

**GREATER WHITBOURNE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2022, FOR THE YEAR 2021
PARISH OF GREATER WHITBOURNE**

Upper Sapey (new path)



Edvin Loach



Whitbourne



Tedstone Delamere



1. Annual Report – Rev Dawn Hyett

Covid 19

Our churches were closed, then open, then closed again in line with UK guidelines during this last year. Services were however, and continue to be, by zoom and live. Recently 11 people were on the zoom service whilst 33 were in church. This was partially due to the resurgence of CV19 and a number of people needing to isolating.

Zoom

The use of zoom has proven to be helpful for more than the weekly service in St John the Baptist Church,. A number of people have requested that funerals and one wedding, are recorded by zoom as relatives either abroad or ill have then been able to “attend” the service in question. We still seek additional people to set up the IT each service, not an onerous task, and to host each month. The host is often the “face” of the church online and welcome people who can't be in church.

Children's work

Recently we have been blessed with three people with a heart for children's work. A nursery assistant currently on maternity leave, has open a very successful Mum and Toddler group once a month. 12 toddlers attended the first session and 11 mums. Following this session is an after school club where activities, music and cooking are on offer. The two leaders are very experienced in this work and we are extremely fortunate to have their skills in Greater Whitbourne. We look forward to a short Easter activity.

Pastoral services

Greater Whitbourne has held 5 baptisms this year, 3 weddings and 8 funerals. In addition to this the ministry team has been assisting with funeral services for the Bromyard Benefice and there is to be 1 wedding at Stoke Lacy. The pastoral visiting has, when it was possible to do this after CV restrictions were lifted, mostly been for these pastoral services and follow up with bereaved families. There has been some additional pastoral visiting to people who were sick with Greater Whitbourne. The team working at Saltmarshe have begun again to visit those with pastoral needs.

MAP

The Mission Action Plan has continued to be developed and certain aspects signed off as well as new initiatives added to the plan.

2. Parish Churches

2.1 Upper Sapey

2021 was another difficult year. Activities were still very much affected by a second wave of the pandemic, in January 2022, of Covid 19 which caused a further wave of deaths and people catching Covid, resulting in major uncertainty and further lockdowns. But the roll out of the vaccines and boosters, during the year, has gradually enabled normal activities to make a hesitant start, but services have been by zoom for most of the year.

We were able to hold a very successful cream tea event in May outdoors as our first post lockdown event, followed by our Summer Fête, but apart from a wedding and a baptism, held on behalf of Tedstone Delamere due to its being closed due to dry rot, very few services took place in church. We did manage to hold a combined Christmas Fête and Carol singing around the tree and a Carol service of 7 lessons, but we were in lockdown again by Christmas, so all Christmas services in church, were cancelled. Our Carol service was preceded by a group of hand bell ringers, organised by Maureen Williams, and this made a lovely start to the service. Wearing face masks, sanitising your hands endlessly and keeping 2 metres apart has become the norm for people.

We have re-started film-night in Olly's Friendship Room but have had to cancel two showings due to lockdown. Our Saturday coffee mornings have now re-started too.

A very big thank you to Andrew Wilde for keeping the Churchyard looking nice during all these lockdowns. It made the church looked cared for.

Also a very big thank you to Chris Amphlett and Val Burness for cleaning the church before services and events and to John Bland and Carol Wilde for keeping the accounts and to Carol for being Safeguarding Officer for the Greater Parish. Carol has now retired from this post.

We would also like to thank all those, behind the scenes, that make things happen like Dawn, John and Sylvia.

Churchyard boundaries with 2-4 Church Close – update – we are now awaiting a ground survey report. We were finally able to tarmac the path and the entrance area, thus completing our obligations for Accessibility. The East verge collapsed due to rot in a rafter, so this had to be repaired and new barge rafters installed. The result is very pleasing.

We managed to obtain grants for this work but have yet to claim for the VAT.

The organ required attention and also required woodworm treatment.

A heater is about to be installed to reduce the humidity levels.

This was paid for out of church funds.

I note the heavy frosts in January has damaged the face of the stonework in certain places, so this will need to be watched.

2022 is the year for our quinquennial inspection.

We are looking at ways in which to expand the Community Activities as these are far better supported than are the regular church services.

The surplus shown in the 2021 Consolidated Accounts (see the financial section of this report) includes £2,000 raised for repairs at Upper Sapey which were not carried out until 2022. Had we paid our full Parish Share for the year, then we would just have broken even. Further fund raising was carried out to pay for the repairs and, as a result, we were able to pay Q4 of our Parish Share.

2.2 Edwin Loach

The Church service programme was affected by Covid, however we did manage to hold some services, baptisms and a funeral.

Services.

August 2021, Patronal, 11 attendees

September 2021, service combined with a baptism, attendees shown against the baptism.

November 2021, 11 attendees

December 2021; carol service, 33 attendees.

Baptisms.

July 2021, 20 attendees

August 2021, 77 attendees

September 2021, baptism and service combined, 42 attendees.

Funeral.

October 2021, service combined with the funeral, 100+ attendees (actual not counted).

Regards the church in general there was no other activity or repair work undertaken except for having the church organ repaired and serviced.

2.3 Whitbourne

Throughout 2021 we continued a Zoomed weekly service available to the whole of the Greater Whitbourne Parish. This service, which had begun during the first Covid lockdown in 2020 came initially from one of the ministry team's home computers, and in more recent months direct from the Sunday morning service in St John's Church. Average attendance was over 30. Now we are fully operational again in St John's 10 or more people still join in via the zoom link. Thanks is very much in order to the team who have undergirded this technical operation and to John Bland for producing a weekly service sheet for those on zoom to follow.

We have been able to keep the building open and available throughout 2021 for private prayer. For pastoral services this last year, when Covid restricted numbers in the church, extra seating and a sound system outside meant that large numbers from the village were able to attend particularly the funerals which have sadly taken place this last year.

Annual inspections on all electrical plugs, the fire extinguishers, the tower clock, the bells and organ maintenance are all completed. Routine maintenance on gutters and down pipes also completed. A Quinquennial inspection is due next year.

Our contractor for mowing the lower and upper churchyards has retired. His work was carried out with great care and respect and that was noticed and appreciated by the many families who visit. We are grateful that another contractor has agreed to take on this job.

The churchwardens greatly appreciate the volunteers who on a weekly basis maintain the cleaning of the church, the fresh flower arrangements and brass cleaning. Also the pruning of the rose beds and shrubs along with the clock winding team who weekly climb up the tower to wind the clock.

2.4 Tedstone Delamere

Financial

St James church was closed for all 2021, firstly as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and secondly because of a severe re-outbreak of dry rot which emerged in June. This meant that revenues from collections were missing from our income and that the budgeted amount of contribution to the common purse was not attained.

Building and Churchyard

As a result of the new outbreak of dry rot, which was more widespread than the 2017 occurrence, pews were lifted, but retained in the church, so that infected timbers could be removed and burnt; the area exposed was then treated with fungicide.

Discussions with Hook Mason took place over several months and at their request Dampcure Ltd visited the site and made recommendations. Hook Mason accepted these recommendations without qualification. These were not acceptable to the PCC sub-committee because one action was not permitted by regulations applying to listed buildings, all quarry tiles in the nave were specified to be removed and the organ to be taken out again.

As a result of this it decided to obtain advice from another architect and the DAC. The DAC fully supports our actions and have been kept fully informed at all stages since the re-occurrence. Following an on-site meeting with the DAC and one of their advisory consultant architects in February of this year we have agreed the way forward and the Architect's Specification will be issued in April.

On a more positive front, repairs were completed on the porch; this involved work on the leaded windows and replacement of some wood work. This was funded by Chris Harris legacy fund and a donation.

Also work on the churchyard was well supported by working parties and other local resources.

3. Financial Report 2021

PCC Financial Report 31st December 2021. Links: [Receipts](#) [Expenditure](#) [OFR](#) [Balances](#)

During 2021 there have been very few church collections or weddings, and almost no fundraising events. As a result, a number of our conversations about finances have been marked by caution – how would we meet our income targets under such circumstances?

In the event, the greater Parish as a whole received £12,408 more than it spent, and each individual church was also in surplus. The Consolidated Accounts show the details. Income from donations was up on both 2019 and 2020, and expenditure levels were only a little above the very low levels of 2020, thanks to low levels of activity in churches and caution in spending decisions.

Printing costs for the magazine exceeded advertising income by £485, having been almost exactly equal in the two previous years. The difference has been paid from the Common Purse. The PCC has increased advertising rates for 2022, and new advertisers are being sought.

There is much to be grateful for, and the PCC would like to thank all those whose contributions, in money and in time, contributed to this outcome. We can expect increased maintenance and repair expenses in 2022, as churches catch up with outstanding work. Against this we also anticipate increased income from weddings and fundraising.

4. Mission Action Plan

An interim Mission Action Plan, setting out objectives to accomplish in the Greater Parish during Revd Hyett's interim incumbency, was prepared by the LMDG and presented to the PCC in October. Copies were given during November to those who attended services.

5. Safeguarding

When Carol Wilde retired at the end of 2021, a temporary PSO took over until Jan Webb volunteered to take it on at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

There were no safeguarding issues in that time, but we did join the Parish Dashboard, which was created by the Diocese to make it easier for them to keep tabs on where we are with safeguarding requirements – training, publicity, reporting etc.

Greater Whitbourne has done so well that we have progressed from 'amber' to 'green' in Level 1. This takes us into Level 2. The only practical advantage to us that I can see is a lot more questions to answer! In fact these extra questions are quite easy. What is more difficult is ensuring that everybody has done the necessary training. A few have had their arms twisted, some have done C0 and now need to do C1. Sylvia is the star, with both done within a week. Three others have done both, and six have done C0, Basic Awareness. Those who need to do C1, Foundation, include:- churchwardens, PCC members, vergers, and anyone in a role which involves work with children, young people, or vulnerable adults. Clergy and readers are dealt with separately by the Diocese.

Jan has had training in the Parish Dashboard, so keep your heads down if you see her coming!

6. Members of the PCC

The Rev Dawn Hyett

Churchwardens

Jeff Salt	Edvin Loach
Lis Morris	Edvin Loach
Kathleen Harris	Tedstone Delamere
William North	Tedstone Delamere
Anne Evans	Whitbourne
Clive Pickering	Whitbourne
David Roberts	Upper Sapey
Ian Evans-Fisher	Upper Sapey

Elected members

Chris Evans	Finance	Jan Webb
Jerry Cummins		Brenda Allan Safeguarding
Louisa Wyatt	PCC Secretary	

7. Members of the LMDG

Revd Dawn Hyett

Chris Evans

Anne Evans

Jan Webb

Andrew Bullock

Alexandra Bullock

William North

Clive Pickering

Louisa Wyatt