

ST. MARTIN'S BREMHILL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

Background

St Martin's Church is situated in Bremhill, Wiltshire. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Road, Derry Hill, Calne, SN11 9NN.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC numbers 10: the Vicar as Chairperson, 2 officers, 1 elected representative on the Deanery Synod and 6 elected lay members. In 2020 these were:

Reverend Linda Carter (Chairperson), Dr. David Stevens (Churchwarden), William Wyldbore-Smith (Churchwarden) , Len Jones, Tom King, Pippa Lovering, Robin Pocock, Diana Rodwell, Judy Scott, Ken Webb (Deanery Synod)

71 parishioners were on the Electoral Roll in 2020, an increase from the previous year.

Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 by having due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within the parish. Those due for safeguarding refresher training are due to attend in 2021.

The full PCC met 4 times for scheduled meetings. Average attendance was 70%. In addition, the Standing Committee met 6 times and the Worship and Ministry Committee, Churchyard Committee and Fabric Committee met between meetings; their minutes were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

All members of the PCC participate in its three working groups/committees . Each committee meets and reports to **Standing Committee**. The aim is to focus energy and expertise more effectively and to allow space in the PCC meetings for broader discussion and more efficient decision-making.

Aims

St. Martin's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, Reverend Linda Carter, in promoting the whole mission of the Church in the ecclesiastical parish of Bremhill, whether pastoral, evangelistic, social or ecumenical.

Together with the Team Vicar within the Benefice of Marden Vale, Reverend Teresa Michaux, Team Rector, Reverend Bob Kenway and Reverend Jim Scott (retired) there is a strong staff team which is supported by other retired clergy and Enid Powell, Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) and Sr. Jenny Colby, Church Army.

There were no church services in October due to COVID restrictions.

The church was also closed for Easter.

Attendance at Christmas was 82.

Occasional services:	children baptized	1
	marriages	0
	funerals	3

Review of the year ending December 31st 2020

The PCC has had an interesting year during which nothing proceeded as normal. The last church service to take place in the church was the 15th March before the national lockdown started, which subsequently became the first of three lockdowns, with other lesser restrictions in between. COVID-19 has changed the way everybody lives and had huge implications for all churches.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guidelines were reviewed in October 2020. Contact details of the current Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers have been updated on documentation and websites following the retirement of Heather Bland.

There are no safeguarding incidents to report.

The Parish Safeguarding Officers are Dr David Stevens and Mr Peter Rigby.

Risk Assessments relating to COVID-19 have been carried out (see Clergy Report).

GDPR (Data Protection)

Test and Trace procedures were put in place when churches re-opened after the first lockdown ie. QR Code poster in the church porch and sign-up list in church. A diary system ensures that sign-up lists are shredded and electronic lists are deleted after 21 days.

Clergy Report

2020 began optimistically as the initial work around the mission and vision of St Martin's, Bremhill had been completed and we were looking forward to moving to the next stage of formulating an action plan. However, as the effects of the coronavirus pandemic took hold, other priorities came to the fore. Despite the benefits of technology, which meant services and PCC meetings could continue (albeit in a different format), it was clear this would not be the best medium for the kind of discussion and interaction required to do justice to producing an action plan. In addition, the pandemic is revealing that necessary changes, not only in many areas of everyday life, but also the ways we worship and how we work out a model of sustainable ministry, are inevitable. We will therefore need to revisit our earlier ideas. My hope is that our approach will be to seek the new opportunities which may now be open to us.

Re-opening St. Martin's was somewhat delayed due to necessary repair work to the roof. This is part of a more extensive schedule of work (detailed in the Fabric Report). It is also part of a wider conversation about the church and how we may serve the local community. This will be informed by our mission and vision and how that is worked out; again, this is an opportunity to discern where God is leading us.

In terms of worship, 2020 has been incredibly challenging. As I have already mentioned, we have had the benefit of online services and while many of us are now conversant with Zoom and Teams, there are folk who do not have access to the internet. The lack of receiving bread and wine, and meeting in person has been deeply felt by so many. Weddings and baptisms have been postponed.

There is much work to be done to reconnect with families and build up relationships (more opportunities). On the positive side, we have tried new ways of engaging the local community eg. Carols in the Square and Journey to the Crib were very well received, and should give us confidence to be creative in the future.

Much of my time during 2020 has been taken up with getting to grips with legislation, Government and Church of England guidance, carrying out multiple risk assessments and learning how to use technology to keep everyone connected. There have also been many more telephone conversations to keep in touch with parishioners. Preparing and delivering services live and virtually across the Team is at once stimulating and exhausting, while planning for the future continues to be challenging. In addition, the financial impact of COVID, has highlighted the need to consider our giving as a question of discipleship.

Having said all this, perhaps a consequence is that we will begin to focus on what is really important. Or should I say, who is really important? More than ever, how we stay connected, how we serve our community, how we notice those who are not in the centre of things, how we show the love of Christ, are the things we need to focus on.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have been a huge support and encouragement to me and to each other throughout this extraordinarily difficult time. Whilst things will continue to be very testing for some time, I look forward with hope that things will not go back to the way they were, but will be so much better for everyone.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020 ACCOUNTS

The 2020 accounts have been formally examined by Lynne Pegler and were considered in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011. She is satisfied that they are an accurate picture of the accounts and has signed the accounts accordingly.

This was an exceptionally difficult year for the world, reflected in the St Martin's Church accounts in certain areas, although surprisingly we are £2370 better off.

The income over expenditure was £2852 in 2020, compared with £23537 in 2019. A distinct deterioration in the last 12 months. At the end of the year, we had £44422 in the bank, compared with £42052 on 31st December 2019.

To the end of December 2019

To the end of December 2020

£16104	GENERAL	£18259
£16360	FABRIC	£16639
£ 5000	SERVERY	£ 5000
£ 2835	CHURCHYARD	£ 2835
£ 1000	MAINS WATER	£ 1000
£ 753	FEES FOR OTHERS	£ 629
£	BELLS	£ 60
£42052	TOTAL	£44422

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	2019	2020	Difference
1.Parish Giving Scheme /Planned Giving	£5814	£8423	£2609
2. Service Collections	£9103	£2102	-£7001
3. Other Giving	£2836	£1648	-£1188
4. Gift Aid Tax Recovered	£8418	£5049	-£3369
5. Legacies	£5000	£0	-£5000
6. Grants	£10733	£30612	£19879
7. Activities for Generating Funds	£4502	£4058	-£444
8. Fees for PCC	£1354	£2950	£1596
9. Other Receipts	£ 52	£0	-£52
Total:	£47812	£54842	£7030

Comment:

Total Income: Up by £7000.

Parish Giving Scheme: Substantial increase, giving a rise in organised donations.

Service collections: Reduced by £7,000.

Grants: Substantial increase due to completed and proposed works.

Gift Aid: Reduction reflected in the severe reduction in Service Collections.

<u>PAYMENTS</u>	2019	2020	Difference
1. Share	-£14376	-£14958	-£582
2. Church Running Costs, (inc. Insurance/ External Noticeboard)	-£3726	-£4729	-£1003
3. Utility Bills	-£1970	-£674	£1296
4. Wages and Honoraria (Organists)	-£1200	-£275	£925
5. Major Repairs to Church (North Aisle Roof/ Roof Alarm/Churchyard Wall)	-£2494	-£30918	-£28424
6. Mission Giving and Donations	-£315	-£0	£315
7. Cost of Fundraising Activities	-£194	-£436	-£242
Total:	-£24275	-£51990	-£27715

Comment:

Overall expenditure: Up substantially.

Church Running Costs: Some reduction due to less usage of electricity.

Repairs: A major expenditure this year and in years to come.

SUMMARY

We have had very few church services at St Martin's in 2020. The Covid 19 pandemic has meant that the income from those services has been reduced markedly. However, the Parish Giving Scheme has attracted some new donors and it is something we should continue to promote.

The work on the north wall has started but there is considerable expenditure to come with drainage and guttering proposed. We have obtained a lot of money from various charitable trusts and it remains to be seen whether there is more available. A fund raising campaign is going to be required if we are to afford the repairs needed, let alone the alterations internally.

I would like to thank Ken Webb for all his support and expertise in the presentation of these accounts and Lynne Pegler for auditing them.

David Stevens, Churchwarden and Treasurer

FABRIC REPORT

Despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic, the PCC has continued its focus on the items requiring attention in the 2018 Quinquennial Review.

Repairs to the north aisle roof were successfully completed in the summer and a roof alarm was installed to protect the north aisle, south aisle and south porch roof areas, the management of which complies with the requirements of the church insurers. In addition, a section of the boundary wall that had collapsed has been repaired as well as the external lighting; bulbs have also been replaced. Meanwhile, after considerable efforts to satisfy planning regulations, the long awaited noticeboard has been delivered and awaits its installation.

The churchyard trees have been surveyed identifying those to be trimmed and those to be felled. Permission has been gained from Wiltshire Council as well as from the Diocese for trimming; the felling requires a Faculty which is in progress.

However, work on the church roof raised issues with drainage and roof rainwater disposal which are being investigated and pursued with the Architects. These items are also subject to diocesan approval. Until the church has dried out and further ingress of water has been eliminated plans to redecorate internally are on hold.

On the positive side, the churchyard has more wild flowers planted and now features new compost bins as well as a dustbin for non-compostable items. All is kept in order and the grass continues to be mowed by a stalwart churchyard team.