THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN IN THE BENEFICE OF LANGELEI

REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2020

TO BE HELD ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BECAUSE OF CORONAVIUS LOCKDOWN

Proceedings of the PCC, Safeguarding and Parish Activities

Audited Accounts for 2019

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report

Report of Deanery & Diocesan Synods

Secretary: Linda Cooke

linda3cooke@gmail.com

ELECTORAL ROLL - Norah Tattersall, Electoral Roll Officer

awaited

Agenda item 3.2

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC 2019-20 - Linda Cooke, PCC Secretary

The PCC meets every other month to consider and make decisions on all aspects of the practical running of the church. At every meeting it receives reports on the church's finances and once a year sets its budget. It also approves fundraising events and determines which charities are to be supported for the year. Of equal importance are reports from the Churchwardens, as the PCC is responsible for the church fabric and its contents. Safeguarding is another key responsibility and all PCC members are now required to be DBS cleared and undertake safeguarding training. The PCC plans future events and evaluates recent ones, with a view to ensuring the church follows its Mission Action Plan. We started to review our Mission Action Plan and this is work in progress, as described in Mike Hawtin's report set out further on in this report.

Following the APCM 2019 the following served on the PCC under Lizzie's Chairmanship: Rev'd Maxine Howarth, Beverley Burgess, John Walker, Mike Hawtin, Kathy Perry, Martin Chapman, Linda Cooke, Norah Tattersall, Pauline Lindsey, Colin Gage, Cathy Ayling, Pamela Batten, Jean Britt, Gillian Redman, Karen Ball and Miles Cooksey, Linda and Norah haven been re-elected. At its meeting in May 2019 the following appointments were agreed:

- . Tim Bourne's co-option in his capacity as Reader with licence to officiate
- PCC Vice-Chairs Beverley Burgess and John Walker
- · Treasurer Martin Chapman
- Electoral Roll Officer Norah Tattersall
- Deputy Churchwardens Mike Hawtin and Kathy Perry
- Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead (CTHH) representative Gillian Redman
- Health and Safety Officer Jon Pegg
- Membership of the Standing Committee Rector, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer

Many people work unseen to ensure our church is clean, safe, warm, and a place of safety and peace; we are all grateful to them. The PCC acts on behalf of you, our parishioners. The minutes of our meetings are displayed on the noticeboard in the Trinity Room. If you would like a concern raised, do speak to a member of the Council who will raise it on your behalf.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT - Pauline Lindsey

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. Those whose certificates had expired have all been renewed. Everyone has a current, valid certificate of training at the appropriate level. The renewal of training for those whose certificates expire this year has now been put on hold due to the current COVID19 outbreak; these will be completed once this current situation changes.

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents within Holy Trinity since the last APCM. A bi-monthly report updating DBS applications and training are given to Lizzie.

Our annual review of policies was undertaken at our PCC meeting in March 2020, all were approved and signed off by Lizzie and me. All the paperwork in our four folders (LH, PL, Vestry and one on the bookcase in the Alban Room for public access) have all been updated. We now have lists of agencies that can help on the walls of all three toilets, with small tear-off strips for anyone to be able to take in confidence if they need help.

PARISH ACTIVITIES 2019/20

Mostly -

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

Christmas Fair 2019 - Kathy Perry

Word of our event this year spread quickly and a queue had formed before we opened the doors. The weather was not on our side but that did not deter people both from the village and further afield. The church and stalls were festively decorated and well staffed even though this involved some pew entry issues!

Our bumper stalls were our very own Craft Group, catering provided by our Social Committee and the Felt so Good items kindly donated by a church member and brilliantly displayed to their best advantage. The atmosphere was very friendly and relaxed and was commented on by several people. The final figure for church funds was £2,565. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success.

Craft Group - Jean Britt. Jean Saunders, Jenny Chaney (Treasurer), Pauline Lindsey We meet every Wednesday (with a few exceptions) at 2pm to 4pm to enjoy making items which we sell in aid of Church funds. Jenny thinks we have contributed at least £1,500 this past year. (Additional monies are paid directly to Church accounts.) Some beautiful and useful items have been made and sold at the various Church functions including the Flower Festival, the Christmas Fair and also at the LGVA Fete in July. Pop up sales at Saturday coffee mornings are popular too. Our group enjoys much friendship and we try to support one another especially those who otherwise would have little time away from home and family responsibilities. While the next few months will challenge us and curtail our fund raising activities for the church we hope to continue to craft at home to raise funds for Holy Trinity and to keep our spirits up. In the meantime we will enjoy a virtual cuppa at 11am every morning and keep contact on social media. We thank the church members for supporting our work.

Flower Festival and 170th Anniversary celebrations- Rev'd Lizzie Hood

The church was consecrated on October 30th 1849 by the Bishop of Rochester, in whose Diocese we were at the time. 2019 therefore marked our 170th anniversary. We celebrated the occasion by inviting the Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, to preside and preach at a Festal Eucharist on Sunday 27th October, and in the evening we held a Choral Evensong with our choir augmented by friends from the Benefice, singing music by composers who were alive in 1849. Over the same weekend we held a flower festival, planned by a committee comprising Pauline Lindsey, Beverley Burgess, Debbie Dix, Lynn Whitton and Lizzie Hood. Many others came together on the weekend itself and worked incredibly hard to mount a really lovely display. Our own flower arrangers as well as neighbouring churches, village organisations and local flower arranging clubs, used their imagination and skill to depict all the decades of our church's history. Maxine Howarth researched the events of the decades in local, national and international news, and these were displayed alongside the flower arrangements. To back up the historical theme John Walker and Rebecca Lawson produced a new church history booklet and guide, and local calligrapher Diana Knapp made a framed list of all the Vicars of the parish.

Set-up took place over the Thursday and Friday, and the festival was open on Saturday and Sunday, 26th and 27th October. We welcomed many guests from the village and beyond, including VIPs the Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum, Councillor Terry Douris, and our MP the Rt Honourable Sir Mike Penning. As always, lunches and light refreshments were available in the Trinity Room, where there were a number of stalls including one from the Craft Group. As a fundraising effort we made in the region of £2,000, but besides that it was a wonderful celebration of the life of our church and its place in the community's history.

Friendship Teas - Pat Driver

The number of people joining us on the third Thursday of every month for the Friendship teas is increasing slowly. The afternoon seems to be appreciated by all who attend as an opportunity for a chat and a cup of tea with good cake. Everyone is welcome.

Leverstock Green School Foundation Governors - Terry Perry

One of the most formal events for our school in the last 12 months was our SIAMS inspection in June 2019. (SIAMS stands for Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools.) It was one of the first inspections to be conducted in the diocese under the new framework and, as anticipated, proved to be a very rigorous experience. We were pleased to be graded 'good' and the inspector praised many aspects of our work. Although it might seem as though we have been downgraded from 'outstanding', that grade no longer exists. It is clear from both the training, the inspection day itself and the national statistics, only a very small minority of schools in the country will be given the 'excellent' accolade. Nevertheless, this is something we will aspire to in the future. In September, we joined with the parish in mourning the very unexpected and tragic death of Emily Stockley. It came as a great shock to us all; of all the children on the school's 'worry' list, Emily wasn't one of them. The school staff were magnificent in their response, drawing on professional support to ensure everyone in the school had the right support and receiving very positive feedback from external professionals on the way they supported the children and each other in their grief. Plans for a permanent memorial to Emily at the school are being discussed with the family

School worship continues to follow half termly themes, planned by Lizzie, Mrs Burgess and now, of course. Maxine who has filled the Foundation Governor vacancy. The children began following the Diocesan Lent worship sequence 'God in This Place' based on Jacob's journey and visionary dream; however, this has obviously been curtailed by the recent closure. The school community continues to enjoy worshipping in church four times a year: Harvest, Christmas, Easter and summer. Normally, each class contributes to the Harvest and Easter services, with Christmas led by Reception with a traditional Nativity and the summer service being led by the Y6 leavers. The services are also enjoyed by parents and grandparents, often with standing room only. As a voluntary controlled school, RE is taught following the locally agreed syllabus. This is supplemented by Understanding Christianity, a national resource produced by the Church of England, for which all teachers, including those new to the school, have received training. The children learn about all the major world faiths but with an emphasis on Christianity. Children and parents from other faiths enjoy sharing their experiences and all the children are fascinated by key figures appearing in the Bible, Torah and Qu'ran. They particularly enjoy sharing their knowledge of Arabic names, e.g. Noah is Nor, and posing big questions for Lizzie which have often taken her by surprise!

The school itself continues to be over-subscribed. For the last six years, there has been an average of four applicants for each Reception place. From September we will be offering a combination of 15 and 30 hour places in Nursery. This was a big decision for governors; falling Nursery numbers were making the Nursery class financially unviable and as a church school, we felt we should be encouraging parents to spend time with their young children where possible. We hope that by offering the choice, we can continue to support traditional family values as well as supporting local parents who need to work.

Pressure on school places continues to grow; the completion of the development on Westwick Farm has seen an increase in appeals for places and the proposed social housing on St Margaret's Way would increase that pressure, although no further information on this proposal has been received. It is a continual source of frustration that we are unable to cater for all the families living in Leverstock Green but the local authority does not recognise the challenge while there are still vacancies at other 'nearby' schools.

Last summer, the children raised money to sponsor a child through the Christian charity, Compassion. They raised almost £1,400 – enough to sponsor her education and health care until 2023. The children receive regular letters from Melany, which are translated by the charity; they were very surprised to learn that her teacher had bought her some new clothes and shoes from their donation because her family cannot provide them. It is good to see the children learning that not everyone in the world is as privileged as they are and that they can make a difference. Finally, as a direct result of all the good work going on at the school, Mrs Burgess has been invited to train as a SIAMS inspector by the Diocesan Board of Education. This will mean a few days away from school each academic year, but it will bring in additional funding as well as being a huge feather in the school's cap!

Candlelight service, serving mulled wine and mince pies afterwards which were enjoyed by many who staved.

I would like to personally thank our team Jean Britt, Pauline Lindsey and Jenny Chaney for all their hard work and the time that they willingly give to help raise much needed funds and help us enjoy some social time together. Thanks also go to Kathy and Terry Perry, members of the PCC and others in the congregation who regularly help with our social events and we are extremely grateful to them. We're always looking for new committee members and if anyone is interested in joining the social committee please speak to me anytime, we don't have too many meetings and have a lot of fun!

Traidcraft Coffee Shop - Tim and Sue Bourne

Our weekly coffee shop continues, between 10 and 12 every Saturday except Holy Saturday and when Saturday falls too close to Christmas and New Year. We now have a Traidcraft stall on the first Saturday of each month, and occasionally at other times, and we are very grateful to all the volunteers who staff the coffee shop and stall, and often provide delicious home-made cakes. The dates for the year are on the notice board in the Trinity Room, and more volunteers are always welcome – just sign up.

At the beginning of the year there was a real danger that the Traidcraft retail operation would close, due to reducing turnover making it not viable. They've restructured and are still trading, but maintaining lower stocks, so please be understanding when we're out of essentials. We had no kitchen towels for several months, and sugar has been out of stock since November; more is promised for April. Our sales of basic fair trade commodities such as coffee, tea and sugar have been disappointing this year; if it's not convenient to buy on Saturday, we are always happy to accept orders.

Trinity Men's Group - Sarah Kiesa (Hon. Secretary)

The Trinity Men's Group has settled into a routine which seems to be working well:

January, April, July, October – fish and chip supper in the Trinity Room on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m.

February, May, August, November – coffee and church maintenance on the second Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.

March, June, September, December - breakfast at Bentleys at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Hopefully, this means that folk who can't come along on a Tuesday evening also have the opportunity to come along on a Saturday.

The Trinity Men's Group is an outreach group open to the whole community and not just those who attend church on a regular basis – so please do spread the word – the more the merrier!!!

Trinity Readers - Elizabeth Cooper

We are continuing to meet on the second Monday of each month in Leverstock Green. There are usually about ten of us, which is probably ideal for a house meeting but we do welcome new members and would be pleased to see anyone who would like to 'try us out'.

Members always suggest of choices of book and usually that book is introduced by the person suggesting it. Popular authors abound but new ones bring enticing innovation. 'Old Filth' by Jane Gardam was one enjoyed by most of us but we look forward to reading 'My Name is Red' by Orham Pamuk, hopefully in July. We are part of the book group scheme run by the library, so we don't have far to go for our books, which is handy. Of course everything is 'on hold' just now but we shall look forward to being together again asap.

Trinity Women's Group - Cathy Ayling

Over the year the Group has had several interesting talks including, 'Medical Detection Dogs' by lan Grant, 'My life as a Press Photographer' by Deborah Brady, 'Days of Dolly Blue and Izal' by Brian Carline, Pinewood Studios by Mike Payne and 'The Murderous Butler' by Paul Heslop. In addition to this we had a Christmas get together with snacks and wine and entertainment from Light Touch. In January we held a fish and chip supper in The Trinity Room and in the summer we enjoyed an afternoon tea at Shendish Manor.

This year our charitable giving, which was raised at our Christmas get together via an 'Everyone Wins Raffle', and at the January supper, was donated to the Children's Air Ambulance. The Group continues to thrive with almost 30 members and with always a warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Youth Group - Rev'd Maxine Howarth

The Trinity Youth Group (TYG) started in November 2019, with a start of seven young people. We met for the second time in December and had seven young people again, but not all of the same as the first time. In January we were eight and by February we had reached ten, which was fantastic. Each time we meet we play games, eat food and have discussion about something that matters to the young people – for example eco issues, or something the leaders have though might interest them, like why we might put bird and bat boxes in the church yard, and how that ties in with some of their eco concerns from the previous meeting. They then researched the best place to place the boxes – which way they should face and how high etc.

Each time we meet we have a time of quiet reflection, and the young people are invited to put prayer requests that they have written down into a pot, so that all the leaders can pray about them over the coming weeks. These are usually a mix of personal things, and things happening around the world – for example they were hugely impacted by the Australian fires earlier this year, which demonstrates a wonderful outward view, awareness and concern for more than just their immediate vicinity. These are great young people, they have a thirst for learning and for being together and leading them is an absolute privilege (and great fun).

FABRIC, FINANCE AND MISSION

Charities - Martin Chapman

During the year we made the following donations: The 2018 Charity fund was 5% of our 2018

income - a percentage agreed by the PCC.

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Dacorum Street Pastors	£ 50	From 2018 Charity fund	
Embrace the Middle East	£1,263	From 2018 Charity fund	
Hospice of St Francis	£1,263	From 2018 Charity fund	
MIND	£1,263	From 2018 Charity fund	
Action Aid (Gambia)	£ 254	From 2019 Collections	
Christian Aid Week	£ 658	Specific collections and envelopes	
Crisis at Christmas	£ 106	Christmas card collection	
Hospice of St Francis	£ 170	Lent Lunch profits	
<u>Total</u>	£5,027	cardo od a reduktobasis – so piedas do ap	

Children's Society - Pat Driver

The Christingle Service at the end of January was very well supported with many families attending. We raised £393 for the Children's Society. The box opening is being held in the middle of March. Unfortunately the number of box holders has decreased recently and it would be lovely if a few more people could take a box. It is surprising how small change can mount up over a year! Please speak to me if you would like to take a box.

Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead - Gillian Redman

Churches Together Hemel Hempstead is a vibrant part of a national organisation linking local Christian churches together for support, activities and ideas. They have been very supportive in running the Liberty Tea Rooms in Hemel Hempstead (the cakes are particularly good) organise a branch of Christians Against Poverty and run a Street Pastor scheme and the quarterly rambles are fun. Unfortunately, due to circumstances I have attended very few meetings over the past year but intend to rectify this.

Finance Committee - Colin Gage

The Finance Committee assists and supports the Treasurer with overseeing the Church finances and fundraising. It reports to the PCC and works closely with the Social Committee. Its membership currently comprises: the Rector; the two Churchwardens; the Treasurer;

members on the Church Electoral Roll -Colin Gage (Chair), Mike Hawtin, John May, Terry Perry and Gillian Redman.

The Committee has met formally on a couple of occasions during the last 12 months. As the Treasurer's report shows, the Church had a successful year financially having been able to meet its Parish Share in full and show a surplus of some £8,000 as a result of some generous legacies. These legacies may to some extent be the result of the legacy campaign we organised three or four years ago. Last year's stewardship campaign has also been of help.

Fundraising in 2019 was again very successful, generating nearly £10,000 to church receipts. We have co-operated closely during the year with the Social Committee and others in a number of successful regular fundraising events, most of which are detailed in the Treasurer's Report. A similar full programme of events has been planned for 2020 but seems likely to be affected by the Coronavirus outbreak. Looking to the future, the Committee continues to seek new and innovative fundraising ideas, but we consider that there is a limit to how much fundraising can generate. During the year we have worked with the Treasurer to obtain and commission card readers so that regular giving, donations and payments for tickets for fundraising events can be made by credit and debit cards. These have proved very successful especially for donations at one off occasions such as weddings and baptisms, etc.

Despite this year's encouraging financial results, as is the case of most historic churches, repairs to the fabric of the Church and anticipated maintenance costs continually present an ongoing challenge and these mostly have to be paid for primarily out of our capital reserves, accumulated over many years from past legacies. Parish Share payments to the Diocese have increased substantially for 2020, so continued financial diligence and effort remains essential. On the whole, though, whilst a number of financial challenges remain, the Committee is generally content with the results over the last year.

With regard to the future, as our total income is now approaching the £100,000 threshold where we are required to register with the Charity Commission, the PCC have agreed that we should undertake this registration which will be carried out shortly. We also consider that after some years operating under the Committee's existing terms of reference it is timely that these should be reviewed, and this will also be undertaken in the near future.

Mission Action Plan - Mike Hawtin

Below was our MAP update for 2018, which can be viewed on the St Albans Diocese website. Your PCC believes our Mission Action Plan is due for an in-depth review and update during 2019 but unfortunately, we were unable to find a convenient time for the majority of the PCC to meet. The MAP review commenced on 2nd February 2020 at the PCC away afternoon.

Our Vision (for five years' time set in 2018)

A vibrant and warm church at the heart of village life. A church that is open to the whole community, and works in partnership with other village organisations to serve their needs. A church with prayer and worship as the bedrock, where individuals at all stages are encouraged to grow in their faith.

Current Situation

From our Parish Statistics (2018) for Mission, we see that we are / have...

We are in contact with a lot of people through baptism, wedding and funerals ministry. 2. We have relatively few children in church, given that we have a church school. 3. We are in touch with increasing numbers of people, though attendance seems to be less frequent ie we have a larger Worshipping Congregation but this does not impact on Usual Sunday Attendance. We need to focus on the 'fringe' if we are to continue to grow.

Priorities (for the next five years)

- Strengthen our provision for children and young people (in teaching, social activities and participation in worship). APCM Update - More young people are attending our Sunday services with their parents.
- Offer more nurture opportunities to engage with parents of children brought for baptism/Toddler Church/Junior Church, and for enquirers who are finding their way into worship. See below
- Work in partnership with the local W.I.s to provide a regular Friendship Tea to facilitate the building of relationships and alleviate loneliness. See below.

Goals (for 2018)

- Offer a trial Friendship Tea on 21st September with Westwick W.I. and review after the event.
- Liaise with Leverstock Green W.I. and the Trinity Women's Group to establish a monthly Friendship Tea beginning in January 2018 and consider how best to identify those who would benefit. APCM Update — with the support from across the church and WI community, Friendship Teas have been a real success and continued through 2018, 2019 and the start of 2020.
- Investigate parenting courses and recruit a team to offer parenting courses/discussion to
 young parents. APCM Update Parenting courses underway but there is more work to
 be done in this area of activity.
- Recruit new leaders for Baptism preparation, Toddler Church and Junior Church, and offer training to older children in serving at the altar, etc. APCM Update We have partially achieved our goal but we are always looking for more leaders/helpers. At the moment we are working at minimum staffing levels in Junior Church. Attendance does vary in the same way as adult worshipers. We have launched a Youth Group, year 6 upwards, which meets separately during our 10am service and once a month on Sunday evenings. We could do with another volunteer to help lead Toddlers Church.
- Vicar and PCC to identify potential candidates to undertake 'Growing Leaders' or similar course, to widen the leadership. APCM Update - Lizzie has started a new Pilgrim Group.

Publicity Group - Beverley Burgess

The Publicity Group meets three times a year to plan the publicity of our special services, social events and festivals. It serves to raise awareness in the community of all our fundraising events such as concerts, fairs, talks and outings and to reach out to those that wouldn't otherwise know what's going on. It is important that the church is seen as being open to all and we are still aiming to be an 'Open Church' soon. We use various methods to get our publicity 'out there' with posters, banners, leaflets, Facebook, various websites, the weekly bulletin and quarterly newsletters. We also send information to local radios and newspapers when we have a special festival to publicise. Lizzie, Maxine, Gillian Redman and Michaela Hewitt have started designing and writing a series of welcome leaflets, the first two have been finalised and printed. A new church guide was written by John Walker and Rebecca Lawson, this was printed in time for the 170th anniversary of Holy Trinity and a new eye-catching 'church open' banner for the churchyard was designed and purchased. It takes a lot of time to maintain and keep all this information up to date, we are grateful to the churchwardens and Lizzie for keeping the notice boards up to date, to Miles Cooksey for producing the posters and also John Blythe and Tim Stockley for the Christmas Fair leaflets and posters. Norma Howie for producing the bulletins and printing posters & tickets, Lizzie, Maxine and Lee-Anne Visagie for Facebook posts and shares. Mike Hawtin and Rebecca Lawson who manage the websites, Cathy Ayling for the Gazette and radio stations, Mike Hawtin for the banners, Kathy Perry and others that distribute posters and leaflets. Thanks especially to Lizzie who spends much more of her time on publicity than she really should!

We are currently looking for someone with Marketing or PR experience who would be willing to help us make Holy Trinity more visible and if anyone would like to help in anyway with publicity, please speak to me or Lizzie.

Team Council- Tim Bourne

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. It oversees benefice finances, though most financial matters are dealt with by the four treasurers meeting together. It organises the annual benefice service, and occasional benefice social events. In the last year the agenda has also included:

the location and remuneration of the benefice administrator - Norma has had problems with her location at All Saints, including lack of heating and being treated as a building manager, and it was agreed to look again at alternative possibilities;

- the sharing of administrative expenses between the four parishes it was agreed to continue the existing arrangements;
- the benefice web site and newsletter changes were discussed to improve each parish's control over its contents.

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Baptisms - Kathy Perry, Co-ordinator

Baptisms are generally held after the 10 am Sunday service. Church families are given the option of baptism within the service so that the whole congregation can take part. This year 14 babies and young children have been baptised, the same as last year.

Two sidespeople are in attendance to set up, welcome the families and tidy the church afterwards and I would like to thank the team for their continued support this year. Lizzie always holds a preparation evening to discuss the process with families and a member of the team assists her. A warm welcome, a hot drink and chocolate biscuits are on offer!

If anyone is available to help to welcome families to church, either occasionally or on a regular basis, please speak to me at any time. The team currently comprises Ruth Carl, Linda Cooke, Sue and Martin Gouch, Jean Hunter, Pauline Lindsey and Terry Perry.

Choir - Rosemary Knight

Up until the start of restrictions imposed because of COVID-19, the choir has continued to support the congregational singing on Sundays and holy days and has sung an anthem and normally an introit also at each service, except at non-eucharistic family services.

Some of us joined a combined choir from churches in the deanery to sing on Ascension Day at St Francis', Hammerfield, and at the installation of the new Rural Dean at St John's, Boxmoor in February. In October our big event was the Evensong at the end of the Flower Festival marking 170 years since the founding of the church. We had some extra singers for this and sang the evening canticles in D minor by Walmisley and other music written by composers alive in 1849. The choir also decorated a window. At Christmas we took part in the Carols by Candlelight service.

We are grateful that Matt Tattersall has continued to accompany the service once a month - and more during the organist's holiday. John May (trumpet) has played for special occasions such as Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. We were very pleased to have a new member in the soprano section, Sue Gouch. However, we are sad to have said goodbye to long-standing soprano Felicity Craigen, who has moved to a flat in St Albans. We still need more members, especially in the lower parts. Please consider joining us.

The organist would like to express her appreciation of the choir's continuing hard work and good singing.

Children's Praise - Ben Masters

We have met quarterly or there about, with a small but regular congregation, alongside those that come irregularly. The service takes the form of a liturgy that enables celebration of what God has done for us, an opportunity to worship God in song, of confession and forgiveness, a small reflection, story or talk. And more songs! We also provide tea and cake afterwards, which is a big plus. The service lasts roughly half an hour and allows for the adults and children to be in a safe space of worship.

I wonder often how we might have more attendance, as it would be lovely to see the whole church full of families with small children. My prayer and hope is that more people will come, but also that those who do, hear of the love of God for them and want to hear more, beginning their own journey of faith.

Coming to Stillness - Linda Cooke

This was an ecumenical group, which met on the second Monday of each month. In the first half of each meeting there were simple practices to help us relax, be still and become fully aware of God's presence. The second half was dedicated to formal contemplative prayer, when the words of the Father or Son were silently repeated and taken into the mind, then the heart and finally used in

intercession. Refreshments and conversation followed. The meetings in March and June had to be cancelled and the final meeting was in November; this was because of Linda's health problems. The text used in our final meeting was "Abide in my love". Happily the words of Jesus are forever.

Flowers - Deborah Dix

The flower arrangers' team has had another successful year, using their time and talents to ensure that our worship is enhanced by the beauty of the flowers week by week and at the major festivals. They deserve our thanks and applause! In addition, in October 2019 we contributed to the flower festival. This was a special time and hugely appreciated by all our visitors.

Thank you to Wendy Honour who week by week ensures the flowers are kept in good condition and does so much work behind the scenes. Also thank you to all the people who have kindly donated money towards the cost of the flowers - your generosity is much appreciated.

Horseshoe Study Group - Frances Lawson

The book on which we have based our study this last year has been Barbara Brown-Taylor's "An Altar in the World" which is about finding the sacred in our everyday lives. Much of its content we have found inspiring but there have also been comments with which we have disagreed, which has made for good discussion.

Junior Church - Miles Cooksey

LEADERSHIP The leadership team is in a good position with a strength of eight dedicated adult leaders. We presently have a balance of 5 female and 3 male leaders, offering a mixture of Christian role-models to the children and young people of Holy Trinity Church. We have also recently benefitted from representation and support from the clergy during Junior Church lessons. In terms of recruitment over the past twelve months, we have lost one team member but have been delighted to welcome one new addition to the team. The new recruit is currently undergoing training and development before leading classes independently. We hope to recruit one more suitably qualified and experienced leader over the next few months to further augment our strength and skills. The retention of existing volunteer leaders remains positive, with a high level of commitment and dedication displayed.

All of our current leaders are parents themselves and have previous youth leadership experience (ministry/schools/sports/youth organisations etc). Additionally, we have a broad professional and personal skill-set, which is put to best use in our various endeavours.

A photo board has recently been introduced, showing each leader's name next to their photograph. It is envisaged that this will make the leadership team more approachable by children and for their parents to more easily discuss any matters with us.

<u>ATTENDANCE</u> The number of regularly attending children at Junior Church lessons on Sundays remains broadly consistent. The below illustrates numbers of weekly attendees and their age groups:

1. Ages 0 to 10 = 10-15 2. Ages 10 to 15 = 2-5

Attendance fluctuates seasonally, with numbers falling slightly during Summer and during end of term holidays. Many other factors can affect regular Church attendance, such as sports/youth group events and family celebrations.

The age range of the children has changed quite a lot in the past twelve months, with a few teenagers now regularly attending. It is recognised that as JC leaders, we have a duty to nurture growth in Faith amongst all junior members of Holy Trinity and as such we cater for the older children by providing more challenging discussion-based activities to reinforce their learning of the Gospel in line with their maturity.

<u>LESSON CONTENT</u> On average we have a strong group of regular attendees spanning quite a broad age-range. This demographic has broadened within the past twelve months and the leadership team has amended its delivery approach accordingly. Typical lessons will cater for ages under 10 (those in primary year 6 and below) with greater focus on activity based learning and appropriate lesson content. Those over 10 years old will typically engage in discussion on the content of the Scripture and how that may relate to them as Christians today.

A balance of styles, mediums and technology is used to good effect to bring scripture to life and reinforce the learning in a safe and fun environment. These approaches include learning through Music and games

1. Crafting, art and design

2. Discussion, debate and reflection

3. Adherence to scripture, aligning the same Gospel reading as is read in Church but in an

age appropriate way

4. Use of the Trinity Room television to show children's ministry videos from YouTube SUMMARY The success of the Junior Church at Holy Trinity Church is down to the dedication and commitment of the adult volunteers who commit their time and skill to Children's' Ministry. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the team and thank them for their commitment throughout the past year.

Music and Meditation - Frances Lawson

We continue to meet on the third Tuesday of every month, except August, Gradually working through the New Testament writings for our inspiration, we have been looking at Acts using John Stott's commentary. Our music is varied and attempts to illustrate the words we have heard read. Coffee time invariably turns into discussion, anecdotes and frequent laughter which we all enjoy.

Nurture and Growth Team - Norah Tattersall

The Nurture and Growth Team comprising of Revd. Lizzie Hood, Revd. Maxine Howarth, Tim. Bourne, Jean Britt, Linda Cooke and Norah Tattersall continues to meet several times a year to monitor provision for the nurture and growth of our faith and to plan activities where necessary. Activities this year have included:

- Coming to Stillness. This group met until December 2019 when a new leader could not be found.
- Wednesday morning communions have been better advertised were expanded to be followed by coffee, bible study and prayer. From this the Wayfinders group has emerged.
- · A parents' gathering. Parents of young children were invited to a social evening and discussion with Lizzie and Maxine. It is hoped that these will continue in future.
- Benefice Quiet Day at St. Paul's Chipperfield in August.
- The launch of the Pilgrim Group (growing church leaders from within the church)
- Advent: the provision of materials from Embrace the Middle East which consisted of daily study and prayer based on 24 Christmas carols. A selection of these were also used for Sunday sermons in Advent.
- A new youth group has started led by Maxine and a group of volunteers.
- During Lent, sessions following study materials based on the film The Greatest Showman commenced with two groups meeting weekly. Sadly, it has not been possible to continue with these due to the onset of restrictions of gatherings due to COVID 19.

As a group, we are mindful of the impact of the recent COVID 19 restrictions on members of the church family resulting in the prevention of many of our groups and activities. If you have any ideas about how the nurture and growth of our faith can be developed during this time, please share these with any of us.

Servers - Barbara le Tallec

2019 hasn't been an easy year for the serving team. I'm very grateful to a those who have stepped up to take on extra shifts or have doubled up as server and chalice assistant, sometimes at a moment's notice.

Our two young servers have stepped down and there are no others in the pipeline at this present time. We do have a new Crucifer, Richard Farmer, who is doing an excellent job. Unfortunately, we are still struggling to recruit more servers or servers for special services.

Many thanks to Sarah Kiesa who has juggled the Rotas through the shortages this year.

Toddler Church - Rev'd Maxine Howarth

Toddler Church has continued to meet every Thursday morning during term time. Mums and toddlers start to arrive about 10.00, and the last usually leave about 11.30. Our numbers range from as low as three to as high as 21, usually in the low double figures in the last few months.

During 2019 the worship time has mostly been led by Lizzie and Tim, and Maxine once she joined the team, with some of the mums leading from time to time. Mandy Pegg has continued to lead the craft activities and provide a warm welcome to everyone. We're also grateful to Wendy Honour who helps in the kitchen most Thursdays, and to Gillian who has recently also been helping on alternate weeks. We would still welcome other helpers, to do anything from making teas and coffees, through helping with the craft work, to telling the occasional story.

We have introduced a 'Welcome Song', where the children are all welcomed by name, which has proved a huge hit – we are told that some children sing themselves to sleep at night singing it. We are also looking to have some square flags made in the correct liturgical colour for each season in order to provide an alternative to the instruments during our worship time.

Wayfinders - Rev'd Maxine Howarth and Tim Bourne

Wayfinders is a new pair of discussion groups meeting on alternate Wednesdays, one in the morning after the 10 am Eucharist, the other at 8 pm in the evening. They began late in 2019 with a course based on the 23rd Psalm. The intention was to continue with a Lent course based on the film "The Greatest Showman", but that has been suspended due to the Coronavirus lockdown.

Welcomers - Gillian Redman

If it wasn't for Sarah Kiesa's detailed and meticulous work none of the rotas would be organised. She is the driving force and I am truly grateful to her.

I'm delighted to say that Holy Trinity has a reputation for being a place of Welcome and it is down to all of us who may see someone new or standing on their own having a coffee just to go up to them to say hello. We have a vibrant team of welcomers at our 10am service and also some who support funerals – a very valuable form of outreach for people who may not be used to going into a church and may be nervous.

Welcoming is an easy and fun task – the only difficult thing is to get to Church for 9.30 a.m. One more volunteer on the rota for Sunday mornings would mean that everyone is on duty just once a quarter – we are especially short of chaps! Also, if you can't make your slot on a Sunday morning, please swop with someone and let Sarah know.

Welcoming is an important part of our ministry and we would like to thank everyone on the rota for the part they play.

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Churchwardens' Report – John Walker INTRODUCTION

Beverley and I would like to thank the Deputy Churchwardens Mike Hawtin and Kathy Perry for their support and hard work during the last year. Mike has continued to use his knowledge and experience in continuing to maintain the church and churchyard in good condition, and Kathy has been ever-present handling cash, organising our merchandising and assisting with many church activities. We are most grateful for their dedication and enthusiasm.

FABRIC

The church is fundamentally in a good state of repair. The cracks in the walls of the chancel, which widened during the prolonged dry weather in 2018, have closed significantly following the recent wet summer and winter. A structural survey of the building has been carried out. The report states the cracks are more of an aesthetic issue than a structural problem, and the church is not in any danger. Once the movement has stabilised, we should consider having the cracks repaired and possibly redecorate the chancel. Some cracks in the structure of the stained glass windows have already been repaired.

During the year, a new controller was fitted to the heating system and a new submersible pump has been installed in the boiler room. A replacement water heater was also been fitted in the kitchen. After continuing problems with blocked toilets, the drains were rodded and flushed. The fan heater timers in the Trinity Room have been replaced, and the storage heaters have been repaired.

Preparations for the opening of the church are continuing. Options for installing a CCTV system are being evaluated.

We would also like to thank Terry Perry, Simon Bounds, Miles Cooksey, Barb Le-Tallec, Jon Pegg, the Trinity Mens Group and many others for the part they play in the general maintenance of the building. We are also grateful to Peter Harrison and the small team on the Cleaning Rota for their hard work, as well as everyone else who helped with biennial 'Big Cleans'.

CHURCHYARD

Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) carried out the 5-yearly inspection of gravestones in churchyard. A number of old memorials were deemed to be in danger of collapse, and these were made safe by DBC staff. We have been reminded that the churchyard is a County Wildlife Site with old neutral grassland. Wild areas will be retained consistent with keeping the churchyard tidy and in good order. We are indebted to Simon Bounds and Patrick Joyce for keeping the churchyard in good condition, and also to the dedicated team of helpers who assist on the first Saturday of the month. We are also grateful to Dacorum Borough Council for their contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard

GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

During the year, there have been a number of acquisitions using funds which have been generously donated to the church. A framed list of the vicars of Holy Trinity has been hung in Church. Other donations included a glass memorial candle holder, a wooden cross-shaped tray for remembrance purposes and small pew cushions for the sedilia in the sanctuary.

CHURCH RECORDS

Archdeacon Jonathon carried out his Visitation Inspection and confirmed the Church's records are well maintained, and the inventory, Terrier and log books are all up to date. The periodic desktop Risk Assessment and Valuation was carried out with Ecclesiastical Insurance. As a consequence, a new Health & Safety Policy has been prepared and approved by the PCC. An updated Fire Safety Assessment has also been prepared based on the Ecclesiastical Insurance template, and the PCC has agreed a Lone Working Policy. Work is continuing to update the Risk Assessments for the Church, Trinity Room and churchyard.

CONCLUSION

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who willingly give their time to help with the running of the church in whatever capacity large or small. Without your contributions, the church simply would not function. Finally, we would like to thank Lizzie for her continuing strong leadership of the Church, and we are most grateful for all her hard work on our behalf.

Agenda item 3.5

REPORTS FROM THE DEANERY AND DIOCESAN SYNODS

CAROLY IN ANDREWS SECRETARY This report covers the proceedings of the Hemel Hempstead Deanery Synod for the period from March 2019 to February 2020. During the year there were three Deanery Synod meetings, covering a variety of different topics. The key areas of discussion are reported below: Tuesday 11th June at St John's Church, Boxmoor The Synod met on Tuesday 11th June 2019 at St John's Church, Boxmoor, This was an Open meeting with church members from the deanery invited. We welcomed The Revd Canon Tim Bull, St Albans Diocesan Director of Ministry who led a session on Becoming More Confident and helped us think about how we can choose to do some things that people of all ages will welcome in church, making the choice to share the good news of Jesus Christ in perhaps different ways. We were challenged to choose some things that people of all ages will welcome in our church. Every church reported back on one new thing that they are doing towards th Deanery Wildly Important Goal of Children's Ministry. Rev Mike Macey reflected how well we have done as a deanery to have all of this activity on new initiatives. A discussion on the use of the parish website as well as Facebook to advertise events was useful. The use of card readers to accept payments and donations and Text Giving was discussed. Tuesday 22rd October at All Saints, Kings Langley This was an Open meeting with church members from the deanery invited. We welcomed Margaret Pritchard Houston, St Albans Diocesan Children's Ministry Enabler who led a very interesting session on how we can capitalise on the contact we make with families who bring their children to be baptised and build an ongoing relationship with the families. She shared some of the key findings from a Christenings Project including the language we use - Christening vs Baptism, the importance of involving Godparents before and after and not just during the service, and the building of the relationship with the baptism - involving the wider church community, and following up - keeping in touch on an ongoing basis. She also shared some ideas to make families with young children feel more welcome in church. Each parish shared what progress they have made on work with children and young people over the last year. Holy Trinity reported on celebrating their 170th anniversary and their Flower Festival 26/27 October. This was Lizzie's last synod as our Rural Dean. Thanks were given to Lizzie for her 5 years tenure. Lizzie reported that before the Lambeth Conference next July, each deanery is giving hospitality to some overseas Bishops - we are hosting the Bishop of the Windward Islands Bishop Leopold Friday and his wife, Lois. We have a few days to fill with a programme in the deanery. Tuesday 11th February 2020 at St Mary's, Hemel Old Town Canon John Williams welcomed us to St Mary's and shared an update on the life of the parish of St Mary and St Paul. Deanery Treasurer Peter Bladon presented the accounts for 2019, and shared with us the report on Parish Share payments from 2019. This being the end of the current Triennium, Synod Lay reps are to be elected (or re-elected) at the forthcoming APCMs. Rev Mike Macey took the opportunity to thank Jean Garner who has been a lay member of Synod for more than 40 years and is not planning to stand again, and presented a bouquet of flowers. Mike shared feedback from the Rural Deans' residential where they had learned about Living God's Love 2025 - Big Conversation. Bishop Michael will be visiting all the churches in the Deanery later this year to help us start the Big Conversation. We shared updates from each parish on our Deanery

Wildly Important Goal – children's ministry, and a 'Swap Shop' of news and information from the parishes. In addition more than 50 members of the Deanery enjoyed a successful Deanery Outing to Ely Cathedral in August, and a shared Deanery Ascension Day service was held at St Francis, Hammerfield on 30th May.

Diocesan Synod - Colin Gage

The Diocesan Synod is the democratically elected decision-making body of the Diocese of St Albans. Its membership is comprised of both clergy and laity, representing the 20 Deaneries in the Diocese. Elections from the Deanery Synods to the Diocesan Synod were last held in June 2018 for a period of three years. Hemel Hempstead Deanery is allocated four clergy and three lay member places on the Diocesan Synod. The three elected lay representatives from our Deanery include Colin Gage and Mike Hawtin. The Diocesan Synod appoints the members of the various Councils and Boards which govern the Diocese, with the exception of the key body The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), whose members are directly elected by the Deaneries from among their members of the Diocesan Synod, Colin Gage is a member of the DBF and the Diocesan Property Company, The Synod itself meets three times annually, normally at All Saints Academy Dunstable, and its president is the Bishop of St Albans. The DBF and other Councils and Boards, with their various sub-committees, meet up to six times annually. In the meeting on 15th June 2019 Bishop Alan concentrated on the past, present and future of the Living God's Love project. Whilst much had been achieved since its inception in 2010, further development was needed and this had resulted, inter alia, in the Reaching New People initiative to try to grow the Church and find new ways to interact with the community as a whole. He also highlighted the intention to launch the next initiative, the Big Conversation, due to be launched in 2020/21 aimed at taking Living God's Love forward for the next five years. After presentation and acceptance of the formal reports and accounts of the various Diocesan Boards and Committees for 2018/19, the rest of the time was spent in small discussion groups debating how the Living God's Love could best be taken forward over the next five years. A number of interesting and positive suggestions emerged during a feedback session which the Diocese undertook to contemplate. In his presidential address to the Autumn Synod on 19th October 2019, Bishop Alan concentrated on three topical subjects, Caring for God's Creation, (primarily in respect of climate change), Brexit, (which was highly topical at the time), and the launch of the Big Conversation which had been predicated and discussed at the previous Synod in June. The emphasis in all aspects was to come together as a Christian family and try to adhere to Jesus' command to "Love they neighbour as oneself." After various items of routine business such as agreement to the proposed formula for Deanery Synod elections in 2020, stipend levels and the Diocesan Budget for the forthcoming financial year, there followed presentations on how we might restructure lay ministry training, an update on the launch of the Big Conversation and the opportunities and challenges that the development of Artificial Intelligence will pose for the Church.

Attendance at the most recent Synod on 14th March 2020 was significantly affected by the Conoravirus outbreak with only just over a third of the 200 members of the Synod present. In his presidential address, Bishop Alan ranged widely over five disparate subjects, including the environment, the Lambeth Conference, Pastoral Principles, Coronavirus and the Big Conversation. The common underlying theme was the need not only to listen but to hear and act accordingly. The subjects covered by the Synod included a presentation on Synod rules for new members, a really interesting debate on how we need to reorganise rural ministry in the Diocese, given that some 60% of the Diocese is rural in nature and with falling church attendances is becoming increasingly unsustainable in its current form, and updates on the Reaching New People project, the launch of the Big Conversation project, and the forthcoming Lambeth Conference in advance of which the Diocese is hosting a number of overseas bishops with the help of all the Deaneries in the Diocese.

The next Diocesan Synod meeting is scheduled for the 13th June 2020.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH - LEVERSTOCK GREEN

	FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2019	Year Commencing 01/01/2019					
2019		To Date	To Date	To Date	T	Last Year	
Full year budget		Actual	Budget	Exceeding budget	Difference	2018	
£	INCOME:	3	6	0	3		
£10,500	General Collections	9,578	£10,500	-922	100	9,478	
£44,300	Planned Giving	44,877	£44,300	577	4,364	description of the latest description of the	
£13,700	Tax Refund Including plate colns.	14,233	£13,700	and the same of th	to be claimed	40,513	
£7,234	Fees	7,163	£7,234	-71	671	12,606	
£3,000	Donations *	9,341	£3,000	6.341	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	6,492	
£9,500	Fund Raising	9,603	£9,500	103	5,009	4,332	
£1,800	Hall Hire (fund raising)	1,863	£1,800	63	1,337	8,266	
£250	Interest and Dividends	422	£250	172	160	1,726	
£90,284	TOTAL	97,081	90,284	6,797	13,406	83,675	
	EXPENDITURE:						
£3,600	Clergy Expenses	2,760	£3.600	840	-808		
£3,400	Church Servants	3,260	£3,400	140	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF	3,568	
£900	Sacristy	2,225	6900	-1,325	-97	3,357	
£6,800	Administration	6,232	£6,800	568	1,368	857	
£7,500	Church Upkeep	6,290	£7,500	1,210	475	5,757	
£61,570	Parish Share £5131 per month	58,909	£61,570	2,661	-1,006	7,296	
£2,000	Repairs and Maintenance	4,518	£2,000	-2,518	2,832	56,077	
£4,514	Charitable Giving (5% of income)	4,854	£4,514	340	2,465	2,053	
30,284	TOTAL			340	670	4,184	
10,204	TOTAL	89,048	90,284	-1,236	5,899	83,149	
	Operating Surplus >>	8,033	-0	0.000			
	La company La	0,033	-01	8,033 86	etter than budget	526	

Including a most generous donation of £5000 plus gift aid (£1250)

ASSETS:	2019 £		Gain/(Loss)	Brought Fwd. 2018
Central Board of Finance Deposit Accounts Diocesan Board of Finance - Sygrave Fund	59,041		15	The state of the s
	23,352	Cannot use	0	23,352
Debtors	13,517		-2,759	
HMRC Gift Aid forecast 13,517 Investments: Diocesan Brd. of Finance(Restricted) Cash : Bank Accounts & cash CCLA Investment Account		to be claimed	m1, 00	10,270
	601	9		
	25,015	As Cash sheet	18,607	6,408
	10,000	378.66 shares -	0	10,000
TOTAL		value £17,100		10,000
TOTAL	131,526		16,464	115,062
REPRESENTED BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AS FOLLOWS:	11.0			
General Reserve - Accumulated Surplus	52,473		40.00	
Organ Fund (Designated/Unrestricted)	02,470		17,894	34,579
Emergency Building Fund (Designated/Unrestricted) Sygrave Capital (Untouchable Endowment)	25,524		-15,283	15,283
		Cannot use	0	25,524
Sygrave Income restricted for Church Repairs	8,980	Curinot age	7,925	23,352
Creditors	4,600		562	1,055
Expenditure	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		302	4,038
Charitable giving designated 4,600			7	1000
Holding Account Junior Church Hall Hire (COGS)	4.374		3.080	1,294
	482		-45	527
	7,787		1.863	5,924
Toddlers Church	386		246	140
Youth Group	84		-10	140
Choir Fund	211		90	121
Traidcraft	1,028		-225	1,253
Car Park Fund (Restricted)	915		0	915
Flower Fund	-45		-175	130
Poulter Grave Fund for churchyard	774		-153	927
Sundry Trust Funds TOTAL ASSETS	601		-603	1,204
TOTAL ASSETS	131,526		15,260	116,266

Signed

Independent Examiner

Income from Investment Funds Poulter (Churchyard Upkeep) Child (organ Maintenance) Sygrave (Church Repairs)

£ Confirmed by DBF statements

316.48 0.74 7,924.16

The Benefice of Langelei

Parish of Holy Trinity Leverstock Green

Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of Leverstock Green – 2019 Accounts

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of the accounts of the Parish of Holy Trinity Leverstock Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31December 2019.

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.

Name: Geoffrey Dix

Address: 5 Gravely Court, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 4PR

Date: 04 March 2020