

# **St Nicholas Parish Church Bathampton**



## **Annual Review 2020 (for APCM 2021)**

St Nicholas Church  
Church Close Bathampton BA2 6TU  
Website: [www.stnicholasbathampton.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasbathampton.org.uk)

**Background:** St. Nicholas PCC has the responsibility of co-operation with the Revd. Jonty Frith, Incumbent, in promoting our Mission Statement that “We are a church focused on Jesus so that we love one another, serve the whole parish and touch the world.”

**Charitable Status:** The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church representation rules.

**Bankers:** Current account held with National Westminster Bank, Bath. Deposit and Investment accounts held with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England (CFB), London.

**Independent Examiner:** Andrew Morrison

**Financial Review:** The full financial report is presented separately.

**Reserves Policy:** It is PCC policy to balance general income and expenditure each year and to invest our fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. The PCC policy is to maintain, if possible, a balance of unrestricted funds equal to six month’s unrestricted payments to cover any emergency that may arise.

The PCC has three Charitable Trusts which donate money to the work of St. Nicholas Church, for which the rector and churchwardens act as Trustees:

- The Barlow Trust for the benefit of the sick and poor of the parish.
- The Ramsbottom Trust for the maintenance of the churchyard.
- The Rhodes Trust for Sunday School work in the parish.

## **PCC Members October 2020-2021**

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens and Diocesan and Deanery Synod members are *ex officio*. All elected PCC members are volunteers.

Several changes took place at the APCM on 11 October 2020.

**Rector:** Rev'd Jonty Frith Chair (ex. officio)

**Churchwardens:** Anna Young (to 2021)

Paul Bryant (to 2021)

**Diocesan Synod:** Phil Edge

**Deanery Synod:**

Members: Anna Young (to 2023)

Tim Laver (to 2023)

**Elected Members:**

Samuel Frith (to 2021)

Carl Fullaway (to 2021)

Treasurer Rita Warboys (to 2021)

Emily Peill (to 2022)

Nigel Shepherd (to 2022)

Margaret White (to 2022)

Tim Conn (to 2023)

Hannah Findlay (to 2023)

Secretary Ian Williams (to 2023)

Safeguarding officers: Hannah Findlay and Emily Peill

Reader Emeritus: Peter Lloyd-Williams

**Paid Staff:**

Parish steward: David Warboys, Honorarium (retired Oct. 2020)

Benefice Administrator: Kay Rees 10 hours per week (until Nov. 2020)

Hannah Findlay (voluntary from Nov. 2020)

**PCC Review of the Year:** PCC met formally six times during 2020, with all but the first being virtual meetings online via Zoom. Besides the regular items (including finances, safeguarding and reports from subcommittees), the PCC has discussed a variety of matters. Considerable time was spent considering issues related to lockdown restrictions on the opening/closing of churches for private prayer/public worship and how to deliver live-streamed online services via YouTube and/or Zoom; this included authorization of expenditure to upgrade audio and video facilities to enable livestreaming from the church building. In January we considered aspects of the CEEC booklet '*Human Sexuality: thinking it through biblically*'. New arrangements for churchyard maintenance and the purchase of a new cooker for the kitchen were approved in May, and in July a proposal to replace the current pew bibles with the NIV 2011 edition was agreed (although not yet enacted). We approved the appointment of an Administrator and the suggestion of Families Outreach Worker. In November, a proposal that St Nicholas should become a Partner Church within the South West Gospel Partnership was discussed, but it was felt that it was not the right time to be taking this decision. *Ian Williams*

**Finance:** 2020 was an unusual year. Because of Covid the church was closed for a large part of the year resulting in income from church collections, the wall box, Miller Room hire and church activities being reduced. The "Bridge" magazine was unable to continue and the advertisers were offered refunds. Stewardship giving increased by approximately 6%. A legacy of £5,000 was received. The Parish Share was £5,300 less than in 2019. Running expenses were reduced. A new cooker was purchased. £3,831 was sent to charities. Repairs were carried out on the church as a result of the quinquennial report. *Rita Warboys*

**Churchwardens' Report:** At the start of 2020, when Anna took over from Sarah Harris, there was little indication of what was to come and the wardens

were busy working on the usual statistics for mission and parish share survey tasks. Ian Williams had also started to draft a practical handbook for wardens and sidespeople.

All of this came to a juddering halt in March, when we moved everything online because of the first national lockdown. The potential irony of our theme verse for 2020 (Let us not give up meeting together...) was a helpful spur to make sure that our online church was a place where real fellowship, encouragement and worship could take place. Thinking back to those first few months, we're hugely grateful to Hugh Cornes for all the work he did in helping us to get up and running on YouTube, and to Samuel and Harry Frith for running the livestream from the vicarage for St Mary's and St Nicholas', respectively. We continued with YouTube services right through the summer months, before moving to a digital/physical hybrid (phygital?) in November and December. Again, the technical obstacles to this new phase were significant and we are hugely grateful to Harry Frith for all the time he put in to getting things running smoothly and to operating the live stream almost every week from October to January.

At the APCM in 2019 (remember the days before the pandemic?), Ian Williams had indicated his intention to step down in 2020. This was delayed slightly by the lockdown, but Paul Bryant was officially elected as churchwarden at the APCM in October 2020. Paul has also joined the Fabric Committee and has been involved with various projects in and around the building.

While many of our activities were put on hold for most of 2020, there has been plenty to keep the wardens entertained, including the need to run effectively online. We've set up a mailing list and an online system for the prayer updates which would normally be communicated via the service sheet, and we've updated the church website to make it easier to navigate. The next challenges are an update to our file storage/sharing system that is compatible with the new way of working. We're grateful to Hannah Findlay for stepping into the Administrator role and helping with the organisational side of things behind the scenes.

*Anna Young and Paul Bryant*

**Rector's Report:** "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." When we started 2020 with Hebrews 10:24-25 as our Theme Verses, the Lord alone knew how we would need, and benefit from, that exhortation. Never before has our ability to meet together as church been so tested. And yet in God's goodness we have been able to survive as a living church.

Our ability to meet together and encourage one another was frustratingly restricted, but the gift of technology saw all of us quickly getting used to things we had never done before. Some signed up to an email mailing list for the first time. Some had their first experience of watching YouTube. I'm not sure any of us had even heard of Zoom, but it soon became second nature for so many, including those for whom "wireless" used to mean the radio around which the family would gather! Some of us started speaking to a camera as if it were a person, and stopped feeling as though that was a strange thing to do.

No doubt everybody in the world can look back to how they responded to the pandemic and think of some things that they would have done differently, with hindsight. There were some missed opportunities. Perhaps we might have got into practical service of our neighbours in need more effectively; we always seemed to find there were more offers of help than requests for help and no doubt that left some people suffering needlessly because we didn't manage to find out about their needs, or were not proactive enough in facilitating and organising appropriate safe contact to ameliorate loneliness and strengthen fellowship.

But there were God-given opportunities taken as well. Some people have stepped up into extraordinary levels of service (you know who you are and God sees and will reward). I have found a growing sense of

unity in the church despite the testing time which might so easily have driven wedges between us. In the past we have had the luxury of choosing the style of service that suits us, perhaps avoiding what we don't like. In a sense that option has been even more available as churches all over the country, and even the world, went online and we could freely visit any one we pleased. But still the rootedness of local community in the body of Christ drew us back together and we valued one another and learned to bear with one another in new ways. Texting into a livestream service, sometimes with serious points and sometimes with silly games, all helped us express our church family life together, even when we were all locked into our homes. I have been so impressed to see younger members, older members, those who like old hymns and those who like new songs, those who prefer a formal liturgical style and those who would rather go off-piste, bearing with one another, faithfully continuing to tune in, and growing in family love. Thank you, my church family. I thank God for you.

We have even seen a higher-than-normal number of new people added to our number: praise God. Sadly, there have also been some that have drifted away – for a range of reasons, some of whom we have neglected – and, as we come out of lockdown and start to meet in person again, there needs to be a whole-church effort to seek the lost sheep and bring them back into the fold. God's goodness to us is also seen in the church finances as he has kept us afloat; having spent a good few weeks thinking about the Generosity Project we need to grow in the grace of blessing others generously.

In our services we continued to feed on God's word, especially through series covering Isaiah 13-26, Matthew 13-18, Romans 12-16, Philippians, and 1 Peter 1-2.

Repeated changes in the situation, in and out of lockdown, with all the planning and effort needed to get technology working for us and to

keep the church “meeting together”, took its toll. I got too drawn into doing too much myself and not making enough use of others’ gifts. By the end of 2020 I was exhausted and this no doubt contributed to my lengthy illness in the first quarter of 2021. But overall I can – and I pray you too will – look back on 2020 with thankfulness:

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*

*How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

*‘Who has known the mind of the Lord?*

*Or who has been his counsellor?’*

*‘Who has ever given to God,*

*that God should repay them?’*

*For from him and through him and for him are all things.*

*To him be the glory for ever! Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)*

*Jonty Frith*

### **Diocesan Synod Diocesan Synod and committees:**

I am pleased to sit upon Diocesan Synod, which works to guide the Diocese, in support of Parishes. Here is a tiny extract from Synod’s vision.

*Our vision and the diocesan strategy that is emerging from it, speaks of the story of Jesus; his life, teaching and work, his death and resurrection.*

Please go to the web site for the full version and much more information. <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk>

It has been a tough year for all of us with Covid, but the illness and now the retirement of Bishop Peter, on medical grounds, has added much work to the Diocesan team, under Bishop Ruth.

The appointment of Sharon Kindleysides, as Chief Executive, replacing Nick May, is exciting, but that has also placed strain upon the structure and its work.



I also sit upon the Bishop's Council and as a member of the Audit and Risk Management Group. I find the work on both very rewarding, as both teams work to assist the Clergy and Administration, to deliver the Diocesan Vision and Strategy.

The future, however, requires prayer from all of us. *Phil Edge*

**Deanery Synod:** After many years of service, the Area Dean (Rev Matthew Frankum) and Lay Dean (Jeremy Key-Pugh) both stepped down in the Autumn and were replaced by Rev Stephen Girling and Pippa Page, respectively. Stephen Girling spoke after his election of "Shaping a culture of Prayerfulness, Hospitality and Innovation", and of working to develop this culture in our respective churches. This vision has led to the creation of a Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group, which comprises lay and clergy members from each 'sector' of the city and surrounding villages to "watch for God's working within and without the church in that sector" and thus enable the Deanery Synod to have a big picture view of what is happening around the area.

*Anna Young and Tim Laver*

## **Worship, Teaching and Equipping**

**Homegroups:** The two groups have continued to meet fortnightly, with one Tuesday group and one Wednesday group. Total numbers in the two home groups have gently grown. Both are following a programme of discussing the same Bible passages as the Sunday sermon, with some questions supplied by the preacher, helping us take things further in applying God's word in our lives.

*Jonty Frith*

Tuesday Group: We meet on Zoom at 7.30pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, for encouragement, bible study, discussion and prayer.

During the first lockdown we benefited from meeting weekly, but after the summer we reverted to the two-per-month pattern. We are very grateful for Phil and Molly's inspiration and commitment as leaders for many years. In the autumn they passed on the leadership to Ian and Jan.

Within the group we seek to support one another in prayer, whether or not we are able to join each meeting.

Recently we have been blessed by the addition of two new members, and would welcome anyone else who would like to join us. Trusting one another, we seek to grow in our trust for the Lord as His disciples.

*Ian and Jan Williams*

Wednesday Group: We have continued meeting fortnightly on Zoom. The group has been led by Timothy & Anne-Marie Conn since their previous co-leaders moved church. Numbers have steadily grown with some recent additions from new church members. We take the same Bible passages as the Sunday sermon, and use questions supplied by the preacher to discuss further how to apply God's word in our lives.

*Tim and Anne-Marie Conn*

**Music:**

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout  
aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

**Psalm 95 verse 1**



In this year of unique hardship for so many across the globe, we've joined with others locally, nationally and internationally to offer praise and worship to God like never before. From the powerful and wonderful 'UK Blessing' to services via YouTube and Zoom, we've all learnt to use

music to worship the Lord in new and different ways. While some have enjoyed the chance to listen along to recordings, others have appreciated every opportunity to sing loudly and freely in their own homes knowing that they'll not be heard by anyone other than the Lord himself!

Sourcing music online which is free to download and rebroadcast has been both challenging and rewarding. Although we're sorry that it's not always been possible to find traditional versions of well-loved hymns, it has been a great blessing to expand our repertoire. The year has brought to us some wonderful new hymns and songs that have been made freely available, and we have enjoyed the spiritual truths and encouragement that these have brought us. We can be so grateful for the freedom we have to worship in this way and for the song-writers, musicians and recording engineers who have enabled us to do so. How thankful we are that, like the psalmist, we can sing for joy to the Lord our Rock and our Salvation.

While many songs may have spoken into our individual situations, one that we've learnt from CityAlight in Sydney, Australia, has seemed to be particularly apt in the wider context of the year. May these words continue to encourage us as we look to the King:

*Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall  
There is still one King reigning over all  
So I will not fear for this truth remains  
That my God is, the Ancient of Days*

*Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul  
He is here with me, I am not alone  
O His love is sure, and He knows my name  
For my God is, the Ancient of Days*

*Though I may not see what the future brings  
I will watch and wait for the Saviour King  
Then my joy complete, standing face to face  
In the presence of the Ancient of Days*

*None above Him, none before Him  
All of time in His hands  
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand  
All the power, all the glory  
I will trust in His name  
For my God is, the Ancient of Days*

*Margaret White*

**Prayer Meeting:** Every month on the first Thursday we continued to meet to bring our needs together before the Lord and it has continued to be a blessing on Zoom, with numbers even growing compared to the previous on-site meetings. It would be wonderful to see more of the church family there together.

*Jonty Frith*

**Prayer Ministry:** This Ministry has been restricted by Covid. Ray, Sylvia, Jan and others, however, have helped with prayer for many in the village and their families.

I hope that when we are all back together, we can plan to re-commence prayer alongside people in church, during and after services.

As I said last year, it is a privilege, for our small team, to pray alongside those who choose to use the ministry, and if any member of our congregation would like to join our group, please be in touch and we can explore the possibility together and with Jonty.

*Phil and Molly Edge*



**Sidespeople:** Needless to say, this has been an unusual year for our Sidesmen. We started back on duty last autumn, when churches were allowed to open for services, though with a smaller number, but soon stopped again due to lockdown. I'm sure, like me, our Sidesmen can't wait for the church to be open again, and for us to welcome our church family and new members to our services and to be all together again.



*Jane Buckley*

**Worship Committee:** When lockdown started we had to make some quick decisions without knowing what we were doing. Getting a livestream up and running on the very first Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, proved worthwhile with an exciting momentum, despite the inevitable amateurism and technical hitches. Using YouTube rather than Zoom was judged better at the time to keep the barrier to attendance (for churchgoers and newcomers) as low as possible, and we were visited by some that would not normally come into the building.

Music was a challenge, but Hugh did a great work sourcing suitable recordings and obtaining copyright permission. Our professional organist Adam, who has been paid a fee per service rather than a salary and so was not eligible for furlough, was very little used, and it seemed right to pay him a proportion of his lost income when he did not play, which PCC decided to phase out on review. On return to the building with no singing, Margaret voluntarily provided beautiful piano.

We did not attempt to share the Lord's Supper virtually, although we have made use of the "Spiritual Communion" liturgy; what a joy it will be to break that fast when we finally get back to church together!

Anna, Tim, Nigel, and Ian have all risen to the challenge of leading services online wonderfully. Margaret resourced the service leaders

with very helpful suggestions of songs, readings and other ideas. In this she was continuing, and expanding on, a very helpful pattern that had been provided by Jan Williams and Sylvia Perry for many years.

Getting back into the building in the autumn was a mixed blessing; it took a great deal of trial and error, including the removal of new unsuitable cameras, before we reached a high standard of online experience for those unable to come onsite for services.

*Jonny Frith*

### **Getting to Know and Care for One Another**

**Afternoon Break:** Afternoon Break has not met since the last APCM. Our final meeting was in March, but we have sent £130 to Peggy Dodd Centre, as that was our chosen charity for 2019/20. We were due to have a speaker from there in May. Sadly, three of our members have died since this time last year.

Afternoon Break members are looking forward to meeting together again but it is likely we will only hold one meeting before September, when we can catch up on each others' news and make future plans. We will keep the same format which has served us well for 35 years.

*Judith Book*

**Maxi Club:** The Coronavirus pandemic has had a dire effect on all of our lives over the last year, particularly on those who are single, living alone, or who are restricted by their movements, and the Maxi Lunch Club, whose raison d'être is to provide a venue for the over 60s in Bathampton to meet, have a good meal and enjoy each other's company, was an early casualty of the lockdown restrictions.

Hopefully, with the success of the recent vaccination programme, restrictions will gradually be lifted and, when they are, the team of volunteers will be ready to swing back into action to cook the monthly

lunches. However, until the Government gives the go-ahead, pots, pans and casserole dishes must remain in the cupboards. *Sara Fudge*

**Men's Group:** The "Men's Group" meet from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on the third Monday of each month. Before lockdown we enjoyed meeting in each other's homes. Since then we have been meeting on Zoom, which does not suit all our membership. Currently we have 12 members; about half attend the Zoom meetings regularly.

In addition to coffee and biscuits, pre-lockdown, the menu comprises topical questions provided by members. Most questions are not concerned with religious or spiritual matters, although they do creep in from time to time and can result in vigorous discussion. International, national and local topics, great and small, are raised.

We are a group of friends with a range of views, experience, knowledge and skills, where we learn from one another. Hopefully, it also tends to act as a way into the church community for those new to the church, and like 'glue' for those who might otherwise drift away. The meetings can also act as a sounding board for those uncertain about their beliefs or what the church is there for, and it is a mission field for those who believe in such needs. New members are always welcome.

*Ray Bennett & Chris Perry*

**Coffee Rota:** We are grateful for Liz Shepherd and the team providing lovely coffee which seems a distant memory now, as of course it stopped in March. Liz has given notice that she is standing down, so the rota will need new oversight when coffee returns to church life. It is far more important than many people realise, as it helps us to "spur one another on..."

Please join us in the  
Miller Room for



as it helps us to "spur  
*Jonty Frith*

**Pastoral Visiting Team:** The Pastoral Visiting Team aim to visit members of St Nicholas who can no longer attend church through ill-health or disability, and those going through difficult times, such as illness or bereavement. We also visit people in the Parish who come to our attention and who have indicated they would like a pastoral visit. Where appropriate we share a bible reading and pray with those visited. We rely on church members to let us know of those who might need to be visited. Our Church is a caring community and we are aware that other members visit too.

Due to the lockdown, for the most part of 2020 we were unable to visit church members in person. Instead, we made contact with those we would normally visit by telephone, or the occasional letter or a wave outside their house. We look forward to meeting people face to face as soon as we are permitted to do so.

One of the most disappointing impacts of lockdown was the cessation of our efforts, started in 2019, to grow St Nicholas towards being a Dementia Friendly Church. We started by providing Friendship Teas in the Miller Room for the carers of those with dementia and long-term carers, and those who they cared for. We would love to start these again when we can.

At the time of this report, we have only three members. If anyone would like to join us or find out more about what we do, please contact Jonty, Sylvia Perry, Angela Donald or myself.

*Ray Bennett*

**Steps in Faith:** We have, alas, been unable, like so many groups, to meet during the last twelve months. And, during this time, we have lost a surprising number of our members - no fewer than six are no longer with us. In addition, Elizabeth Kirova is moving to take up a new post in Lancashire. We are looking forward to reconvening as soon as the regulations permit, and we look forward to welcoming new



members. If you enjoy lively, well-informed debate, why not come and join us.  
*Peter Lloyd Williams*

## Outreach

**Parish Outreach:** We did not hold any outreach events in 2020 after the start of the pandemic. The importance of each reaching out to our own neighbours came all the more to the fore without organised events. Some of our YouTube livestreamed services reached beyond the pool of people who might come into the building.

*Jonty Frith*

**Ladies Events:** The two events we have had since lockdown were the ever-popular Christmas pudding making evening, and the annual Bath Women's Conference. We met on Zoom for the pudding evening and had a combination of being all-together and also in breakout rooms where we could chat more easily. Vic Ritchie, who works for St Andrew the Great church in Cambridge, was our speaker and helped us to think through what Christmas is really all about. It was great to have ladies join us who don't usually come to church.

The Bath Women's Conference was moved online in March 2020 at the last minute, and there were a number of us who watched it at home and then met together on Zoom to discuss what we'd heard and learnt.

*Becky Frith*

**Men's Breakfast:** We held one very well-attended Men's Breakfast in February 2020, at which Ian White spoke on the significance of Light.

*Jonty Frith*



**Christianity Explored:** Two of us met over Zoom during the first lockdown to go through the Christianity Explored course together. It

was a helpful time of going through the main claims of Jesus and discussing what He means to us today. We then studied the book of Ecclesiastes together in the Autumn, thinking about Jesus as the only source of true meaning in an often confusing world.

*Anna Young*

**Marriage Ministry:** All weddings were postponed.

*Jonty Frith*

**Funeral Ministry:** The number of funerals did not differ greatly from a typical year, although the circumstances of funerals were very different, with varying strict limits on numbers and with social distancing affecting the associated pastoral visits as well as the funerals themselves. I took nine Bathampton funerals and Ray Bennett took one. At least half of these were for church members, each of whom had been dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

*Jonty Frith*

**World Mission:** We focused on partnership with, and support (in prayer and giving) of, different organisations and individuals in turn:

January-February: Open Doors

March-April: Gideons UK

May-August: Bread of Life Society

(Mike and Vicky Tomlinson in North Lebanon)

September-October: CMS (David and Heather Sharland in Northern Uganda)

November-December: Bath Youth for Christ



Jan Williams and Sylvia Perry stood down from this PCC subcommittee after many years' faithful service and PCC is directly responsible pending the appointment of a new subcommittee.

*Jonty Frith*

## Engaging Children and Youth

**Junior Church:** Junior Church has, on the whole, been thriving on Zoom, despite the inevitable technical issues which come up. There is a lot to be grateful and thankful for.



We now have 3 groups: 4-8year olds, 9-11 year olds, and secondary school age.

A rota of parents, along with Anne-Marie and Molly, take it in turns to run the youngest group. From March through to December this group had up to 11 members, but that has reduced since January 2021 and we're back down to our regular attendees, with others who join in from time to time.

The 9-11 year olds are a group of 3 or 4 boys who are great fun and are led by Becky every week. We are currently undertaking a whole Bible overview which is showing the boys how all the stories in the Bible fit together and how they point to Jesus, even all the old testament ones.

The secondary school group are also doing a Bible overview and are led each week by Samuel.

We're really looking forward to meeting together again in person, but the need to socially distance, and the fact that we now have 3 groups, will make that quite challenging in our building. We also desperately need some more leaders/helpers when we're able to meet back together in the church building again. Especially men! We have lots of boys in the older groups, and it's great for them to have male role models to look up to and get to know. For safe-guarding, we need to have at least two adults with each group, so we need twice as many

leaders as we currently have, and Samuel will be going to university in the autumn so we'll need a leader for his group too. It would be a step backwards to return to 2 groups, and I don't think it's good for the older children to have their parents running the group, so please consider if you can help us. We're absolutely delighted to have these families at St Nicks, but we need volunteers at Junior Church. You don't have to run a session, you can just be the extra adult we need for safeguarding. The children are fantastic, so I'm sure you'd find it a beneficial experience!

*Becky Frith*

**Mini Club:** We were a thriving group before lockdown, but haven't been able to meet at all since last March. Just before lockdown, one of our mums did Christianity Explored with Jonty and Becky, and two of the miniclub families have come fairly often to Junior church on Zoom during lockdown. Both of these things are very encouraging and remind us that while we want to provide a lovely, friendly, accessible group to pre-schoolers and their carers on a Wednesday morning (when we're allowed to), our greatest desire is to introduce them to Jesus.



*Becky Frith*

**Bathampton Primary School:** Links between the church and school have undoubtedly weakened under the strain of the pandemic. Assemblies ceased, although the Rector's offer of online participation was taken up once. The school use of the church for annual celebrations of Easter, end of school year, Harvest, Arthur Phillip's birthday and Christmas were all cancelled. We will need to work hard to rebuild connections as we seek to serve this very significant part of the parish.

*Jonty Frith*

## Support Ministries

**Safeguarding:** Hannah Findlay & Emily Peill continue to be the nominated safeguarding officers and seek to follow the diocesan advice and guidance. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team provide good resources, training and guidance for all, and we would encourage the whole congregation to familiarise themselves with available information via the Diocese' website.

*Hannah Findlay and Emily Peill*

**Banner Group:** The last meeting we had together round Deirdre's table was the actual week of the first lockdown, when we had literally just finished the patchwork playmat for children's groups in Church - the front cover of last year's APCM leaflet. We have kept in touch through emails and phone calls but are looking forward to starting a new project. Watch this space!

*Andy Lloyd Williams*

**Church Cleaning:** As the church was closed for most of the year, relatively little regular cleaning was needed in 2020, and, at the end of the year, Chris Perry, after years of much appreciated, dedicated service, handed over the role of cleaning co-ordinator to Hilary Crellin.

Following various remedial works in the church early in 2021, and the Fabric Committee's most welcome 'Spring Clean', a monthly cleaning rota has been organised to maintain a basic level of cleaning until such time as the church is reopened and regular usage recommences.

We would greatly welcome more volunteers to help with the routine vacuuming, dusting and brass-polishing needed in the church, as numbers on the rota have severely reduced in recent times.

*Chris Perry and Hilary Crellin*

**The Flower Team:** An amazing year for everybody but, with the church closed for most of the time, there remained little for flower arrangers to do. However, for Christmas, Andy Lloyd Williams, one of our main and most loyal arrangers, managed to get into the church and to place an arrangement behind the altar, which could be seen during the streamed services at that time. Otherwise, we have to wait and see what happens after June 15th when we are supposed to be free of all restrictions. In the meantime, we are enjoying our gardens and the countryside with the most amazing blaze of spring blossoms- the best ever, I think.

*Joy Isaac*

**Bellringers:** The Bathampton Bell ringers have not met since Spring 2020 due to COVID restrictions. The small ringing chamber at Bathampton and the fact that all but two of our ringers fall within the 'vulnerable' group due to age or ongoing medical conditions, means that ringing at St Nicholas or Claverton churches has not been safe to do. We have received the regular newsletters from the Bath and Wells Diocesan of Ringers and await to hear from them when restrictions will lift and what safety factors we need to consider. No timeline has been given for this to date, and we will liaise with Jonty as soon as we hear more.



*Candy McCabe, Captain of the Tower*

**Church Rooms Bookings:** There have been no bookings over the last year due to the pandemic. Bookings continue to remain on hold for the foreseeable future until restrictions are lifted. Hiring out our spaces responsibly whilst remaining COVID secure is complex.

*Hannah Findlay*

**The Fabric Committee:** The Committee is responsible for the day- to-day upkeep of the church and churchyard and for the progress of the repairs and professional surveys listed in the Quinquennial Inspection reports. Work is carried out using in-house effort where possible but calling in contractor assistance where appropriate and when funding is available.

The Fabric Committee has a team of hardworking and professional members who individually look after separate aspects of our work according to their expertise. We need further members with the necessary skills to look after electrical and plumbing issues, for which we currently use contractors.

The key effort during 2020 was addressing the recommendations of the 2019 Quinquennial Inspection report against the costed forward work programme for the next four years to keep the Church in good condition.

The Coronavirus Pandemic was seen as an opportunity to accelerate the work programme whilst the church was closed. This approach has been most successful in addressing all the recommendations, with completion due by May 2021. All the specialist works were competitively contracted and the balance of works were carried out by in-house effort.

The Glass Doors project was deferred to a post-Pandemic time when the fund-raising effort may be more favourably received by the Australian community.

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