

St James the Great Church Colwall



*Vestry
&
Annual Parochial Church
Meeting*

Sunday May 2021

Rectors Report

Every year when I sit down to write the Rectors report for the APCM I cast my mind back over the year that has passed and try to make sure I remember all the memorable events and also all the people that I need to thank. I live in terror of missing something or somebody out! This year there is a slightly different issue. Since March 23rd last year there has been six months or more when we have not been able to physically meet together for public worship. Additionally more or less all of our fundraising plans have had to be put on hold, as have the groups, societies, and clubs that normally underpin and enrich our life together.

As I reflect though it is clear that there are still things to acknowledge and to give thanks for. Before I move onto specific events and activities I first want to extend an enormous thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the gift day and other appeals. It seemed that this last year was going to be a financial disaster but thanks to the enormous generosity of you the congregation and the assiduously of Richard as our treasurer you were able to turn the situation around and far from being a disaster we were left at the end of the year with a small surplus. So a huge thank you to everyone

Beyond this the first thing to reflect on must be the Colwall Coronavirus Careline, what a mouthful for a name, and we might have thought more carefully about it if we'd had any idea that it would run for a full year. The brainchild of a small group of us who met together to discuss eco-church about 10 days before the first lockdown and found ourselves hosting a meeting with too many leaders and no attendees. Although lockdown had not yet been declared people were voting with their feet and it was clear that it was coming. The idea that came out of that meeting was a dedicated phone line for the village where those who needed help could seek it, manned by volunteers on the phone line and a veritable army of volunteers who undertook the tasks that were needed. The rest, as they say, is history. In the end more than 80 people volunteered to help the Doctors Surgery, the Parish Council, CoCo Chu, and Colwall Wings were all involved. Following my need to step down rather suddenly at the beginning of the whole process Anne and Ian Baker took over the responsibility for organising the manning of the phone, which they did with the help of a small group of people drawn largely from

Colwall Wings. Enormous thanks must go to Anne and Ian and all of their volunteers who not only offered solutions to practical problems but also offered reassurance and a friendly contact in fearful and difficult times. When we can we plan some sort of village party/ thanksgiving to express our gratitude to this wonderful community of which we are a part.

The second thing that has come out of this last year and which continues still, is our [Sunday evening](#) zoom service. This was initially pulled together by Marian and Mike Paulson with the help of Anne Spargo. A short and simple service of readings, prayers and reflection and most importantly of all a time to connect when most other means of meeting were denied to us. Many people have supported the service with their musical offerings, the beautiful intercessions, and the readings including a lovely diet of Psalms and poetry and the offering of their own thoughts and reflections. We even went so far as to offer a zoom Christingle service! Thanks go to everyone who has supported the service but particularly to Anne, Mike, and Marian for getting it going and to Joy for her contribution via the newsletter and her tireless help with putting together the necessary material and PowerPoint presentations, not just for Zoom but also for our shared worship in church and for Funerals.

Thirdly is a change to our domestic arrangements. At the beginning of the first lockdown it was necessary to dispense with the services of our cleaner partly for financial reasons and also because we couldn't have too many people going in and out of the building. When we reopened for worship Joy drew together a team of volunteers working in pairs to clean the church each week, over time adding more volunteers. This has not only saved us money but because the people involved are all worshipping members of the church they have a sensitivity and understanding about what needs to be done and how. A huge thank you goes to Joy and the team for all that they have done and are doing.

Working under peculiar and unusual circumstances and with restrictions we would never have thought or dreamed possible a year ago thanks also go to Steve and all who help with the vergering, to Trish and Sue and the choir, to our bell ringers, to Kay and the flower team, to all who attended the autumn churchyard clear up, to our audio visual operators whose role has become vastly more important to us in the paper free culture we have been required to adopt, and

everyone who has supported the church, its members and its worship over the last year. Your contributions have meant that even with all the restrictions that have applied we have been able to offer worship that has been fulfilling and beautiful and maintain a real sense of all being part of God's family in this place.

Which brings me to 2 groups of people I need particularly to mention. The first is my colleagues in Ministry, Anne, Bernard, Ken, Tim and Andy who, as ever, have continued to support the worship we share, offering their differing styles talents and approaches to bring diversity and richness to our life together. My thanks go to all of them. Whilst it is generally insidious to single out individuals on this occasion however I feel that I must. At the beginning of the first lockdown Anne Spargo was our only member of clergy who was neither shielding nor required to stay at home because of their age. She therefore took on responsibility for all of the funerals which I know that she did so beautifully and provided enormous peace of mind to the families that she cared for. On behalf of all of us I would like to offer to her particular thanks for all that she has done. Before moving on this seems like the appropriate moment to pause to remember those members of our community who have died in the last year. We remember and give thanks for the lives and witness of Marion Percy, Dorothea Marsh, June Allen, and Jean Cox. They will be sadly missed but their legacy will continue to enrich our life together.

Inevitably when the Rector is 'hors de combat' that creates additional work for others particularly in our case for the Churchwardens and Parish Administrator. On your behalf and mine thanks go unreservedly to Joy, Bill, and Martyn for their support of the church but also for their personal support for me in what has at times been a challenging year. Covid risk assessments and regulations have added to their workload considerably and their approach has always been positive, cheerful, and professional. They have given of their time and talents unstintingly and our communal life would be much the poorer and run much less smoothly without them.

I have said this in various forums to many people but not ever had the opportunity I don't think to say it to everyone. This is from me personally, as Melanie who is happens to be Rector rather than The Rector who just happens to be Melanie! In this last year the practical and prayer support that I have received from so many

people has been a lifeline. I have felt your prayers and they have sustained me. I have received your help and it has made all the difference. Thank you

We now hope that we are beginning to move from the acute phase of this pandemic and into a state of recovery. Most of us are worshipping again together in person, some activities are resuming and we are starting to look to the future. We are looking to move forward projects that will enhance our resilience and offer a springboard for creativity. One thing that the pandemic has taught us (if we didn't already realise it) is that in the 21st-century hot running water and flushing toilets are not a luxury but a part of the passport back to the normality we all want. However there is one thing I would ask of you. This reset in our behaviour and life together offers us an opportunity to think about which elements of the normal we wish to return to and the ways in which we can and should create new normals that will be better and more inclusive as we move forward. Please pray for our future together; for inspiration as to how best to play our part not just setting the norms of our worshipping community but within our civic and national life as well.

With love and prayers

Melanie

Churchwardens' Report

Bill Clucas

Unfortunately we have only been able to have a few Sunday services at St James in the last year, for reasons you know only too well. However, these have been more than adequately supplemented by Sunday evening zoom services, which have provided worship for many who would not have been able to attend Church. Baptisms have been adversely affected by the regulation. We have had some weddings and, unfortunately, funerals, which have been ably managed by Steve Hockett in his capacity as Verger, and Joy Conlon operating the audio/visual system. We hope for many more baptisms and weddings later in the year.

The March gales dislodged several tiles on the roof. Thanks to Jonty Pierce and his drone for pinpointing the damage, which has been repaired. Otherwise the fabric of the church seems to be in good order. Our Quinquennial (five yearly) Inspection has not reported any

serious problems, but due to Covid issues we have not yet received the full report. The tower flagpole, which was damaging the lead on the tower and allowing water onto the bells and structure, has been removed.

To cope with the amount of waste generated in the graveyard, dead flowers, wreaths etc. we have acquired extra bins. Work is about to commence on laying down hard standing for these bins and to improve access around the gate area.

Posts and a chain have been installed at the entrance to the car park, to be closed overnight with the aim of dissuading noisy evening visitors, which have been troubling our neighbours. Thanks go to Robin Riches for agreeing to the additional work involved.

We have recently received planning permission and approval from the Diocese to erect a small shed on the north side of the churchyard. This will provide much-needed storage space for the flower arranging equipment and free up some room at the back of the church. We will then be able to “de-clutter” and take some tentative steps to reorder the back of the church.

I am, naturally, delighted at the addition of another warden in the form of Martyn Steer, who has already taken on more than his fair share of the work. Of course the Warden’s job would be quite impossible without the support of many people, including the Assistant Wardens Jane and Syd Hill, Carolyn and Stuart Hands, Richard King and Steve Hockett., now doing four jobs at the moment.. Also Cicely Palmer for looking after St Crispin's during the lockdown. Many thanks to you all and, of course, to Joy Conlon for facilitating the smooth running of the operation. Thank you Joy. And finally thanks go to Melanie for remaining calm and in charge during this difficult time.

GDPR

All confidential records and personnel information is kept in a locked metal filing cabinet in the parish office or password protected computer.

Baptism, Marriage & Funeral registers remain locked the Vestry Safe.

Safeguarding

Joy Conlon

The PCC have adopted the updated the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and are compliant with its regulations of displaying relevant notices

There is a file at the back of church in which all the relevant information is available to be seen

All Adults who work with young people and vulnerable adults have DBS certificates, and we regularly check this list and update/ renew as necessary.

We keep a register of all regulated activities organised and run by St James Church.

We will be working to ensure that the Website is compliant with Safeguarding regulations over the next few months.

Health and Safety

Parish Office

Fire Safety: all fire signs and extinguishers are in place and serviced in 2019, with replacement's purchased as advised by contractors.

Evacuation procedures are explained at any non regular event.
First Aid: first aid boxes and accident books in the Church, Ale House, Belfry and Parish Office are checked regularly. No accidents have been reported in the last year.

Electrical Appliances: checked regularly, details in Parish Office
Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection: Joy Conlon is the relevant Officer and no incidents have been reported.

Pest Control: Red Kite is contracted to carry out regular checks in the Church and Ale House.

Slips, Trips and Falls: a careful eye is kept on potential hazards. The new path at the West door will enable easy, safe access into the churchyard.

Risk Assessments: these are overseen by Martyn Steer and/ or Melanie for all services.

The Electoral Roll (as of 12 March 2021) stands at 146 (increase of 4 from 2020)

This accounts for 2 deceased, and 6 new members

Finance & Fundraising

Colwall PCC Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

The summary accounts are in the St James Annual Report and the following gives the main highlights.

With our income in 2019 above £100,000 we were required by the Diocese to register Colwall PCC with the Charity Commission. This was done and we now have a registered charity number 1192443. Our official name on the charity register is 'The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St James The Great Colwall'.

The new format of the accounts complies with Commission requirements. Essentially, we now incorporate all income and expenditure on our special funds in the main report. Expenditure on fund raising, the Ale House, and The Clock are now stated explicitly, not netted against income. The change in the valuation of our investments is reported as Unrealized Gains or Losses and added after the (Deficit)/Surplus line to show the overall reported increase in funds.

The outlook looked bad when the Covid-19 pandemic fully struck and we estimated we could have a £15,530 deficit by year end. But thanks to a wonderful response to the Bishop's Gift Day Appeal and associated gift aid recovery, £570 more wedding/funeral fees than budgeted, and the unexpected award of a grant of £5032 by Herefordshire Council Discretionary Fund, we achieved a surplus on normal income of £3,232. With a legacy, and donations via The Friends of St James and Flower Funds, the overall surplus was £6,908.

Income:

The Parish Giving Scheme: A further 2 households joined the scheme in 2020, bringing the total to 46. With the church closed for long

periods, collections and envelope giving were lower. This was made up instead through all the donations made during the year.

Fund Raising: The money from Sonia Morris's sponsored walk in 2019 was received in January - with very many thanks to Sonya for all her efforts, and the only event in 2020 was the Pancake coffee morning in February.

Church Fees (Weddings, Funerals): We had 4 weddings this year, and 12 funerals/cremations. Income down by nearly 60% on 2019.

The Ale House: was closed much of the year. The impact of Covid on this business activity gave rise to the Herefordshire Council Discretionary Grant being made - a fixed grant of £5032. Without the grant, the Ale House would have had a small deficit.

Legacies: We received a legacy of £4,124 (from Jean Cox), Legacies are an important aspect of church giving, as many people in later life may have little income to spare for charitable giving - see our St James legacy leaflet.

Expenditure:

Major costs (Parish Share Offer £54,428, Parish Administrator, Insurance, church maintenance) were very little changed on 2019. There were savings on electricity and water with the buildings closed for so much of the year; organist fees, music and sanctuary expenses were down with far fewer services. After the initial lockdown, we no longer engaged a cleaner giving further savings. Instead, we are hugely grateful to Joy and a team of volunteers who have cleaned (and cleansed) the church since the re-opening last summer. There was extra expense in the churchyard to clear the grass because the Community Payback Team could not get here without their minibus transport which was against the rules.

We have made a contribution from our funds to mission giving of £2600 (2019 £2350). During 2020 we had no special collections from our normal services and charity fund raising, nor from weddings and funerals except one funeral in January (£99.50).

Our CBF investments increased in value by £3,309 in 2020, so together with our income surplus of £6,908 this year, our total funds now stand at £144,993 (2019 £134,775), an increase of £10,217.

The deficit projected in our budget for 2021 is £7,385. However,

even this is based on budgeting £9,600 for fund-raising including a Gift Day/Fortnight as last year, and a recovery in fees from weddings. All this is very uncertain.

If anyone who would like to see a copy of the full detailed accounts or have any questions to ask on these accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01684 541215.

Covenants, Gift Aid

Phil Probert

The church is very grateful for the generous giving of the congregation the majority of which is supported by gift aid declarations enabling the church to benefit from a tax repayment. If you have any questions on giving please contact me on 01684 540506 or speak to the treasurer Richard King

Fundraising

Steve Hockett

A short and simple report that during the current APCM year of 2020/21 we have been unable to hold any fundraising events. With the easing of restrictions caused by the pandemic we do have a healthy looking list of activities for fundraising. Hopefully these will have started by this years APCM.

Church Development Group

Richard King

The vision for our church continues to be:

- To be a Christian family which reaches out to our village community:
- welcoming and supporting families and young people, and those in special need - the lonely, elderly, bereaved, those with mental health issues.
- Nurturing our communities spiritually, and also enabling learning and new skills to enhance communities and care for the natural world
- To build partnerships with specialist and local groups to provide such support professionally
- To be a Christian family which is growing and developing its faith and spirituality both individually and corporately
- For the church building to provide a warm, welcoming and worshipful space to enable this vision and ensure our Christian heritage is sustained for current and future generations.

The Church Development Project

In 2020, Covid effectively put the whole project on hold. But nonetheless, three community focused initiatives were identified, and some consultation started. These were a churchyard management and care project, linked to health and wellbeing; a visitor welcome and interpretation project (including community stories from the past) linked with the Marches Churches' Tourism Initiative through the diocese; and a project to enable the church to be a venue for special Arts and Festival events which could attract larger audiences than can usually be accommodated in the other venues in the village.

For the churchyard, we have started working with Caring for God's Acre to help us build a strategy for the churchyard, drawing in people from the rest of the village to develop this together. The first consultation session was to be in April but now postponed till June 2021 because of Covid limits. We have a rep on the Marches' Churches Tourism group and have advertised for community help.

Advice from Wendy Coombey, the diocesan adviser, and national church advisers, warns us that the Heritage Lottery focus is on Covid recovery and community economic recovery, and particularly favours larger centres of population to get the greatest gain. They suggest we should start with just the core priority elements of the capital building proposals and look more actively at other national funders more focused on the preservation of church heritage for smaller grants and develop a local fund-raising strategy.

Our heating consultant has provided a specification for quotes on how our relatively new oil boiler can be used to improve heating levels in church with improved radiators and pipework. Once Covid restrictions are lifted in 2021 we plan to get quotes for such work.

Very many thanks to all the group (Bill, Christine, Ian, Steve, Mike, Martyn, Melanie) for all their hard work.

Churchyard

Carol & Jonathan Pearce

This has been an unusual year for churchyard maintenance. The churchyard is normally looked after by a very small number of volunteers and a contracted hedge and grass cutting team, but this year Covid restrictions have led to a different pattern of maintenance.

A single big grass cut was performed by contractors in readiness for a Churchyard Working Party Day on the 19th September. This was very well attended by approximately 20 people (including non-church members) and their hard work left the graveyard in very good order. A great deal of general maintenance was carried out, but the main effort went into cutting back the overgrowth of the hedge abutting Flapgate Lane, which had been encroaching on the graves. At the end of the day we had a dozen builders' bags full of cuttings and vegetation. Work was paused for the short service held by the Bishop of Hereford who was visiting that morning. It was a most enjoyable and satisfying day. Many thanks to all involved. It was planned to hold similar maintenance events on a regular basis in the future.

The intended Spring Churchyard Working Day was not possible, but despite future Covid restriction uncertainties we are still planning to maintain all areas as well as possible under the circumstances, and it is very much hoped that there will be another Churchyard Working Party Day in the autumn, pending Covid regulations.

A review of the bin provision has led to a second bin being installed at the car park entrance to the graveyard, helping to keep clear the area designated for future burials. Repairs to the damaged gate at Flapgate Lane are in hand, and new paving slabs are also to be laid in the immediate area.

Once this burial area is filled, we will have to look at finding or creating further spaces within the churchyard, as extending our grounds is not possible.

Unfortunately, lockdown led to the car park being used for fly tipping and anti-social gatherings. Consequently, posts and a chain have been installed at the entrance to enable the closure of the car park between dusk and dawn, and a notice to that effect erected at the entrance. Discussions are being held as to their possible replacement with closing gates.

We know that the churchyard is used by a wide range of the public, including many who have travelled from far away. It is held in great affection by churchgoers, villagers and visitors alike. The churchyard has the potential to be a valuable community asset for both wildlife and the public. Many see it as a place of peace and quiet contemplation, as well as where their relatives are laid to rest. On June 8th we have scheduled a Community Churchyard consultation

day in readiness for the development of a Community Churchyard Development Plan. All are most welcome to attend.

If you would like to join the above event, or to help in any way with planning and maintenance please contact Carol on 07494 435032 or the Church office on 01684 540330 Mon-Thurs 9am to 12 noon.

Churchyard Records

Steve Hockett Verger

The job of a Verger at St James includes the facilitation of specific services, namely weddings and funerals. Unfortunately due to the current situation with the Corona virus I have to report that in this APCM year of 2020/21 we have been unable to hold any weddings.

We have however managed to conduct, in restricted conditions, 1 burial of ashes and 9 interments.

ALE HOUSE REPORT

Leslie Hitchen

The Ale house has suffered from the pandemic this year just as everything else has. Bookings have been few and far between and have been mainly short bookings, a couple of hours, for things such as rehearsals. This has obviously caused a substantial drop in income.

I must say thank you to the Village Hall for the donation of two hot air hand dryers after the refurbishment of the Village Hall facilities. These were installed last summer and solved the problem of not being able to use cloth towels and having no containers or waste facilities for paper towels.

On the subject of toilets, the two Ale House toilets have now been twinned through Toilet Twinning with latrines in Zambia and the DRC. Toilet Twinning is a charity that enables families in poorer countries to build basic toilets, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene.

The Ale House 100 Club is doing well this year despite still not having anywhere near 100 members, 84 at the moment. The draw provides much needed funds for the upkeep of the Ale House. If you haven't yet joined it is not too late as we would be very pleased to enrol you for the rest of the year. For a subscription of £10 your name is placed in the 10 draws between February and November with the chance of winning a first prize of £15 or a second prize of £5. Thank you very much to all of you who have already joined.

Communication & Outreach

The Clock

Joy Conlon

The Clock continues to be an important means of communication for the community. The variety of information, advertising and 'what's on' is appreciated by all our readers.

Sadly during 2020 we were not able to produce monthly copy, and at present a bi-monthly edition is the way forward. Hopefully we will be back to monthly editions later this year.

We welcome Sally Neville to the team. Sally has taken over from Andy and is responsible for the co-ordinating of the advertising.

We always welcome new copy—so if you have an interesting/ topical/ subjects please do sent them to theclock@gmail.com

Welcomers

Jill Withington

Understandably the number of Welcome Packs taken to newcomers in the past year has fallen. However, there's been a steady trickle of requests for them, showing that the scheme is still operative and worthwhile. Thank you to all the Welcomers involved, including those who've had no need to do anything but who are still keeping an eye open for incoming removers' vans in order to make a point of welcoming new neighbours. Those who have received a Pack, which includes a current Clock, really do appreciate it. Thanks too to Joy for readily printing extra copies when necessary.

CTiC

Ian Baker

It is best to describe the work of CTiC over the year as in a dormant status for a combination of reasons. The Covid-19 pandemic with all its restrictions prevented some of the usual events taking place such as the Farmyard Nativity and the Unity Service held to mark the National Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In addition the current Chair, Tom Jarratt from Colwall Community Church, started a six month sabbatical just as Lockdown 1 was announced. This also coincided with Melanie Horton's health related work absence. The sudden death of June Allen in the summer meant we lost a valued member and health issues have hindered Val Dipple serving as a

member. I was due to step down at the AGM in May but this was deferred. I hope that, as life begins to return to some form of normality, the future of CTIC will be assessed. It will need new members from both churches if it is to continue its work.

St James Aston Link Activities

Joy Conlon

Sadly we were not able to welcome our friends to Colwall during 2020, but have kept in contact by regular phone messaging.

They are all well and we look forward to meeting up when the current situation allows.

We have supported them through our charity giving, and hope we can hold our Village Quiz in the not too distant future- all monies raised from this event go to supporting St James Aston

We welcomed a group from Aston to our Patronal Festival service in July, this was followed by a lunch in the village hall

We continue to support the work of St James, Aston- charity giving and raising funds through the Village Quiz each November.

We look forward to inviting our friends to Patronal Festival this July.

Ministry

Colwall Coronavirus Care (CCC)

Ian Baker

CCC was inspired by a small group of church members in early March 2020 who felt there was a need to help village residents, especially the elderly and vulnerable, with the likely impact of Covid-19 on daily living. This was quickly translated into a dedicated mobile number, an email address and with printing a simple information sheet which was distributed to all homes in the village by Christian Aid collectors. COCOCHU, Colwall Surgery, Colwall Parish Council and Colwall Wings WI joined as partners and by the time Lockdown 1 was announced at the end of March 2020 CCC was up and running.

The areas of help provided over the year have been with food shopping, collection and delivery of prescriptions, keeping in touch by regular phone calls, a varying range of practical needs such as

posting letters and walking dogs, and assistance with a small number of more complex cases. During Lockdown 1 demand was high but over the following months requests for CCC services reduced as shielding requirements eased and people adjusted to Covid-19 living in Lockdown 2, tiers and Lockdown 3. One year on it was decided to close CCC with effect from 31 March 2021.

CCC would not have been possible without the small group of Colwall Wings WI members who ensured calls to the careline were answered six days a week and arranged for each request to be serviced by one of the 90+ volunteers who offered their help. CCC is also grateful to Herefordshire Council for providing a link employee with access to their services, Colwall Parish Council for a grant of £500, Malvern and Ledbury foodbanks in their support of some people in need, Malvern Rotary who gave help in a number of specific ways and Melanie for her local knowledge.

CCC has been an example of our church embracing partnership working for the benefit of our Colwall community. It has pointed up the reality that some Colwall residents do face significant challenges in their daily lives even in 'normal' times. We should be reminded of the need to be outward looking and that '...even he [the Son of Man] **did not come to be served, but to serve...**'. (Matthew 20 v 28)

Admirals café

Mike Paulson

Sadly the café has been closed for nearly 12 months. We have attempted to keep in touch with our customers and carers by regular phone calls and happily there have been no significant crises. We really want to meet together as soon as possible after the village hall is reopened. A group of our volunteers visited our customers just before Christmas to sing a carol and wish them a Happy Christmas. If anyone knows of someone with dementia, or is living with dementia, and would welcome an opportunity to have a social hour or so a month with company, we can talk about who we are, what we do, and when and where we meet. Just ring Marcus on 077740783139 or Mike on 01684 540108. The café is run and operated by volunteers and we always welcome folk who would like to help either to run sessions or to provide cakes, biscuits or raffle prizes. Marcus and/or Mike can provide information.

Choir Report

Trish Hockett

Last August when small socially distanced choirs were once again allowed to sing, the choir were happy to sit in the north aisle. With either an organ or piano accompaniment they sang well known hymns at 10am communion, All Souls Evensong, Christmas morning and Epiphany.

Orchestra

Susan Humphrey

Sadly, because of Covid-19 restrictions from last March, the orchestra only played once in 2020 in February, and it was sad not to be able to play for the Ale House Carols before Christmas. I have arranged two new pieces to add to the collection and been forced to tidy up the orchestra music! I want everyone to stay safe and well and do hope we can meet for live music before too long.

Flowers

Kay Smith

As we are all aware, this past year has not been as easy as it could have been but the flower team made the most of going into church when it was deemed possible and restrictions allowed to continue to put flowers in even though the amount of arrangements were somewhat curtailed, at least there was a little something to hopefully help brighten the congregation and flowers certainly do that. Silk flowers also came in very useful these past months rather than incurring costs with fresh flowers and I think we got away with nil expenditure for the whole year.

Unfortunately the weddings were also greatly affected although we did manage a few and it was a pleasure to be able to decorate the church for these occasions, we also did a bit more in the way of decorating for Christmas too. As Easter approaches we aim to once more make the church look resplendent with spring flowers as there is now plenty of hope for a much better year for all of us and I suspect quite a busy one.

Church Bells

Robin Riches

As I write this report the country is marking the anniversary of the first lockdown. Little did we know that 12 months later we would be in the same position. Bell ringing at Saint James, like other towers throughout the country, had to fall silent. That was it until Sunday the 26th of July when services could restart and Bell ringing was again allowed. With guidelines from the central council of ringer's we could only ring for 15 minutes, socially distanced and wearing face coverings, a very strange experience!

Practises and meetings were forbidden. A maximum of four bells could be rung on a rotor system so all Rangers could take part over the weeks

We rang again for the celebrations of VJ day on the 15th of August. Ringing continued until the end of October when again services were ended, although permission was given to ring on Christmas morning but the traditional you knew years ringing had to be cancelled.

A new scheme 'Call to ring' has been launched recently where a ringer can ring one Bell for five to 10 minutes to retain the skill and 'muscle' for ringing. This hopefully takes place on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM so listen out!

We look forward to the time when Bell ringing can return to somewhere near normal

As a footnote, one Bell was chimed at Saint James on the 23rd of March after the 12-noon silence. It was rung 126 times (for every 1000 victims of the COVID-19 epidemic) very emotional

Mothers' Union

Susan Humphrey

Our January speaker was unable to be present so instead, members brought items, mostly in MU blue and white colours, about which a brief history was given. These included a Danish plate, a painting of bluebells on the Malvern Hills, a picture of a grandmother, a poem written by a daughter - many treasures resulting in fascinating stories. In February Ian Baker gave an illustrated talk on The Methodist Modern Art Collection, which is housed, not in a gallery, but tours all over the British Isles, containing wonderful paintings, of which Ian made a selection to show us, by famous and lesser known artists such as Elizabeth Frink, Graham Sutherland and William Roberts. The exhibition was to have been shown in March and April in Bewdley but was cancelled because of Covid-19. It is now due to be rescheduled there in Spring 2022 and also should be going this June/July to Coventry, 2021's city of culture.

Though we could not hold meetings after February, there was much to do in the way of keeping in touch with members, Diocesan administration, and newsletters. The committee met twice in Gillian Turner's garden.

I want to thank everyone for the care given to each other and for your wonderful collective generosity to the Diocesan CIF and overseas funds (£1500). We also managed to hold the marmalade sale for AFIA in October, including jam and chutney and raising the princely sum of £405. Thank you to everyone who provided, purchased and helped.

We have been so sorry to hear of the deaths of June Allen, Dorothea Marsh and Marion Percy. We will miss our dear friends but treasure our happy memories of them.

Sacristans & Servers

Parish Office

These roles have been undertaken by the wardens and Joy during this time of lockdown, as the number of restricted communion services we have been able to hold have been few!

As and when we get back to 'normal' - we will be looking to recruit a new team to carry out these roles.

The Church Website

Mark Illingworth

Mark has run the church website for ten years in much the same way as it was set up by Chris Sennett, but with increasing age and other commitments Mark would like to hand over at least part of this important communication role.

Newer and updated pages on the church website have been produced in a mobile-friendly form and some of the most used pages of standing information have been converted.

During lockdown the church website has been updated from the weekly newsletters. As a virtual memorial to Chris Sennett, his library of sermons has been indexed.

Mark's suggested action is:

- Provide the programme of future services and events on the church's pages on A Church Near You (ACNY). Nominate members of the Ministry Team to maintain the ACNY pages in a way that reflects the church's mission and outreach.

- Retain on the church's own website the administration and history pages and the library of sermons.

- Find a new website manager able to take a fresh approach.

COLWALL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

INCOME	£ 2,020.00	£ 2,019.00
Collections	£ 1,622.00	£ 5,240.00
Planned Giving (Parish Giving Scheme, envelopes, banker's order)	£ 39,794.00	£ 40,661.00
Tax recovered	£ 11,883.00	£ 10,933.00
Other voluntary receipts	£ 17,295.00	£ 7,490.00
- includes: Legacy	£ 4,124.00	
Parish Council (for Colwall Coronavirus Care)	£ 516.00	
Donations (incl Bishop's Gift Day Appeal)	£ 12,180.00	
Friends of St James and Flowers Funds	£ 415.00	
Fund raising receipts	£ 12,733.00	£ 15,749.00
- includes: Ale House rents and A/H 100 Club, together with support from Hfds Council Business Disc Fund (£5,032)	£ 6,701.00	
Magazine sales and adverts (Clock)	£ 4,688.00	
Fund Raising Events	£ 1,344.00	
Investment income	£ 2,250.00	£ 2,524.00
Church fees	£ 4,106.00	£ 9,887.00
Heritage Lottery Awards for All: projector grant (2019)	£ -	£ 9,718.00
	<u>£ 89,683.00</u>	<u>£ 102,202.00</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Diocesan Offer and Deanery Quota	£ 54,428.00	£ 54,428.00
Other payments	£ 28,346.00	£ 45,908.00
- includes: Contributions to Mission and Charities	£ 2,600.00	
Ale House expenses	£ 1,706.00	
Magazine printing	£ 2,220.00	
Churchyard	£ 1,171.00	
Church Development Project	£ 482.00	
Insurance (church)	£ 3,136.00	
Maintenance, Power, Admin, organ/music, other	£ 17,031.00	
	<u>£ 82,774.00</u>	<u>£ 100,336.00</u>
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£ 6,908.00	£ 1,866.00
Add Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	£ 3,309.00	£ 5,310.00
ADJUSTED (DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£ 10,217.00	£ 7,176.00

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

		<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Balance at 1 January		134,775	127,599
Add surplus	Add surplus	10,217	7,176
Balance at 31 December		<u>144,993</u>	<u>134,775</u>

FUND BAL-
ANCES

FUND BALANCES

Friends of St James	8,021	7,711
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Organ	5,331	5,331
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Fabric (designated)	128,096	118,172
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Flower	1,889	1,858
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Bells	1,656	1,704
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Church Development		
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Fund	-	-
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	<u>144,993</u>	<u>134,775</u>
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INVESTED IN:- INVESTED IN:-

CBF shares and de- posits	80,425	77,116
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Lloyds Bank Plc	5,237	2,351
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Santander	16,434	19,219
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Cafcash Deposits	48,562	45,565
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Debtors less Creditors	- 5,666	- 9,476
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	<u>144,993</u>	<u>134,775</u>
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