

ELECTORAL ROLL – Norah Tattersall, Electoral Roll Officer

The electoral roll at last year’s postponed APCM opened with 142 members. Since then, two people on the roll have died and there have been no further additions.

The number on the roll at this year’s APCM is therefore 140.

Applications to join or re-join the roll open again at the end of the APCM.

PROCEEDING OF THE PCC 2020 – Following the postponed APCM in October last year the following were members of the PCC:

Rev’d Lizzie Hood, Incumbent and Chair	
John Walker, Churchwarden	Karen Ball, Churchwarden
Martin Chapman, Treasurer	Pauline Lindsey, Safeguarding Officer
Tim Bourne, Lay Reader	Linda Cooke, Secretary
Norah Tattersall, Electoral Roll Officer	Mike Hawtin, Deputy Churchwarden
Kathy Perry, Deputy Churchwarden	
Cathy Ayling	Charles Baker
Beverley Burgess	Miles Cooksey
Colin Gage	Chinyanta Nkonkomalimba
Suzanne Nkonkomalimba	Gillian Redman

At the November PCC meeting, Martin Chapman was re-appointed as Treasurer, Mike Hawtin and Kathy Perry as Deputy Churchwardens, Karen Ball as Health and Safety Officer and everyone on the Electoral roll was appointed as a sidesperson. Gillian Redman was appointed as our representative on Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead and Tim Bourne and Mike Hawtin to the Benefice Team Council. Linda Cooke continued as Secretary.

At our May meeting we sadly said goodbye to the Rev’d Maxine Howarth and thanked her for all she had contributed to the Parish. Rev’d Jos Perris was welcomed as a member of the PCC in February 2021, following her installation as Associate Priest.

All PCC members are DBS checked and undertake safeguarding training.

The PCC’s remit covers all aspects of the running of the church, with the exception of individual pastoral cases. It meets every other month, when it receives reports from the Rector, the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and the Safeguarding officer. During the year policy documents were considered and revised in respect of Safeguarding, Lone Working, Risk Assessments and Health and Safety. From May last year meetings have no longer been held in the Trinity Room but on Zoom. Attendance has been high. Early in 2020 we considered a large programme of future events, many of which were of course unable to proceed because of Covid restrictions, whilst those that did had to be re-thought and most delivered on line.

Covid restrictions have impacted on all Parish activities. Restrictions began in March 2020 and the first lockdown started on 23 March, with relaxation to the rules beginning in May. Churches were closed by law and Holy Trinity did not re-open until July, but with very limited numbers because of the requirement for social distancing. The second lockdown began on 31 October and lasted four weeks and the third on 4 January 2021, with schools re-opening on 8 March as the first step in relaxation. The church closed voluntarily in early January, because of the high levels of infection and shortage of volunteers to make opening the church safe, and re-opened on Easter Sunday, but again with restricted numbers. Social distancing requirements have prevented groups from meeting in person throughout.

The PCC has had to consider how to manage church services safely, whilst trying to reach out to as many people as possible, so services have been on line, even when the church was open, and this will continue. Lizzie arranged for printed service sheets (a Service of the Word), bulletins and a weekly printed letter to be delivered to those who did not have access to on line facilities. We approved the purchase of new audio visual equipment in church, which was installed in January and which has greatly improved the quality of on line delivery.

We are grateful to all who work, largely unsung, to support all the work of the church. This year we are particularly grateful to the technical wizards who have managed to bring church services to our screens at home - Ali Hood, Tom Hood, Miles Cooksey, Mike Hawtin and Terry Perry.

The PCC works on behalf of you, its Parishioners. If you have any questions about its work. or would like a matter raised at a PCC meeting, please do contact one of the PCC members.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT – As Safeguarding Officer, I have reported to every PCC meeting with information about Disclosure and Barring clearance and training. Everyone who is involved in work with our children and in visiting parishioners on behalf of the church has received clearance, any whose certificates had expired have all been renewed. Certificates must now be renewed every three years instead of five.

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents within Holy Trinity since the last APCM. Training has been difficult to manage over this past year, there have been some online courses, but these have been oversubscribed. The training and development framework is being changed nationally following consultation and new courses are being designed to reflect this. The annual review of our safeguarding procedures and policies was undertaken at our PCC meeting in March 2021, all were approved and signed off by Lizzie and I. The forms confirming me as Safeguarding Officer are to be approved and signed off at the APCM. All the remaining paperwork for our four folders (LH, PL, metal cabinet in the Vestry and the bookcase in the Alban Room for public access) has all been updated.

A bi-monthly report updating DBS applications and training are given to Lizzie.

Pauline Lindsey

MISSION ACTION PLAN This was most recently fully updated in 2018 and can be found on the St Albans Diocese website. The PCC recognises that an in depth review is required, and held a PCC away day in February 2020, facilitated by Kate Peacock, the Diocesan Church Growth Officer, to start the MAP review process. The PCC considered the characteristics of churches transitioning from one size band to another. Unfortunately Covid restrictions delayed progress on this.

Mike Hawtin

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Primarily **COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL**

Craft Group Our Group of crafty ladies have kept together very successfully through the past year of restrictions and lockdowns using WhatsApp as a means of daily contact. It has not been possible to make items for specific festive dates because of very limited sales opportunities, but we are pleased that some of our items were included on the church pop up stalls in November/December. Some of our members have used their considerable skills in making items for members of the congregation and also to support the NHS. We are thankful for the ongoing friendships of members who also give time to help raise much needed funds for Holy Trinity. Jean Saunders

Friendship Teas We have not been able to meet for the whole of this year because of the pandemic. Hopefully, with conditions improving, we will be able to meet once again in the near future. Pat Driver

Leverstock Green CE (VC) Primary School Foundation Governors As with all schools up and down the country, it has been a tough year. The uncertainty of Covid-19 spreading across the world, the balance between educating and protecting children and families and the need to uphold and support staff well-being has been quite a challenge. The school staff have planned and prepared well for each different scenario and have welcomed back children as quickly as possible. Last Summer term, not only did Reception, Years 1 and 6 return immediately, but all the other classes had returned by July, with each class split into two and spending half the week in school and half at home. Almost 60 new children were welcomed into Nursery and Reception in September, the first children to enjoy the renovated Early Years garden. During the Autumn term, there was only one positive case of Covid in school and thankfully, no-one else caught it. However, over the Christmas holiday, several staff members were ill with one still unable to return. Today, the children returned and there was not one tear amongst them!

A memorial bench has been installed on the playground for Emily Stockley. In consultation with her family and classmates, it is a butterfly design, made by a local craftsman out of Oak from Ashridge forest; a very fitting tribute to a much missed member of the school.

The school hasn't been able to attend church for over a year now, but worship still continues. Lizzie attends, either in person when the school is fully open, or online when necessary. Worshipping in class bubbles is not the same as coming together as a whole community. Singing in large groups is still not permitted and it is a much-missed part of the school day.

As a voluntary controlled school, RE is taught following the locally agreed syllabus. This is up for revision this year and the local SACRE team is currently consulting with schools on the revisions they would like to see made.

The school continues to be over-subscribed. Despite not being able to show around prospective parents, it still received 106 applications for 30 Reception places this year. With the development of residential properties on the industrial estate, this is adding even greater pressure, as the school becomes the nearest school for an ever-increasing number of families.

The school continues to support the work of Compassion, and sponsors a little girl called Melanie in Peru. Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, the charity is working differently on the ground and letters are not being received from her, although we are told she is safe.

March 2020 sees the school at a pivotal moment. The deputy Headteacher, Heather Clarke, will be retiring at Easter after 21 years. Sadly, that means Bertie, the school therapy dog, has to retire too. The recruitment process is well underway and we hope to provide the community with an update before the end of term.
Terry Perry

Mothers Union Along with many others the Mothers Union members were unable to carry on with their usual programme during the year and we sadly missed our Wednesday Corporate Communion services and our quarterly afternoon meetings. Members have kept in touch by telephone. As to the future, all being well, we look forward to the relaxation of the lockdown restrictions and getting together again.
Eileen Adams

Pastoral Care Group This small team of people supports those who temporarily or on a longer term basis are ill or housebound, or going through any kind of difficulty. This last year has been a challenging one, as home, hospital and care home visits have not been possible, so care has been extended by phone calls, letters, cards, and the occasional doorstep chat. Home Communion have not been possible for most of the year, and we have had to rely on hospital chaplaincy to support inpatients in local hospitals. In November 2020 Pauline Lindsey took on the task of keeping the log of contacts the group has made, for safeguarding purposes. Thanks to the team (Barbara Batten, Pam Batten, Gillian Redman, Saria Dodhia, Tim Bourne, Lizzie Hood).

When COVID restrictions first came in in March 2020, a much wider telephone network of contact was created to keep the whole congregation in touch with one another, and ensure that no-one felt isolated or forgotten. Participation was voluntary, of course, and many have appreciated the regular contact, which has continued long-term throughout the pandemic. Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Sewing Group We have not met for nearly a year. However, we keep in touch and some of our members knit blankets and jumpers at home, though Audrey and Tony Baillie have not been able to collect them. When we return to our regular meetings between 2 and 4 pm on Mondays we will, as always, welcome new members. Madge Field

Social Committee Holy Trinity's social events were planned as usual at the start of 2020. The first event was a Burns Night Supper held on 25th January. The social committee cooked and served Haggis, Neeps & Tatties and Jean Hunter made several delicious Cloutie Dumplings and Cranachan. The haggis was presented accompanied by pipe music and John Walker gave a memorable Address to the Haggis before we toasted it with a wee dram of whisky. We enjoyed our meal while listening to Scottish music, we had a short Scottish Quiz and the evening ended with us all singing to Lizzie playing Flower of Scotland and Auld Lang Syne on the piano. It was a fun evening enjoyed by all.

In February we held a Valentines Tea after the Celebration of Marriage service and a Pancake Tea on Shrove Tuesday afternoon. Sadly apart from a Lent lunch held in March, these were to be the only social events held last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Many thanks to our committee of Jean Britt, Pauline Lindsey and Jenny Chaney and others who offer help. Hopefully we will be able to meet again soon and plan more events later in 2021. Beverley Burgess

Traidcraft It has not been possible to hold our weekly coffee shop in the Trinity Room since the start of the first lockdown. This means that there has also not been a Traidcraft stall for nearly a year; we have recently produced an order form so that we can resume selling Traidcraft products, and look forward to being able to do that in person eventually. We are always happy to accept orders.

In December we began to host a Zoom Coffee Shop each Saturday morning, and that has proved worthwhile, with usually double figures of people present in ones and twos. Tim and Sue Bourne

Trinity Men's Group The group has not met since the first lockdown and the chaps will be glad when it can be up and running again. Sarah Kiesa, Secretary

Trinity Readers The present situation has obviously meant that we have had to make changes to our meetings. The main one, of course, is that we are now using Zoom. Thankfully this has not posed a problem, although our Christmas get together was not quite the jolly occasion it always has been. Leverstock Green Library usually gets copies of books for us. Without this service we have changed tack and have been choosing books by a specific author. One member leads the meeting by telling us interesting facts and biographical details whilst the rest of us have read any book by that author. This has proved very successful, as most people have had different books to talk about and this, in many ways, has given us a broader picture. However, Programme Planning is on the horizon, so during the next few months we may continue this idea or perhaps try a literary genre. Elizabeth Cooper

Trinity Women's Group Report Sadly, along with other Groups we have been unable to meet since January 2020. We are all missing the companionship of being together and hopefully it won't be too long before we will be able to meet in some form again. We have been doing our best to keep in touch and give support where needed. Cathy Ayling

Youth Group The Holy Trinity Youth Group (TYG) leadership team were able to hold one or two socially distanced meetings during 2020, with the discussion focusing largely on wellbeing and

mental health during lockdown. We wish to continue this wellbeing thread in our sessions moving forward, whilst also embracing discussion on current moral issues, ecclesiastical seasons, and naturally aiming to have much fun and games in the process!

The post lockdown recovery plan will be to reinvigorate the leadership team and construct a schedule of regular meetings with engaging content. Our approach will be to “reset the clock” by inviting existing participants to rejoin the group as well as inviting/recruiting newer members. As the age demographic will have shifted somewhat, some existing members may now feel too old to attend whereas younger members of the church family and community may now be keen to join. This will be taken into account when recruiting members and appropriate marketing will be issued to garner interest. An area of development we wish to explore further is our engagement with the school and community, inviting young people are not already directly associated with church or the school to come along and join in.

Miles Cooksey and Marguerite Carpenter-Page

Primarily **FABRIC, FINANCE AND MISSION ACTIVITIES**

Benefice of Langelei Environment Group The General Synod has set out the church’s response to climate change in a document released in February 2020. In the proposal it is striving for churches to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

We have formed an environmental team called The Benefice of Langelei Environmental Team with representatives from all the churches in the Benefice. There are many ways that we can all make a difference to reduce the carbon emissions by making small changes to our lifestyles which we aim to promote within our churches led by worship, within the community by setting good examples, and leading conversations in our various groups within the church.

There are Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Awards which we need to work towards to becoming an Eco Church. At our last PCC meeting it was voted that Holy Trinity becomes an Eco Church. We are looking for someone to head up this team as our Eco or Environmental Officer, who will be able to guide us towards the first level to achieve Bronze.

Cathy Ayling

Charity Report 2020

The 2020 Charity fund was 5% Of our 2020 income – a percentage agreed by the PCC.

We have £4089 to donate from 2020

We have a further £1300 to donate from 2019

The PCC would welcome suggestions for deserving charities to which we might consider donations

During the year we made the following donations:

DENS	£277	Collection in Church
Christians Against Poverty	£500	From 2019 Charity fund
Embrace the Middle East	£500	From 2019 Charity fund
DENS	£1,000	From 2019 Charity fund
Bishop’s Harvest Appeal	£520	From 2019 Charity fund
Christian Aid	£500	From 2019 Charity fund
Action Aid (Gambia)	£260	From 2020 Charity Fund
Rennie Grove Hospice	£107	Lent Lunch profits
Total	£3,664	

Martin Chapman

Children’s Society We were fortunate that the Saturday morning when the boxes were collected in church was two days before the country went into national lockdown. However only about half of the boxes were collected in this way and it was not until June that I was able to collect and bank the

rest of the money. We raised £1,291.02 in all, £100 down on last year, but still a very much appreciated sum. I would like to thank all those who helped to count the box money in March, when we were all beginning to feel the concern of the approaching pandemic. It was much appreciated by me. The 2021 Christingle service proved to be more of a challenge, but Lizzie provided a service on line for the congregation and the sweets etc were collected or delivered to homes. We raised £226.27 for the society, again down on last year, but a very commendable sum in the circumstances.

Pat Driver

Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead Report There has been very little activity recently. I attended very few meetings last year due to personal issues but there was a lively Zoom AGM in February 2021 which was fairly well attended and concentrated on accessible/inaccessible Church not just during lockdown. My full report on this will be published in the next PCC minutes. The Street Pastors are still looking for more volunteers and training will be given, and they are looking for support through donations.

One sincere comment made was that it was much appreciated what Holy Trinity had been doing for Toddler Church during the lockdown.

Gillian Redman

Finance Committee

Due to the closure of the Church for most of the year as a result of the pandemic lockdowns and that fundraising and other events (apart from a few successful table-top sales in the Village Centre) have not been able to take place, the Church Finance Committee has largely been in abeyance over the past 12 months. However, members of the Committee have been available to support the Treasurer informally as and when required.

Under two innovations this year, the SumUp Card Reader acquired shortly before the pandemic occurred and the introduction of online giving have proved especially valuable during the lockdown phases and, as highlighted in Martin's report, we received a bonus of £4000 by changing our bank account from RBS to Santander as part of the national promotion for diversifying bank accounts.

Looking to the future, the Finance Committee has recommended to the PCC that we should register with the Charity Commission. Legally, under The Charities Act 2011, all Church of England parishes are charities, and all the members of the PCC are the charity trustees. Normally, any charity with an annual income in excess of £5000 is required to register with the Charity Commission. However, under The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 any church with an annual income below £100,000 is deemed to be an excepted charity and given a dispensation from registration. This dispensation expires on 31st March 2021 but has been extended by the Government to 2031, although all excepted charities are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Whilst we have been bordering on the threshold for the last couple of years, Holy Trinity's annual income has exceeded £100,000 for the first time in 2020 because of the substantial legacies received during the year. The Charity Commission has a discretion to waive the requirement for an excepted church to register if it is convinced that exceeding the £100,000 threshold is a one-off event unlikely to be regularly repeated, but in view of the encouragement to register contained in the latest time extension, it seems likely they will be less inclined to exercise this discretion in future. There is a small element of additional administrative work involved in registering but having registered status with a registered charity number can often be helpful when making applications for grants and other benefits. Several other parishes in our Deanery with a higher annual income than Holy Trinity are already registered and do not appear to experience any problems from registration. The Finance Committee therefore considered on balance we should register rather than seek the Charity Commission's waiver, and the PCC agreed with this recommendation. An application to register will be submitted to the Charity Commission shortly after the holding of the APCM when the PCC membership has been finalised for 2021/22.

Colin Gage

Fund Raising Group The Fund Raising group started last year with a few spontaneous volunteers from the PCC.

Like many charities and organisations the lockdown has devastated the income that keeps our doors open so a concentrated fund raising group was formed until we return to “normal”.

We had a total of 4 impromptu pop up sales at Leverstock Green Village Centre - one in October on the wettest day of the year that was ever recorded in the UK, and 3 in December and were able to raise over £1500. The main source of income was from the wonderful goods that our very active and talented craft group sewed/knitted/made together with sale of chutneys/jams/marmalade, jigsaws, church merchandising and other items – including an impressive and very successful raffle of an M&S hamper organised by Kathy and Terry Perry. As soon as we are able we will have another pop up stall.

We are currently organising Mothering Sunday Tea Boxes which will be filled with all sorts of delicious sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and jam and homemade cakes and I am delighted to say that we have orders for 50 which will be delivered on Sunday 14th March.

We have a jigsaw library of over 30 puzzles and a selection can be brought round to you (and collected at a later date) for you to choose one or two and would be grateful for a small donation to church funds.

Other ideas included a Churchyard table top sale, Quiz evening, Tea in the Rectory Garden – when we are allowed to gather – and a Christmas Bazaar in Church on 4th December.

Gillian Redman

Publicity Group We would normally meet 3 times a year to plan the publicity of our special services, social events and festivals to raise awareness in the community of all our activities and fundraising events. We use various methods to get our publicity ‘out there’ with posters, banners, leaflets, Facebook, various websites, the weekly bulletin and quarterly newsletters. Last year we only met together once due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Holy Trinity closed its doors for several months, probably for the first time, however the porch remained open, Lizzie left reading materials there for people who felt the need to visit, particularly the lonely and bereaved. Lizzie and the churchwardens made sure the noticeboards were kept updated during this time. Thanks to Lizzie, Tom and Ali, Holy Trinity’s services were successfully launched on to YouTube, our Sunday services and compline were available to a new wider audience, participating in their own homes and available to watch on Facebook at anytime.

Beverley Burgess

Team Council The Team Council exists to deal with those matters which concern all four churches in the team. It consists of the clergy and representatives of each church, and meets three times a year; during lockdown meetings have continued by Zoom. It oversees benefice finances, and organises the annual benefice service, and occasional benefice social events. In the last year the agenda has also included the benefice web site and newsletter.

Tim Bourne

Primarily **WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Baptisms Covid restrictions has meant there have been none in the past year. Kathy Perry

Children’s Praise Children's Praise usually meets quarterly on a Sunday afternoon for lively, fun worship appropriate for young children and their families, followed by tea and chats. We had one meeting in February, but sadly this was an activity not permitted under COVID regulations, so no further meetings took place in 2020. The attendees have not been forgotten, though, and regular email contact and phone calls have been maintained.

Rev’d Lizzie Hood

Flowers We have not arranged flowers as such over the past year. However, Wendy Honour has ensured that we have had flowers in church when it has been open and she is marvellous! Hopefully, over the coming months, we can reinstate the flower rota.

Debbie Dix

Horseshoe Study Group We finished studying our book in February, and look forward to the challenge of a new text when we meet again.
Frances Lawson

Junior Church & Youth Activities The Junior Church and Trinity Youth Group lessons have not been running in person since January 2020. Unfortunately, it was not possible for us to offer livestreamed children's services either during this time for a number of reasons, including access to the required technology, staff reallocation to support live streaming of church services as well as the majority of the youth leadership team also being parents and having the addition of home-schooling duties (plus holding down full-time jobs!).

Subsequently, the team has attempted to maintain periodic contact with church families throughout the pandemic with best endeavours, in the following ways:

Distribution of the weekly Children's Ministry News email which includes articles and video lessons for children to follow at home. This is produced by the Diocesan Children's Ministry team and provides high quality and engaging content appropriate to the ecclesiastical season.

Distribution by email of reference and learning resources. This document included links to CofE websites and YouTube videos as well as other craft and practical learning activities suitable for a broad age range.

Direct email contact with families to keep in touch and offer support.

Provision of a gift (wrapped book) and Christmas card from the whole Junior Church team to each child during Advent.

Additionally, we are looking into potential options for a remote Good Friday Workshop activity, using online channels and resources to support the teachings of the Easter story.

Whilst the above falls short of traditional commitment to youth ministry provision at Holy Trinity, we will endeavour to fully re-engage with church families as soon as is safely possible. The team remain committed to this task and look forward to welcoming the children back to Junior Church in due course.
Miles Cooksey

Music and Meditation We began the new year by continuing our journey through "Acts", using words and music to assist our meditations. Then we enjoyed our usual coffee and chat.

Frances Lawson

Nurture and Growth Team As with many church activities, the work of the Nurture and Growth Team has been somewhat limited this past year!

The team met on 18th January 2021 to consider what provision for Lent would be this year. We wanted to include as many people as possible whilst not being able to meet in person. We decided to purchase the Church of England's Live Lent booklets and to distribute them free of charge to everyone on the Electoral Roll and pastoral list. The booklets contain short daily bible readings, reflections and a weekly activity. We also offered a weekly discussion group on Zoom which was led by Lizzie.
Norah Tattersall

Toddler Church Toddler Church met every Thursday morning for the first quarter of 2020, under Maxine's leadership. We had a good number of regular babies, tots, Mums, Grans and carers - the size of the Trinity Room limits our capacity, and the decibel level can be a challenge! The worship time was led by Lizzie, Tim, and Maxine; Mandy Pegg led the craft activities and joined Wendy Honour in the kitchen for very welcome drinks and biscuits. Gillian was also helping on alternate weeks.

When lockdown began in March, 'TC' was suspended, and Maxine moved on in May. Tim and Lizzie have 'indulged their inner child' with weekly TC sessions live on Facebook from their homes. At times we feel a little like Joyce Grenfell, talking and singing to camera! And every session opens with the welcome song which addresses every child by name - it's a bit tricky knowing who's actually out there! From the Facebook 'likes' I suspect we are also entertaining an audience 70/80 years older than that intended, but as long as it's being enjoyed and bringing contact to people it's worth it.

We did manage one outdoor meeting when that was permitted in the summer, and we hope to resume meetings after Easter 2021.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Servers - The team of servers was somewhat depleted when we went into lockdown in March 2020, and Barb le Tallec was poised to hand the leadership over to Ruth Carl. Worship then moved to the Vicarage in the first lockdown. Since re-opening the church, Lizzie has led worship without a server (because of social distancing), and done the setting up and clearing herself to minimise multiple handling of the vessels. Communion has been distributed in one kind only, so no chalice administrators have been needed. Thanks go to Sarah Kiesa who has continued to handle the rotas, and to John Buxton for keeping our sacristy supplied and topping up the candle oil every week. We have had several resignations from the (dormant) servers' team during the year so we will need to recruit and train when we return to 'usual service'.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Wayfinders We started two groups called Wayfinders in September 2019. One met in the Trinity Room and one in a member's home. We had decided to run them again during Lent 2020, but were overtaken by lockdown. One did continue using Zoom, but with low numbers. Once we are able to have meetings again, I expect the Nurture Group will look again at the future of Wayfinders.

Tim Bourne

Welcomers Report 2021 Well – what can I say? With this rotten pandemic and folk shielding a number of our reliable volunteers have temporally stepped down. However as there have been so few live services “meeters and greeters” haven't been needed as much as in the past - but this will change! In order to be ready for when normal service resumes, we are looking for more volunteers to welcome our worshippers, to smile and say hello – and also say goodbye at the end of the service. It is a fun form of outreach and a great way of getting to know folk. If you find that you are scheduled to help at a service and are unable to attend, please can you arrange a replacement and let Sarah Kiesa know.

And finally – our thanks to Sarah Kiesa who runs the juggling act of organising all the rotas. We really can't manage without her.

Gillian Redman

Agenda item 3.3

Treasurer's Report - Year ending 31/12/2020

Firstly, a big **thank you** for all the generous contributions of time and money during 2020 which allow us to continue the work of Holy Trinity Church. We ended the year with a **running costs gain of £2,543** This was much better than anticipated due to some very generous donations, particularly in a year with reduced fund raising opportunities or cash collections due to the Corona virus

Our reserves have increased to £158,085 (£131,526 in 2019) and our CCLA investments could realise a further £8,700 These reserves will be needed to redecorate the inside of the church, and may well be required to counter the extensive cracking caused by foundation movements currently at a standstill. A building of this type will always be expensive to maintain, and we would like to extend the ministry of the Church in Leverstock Green - which will require further resources.

In comparison with 2019:

Collections and Regular Giving by standing order or weekly envelope were down by £1,716
Income from fees for weddings and funerals was down by £2,411 as expected – few weddings!
COGS no longer use the Trinity Room, so hire fees were down by £1,530 as expected
Our Administration costs (the Benefice Office at All Saints) decreased by £67 to £6,165
Insurance cost £1,868 (2018 was £1,826)
Electricity cost £2,249 (2018 was £3,083) - reflecting the Church closures

Our contribution to the Diocese for Clergy & central services was up by £3,540, but £2,188 of this was to pay towards curate accommodation, and has been reclaimed from the Leverstock Green Education Fund. This fund has contributed to a number of Church projects during the year – this help is much appreciated!
Fund raising was reduced by £6,247 as gatherings were not allowed.

Highlights!

- We have provided varied opportunities for worship, ministry and friendship every week by using web technology and printed material to keep in touch with our members and the wider community. This was facilitated, and greatly improved, by new audio visual equipment for on-line broadcasts funded by the Leverstock Green Religious Education Fund.
- We received some very generous donations amounting to £12,734 - £3,393 more than last year.
- We received a legacy of £10,000, and “advance legacy” of £5,000, both reserved for future projects.
- Our members contributed £3,356 in fundraising by selling tea towels, books, craft items and other items to compensate for the fund raising activities prohibited this year.
- We took part in the Rotary Club Santa Sleigh collection which raised £300
- We changed our bank account, earning a bonus of £4000!

Charities

- We have set aside £4,362 for Charities, 5% of our income, as in previous years. We contributed to Action Aid, Christians Against Poverty, Christian Aid, DENS, Embrace the Middle East and other local appeals. Suggestions for this year’s distribution will be most welcome.

Budget for 2021

We anticipate reduced collections and fund raising yet again in 2021 as the Corona virus lock down continues. Our fixed expenditure continues and so we would welcome an increase in income from regular giving and donations from our Members. We would strongly encourage anyone who is a taxpayer to Gift Aid their donations by completing a Gift Aid form, usually available at the back of the Church, to enable us to reclaim tax, and to consider payment by regular banker’s standing order.

As Treasurer I am in the fortunate position of rarely having to handle cash as paying in and Gift Aid records are all handled by Kathy and Terry Perry. I would like to thank them for all their hard work. We are most grateful to Geoffrey Dix who has undertaken the task of Independent Examiner.

Martin Chapman – 19/2/2021