financial impact of loss of hire income has been significant. It is now also clear that, for a number of reasons, some activities that took place prior to March 2020 will not be in a position to return to the Parish Centre or may return in due course but in, for example, a different format. I am confident, however, that there will be new opportunities and beginnings that will come to light as I believe and trust in an almighty God who has a great plan for the future use and growth of our Parish Centre. Watch this space!

Amanda Blease, Parish Business Manager



St Peter's School Report for the APCM – May 2021 (14)

It's been a very different year in the life of St Peter's School so far, although we are hoping that after June 21st, some sort of normality will resume. September not only meant school reopening for all children after many had had 6 months off school because of the first lockdown and then the summer holidays, but a new headteacher, me (Matt Harding), thrown into the mix too! It was a challenging first term in many ways, trying to keep school running amongst a backdrop of rising covid infections and bubble closures, but with the support of the staff, parents, governors and the Forward as One Trust, we had a successful first term and only two Bubbles have had to close so far. Although we couldn't run school as normal, we tried to keep as much as possible the same, so our PE coaches came in to lead PE, we had peripatetic music lessons and St Peter's clergy came in to lead Worship on Tuesdays, although they could only meet with two socially distant classes at a time.

The majority of meetings were via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, break times and lunchtimes were staggered so class bubbles didn't mix, statutory tests were cancelled and as few visitors as possible, including parents, were kept out of school. Nothing like a normal school experience, but one that was unfortunately necessary.

The Spring term started with the government telling us we would be open and then changing their mind 24 hours later! Another lockdown and this time we would be expected to teach remotely. Such is the make-up of our school, that we had a lot of key workers so school was approximately half full during January to March, with teachers teaching half a class in school and half a class at home. It was a difficult and challenging time for teachers and many children alike and we were relieved to finally get to March 8th when we could reopen again to all. Since then, school has settled down. We've coped with everything Covid has thrown at us and survived, so can finally now put that to one side and focus on ensuring the children have the best experience for the rest of this year.

One thing that as a school community we have focused on this year has been our vision. Having worked with all stakeholders we have crystallized our vision for children at St Peter's to 'Let Your Light Shine' - in whatever way that means: academically, personally, sportingly, spiritually and/or creatively! Our school values of love, hope, respect, trust and thankfulness drive everything we do and embedding these is a key focus for this year and beyond. Your support and prayers for St Peter's School remain vitally important and we are always thankful for them and you.

Barrow Bridge Mission Report for the APCM May 2021 (15)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty.

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the Living God.

Psalm 84 1-12:

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young-- a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob. Selah

Look upon our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one. Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

The last year has taught us that although we long to be back inside The Mission, the house of God is not where meetings, programmes and social entertainment will be provided but where there is the opportunity to meet with the Living God and although we have not been meeting together in person we are all able to connect with God, through faith.

There have been many challenges because of the closing of the building not least maintaining contact with our fellowship but we have tried to keep in touch through our weekly coffee and chat sessions after the service, use of our Barrow Bridge WhatsApp group and some home visits. At Christmas the Leadership Team hand wrote and delivered Christmas cards to all our fellowship, we knocked on doors in order to have a chat with people! We did the same at Easter but extended it to the surrounding area of The Mission. In the short interval prior to Christmas when we were allowed to sing outside and be in groups of 6 we went socially distanced Carol singing! Advent calendars were delivered to our young people. Sarah Saxon and I also did home visits to our young people and again had a chat on the door step. In addition we moved our "grub tub" out of The Mission on to a driveway so that it was accessible not only to our fellowship but also local residents. This has been a successful move. A number of our congregation have supported Urban Outreach by being on the delivering team each week. Barrow Bridge's connect group has increased it's meeting times from once a fortnight to once a week. It is over 14 months now that the group has been meeting on Zoom and has worked it's way through some diverse studies, from NT Wright's book on Ephesians, trialling a new LICC resource for connect groups to a complex study of Revelation.

Carolyn Rigby.

Smithills Chapel Report for the APCM May 2021 (16)

This report is an update to the report submitted last October 2020 our main goal as a church has been to remain connected to our fellowship and community despite the restrictions of the Virus.

We continued to involve some community activities to keep us connected rather than cancel the Smithills Christmas Market we decided to go on line , many people worked so hard to give us presence in a very different way and other ways to safely collect their purchases , we also coincided this event with the decision to run our own fortnightly Sunday morning Smithills Chapel Catchup via zoom, running before the main St Peters service , this format has worked all the way through to now and we are grateful for the opportunity to connect and that people wish to be part of it , our Smithills Christmas market finished with an outdoor Christmas light switch on , the community really came together and we raised more money than we ever have £12,500 Our God is so Generous.

In December we decided to bring our fellowship together in a very different ways, Christmas Carols in cars, after running the usual risk assessments we entertained 33 Cars on to the Smithills Playground distanced so we could join together outside sing and share in some community.

Other events we have enjoyed included a Pizza Van on the estate, the Great art Exhibition, Easter egg hunts, Easter Sunday another Service in cars we have been so blessed just to keep our church family together and sharing together and continuing to raise money to great causes including the Macmillan Cancer support.

Our mission work both at home and abroad continues to be our focus despite the restrictions and I know like many other churches we have just had to find new ways to connect and do Church. We held our own AGM on line via our fortnightly Zoom Catch up and shared our thanks for all God is continuing to do with our fellowship in Lockdowns. We have also had to again suffer the loss of people in our fellowship and in the new year we have said a sad farewell to Paula Stainthorpe and Dorothy Wood wonderful servants and inspirational ladies to many who knew them.

We look now at the way forward and look at how we are to open up our church buildings in time and the new ways we will be doing God's Church in Smithills.

Smithills Leadership

St. Andrews Church Report for the APCM May 2021 (17)

Prior to the first lockdown in March 2020, all our regular weekly ministry events were continuing as normal with the exception of Storehouse pantry, which had just closed for a break while its future shape and scope, were being considered.

In response to the lockdown caused by Covid 19; and in partnership with Urban Outreach and Bolton at Home, a team from the parish (including a member from (St. Luke's) committed to deliver food parcels around the Johnson fold estate, this was coordinated Sam Wolstencroft

In the early weeks we were making deliveries to around 70 addresses. As the year progressed and the urgent need reduced, the number of deliveries also decreased. During the time of the deliveries there were several opportunities for the team to minister and pray with various individuals we delivered to.

As the food deliveries diminished, the team were also able to assist Johnson fold primary school for a few weeks by delivering packed lunches to those qualifying families who had to isolate due to a positive Covid test.

As a church we circulated encouragement bags to all our members and some extended church attenders every 3 months or so, these coincided with Mothering Sunday, the Summer holidays, Harvest and Christmas.

The building has remained closed since March 2020.

St. Peter's Church Leadership Team report for the APCM - May 2021 (18)

The current members of the Leadership Team are: Amy Lilley (Chair – since Jan 2021), Helen Johnson (Secretary), Paul Hardingham, Kathryn Hardingham, Linda Foster, Keir Simister & Mark Leaver. Miranda Rathmell stood down from chairing the Leadership Team in July 2020; we are very thankful for all that she has done.

Clearly 2020 was a very atypical year for St Peter's and for its Leadership Team. The focus of the Leadership team over the year has been the implications of Covid for our worship and ministries as a church. In addition, we have also done some work to better clarify our remit as a Leadership Team, which has been particularly helpful as lines between St Peter's Parish and St Peter's Church have been increasingly blurred in some areas due to more cross-parish activity arising from Covid.

We had a Ministry Leaders morning in January 2020 to bring together Ministry Leaders to consider how our Mission Action Plan (MAP) should be developed and updated for the coming year. We started to draw this together, but many of the activities and areas of focus proposed for our updated MAP were subsequently put on hold due to Covid and at that point the Leadership Team decided not to do a full MAP update for 2020.

Some highlights of St Peter's Church activity over 2020 have included:

- **Church services:** morning services have been streamed since the first national lockdown in March, in the form of a single cross-parish service. Streaming was initially entirely from homes as the church building was closed, and then streamed from the St Peter's Church building once service leaders could have access. Subsequently a limited congregation (due to social distancing requirements) has returned to church for services - although we anticipate continuing to stream the St Peter's morning service permanently. A donation covered the cost of the AV equipment needed to stream services from church.
- **Youth & Children:** whilst LIGHThouse and Twinklers have not been able to meet in person since March 2020, LIGHThouse leaders have produced regular 'Spotlight' videos and have also had periodic Zoom meetings with families and children on Sunday afternoons. Children connected to Twinklers have had activity packs delivered by leaders to try to maintain connections with our younger church members. Our Youth Minister Sarah Saxon and her team developed a full online program of Youth meetings, in addition to outdoor activities, during the pandemic and has also taken full advantage of periods of restrictions being relaxed to meet face-to-face again.
- **Connect Groups:** many Connect Groups continued meeting virtually and some met more frequently than normal. This complemented the cross-parish local Neighbourhood Church groups set up as a response to the first national lockdown, to provide practical and emotional support in very local areas. These groups have provided opportunities for mission and blessing others in the local area, as well as practical help.

- **Events:** we have not been able to hold in-person events or courses, but many of these have continued via Zoom, including Alpha courses and bible studies. Notably the 'Believe in Bolton' mission, previously planned as a weekend town-wide mission, was held online in May with Bishop Jill Duff speaking, with over 700 YouTube views to date.
- **Christmas:** in addition to many of our 'usual' Christmas services which were both streamed and in-person, open-air Christmas carol services were held in the church grounds, allowing congregational singing and giving an opportunity to draw in our local community. These were popular and we have considered whether this is something we could run annually. 'Blue Christmas' was held in a slightly adapted format to usual and well received.

Whilst the purpose of this report is to reflect on 2020, as a Leadership Team we are actively planning for a return to the 'new normal' including what that might look like for our worship and ministries.