

Diocese of St Alban's

Parish Church of St Margaret, Streatley



ANNUAL REPORT

for

2021

Adopted by the PCC of St Margaret's Church, Streatley at their meeting on 4th April 2022.

Signed: J Godino**, Chair

*** The signed document is retained by the Secretary. No signatures are shown in this document for Data Protection reasons.*

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Section A: St Margaret's Church Streatley and its community

St Margaret's Church is situated in the village of Streatley which lies on the A6 just north of Luton. The parish includes Streatley together with the Barton Hills, Bramingham Park and Warden Hills areas of north Luton and has a worshipping community of just over 10,000. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is PCC Secretary, 26 Weltmore Road, Luton, LU3 2TN.

Purpose

St Margaret's PCC has the responsibility of promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. Its Gift Aid Registration Number is X87671.

The PCC operates through a number of committees which report at each meeting and a number of working groups which report to the PCC on a regular basis:

Deanery Synod	Churchwardens
Finance	Safeguarding
Care Committee	Fundraising Committee
Church Website/Proclamation	Pastoral Committee
Parish Centre Committee	Youth and Children's Work
Ladies Guild	

PCC Membership

Churchwardens are elected annually at the Annual Parishioners' Meeting and are ex-officio members.

Deanery Representatives are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and serve for three years and are ex-officio members.

Further members of the PCC are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules to serve for a 3 year term.

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

Ex Officio members:

Priest in Charge	The Reverend Nigel Richards
Reader	Mrs Teresa Dales
Churchwardens	Mr John Farrent (until May 2021) Mrs Dorothy Iszatt Mr John Weedon (from August 2021)
Deanery Representatives	Mr Richard Daniells (From December 2020) Mrs Rosie Richards (From December 2020)
Diocesan Representative	Mrs Lynda Logan (Until July 2021)

Elected members:

Mr Tony Baines	Mrs Barbara Pattenden
Mrs Gill Critten	Mr Rob Prew (Until May 2021)
Mrs Jean Flower	Mrs Judy Seymour
Mrs Julia Godino (Lay Chair)	Mr John Weedon (Churchwarden from August 2021)
Mr Paul Ingram (Treasurer)	Miss Anna Wright
Mr Robin King	Mrs Gill Wright

Co-opted members:

Janet Jeans (Secretary)

Church Attendance and Electoral Roll

As at 10th May 2021 there were 105 members on the Electoral Roll.

During the year the following services took place:

Sunday Parish Communion	48
Sunday Book of Common Prayer Service	9 since recommencement
Sunday Services of the Word	3
Sunday Parish Centre Service	15 since recommencement
Sunday Parish Centre Service of the Word	1 since recommencement
Wednesday Parish Centre Holy Communion	41
Wednesday Parish Centre Service of the Word	2
Compline Services	8 since recommencement
Remembrance Services at the Hospice	2
Carols Services	3 (including Christmas in July)
Christingle Services	1
Services at Quantock Court	1
Communion visits to Rowles House	3 (currently on hold again due to Covid)

There were 5 Baptisms, 5 Weddings, 25 funerals during 2021 of which 5 were in St Margaret's Church and 20 at The Vale Crematorium. There were 13 services for the burial of ashes.

The work of the Priest in Charge, Reader, Lay Minister, Intercessors, Readers of the lessons, Choir Master, Organists, Choir, Verger, Sidesmen, Offertory Rota, Service sheet providers, Flower Arrangers, Cleaners, Laundry, Baptism Visitors, Child Protection Officer, Youth Leaders, Licensed lay assistants to Communion, Churchwardens and others has been invaluable in putting on all of the above services.

Regular Groups and Events

Those held during the year Talking Elephants Bereavement Coffee Morning, Thursday Coffee Mornings, a regular weekly youth club on a Thursday evening, Ladies Guild, carol singing at Sainsbury's, Christmas afternoon tea.

Section B – Church Reports

Priest-in-Charge

My friends,

I hoped and prayed that when I wrote my last APCM report in 2021 that our world would be in a much better place in 2022. And literally, as I'm writing this, all of the current legal restrictions around Covid are about to be lifted. By the time you read this, of course, things may be different again, such is the topsy turvey world in which we all currently live.

Over the last two years, as a church, we have complied with all the rules and guidelines and to the best of my knowledge, as a church community, we have remained safe and it is certainly my desire that this continues. Those who have come to church have been careful and considerate and with very little complaint, for which I thank you all enormously. Thankfully during this year, we felt confident enough to return to more regular patterns of worship, moving on from the single 10.30am service to an 8am BCP service on the first and third Sunday of each month, a 9.30am Common Worship service at St Margaret's and an 11.15am Sunday Eucharist service at the Parish Centre. Numbers have fluctuated, and in drawing the service at St Margaret's back by an hour this has possibly affected the numbers negatively, but I'm confident these can be built up again as the wider public's confidence returns. Fortunately, the Parish Centre service, however, has grown in numbers over the months since its return and we have recently moved it into the larger room for safety and to accommodate new people, including several teenagers. The promised addition of a wonderful musician to this service, as well as some additional advertising, will only enhance and grow our numbers further. By moving to three Sunday Services, we have had to change our online presence from my office at 9am to a live broadcast of the service at 11.15am. This is too late in my opinion, but is the only practical current solution due to Wi-Fi connectivity in the church. This is something we are currently working on, and it looks as if we may have secured a small grant to facilitate this. We are, of course, still committed to a live Morning Prayer each weekday, over several different social media platforms.

Despite the continued difficulties, our church still shows itself to be a wonderfully servant hearted community and even more so now that restrictions are being lifted. Our monthly Food Bank collection continues to bless the community in which we live, alongside many specific requests for donations to charities including an enormous clothes bank, which blocked up the back of the church for over a month.

I do keep trying to get into schools to minister but due to Covid, I'm still drawing a blank which is a far cry from the old days, when schools were constantly on the phone. I will persevere with this, as I think it's very important. I have managed however, to get into some of the local care homes to minister and even to sing, which is fantastic.

Our youth leaders continue to do a brilliant job and my prayers are that people are found that can replicate this with the mums and tots. It's fantastic that many outreach plans are afoot, via various committees and our fundraising team and we also plan to offer additional services to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. It would also be great to offer a programme of family activities in the summer which will involve input from the wonderful Sunshine Riding School.

With fears of Covid still very much on people's minds, we only carried out five weddings this year and we currently only have one booked in for 2022, although this might change and I have several people that I'm talking to. We were also blessed to carry out several baptisms and again, we have interest for the coming year. Funeral ministry remains busy, both at the crematorium and at the church.

For a second year, my chaplaincy work at Keech has been affected by Covid and so I've tried to diversify and have worked in their education department, organised external bereavement groups and have recorded social media messages for them. Not what I thought I'd be doing two years ago, but anything I can do to make myself useful I'm pleased to do. Since last autumn I have been able to make more regular home visits for Keech which I find very rewarding.

There are so many people in our community who continue to be a blessing to our parish. The team who maintain the churchyard, making it a place people delight in visiting. The amazing people who look after our beautiful church building. The fantastic Care Committee who really do care (it's not just a clever name). The wonderful Parish Centre committee. In what has been another very difficult year, the Parish Centre committee have gone above and beyond to keep our centre open for worship, for church events and to serve our community. The Ladies Guild, who bring a very special ministry to our church. The outgoing 'Friends of Streatley' leadership team and the wonderful individuals who have grabbed this important baton of church life. The Pastoral Committee who, in the continued hardship of Covid, bless the community in which we live and worship. The fabulous fundraisers who have blessed us with fun events and much needed finance. Our amazing church flower arrangements that have blossomed and brightened St Margaret's, even when we haven't been officially open. And Judy, whose bell ringing skills (I'm convinced it's more than one person up there) has lifted our spirits by calling our community to worship. Our safeguarding officer, whose continued professionalism and diligence keeps us safe (and able to be open). The diocese try so hard to make this job impossible, and yet Gill and her team rise to the challenges time and time again. And our Sacristan, our Verger and our baptism organiser who still make me look like I know what I'm doing, week in and week out. The magazine team, who continue to produce a magazine that is looked forward to by its readership every month. Our brilliant youth workers who lead our young people with such fun and passion. What a blessing they are! Our brilliant treasurer Paul and team, who continue to keep the wolf from our door. The fantastic Kimberly and her family who run our excellent website. Our deanery representatives, with their continued time and effort as they fly the St Margaret's flag, high and proud. Our inspiring ministry team of Teresa, Paul and Rob for sharing God's heart with us all, and so passionately. Our amazing choir, enjoyed by all our visitors, and the brilliant leadership and musicianship of Barbara. And Angie, who has agreed to bring her musicianship to our Parish Centre worship. Our wonderful, efficient PCC secretary, who has been so supportive of myself, the wardens, the PCC and our whole church. Nothing ever seems like too much trouble. Our superb PCC who continue to love our church and our parish. Our outstanding lay chair. The continued awesomeness of our churchwardens, without whom, nothing would have been possible. And of course, the congregations of St Margaret's and the Parish Centre. To all of you, I extend my thanks and appreciation. You are God's Holy people.

As I write this, rules around Covid are changing fast. And we will adapt as we feel it is appropriate, and hopefully continue to return the church to a sense of normality and start to grow our numbers. If things go well, we can develop our services and begin to rebuild children

and family connections. I'd be lying if I didn't admit this has been another challenging twelve months, but unlike last year, I definitely feel light is flickering at the end of the tunnel. And just like last year, I know there will continue to be challenges ahead, but nothing we can't handle. The community of St Margaret's has shown some amazing qualities over the last two years, not least patience, and for that I thank you, it's made my job so much easier. Stay strong and know that God is with us all.

With our continued love to you all.

Revd Nigel and Rosie

Care Committee

The Care committee reported that sadly the Covid restrictions imposed on us all once again curtailed us from planning any fundraising and fellowship activities during the early part of the year. However we were able to hold a very successful Harvest Lunch on the 19th September. We would like to recruit new members to join the Committee and anyone wishing to become involved would be most welcome.

We have continued to sponsor four children through Plan International during the past year. Regular updates from the charity have been received during the year from Plan and we have also been invited to join a number of Zoom meetings (which we have not taken up). Correspondence from the children is still being received infrequently. The children we sponsor are: Zenabou Nassam from Togo, Rolandi Leal Barbosa from Columbia, Rakibul Islam Rupom from Bangladesh and Junior Manuel Feliz Florian from the Dominican Republic. The ladies who correspond are: Pat, Gloria, Linda and Jean (F) – to these ladies we offer our grateful thanks. Birthday cards have been sent to 3 of the children in the past year. Judy will be sending out updates etc to Sponsors in May – the sponsorship money of £15 being due by the end of June. New sponsors are needed if you feel you could support this please contact Judy Seymour.

We resumed church coffee following the Sunday Communion Service at the beginning of September 2021 and the donation of £113.49 received during September to December 2021 was sent to CHUMS, who provide Emotional and Wellbeing Support Services for children, young people and their families as they face very difficult times in their lives. The CARE Committee would like to say a special thank you to the Church Coffee Group for continuing their support and also to the generous congregation who stay behind to enjoy the fellowship.

The only fundraising event during the year was an enjoyable Harvest Lunch which raised £617.00 which was divided equally to support the work of the church and Keech Hospice Care. Regular reports on fundraising events and information updates on charities the church has supported in recent years were included in the monthly Proclamation.

The Committee also wish to express their appreciation for the productive group of ladies who continue to knit blankets and to all those who collected used postage stamps for both the Keech Hospice and MacMillan Cancer Support. We are extremely grateful to Jean (K) who quietly continues to organise the collection and distribution of the charity collection boxes in the Cross Aisle at appropriate times during the year and which enabled donations to be sent to support the following charities - £25 Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal, £109.13 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and Church Christmas Post Box which raised £146.00 for the children's section of Keech Hospice. The magnificent response to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

for gifts for the local underprivileged children is greatly appreciated. The Congregation were thanked for supporting these worthwhile charities.

Jean (F) continues to sensitively oversee our Care Committee pastoral care by delivering cards and flowers conveying our thoughts and prayers to those who are unwell within the parish.

The Care Committee express their heartfelt thanks for the continued support of you all and a very big thank you to the Committee members and their families without whose hard work and generosity our events would not happen.

Brenda Daniells/Judy Seymour

Choir

The aim of the Church choir is to lead the singing in our Sunday worship. Those who attend the choir are all loyal and hardworking and I appreciate their support.

Weekly rehearsal attendance averages 12 singers (sopranos, altos and men). However, attendance on Sundays, usually 6-8 singers. The extras who come to help at rehearsals have commitments at other churches, but their input is much valued and for special occasions they do support us. We need more singers.

- We worked on a standard repertoire for the Easter services, but did not include any special anthems as Covid restrictions reduced our rehearsal times.
- In July we held our "Christmas in July", which was led by the choir.
- In October we held our "Pet Service", again led by the choir.
- In December the choir led 2 Carol services, adding two anthems and several descants to some hearty singing.
- We sang Carols at Sainsburys, as a fundraising venture.
- It would be good to sing an occasional Psalm during Communion.
- It is my hope to join St Augustine's Church service of Evensong once more.

One loyal member has systematically sorted and catalogued all the sheet music found in the Church. In addition, she holds supplementary practices to help members learn their parts.

My hopes and prayers are for a vision of the way forward!

I thank Nigel, our Vicar for his continual encouragement and support. He always expresses his appreciation for our work and this helps us all.

Barbara Donaldson

Churchwardens

Visitation

The annual visitation by David Kesterton and Steve Dolby from the Diocese went very well. Areas of particular interest were the Safeguarding Policy, the Fire Risk Assessment, the registers (giving details of Services, Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals) and ensuring the Churchwardens could account for the items listed in the Inventory. They also looked at the external walls of the Church and the Church grounds.

We were asked what type of heating system the church had, and it was suggested that in the future we should consider an alternative to gas.

Everything was found to be in order. To date, no formal report has been received from the Diocese.

The Visitation also provided an opportunity for the Churchwardens to comment (positively) on how the “new” incumbent had settled into the Parish particularly faced with the extremely difficult times created by the Pandemic.

Christmas Services

On Christmas Eve John received a phone call from Nigel telling him that he was ill and would not be able to take the Christingle, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning services so it was up to John to make the best arrangements possible.

Paul and Maureen said they would help with the Christingle and Midnight Mass. John collected the service sheets Nigel had printed for the Christingle from his doorstep. A call to Anna and Lisa Wright for assistance caused them to drop what they were doing, and they were a great help. With Barbara playing the organ and using an old service booklet we managed the Christingle story. The service was well attended, and many compliments were received.

Paul took the Midnight service and as there was no organist he downloaded and recorded the carols and delivered the sermon. Teresa took the Christmas morning service with the help of Nigel’s notes and Angela played the organ.



A lot of hard work went into preparing for the two Carol services. Thank you to Dorothy, Barbara and Shirley for helping put together the service booklet and to all those who read the lessons, the sides persons and all those who helped with the lighting of the candles and Christmas Tree.

Brenda and her helpers organized the beautiful flower arrangements and Richard put his Postman hat on and made certain everyone got their cards.

Parish Centre

We have not usually mentioned the Parish Centre under this heading, but it felt appropriate this year, with Dorothy’s involvement with the Wednesday and Sunday services. The Wednesday service has weathered the winter well and the Sunday morning service numbers are growing. It is hoped both services will continue to develop and cater for everybody, so watch this space.

Church Fabric

The Church building remains in good condition.

Churchyard Maintenance

The gardening group had their last session in November and prepared the Churchyard for winter. The trees still had a lot of leaves on, so we made tentative plans to come back and clear them when they finally came down. Although the leaves have fallen the weather has been very wet and we weren't able clear them

The bad weather also delayed our plans to lay the Pavlok matting. This project to increase the access area to the north door of the church will be completed in the new year.

John Weedon/Dorothy Iszatt

Church Flowers

Once again, the Pandemic curtailed the normal flower arranging activity in church this year. However the Altar pedestal arrangement has been in situ each week to enjoy but fewer arrangements than in the past had dressed the church for our Church festivals. It was decided that the same arrangement as last year would be put in place for the Harvest Festival and church members, family and friends were asked to contribute non-perishable food and toiletries for display and these gifts were taken to the Luton Foodbank thus enabling the church to give much needed support to this very worthwhile charity.

The Flower Fund generally remains self-financing, mostly due to sponsorship of the Altar pedestal arrangement, with some additional donations at festival times and in the Flower Fund Box on the chest in the Cross Aisle, together with a much appreciated generous donation from the Thursday Morning Coffee Group. I would respectfully ask you to encourage involvement in the Altar Pedestal Sponsorship as a floral tribute to remember loved ones or to celebrate a special occasion. This is one way we can ensure the floral decoration of our beautiful church can be enjoyed by all and not become a financial burden on the church. All the sponsorships are recorded in the Proclamation and an appropriately worded personal card with a photograph of the flower arrangement is given to each sponsor to keep.



I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the church and myself to all our creative church flower arrangers, sponsors and helpers for the help and support given towards the floral decoration of the church, in particular at the Church Festivals. It is an amazing team effort and very much appreciated not just by myself, but by everyone who visits our beautiful church throughout the year.

The annual Flower Fund Journal for the year January to December 2021 had been presented to the PCC Treasurer for Church Records.

Brenda Daniells

Fundraising Committee

Due to the continuing situation and uncertainty with the possibility of last minute changes likely to be imposed to assist in controlling the widespread situation and effects of the Pandemic, the Fundraising Committee had to unfortunately take the decision to postpone its Annual Fundraising Events in 2021.

Events that have been held regularly in previous years were:-

- Summer Fete [June]
- Annual Quiz Night [October]
- Christmas Fayre [End of November]

This has resulted in the second occurrence that the Fundraising Committee has been unable to provide its normal contribution towards the much needed funds, which are used directly for the upkeep of St. Margaret's Church, Streatley.

As there was a glimmer of a window of Opportunity in early November, the opportunity was seized and in a very short period of time an alternative event was planned, which adapted the theme of the Christmas Fayre in line with the permitted gatherings at that time, and is described below in greater detail.

Christmas Afternoon Tea

With the Covid situation still hanging around and the uncertainty of groups of people gathering in numbers at risk of being prohibited at very short notice, it was decided that we could not hold 'The Annual Christmas Fayre' again in 2021.

In order to still arrange a smaller event to raise some much needed funds, it was decided to hold a 'Christmas / Sparkly Jumper Afternoon Tea', and this was held at the Parish Centre on Saturday 27th November. The Parish Centre was transformed with Christmas decorations and all that attended the sell-out Afternoon Tea, had a feast of lovely food and an early taste of Christmas. Barbara and some Choir members assisted in entertaining with a mixture of Christmas Carols, which became very interactive with the Twelve Days of Christmas, towards the end of the afternoon.

2022 and Looking Ahead

We commenced looking ahead early for 2022 Fundraising Events in the hope of better circumstances, and that they will be permitted to take place, and currently the signs are looking promising.

The 2022 Summer Fete has been scheduled for Saturday 11th June 2022, and Streatley Village Hall has been booked.

In addition, and with some real positivity of a return to normal in the more distant future, we have also booked Streatley Village Hall for the first Saturday in June in 2023 and 2024.

Robin King

Ladies Guild

What can I say – it's been a very sad year due to Covid. We were only able to meet twice before lockdown in March 2021.

At our February meeting Kevin Varty came to talk to us about Sweet Memories/Origins of Chocolates. This was a very interesting talk when we learnt in which year many of our favourite sweets/chocolates were first introduced from 1777 to 1983. He ended with this little rhyme:

Chocolate comes from cocoa
which comes out of a tree
That makes it a plant
Therefore chocolate counts as salad
Works for me.

Then all the ladies were handed a wagon wheel – a very nice gesture.

In March we welcomed Maggie Taylor (a very interesting and good Speaker). This time she came to talk to us about lace making. She showed us many samples of lace, some made by her, and several ladies purchased lace book marks. As always lovely to hear Maggie.

Sadly, since then we have been in lockdown and unable to meet.

When we do resume we will be changing our venue and meeting times – meetings will be held at the Parish Centre on the 2nd Thursday in the month between 2.30pm and 4.30pm and hopefully we will be able to welcome most of our members back and maybe some new ones.

Judy Seymour

Marsom Grove

Tenant

The tenant is now back in full-time employment and has made great efforts to clear the rent arrears he had at the beginning of the year. He is now up to date with his rent and has formalised his rental payment by arranging a standing order with his bank.

Agent

In May of 2021 the agent sent us a "Statement Summary for All Accounts". At the end of this statement an Annual HMRC Summary Return was listed with a charge of £50.00 + VAT and on the June statement this figure was deducted. The church had never seen this charge before and I asked what it was, what it was for, did it apply to the church and could I have a copy. The Agent advised that it was a combined report of all their client's payment so I couldn't have a copy. I replied that the church had never been charge for this before and I felt it should be covered by the service charge. After some further correspondence they agreed to a refund and that this charge would not be made to the church in future.

Maintenance

For some time, I have been concerned about the frequent call out of heating engineers to rectify a boiler defect shortly after being serviced, with the same defects reoccurring. It was decided to put the boiler maintenance in the hands of Churchill Heating who then carried out Gas safety checks.

The boiler and hob installation passed safe to use but the gas fire failed the smoke test, and the fire was isolated. This should have been picked up on previous checks. However, the boiler had a water leak and other defects which determined it should be replaced as well as the fire. We also agreed to the supply and fitting of new taps to the kitchen sink, bath and basin. A Building Regulation Compliance Certificate was issued.

The EICR (Electrical Inspection and safety check) was carried out by McNeilly Electrical. All remedial work was completed and a Certificate of Compliance was issued.

The agent reported that the tenant's wife had tripped on the worn stair carpet and the tenant had requested that the carpet be replaced. I asked a contractor to visit and inspect the carpets, he reported back that the stair and bedroom carpets were badly worn. New carpets and underlay were fitted by "right floors" to the stairs, landing and 3 bedrooms with 3 doors needing to be trimmed to clear the new carpet.

John Weedon

Parish Centre

House Keeping

Another strange year for all of us due to the Covid virus which shut the hall from the beginning of January 2021 to April, that 4 months with no income, and as such no real house-keeping being done to the hall. Even when the restrictions were being lifted in May the customers that hired the hall were slow to come back and it was June before the cleaner was called back to a normal cleaning rota and most of the Covid restrictions were lifted ie the toilets were back to normal and we had the use of the meeting room and kitchen.



Maintenance

Tindall Security Ltd are still running the burglar alarm system. The fire system is run by Firelec Control Ltd and the company who looked after the Boiler system Natural Energy Ltd went into Liquidation in July and we are hoping to use the same engineer that services the church boiler to take over ours.

Finance

The Centre made a loss last year of £732.44 which is mainly due to the to the hall being closed as explained above but we still had a turnover of £7,915.80 As this is the third loss in 3 years and looking into the future with the hall now fully open we can look forward to a more stable future in 2022. I feel it is inappropriate that the committee should commit to make a donation to the PCC at this time

Bookings

Due to Covi some hirers have decided not to return; we have lost the Karate due to them requiring a bigger hall, and the Buggy Group have decided not to return but there may be others that may restart this group later in the year, and we have lost the Thursday Pilates group, but on the plus side the Monday exercise class have taken up another class on a Wednesday and Luton Shotokai Karate classes have also taken up another night. We have also picked a few hirers who want the Meeting Room once a month for meetings. The Saturday parties are going well with the time that they use the hall getting longer as we now have no one else in on a Saturday.

Peter Kain

Pastoral Committee

The year was different for the pastoral work, normally carried out by the now very depleted group of Way Wardens. What they were asked to do has been varied but they have continued to do anything that has been required of them.

Messenger leaflets have not been produced, most information from the Parish having been conveyed through letters written by our Vicar Nigel, and sent on line or in print form, available to collect from Church or the Parish Centre.

Such information has been followed through by members of the congregation who attended the various services in Church or the Parish Centre. The church also supported the Foodbank with monthly collections and produce from the Harvest festival; items of clothing and household goods were provided for the refugees and homeless persons; and the Toy service was again well supported and donations taken to the Salvation Army for them to distribute to local children who might otherwise have not received a Christmas present. It was lovely to see the scouts and beavers attending and taking part in the Toy service this year.



However, we need to consider how to keep all residents of the Parish (which covers over 5000 homes and continues to expand) informed of what is happening both in the Church and Parish Centre, especially as not all are 'on board' with modern technology.

Barbara Pattenden

Safeguarding

St Margaret's Church is committed to the safeguarding and care of all those within our Church community but particularly to the young and the vulnerable. We make every effort to ensure that they are able to worship and to be involved in the life of the church in safety.

It is a formal legal obligation for the PCC, in its report to the APCM, to state whether or not it has "complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)".

We believe that we have complied with this duty by:

- Adopting the House of Bishops' policy "Promoting a Safer Church" together with the "Statement on Domestic Abuse".
- Reviewing our policy and procedures annually and displaying a signed and dated copy of the policy on the noticeboard in the Church porch and in the Parish Centre. This includes contact numbers for the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and Social Services.
- Having a named Parish Safeguarding Officer who works with the Priest in Charge and PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensuring that all those who have regular contact with our young people and vulnerable adults are appointed in line with the Diocesan "Safer Recruiting Guidelines". This means they complete a Confidential Declaration and undergo an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). These checks now have to be carried out every 3 years.
- Displaying the "Promoting a Safer Church" poster on the notice board on the approach to the Church and in the Parish Centre.

As well as those working with our children and young people all members of the PCC need an Enhanced DBS check in order to satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission. This is because a number of elderly and vulnerable adults attend our services and social groups and we also have a Youth Club. Under the 5 yearly renewal requirement all these checks were up to date with only one renewal due before mid 2023. However, under the Church of England's newly introduced 3 year ruling there are now about twenty that will need to be renewed before the end of 2022. With this in mind, we have appointed another recruiter so that the process can be completed as smoothly as possible and I am grateful that Julia has volunteered to take on the role.

Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting. At the end of 2021, with new directives coming from the House of Bishops and the Diocese on a regular basis, it was decided that we

should set up a Safeguarding sub-committee to look at policies and practices and to bring ideas to the PCC for consideration.

During the year the Church of England developed a new, on-line training programme with modules at basic and more advanced levels. The level of training depends on the role one has and some volunteers will be required to commit to several courses. This may be a daunting prospect for those unfamiliar with on-line learning but we hope that we can make the process as easy as possible. Training is renewed every 3 years.

Finally, I must thank all those who have supported me during the year. Particular thanks to Janet for bearing much of the administrative load and to John, Julia and Nigel. Without their help I would have difficulty in fulfilling the increasing demands of the role.

Gill Critten

The Friends of St Margaret's Church

Activities in 2021 were once again curtailed by the Covid pandemic.

The annual General Meeting took place on 26th September 2021, in church. Pre meeting the friends produced a flyer which was delivered around the parish to try and engage new interest in The Friends, particularly from the village. Unfortunately, there was limited new interest evident at the actual AGM but a good number of existing sponsors and regular church members supported.

At the AGM two of the longstanding Trustees, Sir Robin and Lady Betty Biggam stepped down, as they had moved away. In addition, the Chair, Barbara Pattenden, and Secretary, Betty Horniblew, also stepped down after a long tenure on the Executive Committee, which had been mooted for some time. I would like to thank them all for their commitment to and hard work on behalf of the Friends over so many years. At the AGM Julia Godino was appointed as the new Chair and Paul Ingram as Secretary. Two new Trustees have also been appointed, Roger Sykes and Denise Dobie, alongside the existing Trustees Steve Pattenden and Neil Grainger. Maureen Ingram agreed to remain as Treasurer. We currently have 5 Executive Committee members (including the Vicar and Churchwarden) plus 4 Committee Members and 25 sponsors (some of which are also Committee Members). The sponsors donate a minimum of £12 each per annum to the funds of the Trust.

Only one funding request was received during the year but unfortunately this did not meet the terms of the Trust and had to be declined. The funding position of the trust remains comfortable but fundraising needs to be reinvigorated in a post Covid environment, particularly now the future of the Trust is secured by the appointment of new Trustees and revised Executive Committee.

Julia Godino

Thursday Coffee Morning

Due to Covid restrictions, it was not possible to hold any Coffee mornings for the early part of the year. However, once we were allowed to use the kitchen facilities we resumed in August, meeting every Thursday morning at 10am for much needed chat and coffee. Everyone was pleased to be back.

In September we held our Macmillan Coffee morning, which was very well attended, with lots to eat, the usual raffle and sales table and quizzes to add to the enjoyment. We raised £311.

Coffee morning donations help to provide St Margaret's Church with candles, wine for communion, etc.

Jean Flower

Youth and Children's Work

So it is 2022 and who would of thought after the past 2 years we have all had, The Hub Youth Club is busier than ever. With the youth club being closed for a long period of time due to Covid we really were not sure how many of our regular youth would return. However much to our surprise the road leading up to youth club at 5.45pm on a Thursday is just a delight to see. Not only have our regular youth returned, they have brought along heaps of new friends too.

We have had the privilege of finally introducing our youth to our vicar Nigel and his daughter Mimi who are both now part of the youth team and have fitted in just perfect.

It was so lovely to re-open our doors and welcome everyone back even if most of them are now taller than us....wow they sure did grow in them 2 years! Each of them have had their own stories and experiences to share with us about their lockdown but one thing is clear from them all, children want fun and a good chat and that is certainly what they get at youth club. They are loving being back each week and we are loving being able to offer that safe and fun space for them all. Overall each week there is approximately 25 youths with new ones continuing to join also which really is truly amazing!

Lisa and Anna Wright

Section C Other Reports and Policy Statements

Deanery Synod 2021

The Deanery Synod of Luton is extremely active and well attended and in 2021/2022 has been able to meet again face to face, which is a huge improvement. The following are just brief notes of the most salient points from each meeting, although Richard Daniells, Rosie Richards or Revd Nigel are always happy to discuss things further if required. Obviously, the deanery continues to function outside of these meetings and we will do our best to update you as we hear things happen.

As expected, Covid 19 continued to challenge all aspects of deanery life but the meetings were hosted by David Kesterton and the Lay chair, Peter Adams, with genuine passion for our community and places of worship. We have listed below some of the main points of a very busy year.

One of the main items has been pastoral reorganisation which took place in two parishes - Holy Trinity, Biscot, and St Matthew's.

Holy Trinity Church, Biscot

A statement from the diocese had been sent out to Synod members today, confirming that the Church Commissioners agreed the proposal to split the geographical area of Holy Trinity parish between the neighbouring parishes of St Andrew, St Augustine and Holy Cross, Marsh Farm and to end the benefice at Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity Church will remain open as a Chapel of Ease in the new parish of St Augustine's with Holy Trinity, Limbury and in use also as a venue for marriages. Subsequently, the parish of Holy Trinity, Biscot ceased to exist from 4th November. The new parish of St Augustine of Limbury and Holy Trinity will NOW be established. Paul Hughes assists Jairo Nyaongo on two Sundays a month.

St Matthew's Church, High Town

It is proposed that St Matthew's Church should remain open but that the parish become part of St Mary's. This proposal has gone forward to the Church Commissioners and it is understood that the congregation will not meet as a church from the date of the Annual Meeting. Nick Mwandia said that whilst the future use of the church had not yet been agreed, it was understood that the worship life of the church would be formally ended.

Appointments/Movements

- St Hugh's – An appointment was made and Martin Shea from Jersey was licensed on Wednesday 10th February 2021.
Curate Andy Gliddon moved to his new post in Finchley.
- Curate Sarah Hancock moved to take up a new post in Cheadle Hulme.
- Tim Madeley was licensed as Assistant Area Dean on Wednesday 9th December.
- Josias de Souza had been appointed as Vicar at St Francis. He comes to us from Dover, where he was Youth Minister.
- Andy Pike was licensed as an SSM at St Mary's.
- Jo Burke has sadly left and has been licensed as Vicar in the parish of Flamstead and Markyate.
- Sandra Miller has been licensed as a Reader at All Saints' with St Peter.
- A new Dean has been appointed at St Albans Abbey – Jo Kelly-Moore.

- David White was appointed as the new Diocesan Secretary, replacing Susan Pope who has retired after 20 years in the post.
- Andy Goodman is leaving his role as University Chaplain to become the vicar at St Mary's Marston Mortaine.
- Clergy Election to Diocesan Synod – Tim Madeley was the only nomination and he was duly appointed to the Diocesan Synod.
- In October we learned of the very sad passing of Valerie Dallinger. As you know, Val had been the Deanery Secretary and has made enormous contributions to the life and work of Synod. Her funeral was held in at Christchurch in November.

Finance

David Dallinger, our rep on the Diocesan Board of Finance, reported that they are still expecting a shortfall of between £1-2 million from the Parish Share in 2021, although land at Houghton Regis was sold, which has helped to reduce this amount. David Dallinger reported that there had been very little movement on the Deanery accounts. 4p interest has been received in the deposit account.

The Diocese had, however, also reported that the financial situation for 2020 had not been as bad as feared. The deficit for the year is around £1m, which is approximately 10% of the budget. The concern now is for the year ahead.

Speakers

Over this last year the diocese have given us several excellent speakers to encourage and inform us.

Paul Davies, The Archdeaconry Church Growth Officer:

Paul explained that the asset based approach to church growth was something he had experienced during time spent in Africa. It consists of looking at the resources that a community already has and deciding how to use those resources to do something productive, including accessing some of those resources from outside the church. It is based on the belief that God has already provided the church with all that it needs. The idea is one of both empowerment and of building relationships. It asks the question, how can the church here learn and grow in this and move forward? The approach moves away from the idea of dependency on the local church. It is about not doing anything for people that they cannot do themselves, but engaging with them in it.

Christian Cole (Diocesan Youth Missioner):

Christian gave an informative presentation entitled 'Faith in Young People'. He presented the findings of the Youth Project, which can be found on the diocesan website. This included working with Youthscape. It also included activities for younger children as well as older children, and emphasised the need to focus on teenagers as well as younger children.

Racheal Johnson (The Diocesan Environmental Officer):

Racheal gave a very interesting talk on her vision to extend the range of support and resources to enable all parishes to put Living God's Love into practice, living with respect for others and caring for the world in which we live. She explained that every parish is unique in its character, and yet every church can still take steps to reduce its carbon footprint and to care for creation. "Every positive action we take will make a difference for those most affected by climate change now and for generations in the future". As a first step, a network across the diocese

will be established so that it can provide practical support, encouragement and inspiration for parishes, at whatever stage they have reached on their journey to becoming more sustainable. This is something we can work on and will report back soon, but there were some excellent, creative ideas that we can do to get us started.

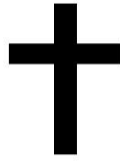
Conclusion

This report only really touches the surface of what our Deanery Synod does and could easily fill several more pages. We will endeavour to keep you all informed as and when things happen but in the meantime, please keep all of our churches in your prayers.

Richard Daniells/Rosie Richards



St Margaret's Church, Streatley



Serving the Communities of
Streatley,
Warden Hill and Bramingham Park

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

We recognise the importance of the Church's ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults and the responsibility for nurturing, protecting and safeguarding them.

We have adopted, and are committed to implementing both "Promoting a Safer Church" (2017), which is the Church of England's policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults and "Responding Well to Domestic Abuse" (2017).

We will make every effort to:

- promote a safe environment and culture.
- recruit safely by checking the suitability of all those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church.
- put in place a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse and respond to any allegation without delay, notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and co-operating with the statutory authorities during any investigations.
- have a procedure in place for dealing with a situation where a known offender joins our church community.
- give support to those who have been abused or have been affected by abuse.
- support those who may be the subject of concerns or allegations.

We will appoint a Safeguarding Co-ordinator who has received appropriate training for the role.

We will review this policy annually and, as part of that review, check that our procedures are up to date.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th January 2022

Priest in Charge:

Revd Nigel Richards

Date: 19th January 2022

PCC Representative: Dorothy Iszatt

Date: 19th January 2022

Date of next review: February 2023

**** The signed document is retained by the Secretary.**

Safeguarding Contacts

Revd Nigel Richards:
Priest in Charge

Email: streatleyvicar@outlook.com
Mobile: 07831 258249

Mrs Gill Critten:
Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Tel: 01582 595641
Mobile: 07483 243065

Mr Jeremy Hirst:
*Diocesan Safeguarding
Advisor*

Tel: 01727 818107
Mobile: 07867 350886

Social Services, Luton:
Children & Adults

Emergency number: 03000 008123
Office hours:
Children: 01582 547653
Adults: 01582 547659

Social Services Central Beds:
Children and Adults

Emergency number: 03003 008123
Office hours:
Children: 0300 300 8585
Adults: 0300 300 8122

Smyths Educational Charity (Registered Charity No. 307450)
Annual Report to St Margarets PCC – 2021

Smyths Educational Charity was formed in 1871 from a bequest of £500, made by George Smyth for the benefit of the inhabitants of Streatley and Sharpenhoe, chiefly towards the purposes of Sunday School and relieving poverty.

The Charity Trustees are: Dorothy Iszatt
 Geoffrey Weedon
 John Farrent (resigned 5 May 2021)
 Rev Nigel Richards (appointed 14 March 2021)

The original bequest continues to be invested with CCLA Investment Management, which is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The decision was taken by the trustees to switch from the COIF Charities Investment Fund (60.65 units sold) to the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund (398.05 units bought) at low cost offered by the Fund Managers. The transaction was completed on 2 July 2021. The value of the investment as at 30 December 2020 was £1,092.39 and at 31 December 2021 was £1,245.74. Dividends of £31.76 were received into the nominated bank account during the account year vs £31.13 in the previous year. The balance of the bank account was £341.03 as at 1 June 2021 vs £309.27 as at 1 June 2020.

The charity has been inactive during the Covid period as groups we previously supported have not been running. The purpose of the charity is under review to determine if the funds should be put to wider use in the parish.

Statement of Account as at 1 June 2021

	£		£
Balance B/Fwd 2.6.20	309.27		
Dividends received:	31.76	Payments:	Nil
Interest:	Nil	Cash in bank:	341.03
	=====		=====
Balance C/Fwd	341.03		341.03

Verified by the Trustees:

Dorothy Iszatt **

Geoffrey John Weedon **

John William Farrent **

Rev Nigel Cresswell Richards

Countersigned by the Honorary Treasurer and Correspondent to the Charity

Julia Mary Godino **

***** The signed document is retained by the Secretary.***

Parish of Streatley: Streatley and Sharpenhoe Trust Land St Margaret's Allotment Trust Annual Report 2021

The Trust income was much the same as last year despite additional plots being created by reducing the size of Plot 26 to allow for 5 small plots (26A,26B, 26C, 26D, 26E). There are now 20 full plots, 12 half plots, 1 large plot and 5 small plots. The rent on 1 full plot is, as yet, unpaid and 1 half plot is vacant. Plot 1A is charged at £25 due to non-use of water. Plot 26 was reduced and charged at £65.00. Two of the new small plots were paid for but are now not required. The money remains in our bank and is shown in the accounts as income.

Plot rents were not increased this year.

The expenditure for water supply remains high as does the charge for cutting the boundary hedge. This limits the income/expenditure balance to £218.75. £1,000 was donated to St Margaret's PCC account which creates a loss of £781.25.

Included in the balance sheet is the capital sum of £200.00 in CBF Deposit Fund 1320011197D, Trust number S3704. This is part of the assets of the Trust and was a payment made by the Highways Agency in 2004 in respect of a compulsory purchase of land at Streatley cross roads.

Also shown on the balance sheet is the accrued interest retained in the account.

Signed:

Rev Nigel Richards**	Trustee	22.2.22
John Farrent**	Trustee	22.2.22
Dorothy Iszatt**	Trustee	22.2.22
Geoffrey John Weedon**	Trustee	22.2.22

*** The signed document is retained by the Secretary.*

**Parish of Streatley: Streatley and Sharpenhoe Trust Land
St Margaret's Allotment Trust December 2021**

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	
Balance brought forward as at 31.12.2020			£2,185.76
<i>Income</i>			
18 plots @ £35.00	£630.00		
11 half plots @ £17.50	£192.50		
1 plot @ £65.00	£65.00		
1 plot @ £25.00	£25.00		
5 plots @ £15.00	£75.00		
Bank interest	<u>£0.14</u>	£987.64	
<i>Expenditure</i>			
Maintenance/Admin Expenses		£2.50	
Anglian Water		£366.39	
Jempson's Tree Services		£400.00	
Donation to St Margaret's PCC		<u>£1,000.00</u>	£1768.89
Excess Income/Expenditure			<u>(£781.25)</u>
Balance carried forward as at 31.12.2021			<u>£1,404.51</u>
Bank balance as at 31.12.20			£1404.51
Fixed Asset CBF Deposit Fund 1320011197D			£200.00
Accrued interest retained in Account 2020			<u>£66.88</u>
Net Total Assets			<u>£1,671.39</u>

Signed:

Rev Nigel Richards** Trustee Dated: 22.2.22

John Farrent** Trustee Dated: 22.2.22

Dorothy Iszatt** Trustee Dated: 22.2.22

Geoffrey John Weedon** Trustee Dated 22.2.22

*** The signed document is retained by the Secretary*

INCOME												EXPENDITURE						
2021																		
Name	Plot	Annual Rent	Date	Paid cash	Paid chq	Date	Interest	cash	Pay Bk no	Bank	TOTAL	Payee	Chq no	Donations/ Main exp	Anglian Water	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL	
Single	1	35.00		25.00	0.00	31.12.20					2183.26						2183.26	
Hacking	1A	35.00		35.00	0.00	31.12.20		2.50			2185.76				0.00	0.00	2185.76	
Mr Birchnal	2	35.00		35.00	0.00	11.01.21	0.02				2185.78		TFR		73.34	73.34	2112.44	
Mr Wilson	3	35.00		0.00	0.00	09.02.21	0.02				2185.80					73.34	2112.46	
Mr /Mrs Denyer	4	35.00			35.00	22.02.21					2185.80	St Margaret's	TFR	1000.00		1073.34	1112.46	
mr Sylvester	5	35.00			35.00	09.03.21	0.01				2185.81					1073.34	1112.47	
Miss Robinson	6	35.00		35.00		09.04.21	0.01				2185.82				0.00	1073.34	1112.48	
vacant	7A	17.50			0.00	13.04.21	0.00				2185.82		TFR		94.08	1167.42	1018.40	
Mr Savik	7B	17.50		17.50	0.00						2185.82					1167.42	1018.40	
Mr Wang	8	35.00		35.00	0.00	10..05.21	0.01				2185.83				0.00	1167.42	1018.41	
Mr Simpkins	9	35.00			35.00	09.06.21	0.01				2185.84					1167.42	1018.42	
Mr Jackson	10	35.00		35.00	0.00	08.07.21					2185.84		TFR		100.17	1267.59	918.25	
Mr Savik	11A	17.50		17.50	0.00	09.07.21	0.01				2185.85					1267.59	918.26	
Mr McKenna	11B	17.50			17.50	09.08.21	0.01				2185.86					1267.59	918.27	
Mrs Hardy	12A	17.50		17.50	0.00	09.09.21	0.01				2185.87					1267.59	918.28	
Mr McKenna	12B	17.50			17.50	11.10.21	0.01				2185.88					1267.59	918.29	
Mrs Burns	13A	17.50			17.50	18.10.21					2185.88		TFR		98.80	1366.39	819.49	
Mr P White	13B	17.50			17.50	09.11.21	0.01				2185.89					1366.39	819.50	
Mrs Parzyszek	14	35.00		35.00	0.00	24.11.21			cash	400.00	2585.89					1366.39	1219.50	
Mr Pitkin	15A	17.50			17.50	24.11.21			direct	535.00	3120.89					1366.39	1754.50	
Samus	15B	17.50			17.50	09.12.21	0.01				3120.90					1366.39	1754.51	
Mr Fleckney	16	35.00			35.00	29.12.21					3120.90	Jempson	TFR	400.00		1766.39	1354.51	
Mr Seal	17	35.00			35.00	31.12.21				52.50	3173.40	stationary		2.50		1768.89	1404.51	
Mr L A White	18	35.00			35.00						3173.40					1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Adams	19A	17.50		17.50	0.00						3173.40					1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Williams	19B	17.50			17.50						3173.40					1768.89	1404.51	

Mr Pitkin	20	35.00			35.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Savik	21	35.00		35.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Blake	22	35.00			35.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Walsh	23	35.00			35.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Pawlik	24	35.00		35.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mr Giles	25	35.00			35.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Jempson	26	65.00			65.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mrs Hall	26a	15.00		15.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Mrs L O'Callag	26B	15.00		15.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
Leroy	26C	15.00		15.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
vacant ??	26D	15.00		15.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
vacant ??	26E	15.00		15.00	0.00						3173.40						1768.89	1404.51	
				£450.00	£537.50			£0.14	£2.50		£987.50	£3,173.40				£1,402.50	£366.39	£1,768.89	£1,404.51
Totals		£1,050.00			£987.50												2022 Balance C/Fwd		£1,404.51