

2020 Annual Report and Accounts
for the Parochial Church Council of
St Peter's Church, Wrecclesham

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Aim and Purposes

St Peter's Wrecclesham Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This is summarised in the statement:

“St Peter's Church stands at the heart of the community of Wrecclesham offering in Christ's name a warm welcome, faithful witness and loving service.”

The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and the Leverton Hall.

Reference and Administrative Information

St Peter's Church Wrecclesham is situated on the corner of School Hill and Beales Lane, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4PY. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is c/o Parish Administrator, via www.cofewrecclesham.org.uk.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The Independent Examiner is Chris Hyland.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy *ex-officio* member and *ex-officio* Chair

Incumbent: The Revd Jacqueline DRAKE-SMITH (Chair)

Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate *ex-officio* Member

The Revd Sandy CAVALIER

Churchwarden *ex-officio* member

DURRANT, Rob	Churchwarden	from October 2020
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Deanery Synod Representatives *ex-officio* members

SMITH, Paul	Deanery Synod Representative	until October 2020
PARKIN-TYRIE, Naomi	Deanery Synod Representative	until October 2020
BOLTON, Vanda	Deanery Synod Representative	from November 2020
JONES, Andrew	Deanery Synod Representative	from November 2020

Elected members

LAPWORTH, Pat	PCC Treasurer <i>ex-officio</i>	
PARKIN-TYRIE, Naomi	PCC Secretary <i>ex-officio</i>	
BEESLEY, Kathryn		until October 2020
BLUES, Gerald		from October 2020
BOLTON, Vanda		
COVEY, Jonathan		
DURRANT, Robert		
JONES, Andrew		
LAPWORTH, Ian		
SMITH, Paul		from October 2020
WOODS, Sally		
YATES, Philip		

Churches together in Farnham representative

FORSYTH, Rosalind

Note: The St Peter's APCM took place on the 18th October 2020, a later date than usual, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Peter's the membership of the PCC consisted of the incumbent, self-supporting minister and associate minister, churchwarden, members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church and members agreed by the APCM to be fully voting *ex-officio* members by virtue of their position (e.g. Treasurer and Deanery Synod Representatives). Members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The electoral roll (October 2020) was 120 of which 87 were resident within the Parish and 33 non-resident.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met seven times during the year. The average level of attendance over all seven meetings was 92 percent. The PCC has a standing committee and the following committees which are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their recommendations; such recommendations are received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary:

- Worship, Mission and Spirituality.
- Fabric and Finance.

In addition to these there is an Events Team which reports to the PCC. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of church life.

Objectives and Activities

The vision of St Peter's is: *"St Peter's stands at the heart of the community of Wrecclesham, offering in Christ's name a warm welcome, faithful witness and loving service."*

During 2020, St Peter's, along with every other church in the diocese, saw a radical change in its patterns of worship and activities, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. This report takes into account the measures put into place by the church to continue worship and other activities online or in a Covid-secure, socially distanced manner, as appropriate.

The church building was closed for public worship between the 24th March and the 16th August.

This report lists activities in 2020 under the appropriate Diocesan Goals although there is inevitably overlap. The twelve transformation goals are:

1. Making Disciples
2. Increasing Believers
3. Growing Youth and Children's Ministry
4. Developing Lay Leaders
5. Recruiting More Clergy
6. Cultivating Community Partnerships
7. Reaching Beyond Borders
8. Nurturing Education
9. Encouraging Education
10. Sharing Expertise
11. Communicating Effectively
12. Improving Church Buildings

Making Disciples (including worship)

- The pattern of Sunday Worship was 8 am (1662 BCP) Holy Communion each Sunday, and 10am (Common Worship):
 - All Age Communion – 1st Sunday,
 - Parish Communion – 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays,
 - Non-Eucharistic All Age service – "Third Sunday Service" – 3rd Sunday.
- From March to August, Revd Jacqueline conducted a livestreamed Sunday service at 10am, which was available to watch via the "St Beale's" Facebook group. Congregation members without access to the internet received hard copies of the order of service and also had the opportunity to listen to Revd Jacqueline's sermons via telephone. Once public worship resumed, the 10am service continued to be livestreamed so that those self-isolating and those in the St Beale's online community could still participate.
- From March, the post-10am Sunday coffee time was replaced by a Zoom gathering after the livestreamed service.
- A reflective evening service, "Breathing Space," took place on the first Sunday of the month until March.
- Midweek Worship: There was a pattern of 9.30am Morning Prayer Monday to Friday, and Evening Prayer at 5pm twice weekly with Holy Communion on the second Thursday of each month. During the pandemic, Morning Prayer continued to take place on Wednesday mornings via Zoom.

- A group met in Lent (in person and then online via Skype) and Advent (online via Zoom).
- The Bible Course was held online via Zoom, and a group met online via Zoom to discuss Paul's letter to the Galatians.
- The book group reformed to meet via Zoom from November.
- PCC meetings were preceded by a short Holy Communion service (until March).
- A changing selection of prayer material was provided in the side chapel. During the pandemic, Revd Jacqueline made various devotional materials available online and distributed copies to those without access to the internet.
- The number of baptisms, marriages and funerals held in the church building was:
 - 5 baptisms
 - 1 marriage
 - 5 funerals in the church building, 10 clergy-led funerals at the crematorium and 0 burials of ashes.

Increasing Believers

- There was a net increase in the electoral roll of 15 people during the year.
- An Alpha Online course took place between July and September and was attended by seven people.

Growing Youth and Children's Ministry

- A large number of families attended church, whether regularly or occasionally, and we enjoyed good links with other families.
- All Age Communion was accessible to everyone, including younger members.
- Revd Jacqueline provided Junior Church sessions via Zoom.
- A socially distanced Christingle service in the church building attracted a large number of families.
- An outdoor, socially distanced crib service took place at St Peter's School and was well attended.

Developing Lay Leaders

- Several congregation members led Lent, Advent or Bible study groups (in person or via Zoom).
- Several congregation members helped to lead the Bible Course and Alpha Online course via Zoom.
- One congregation member regularly led Morning Prayer via Zoom.
- Two congregation members co-led an environment-focused service in church.
- The church has two Occasional Preachers – one having been licensed in 2019.
- Two congregation members led a Wellbeing Group via Zoom.

Recruiting More Clergy

- Revd Jacqueline is having conversations with two people who are exploring where God might be calling them – both have attended the Diocesan sessions on exploring vocation. One has already met with a DDO to begin a discernment process (which is on hold).

Cultivating Community Partnerships

- Good links with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continued, although these activities were heavily impacted by the pandemic.

- The Vicar regularly visited and took Communion services to residents in the local nursing home, Ashton Manor, until March, when visiting care homes became restricted. After that, she provided occasional recorded services.
- Members of the congregation were active in community organisations including the Isabella Schroder Trust and Wrecclesham Community Centre management committee.
- A Tuesday coffee drop-in at the Community Centre, run by members of the Church, continued until March.
- The Leverton Hall was available for hire and was used by a wide variety of community groups, although this was impacted by the pandemic.
- Regular collections were held for the local food bank.
- Members of the congregation assisted with coffee at the “Happy Nappies” toddler group which met at the Community Centre until March.
- Because of the pandemic, many of the usual social and fundraising events could not take place in 2020. However, a quiz was held in January, two wreath-making sessions took place via Zoom in December, and there was also a prize draw in December.
- Members of the congregation participated in local community efforts to assist those adversely affected by the pandemic.

Reaching Beyond Borders

- Outward giving was made to two charities “Seeds for Development” and “Step by Step.” There were also special collections for the Children’s Society and Christian Aid.
- An Eco Group continued to meet occasionally to share ideas about caring for the environment, with group members including congregation members and members of the local community. Bulbs were planted at various sites around Wrecclesham and money was raised for a fund to plant trees.
- Because many services and activities took place online, as a result of the pandemic, these were accessible to a wider range of people from beyond the parish.

Nurturing Education

- We enjoyed a very good relationship with St Peter’s Church of England School, and both church and school continually looked for ways to strengthen the link. One member of the PCC and another regular church attendee were weekly volunteers while the school remained open.
- One member of the PCC and two regular church attendees were governors of St Peter’s School.
- An ecumenical prayer group for the school was led and supported by members of the congregation.

Encouraging Generous Giving

- The PCC invested in a GoodBox contactless payments device for the church building and this was installed in September.
- Fundraising income was severely impacted by the pandemic.
- A stewardship campaign took place in the autumn and this resulted in a net increase (after losses due to deaths and people moving away) of approximately £1,300 in planned giving and a number of one-off donations.

Sharing Expertise

N/A

Communicating Effectively

- The website team continued to facilitate an attractive and up-to-date church website to inform members and prospective visitors of services and church activities. The website had a particularly important role to play during the pandemic, as a source of information on online worship and activities.
- The church Facebook team was expanded to facilitate an up-to-date and informative account. There is also a Facebook group called “Going Further In” that facilitates deeper posts such as prayers, inspirational readings, and reflections; and there is a “Messy Church” Facebook group. A “St Beale’s” Facebook group was set up to host livestreamed Sunday services.
- The parish magazine, weekly printed notices and hard copies of service sheets ensured that those who don’t use the internet were kept informed.
- Use of banners on the churchyard wall facing School Hill informed the local community of forthcoming events.
- The video conferencing software Zoom enabled meetings, courses and social gatherings to continue during the pandemic.
- A St Peter’s WhatsApp group was set up in March and enabled informal communication between congregation members, especially sharing of nature photos.

Improving Church Buildings

- Improvements to the Leverton Hall storage were carried out.
- Repairs to the churchyard gate and work on a collapsed burial vault took place.
- The planning application and faculty application for repairs to the church stonework and removal of a redundant boiler flue were approved, and this work commenced in January 2021.

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

Safeguarding

- On 20th May 2020 the PCC received the annual safeguarding report and, as required each year, adopted the national Church of England safeguarding policies and practice guidance. Details are displayed on the Parish website.
- DBS checks are updated as necessary for roles with children, young people or vulnerable adults. An audit of training needs has been undertaken. Junior church has not been meeting since the lockdown in Spring 2020, but some online sessions took place.

Health and Safety

- Risk Assessments are completed and reviewed for church buildings and church activities.
- In August 2020 the PCC agreed the Covid-19 Risk Assessment for opening up the church and Leverton hall between August and December. The PCC is very grateful to the volunteers who helped us open up safely during the period of the pandemic.

Financial Review

The Financial Statements for the year to December 2020 are attached. The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for 2020 shows the PCC had a deficit with our total expenditure exceeding income by £2,576 following a deficit of £10,935 in 2019.

We would like to bring to your notice the following points:-

1. Our income included exceptional items:-

£4,000 donated (plus £1,000 Gift Aid) to be used solely towards the cost of refurbishing and increasing storage in the Parish (Leverton) Hall.

£5,551 received as a grant from the Schroder Trust to be used solely in covering the repayments and interest on the PCC's loan from Methodist Chapel Aid. This loan has now been repaid.

In October we undertook a Stewardship Campaign. This generated a number of "one off" donations which we cannot rely on in future years.

2. Within expenditure the following should be noted:-
£8,728 cost of the refurbished and increased storage in the Parish (Leverton) Hall (£5,000 funded by restricted donations as above).

As with many parishes our finances were adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting uncertainty regarding income. In order to maintain the PCC's agreed Reserves Policy the PCC decided to reduce our contribution to Parish Share from June onwards. This resulted in arrears of £8,198 after rebates of £4,467 granted by the Diocese. At the year-end we were able to make a payment of £5,000 to reduce these arrears to £3,918.

Anticipated expenditure in our 2020 budget of £14,500 (inc. VAT) for essential repairs to external stonework and removal of a redundant boiler flue as identified in the 2017 Quinquennial Inspection were delayed and will now be completed in 2021 and will mainly be funded from reserves.

Approved by the PCC on _____ and signed on their behalf by Revd Jacqueline Drake-Smith (Chair).