

## **PARISH OF ALL SOULS, NORTH WARWICKSHIRE**

### **APCM SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**APRIL 2021**

At the Annual Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020 via Zoom, attended by a total of 22 electoral roll members of the Parish of All Souls, five churchwardens were elected unopposed to serve on the PCC for the coming year - Heather Cooke (Austrey), Shirley Faulkner (Newton Regis), Anne Bufton-McCoy (Seckington), Dawn Cole & Richard Meredith (Warton) – along with the following parish representatives: Rhona Oxford (Newton Regis), Janet Perkin (Shuttington), Adrian & Sally Parkes, Michelle Withey (Austrey), Margaret Dalton & Simon Shilleto (Warton), Trish Richardson (Treasurer) Alison Meredith (Secretary) . James Westley continues as a Deanery Synod rep. along with Alison Meredith and new representative Michelle Withey.

As the date by which the 2020 APCM needed to be held was extended until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020, officers elected in 2019 continued in post until that meeting was held on 19 October 2020.

In 2020 the pattern of live services had been maintained until mid-March when all places of worship were required to close as part of the national lockdown to combat coronavirus. We did resume some live services following the lifting of restrictions in July but some were kept online to cater for those who were shielding or self-isolating. November, however, brought a second lockdown but we were able to re-open in December for some very toned-down Christmas celebrations. Socially distanced seating, face coverings, hand sanitiser, track and trace have become the norm but many are just grateful to be able to worship together in church amidst all the precautions. Thanks must go to those who have hosted and led the Zoom services, provided readings, prayers and thought-provoking talks. We are also deeply grateful for the assistance of Fr Philip Wells and Revd Michael MacLachlan of Polesworth in taking Communion Services and to Fr Philip Wells for his funeral ministry.

We have been conscious, however, that a sizeable minority of our Church family do not have internet access and may therefore feel somewhat adrift from Church life. Each month we have distributed a newsletter, otherwise have relied on individual members maintaining contact with each other. There is still much uncertainty about the future, when and how we will be able to resume many of our usual activities. There will be challenges as we seek not only to reunite our congregations but to reach out to the many newcomers arriving in our villages as a result of extensive building programmes.

Given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic we had resigned ourselves to being without a vicar for the foreseeable future, so it was a pleasant surprise to learn in early November that there was a potential candidate. She was interviewed over Zoom shortly before Christmas but it was not until early February this year that the official announcement was made that Revd Joanne Dyer had been appointed the next Vicar of All Souls. She will take up her duties on 25<sup>th</sup> May and we are looking forward to welcoming her into our midst.

The suspension of live worship has had a notable impact on finances but thanks to several members being able to maintain their commitments or else make regular donations to parish funds, we have kept afloat and were able to meet our Common Fund asking for 2020 in full, although overall the accounts unsurprisingly show a deficit for the year.

We continue to make sure that we are compliant with the C of E and Diocesan Safeguarding requirements, thanks to the capable oversight of our Safeguarding Officer Margaret Dalton.

It has been a strange and difficult year in many respects but we are thankful to have come through it and look forward to the promise of new and better things in the months to come.

Alison Meredith  
PCC Secretary

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son .....  
in order that the world might be saved through him.”*** (John 3 : 16 – 17)