

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
MIDSOMER NORTON**

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

for the year ending 31st December 2020

Incumbent:

Vacant
1st January until 10th December
Rev Guy C Scott
10th December onwards

Bank:

National Westminster PLC
3 High Street
Midsomer Norton
Radstock
BA3 2LE

Independent Examiner:

Mr D Harvey

The PCC has adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of The Church of England

Registered Charity 1143117

Background

During the vacancy, at St John's Church Midsomer Norton, the churchwardens had the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical until Rev Guy Scott took up the incumbency on 10th December 2020

Membership

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either *ex officio* or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	Rev Guy Scott	Chairman after 10 th Dec
Churchwardens: up to APCM 2020	Mrs Carol Moore Mrs Shirley Blackbourn	Vice-chairman Vice-chairman
Churchwardens: after APCM 2020	Mrs Carol Moore Mrs Beth Davies	Vice-chairman Vice-chairman
Deanery Synod Representatives: up to APCM 2020	Beth Davies, Colin Tincknell, Maureen West	
Deanery Synod Representatives: after APCM 2020	Beth Davies, Colin Tincknell,	
Elected members: up to APCM 2020	Helen Bailey, Linda Broadhurst, Pat Clynes Rebecca Daly, Tony Daniels, Gary Lewis, Margaret Marshall, Les Martindale, David Moore Christine Plummer, Ralph Plummer	
Co-opted member up to APCM 2020	John Shears	
Elected members: after APCM 2020	Linda Broadhurst, Robert Broughton, Pat Clynes, Tony Daniels, Gary Lewis, Margaret Marshall, Les Martindale, David Moore, John Shears	
Treasurer	John Shears	
Secretary	Margaret Marshall	
Safeguarding Officer	Gary Lewis	

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Committees

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. There has to be a minimum of five members, the incumbent and church wardens being *ex officio*. It is usual to have the PCC treasurer and secretary on the Standing Committee. The committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Standing Committee members
up to APCM 2020

Carol Moore, Shirley Blackbourn,
Margaret Marshall, John Shears,
Beth Davies, Les Martindale

Standing Committee members
after APCM 2020

Carol Moore, Beth Davies
John Shears, Margaret Marshall

Standing Committee members
after 10th December 2020

Rev Guy Scott, Carol Moore, Beth Davies
John Shears, Margaret Marshall

Sub-committees

Following the retirement of the incumbent the following groups were formed to cover all aspects of Parish life

Parish Profile

Building

Pastoral

Worship

Finance

Social

Magazine and Publicity

The above groups presented reports at PCC meetings where relevant

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

There are 98 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 20 are not resident in the parish.

The Churchwardens are asked to count their congregations annually and also assess the number of regular attenders. In 2020 the number of regular churchgoers was assessed at 70. These figures partially establish the Parish Share to the Diocesan Common Fund (used mainly for clergy stipends and parsonage houses). The other factor is self-assessed ability to pay and Midsomer Norton is in category E. A new rating system was introduced in 2012 with categories ranging from A to G.

The 2020 Corona Virus (Covid -19) Pandemic

Evidence of the virus emerged in early 2020 and by March the government put the country into National Lockdown 1. Churches had to be closed for public worship. The service on Sunday 15 March was the last until some lockdown restrictions were lifted and services re-commenced on Sunday 12 July keeping to the strict rules issued by the government and after a risk assessment had been undertaken. National Lockdown 2 in November put a halt to services once again, but this was lifted in time to allow services during December.

Baptisms and weddings had to be postponed and funerals were conducted following the relevant guidelines in place at the time.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 5 times during the year. The average attendance was 81%

The Standing Committee met between meetings, and minutes of these meetings were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

Business matters covered Parish Profile, Church Representation Rules, Finance, Parish Share, Church Hall, the open churchyard, the Parish Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety (including the risk assessment for re-opening the church for services), St John's School, Parish Office, Parish Administrator and vacancy matters.

Lockdowns had an overwhelming effect on all aspects of church life. February saw the only social event of the year. The Tuesday morning coffee sessions, MU, Ladies Group meetings and bellringing were all cancelled as were the Gift Day & Christmas Fair.

The change in Church Representation Rules had extended the last date for an APCM to be held from 30 April to 31 May. Following the proposed time scale for appointing our new incumbent, it was thought that if the APCM were to be held in May then there could be news of an appointment. The date chosen was Sunday 10 May but this had to be cancelled because of lockdown rules. The diocese issued a dispensation with the proviso that the meeting had to take place by 31 October.

Financial Statements (see separate sheets)

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (Churchwardens)

Church

The stone flooring slabs in front of the Lady Chapel doors had been taken up and re-laid to prevent the bottom of the doors scraping the floor on opening and closing.

The main doors into the church became increasingly difficult to open. Work was done to alleviate the problem.

Churchyards

Open

The foliage on the central path and on the boundary with The Dymboro had become overgrown and was cleared

Closed

A large branch had broken off one of the trees, fortunately it landed on the grass so no personal injury was incurred. The local council who are responsible for the maintenance of the closed churchyard came quite promptly to inspect the damage and taped off the area. The branch was removed sometime later.

Church Hall

The felt on the roof on the church hall was removed completely, rotten timbers replaced and then re-covered. A grant application towards the cost of the work submitted to the Sperring Trust was successful. As recommended in the asbestos survey, the tiles in the lobby had been covered and sealed.

Deanery Synod Report

Due to the pandemic, the Deanery Synod has only met once by 'zoom' when officers were elected.

On behalf of the PCC

Rev G Scott

Date