



Parish of St Cuthbert Croxteth Park

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council and Financial report for 2020

(N.B - 2019 Apcm –only held in October 2020 due to Covid-19 hence extra members and wardens etc)

Vicar Reverend Laura-Lee Leatherbarrow

Church Wardens Amanda Maynard Jan-October 2020 / June Simm October -Dec 2020 and Janet Spencer

Parish number 580

The church holds bank accounts with Lloyds Bank plc, Broadway, Norris Green, Liverpool and NatWest, 509 East Prescott Road, L13 3BZ

Legal Advisor Independent Examiner David Smith ACA, 16 Dalegarth Avenue, Liverpool L12 0AJ./ Gordon Simm 10 Mere view Crescent L12

Architect Maggie Mullen

PCC members	2020	Date Elected	Term of office
Revd. Laura Leatherbarrow	Ex officio		
Amanda Maynard	Ex officio	2019	18 months
Janet Spencer	Ex officio		1
June Simm	Ex officio	October 2020	6 months
Pam Ambrose	Ex officio	2020	3
Sonia Glencross	Ex officio	2017	3
Rachael Kiel	Ex officio/ Environment officer	2020	3
Stephen King	Ex Officio	2020	3
Tricia Smith	PCC SEC	2019	3
John Le Guen		2017	3
Veronica Angus		2017	3
Gaynor Brannigan	Treasurer	2019	3
Natalie Jones (NJ)	Lay Chair	2019	3
Gill Brocklehurst (GB)		2019	3
Alison Doyle (AD)-	Resigned 2020	2019	3
Mark Hannah (MH)	Resigned 2020	2019	3
Clare Phillips (CP)		2019	3
Karin Harvey (KH)		2019	3
Irene Sweeney (IS)/ Vacancy		2017	3
Natalie Christie	Safeguarding officer	2020	
Elaine Wilson (into Vacancy left by Jan AI-2019)		2020	3
Stuart Dobie		2020	3
Nicola Cushion		2020	

Deanery Synod	Date Appointed	Term of office	End of term
Pam Ambrose	2020	3	2023
Rachael Kiel	2020	3	2023
Sonia Glencross- Then Vacancy	2017	3	2020
Stephen King	2020	3	2023

St Cuthbert's	Officers		
Treasurer	Gaynor Brannigan	Lay Chair	Natalie Jones
Asst Treasurer/ Gift aid officer	Kristina Stoddern	Verger	On request Gordon Simm
Safeguarding	Jeanette Owens/ Natalie Christie	Cathedral Representative	Joanne Hannah
Health & Safety	Ged Shudall as needed	PCC Secretary	Tricia Smith
Sunday School	Rachael Kiel and Karen Harvey	Electoral Roll Officer	Pam Ambrose
Creche	Suzanne Li		
Spark	Alison Doyle/ Natalie Christie		
Foodbank	Gordon and June Simm		

SIDES PEOPLE FROM MARCH TO DEC IS ONLY FOR THE 6PM SERVICE

Service	Team	SIDES PEOPLE
9am		Leslie Harrison
9am		Adrienne Vert
9am		Dave Glencross
9am		Sonia Glencross
9am		Joanne Tranter
9am		Jill McCluskey
9am		Andrea Bate
9am		Clare Phillips
11am		Hilary Balmer
11am		Jean Wardale
11am		Adele Cole
11am		Vacancy
11am		Irene Sweeney
11am		Natalie Jones
11am		James Li
11am		Louise Coe
6pm		Gill Brocklehurst
6pm		Natalie Christie
6pm		Tricia Smith
6pm		Gill Brocklehurst
6pm		Leslie Harrison

St. Cuthbert's - Achievements in 2020 and Objectives for 2021

	St Cuthbert's Church Croxteth Park
1	<p>Welcome and Belonging</p> <p>Achievements in 2020 Social media and Live Streaming has improved our communication to the wider community has been used successfully and has been effective for events from Holy Communion/ Quizes/ fundraising/ Activities for community, as well as Mental health courses well as keeping activities fresh. Continuing to provide a good welcome at the door and spot those who are missing from our community All invited to partake at Communion making clear that it's open to all. Writing to those who are unable for any reason not to engage with online church Submitted Faculty for IT submitted and also bought Laptop for Church /vicar use as well as Wifi installed. encourage Baptism /younger families 0-6yrs old to use the Online Toodles with engagement throughout the week which again makes people feel they belong. Mums and young families have been hard hit during Covid it's an area that increases that sense of community while gently teaching about faith and Christian values</p> <p>Objectives for 2021 1. To begin work once Faculty is approved The IT equipment and screens. 2. To work towards establishing a missional community within the school e.g. Toddler Church partnership 3 Award. This was aimed before Covid and has been achieved in the online form during Covid. Work to continue. 3. To Understand new normal and provide what is needed and reasonable for the community as well as being aware of the environment and ensuring we care for our climate. 4. To achieve Disabled Friendly Award. 5. To run Advent Windows with a window walk around the estate as a missional venture. Once again and to run an Easter version 6. begin a Craftivism group – a gentle Activism group that raises issues in our area from Climate to living wage all through the medium of craft as well as giving people new skills and sense of belonging 7. To continue to encourage Toodles Families</p>
2	<p>Worship</p> <p>Achievements in 2020 1. More liturgical/seasonal material used for services allowing for a varied liturgical flavour throughout the year. 2 Varied services with visual displays and more people participating within them. Encouraging regular Parade services and working closely with the children in the church groups. 3. Social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) used to promote services and events. 4. Live streaming and online services commenced with good effect 5. The sound system was reviewed but could be more effective and microphones can still be problematic. This hopefully will be resolved with new IT. 6. All together service has commenced every 5th month which has helped all the different Congregations to come together and share time together as a community often sharing food this was good as well for environment as using less energy and resources as we do not have packed services. 7. To introduce a toddler online service during covid-19</p> <p>Objectives for 2021 1. To encourage people to use social media for all aspects of church life as well as national ventures #Followthestar and Thy Kingdom Come. Ensuring those without IT can follow information via posters and news sheets. 2. To provide interaction worship in the local community. 3. To use the screen (to be installed) more for information for people coming into the church. 4. To provide in person Toodles@4 5. To live Stream worship with Several flavours of Worship being offered every day</p>
3	<p>Nurture, Discipleship and Vocation</p> <p>Achievements in 2020 1. Lent and discipleship groups were well attended then once Pandemic hit were offered on Zoom. Online services have also been helpful.</p>

	<p>2. PCC members were encouraged to be disciples and spread the Gospel by being open to consider new ways of taking church to people in a non-traditional way. This was begun with the PCC “Tonight” Course PCC which we will run once pandemic subsides.</p> <p>3. Christian Mindfulness is well attended, and Youth and young people’s Mindfulness is appreciated as well. Especially with issues surrounding mental health issues.</p> <p>6.. People encouraged to attend the Diocesan led course for people exploring what God is calling them to be/do. This was the Directions course but there were no takers.</p>
	<p>Objectives for 2021</p> <p>1. To provide times for reflection within the crucial times and seasons of the year and to offer online courses To run the Wellbeing journey looking at our whole wellbeing especially due to covid.</p> <p>2. To offer Lent and Advent study courses as well as Pentecost. Plus, the possibility of a September course.</p> <p>3. To continue to offer Confirmation training once they are recommenced post pandemic</p> <p>4. Working with Scouts Rainbows once able to recommence in groups.</p> <p>5. To encourage people to attend the Directions course looking at what your vocation may be?</p>
4	<p>Leadership, Service and Evangelism</p>
	<p>Achievements in 2021</p> <p>1. People have been encouraged to be involved in the life of the church by taking on caring roles such as providing tea/coffee and chat after a service, welcoming visitors as Sides people adhering to the Safer Recruitment Policy as well as buddies both for phone and in person have been invaluable. .</p> <p>2. Our congregation continues to generously support Foodbank, Hugs in Boxes, Tearfund and Children’s Society.</p> <p>3. To look at grants for Aplace2B, IT and ECO work as well as general running of the Church</p> <p>4. To continue to outreach to community with a bigger and better In Touch magazine delivered and provided free of charge. This was managed at Easter 2019 but due to several reasons went back to a single sheet publication for Christmas. 2020 we did manage to ensure the school put regular information out on the school information app</p> <p>5. Have really encouraged people who have not read before or done intercessions to have a go using video formats as well as encouraging new people forward into roles.</p>
	<p>Objectives for 2021</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>1.To engage PCC in PCC “Tonight” course and to hold a vision day/ awayday for later in the year.</p> <p>2. To encourage lay leadership across the church. For people to really explore their gifts and be encouraged and empowered to play their part in being a ‘Bigger Church to make a Bigger difference’.</p> <p>3. To engage the people we meet out of church with our Faith. To share the love of God with all.</p> <p>4. To encourage Lay Leader for leading services. Work with the youth of the parish continuing to build links with Emmaus School.</p> <p>6. Artisan Fair, Summer fairs to be recommenced a form of Easter egg hunt, etc to be done in the community and continue to work with the community payback teams.</p> <p>7. To offer mental health ventures – using gardens and possible allotments.</p> <p>8. Revd. Laura to continue to work and be Chaplain to GP, Emmaus and to begin being Chaplain to the nursery.</p> <p>9. mindfulness course to be run in September and online continues two different nights.</p> <p>10. To run the Living in Love and Faith Course from September onwards..</p> <p>11. To work on building our Eco presence working towards Gold award. Spreading the word about Gods creation to our whole community</p>
5	<p>Pastoral care</p>
	<p>Achievements for 2020</p> <p>1. Pastoral care team to continue giving excellent care to the community and picking up referrals from Jubilee Medical Centre Physicians and church community.</p> <p>2. The welcome on arrival to church is continued inside and after the service.</p> <p>3. To ensure those who need them have a buddy.</p>

	<p>4. To explore group texting, in line with GDPR processes, to inform new members to church of special services and events within the church. Group texting facility used to communicate with baptism families and to promote services such as All Souls and wedding celebration services.</p> <p>4. To use Whats- app to keep people informed and together as well as having a separate prayer group.</p> <p>5 offer Coffee Chat and prayer after the service on zoom to bring people together.</p> <p>6. To continue to do Hugs in boxes, and encourage life events (occasional offices) to be held in St Cuthberts</p> <p>7. To offer support and a listening ear to those struggling with mental health due to pandemic or otherwise ensuring we also care for our younger generations as well as older.</p>
	<p>Objectives for 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase number of baptisms. / occasional offices 2. To engage further with Pastoral care team. And to use the garden more as outside space for those who will find gardening a good activity to talk about faith and mental health 3. To encourage people to do the Wellbeing journey and run the course regularly. 4. Continue to offer Mindfulness to all ages

Structure, Management and Governance

St Cuthbert's PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956.

There are no other related trusts. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church members are registered on the Electoral Roll and therefore eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC operates several subcommittees: there is of course a Standing Committee but the other groups have not been able to meet during 2020 and PCC members receive Safeguarding training and are now required to make an application under the Disclosure and Barring Service. They are also invited to undertake the relevant level of Safeguarding training.

The first and most important function of the PCC is to work in conjunction with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The Church is called to be pastoral

- to look after individual people
- to be evangelistic
- to tell people the Good News and invite them to accept it;
- to be sociable
- to help the poorer members of society, and those suffering from racial, economic and other forms of injustice
- to be ecumenical
- to encourage good relations with other denominations.

The PCC has reviewed its policy for Safeguarding and in 2020 we now have a Safeguarding officer and a DBS officer to help with the smooth running. The PCC operates under a mature system of controls and procedures developed over many years of operation. Finance and operational issues are routinely monitored as part of regular PCC meetings.

When planning activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with a specific guidance to charities concerned with advancement of religion. An annual budget is prepared to monitor short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC quarterly. Geographically there is little or no experiences of terrorist activity in any Churches and the risk rating of any problems in this subject area is exceptionally low, but as a place of worship open and welcoming to many visitor's vigilance is always paramount.

Reserves Policy - No charity can operate for any length of time without reserves. There are no available reserves, so a major effort will be needed to re-build reserves to a working level, a minimum of two months costs and to re-build a contingency for future maintenance costs. This is the aim for 2021

St Cuthbert's Parish and Local Area

The Parish -The Parish is situated to the north east of Liverpool. The estate, of largely privately owned homes, was developed on land acquired from the estate of the Earls of Sefton and is some six miles from the centre of the city. The parish borders Croxteth Country Park. The Country Park, and the Grade 2 listed Croxteth Hall within it, is one of the major heritage centres in the North West of England.

The church was opened in 1988 and was initially part of a team with St Mary's, West Derby. St Cuthbert's became an Independent Parish in 1998. 1998 also saw the opening of the Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School.

The Parish is part of the Croxteth Ward and details of the ward can be found on the Liverpool Council website, www.liverpool.gov.uk.

The Deanery -West Derby Deanery consists of 14 churches (one of which is closed for worship), 12 clergy (a mixture of stipendiary, non-stipendiary and retired Incumbents and assistants). The Deanery has completed a Deanery Mission Plan as required by the Diocese of Liverpool. The Deanery Synod is keen to explore ways in which the churches can develop working together that would see an increase of the relevance and impact of the churches in their communities.

Under the Charities Act 2006 churches with a gross income or total expenditure of under £500,000 do not need a full audit instead they may choose to have an Independent Examination. The PCC have taken advantage of this rule and have appointed Gordon Simm 10 Mere view Crescent Croxteth to take an audit of finances.

Emmaus School -Our work with the school continues and our relationship with school remains strong; Mr Williams and his staff are very positive and supportive of the Church. Meetings and collective worships have been done in school and online. We look forward to being in School properly again next year

PCC Membership -One third of the ordinary membership stand down from the PCC each year. Election of new members is by secret vote when nominees exceed vacancies. PCC members receive induction information including trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment, management, and child protection procedures. All members are required to make an application under the Disclosure and Barring service (DBS)

Fabric and Maintenance- Our Quinquennial was lost by the Architect during 2020 due to computer and staffing problems so this is being repeated at the beginning of 2021. However we have removed the ivy from the gutters we do need to ensure PAT testing is completed in 2021. We are a well-structured and young church with good maintenance plans ongoing which are completed by the generosity of a number of volunteers.

Risk Assessments- All organisations are subject to risk which could prevent them from operating effectively. St Cuthbert's Church as a charity is no different. To identify their major risks, the PCC undertook a programme of assessments. Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church. Action in the main areas of risk has been taken as follows.

Financial Risk -An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC. A finance group was set up in 2019 to monitor and control the budgets for St Cuthbert's and the Diocese was also supporting us in changing over in 2020 to a new software that has made the accounts much simpler this year.

Health and Safety

A review is annually undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this field. The PCC has been appraised of the risks and the necessary compliance requirements and these have been complied with. Specifically, procedures for recording accidents have been put in place and all Wardens and Sides-

people have been trained in fire safety. These procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and formally reported to the PCC. Ged Shudall has said that he will be a consultant as and when we need assistance.

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection- Policies for children and vulnerable adults have been approved and Coordinators appointed. Natalie Christie is the Safeguarding lead with Natalie Jones as DBS verifier. We take this extremely seriously and ensure all our leaders that need DBS are renewed and that all parishioners are encouraged to complete Training C0 with PCC completing C2 and all children’s leads are to be C3 with the Safeguarding lead and of course Clergy.

Fire Procedure-

A review of equipment and escape routes is undertaken on an annual basis by a firm of external consultants. An internal assessment is carried out by representatives of the PCC who are appropriately qualified.

Electoral Roll

2015	April 2016	April 2017	2018	2019	2020
139	152	152	140	106 (New Roll)	106

St Cuthbert’s Mission and Vision for 2020

January -March 2020 Rev Laura had been involved with several ventures across the parish and has lead services at Emmaus School as well as here at Church.

Our uniformed organisations were taking part in the Bi-monthly in our newer ‘All Age service with communion’ which included Parade services led by groups with help from Rev Laura, and this has been successful in blending church and community life for the groups, and they have felt supported by the church. These have also been the best attended service and looking at numbers over the last 4 years using the parade services as a comparison there has been a significant growth in numbers attending in the last 12 months. We have also seen an increase in baptisms and have seen more families remaining with St Cuthbert’s family thanks to having them meet more with Rev Laura and encouragement to join all age and now online Toodles@4 which is wonderful. The baptisms are coordinated by Janet Spencer and I wish to thank her as she does a great deal in the background to help these run smoothly. We have moved Baptisms due to covid to a Saturday and have found that they work well offering a more intimate space for questions and learning about God and this has led to more people staying with the Church through Covid and hopefully beyond. Baptism prep has been delivered regularly by Gaynor and Janet and this offers a chance for questions answers and encouragement of all who come through the doors for this life event. We were in middle of a Climate and environment lent course /Study involving Church and Community based projects and using Ruth Valerio’s Book ‘Saying Yes to Life’ then sadly the Pandemic of Covid-19 became part of our life! In March2020 and so it has been a steep learning curve about learning how to do online services, learning how to do zoom etc. and of course doing all we can to ensure all were cared for during this frightening. St Cuthberts was very proactive and before lockdown happened for the first time Rev Laura set ‘Buddies’ group up and allowed people to ask for help and be allocated a Buddy many of whom were still be used by our parishioners in December. During the year Buddies helped with shopping, prescriptions, and even hospital pickups and helped 109 different people several times. We also had a small number of phone buddies who kept people in contact with the church during all the lockdowns in 2020.

Several discipleship groups/courses and Mental Health courses were led by Rev’d Laura from March onwards and they have been held online, these included ‘Covid-19 a conversation’ and ‘The Sanctuary course’ which was an in-depth Mental health course teaching churches about mental health, and mental

health engagement these were on top of the usual courses during end of lent, and Advent courses. Toodles@4 is the new toddler church group which includes a what's-app group this is used by the families to discuss the bible story from the week before and send in pictures of the craft of the week or their interpretation of the bible story to be included in the following Sundays Toodles! This has really engaged the families and helped them to meet new families (know what people look like) and means each week real engagement is happening with those families that has allowed us to begin engage with new families even though we have been in the depths of a Pandemic.

During the year Rev'd Laura held lots of things online and on Zoom to encourage people and to help improved social resilience during the pandemic and we had a variety of Quizzes, children's Quizzes, Games and Just Coffee and Chat as well as Coffee Chat and Prayer after the Churches main service online at 10:30. Activity files were also used within our online 10:30 worship to allow our community to send in pictures of things they had been doing in the week, from eco challenges to bible work, to crafts and outside pursuits allowing our community to feel connected.

Rev'd Laura began Mindfulness for both Children and Adults over Zoom and this has been well attended and many people have appreciated having this in place. During March – July 2020 Rev'd Laura put on challenges for the children daily over our Facebook page and which helped with Social resilience and the mental health of our young families. It was also a way of engaging the community during difficult times the Challenges had a special focus on Environment and recycling as we continued to work towards our Gold award. Regular letters and newsletters were sent by Rev'd Laura to try and keep all informed including sending Redemptions sheets during Advent for those who found online services difficult.

Rev'd Laura also did a great deal of fundraising and writing for grants to help with the financial impact that Covid had on our Church. Although we continue to struggle Thank you to Gaynor our Treasurer and all of the community who got behind the church and have managed to keep all bills paid to date.

'Hugs in Boxes', continued and this year we were able to help 50 families in need and support a further 45 families in our community who had had a difficult year. We were involved for the first time with Pyjama party – a group which tried to ensure all children in Social care were given fresh new PJs for Christmas. I am proud to say we managed to give just under a 100 PJS to the group which is superb. There has been a fantastic effort by all to keep Foodbank throughout the year and many also did the 'Advent 4Advent' challenge collecting extra food and goodies during November which ensured the local foodbank was well stocked and food was also delivered to 15 families in need across the estate and supported by food bank over the year. Over 2 tonnes of food were donated so thank you all!

One of our Families made signs of Hope and Love in rainbow colours and this was a great uplift to the community and many stated that they felt uplifted by them many of whom would not normally engage with the church. Sadly we did suffer from late October to Dec with vandalism of the signs, trees and grounds. We are not discouraged and used the opportunity to try and engage with some of the youth that were hanging about the church with nothing to do due to pandemic and shared Hot chocolate with them to try and form relationships, however it seems to be 16-21 year olds and there has been an increase in crime reports on the estate as a whole.

Over Advent we held an Angels scarecrow festival Angels were sent as messengers to give the Good news so we tried to take the principle on board and each Angel had a message or word from the Christmas story there where an excellent array of recycled objects and the challenge involved the local school and nursery too and they were a joy to see, on top of this we also had 24 families involved in Advent Windows with a trail available and a special face book page which gave a reflection to each window based on a Carol.

We also held a Christmas service with Carol Singing – The Big Sing around the estate to try and bring the Christian message to all taking in some of the Angels and windows on the way. As well as leading Away in a manger on Christmas eve at 4 on our doorsteps which even radio Merseyside joined in. Revd Laura and the congregation have worked hard to engage with the Rhys Jones Centre, the school, the local GPs, the nursery opposite and have used creative ways to bring the community in as well as the community going out and we have continued to engage and support our local community sharing the Good news and being Christs Hands and feet in our communities. We have been recognised by the national church as having a good ministry for those struggling with mental health and 2021 we will focus on Rebuilding and Wellbeing

Our church and church grounds

As in 2019 we do not have a contingency fund. This was felt when covid hit and funds need to be raised for the day to day running and ministry of the church and we need to keep focused on Giving in Grace and Stewardship the Deanery kindly gave us a 20% discount during July- Dec 2020. We also encouraged all to use the Parish Giving Scheme which allows a monthly regular direct debit to be given.

We Still are waiting for the faculty be passed on having screens installed so when we are in church, we are still using service sheets, but we have now installed Wi-Fi which has helped with live streaming the communion in church at 6pm when we have been allowed to have in-person worship.

Grants have helped us from our local councillors and one from the Metro Mayor has helped us to put funds forward for the bills and jointly with another grant to purchase a laptop for some of the online work that the church is doing.

The Pay Back team have met when possible and continue to use our facilities as part of our commitment to be the heart of the community.

Phil and Tommy have done a Stirling Job keeping the gardens maintained and have worked on some of the things we need to put in place as we care more for our environment.

Environment and Eco Church

During 2019 we were awarded our Silver Eco Award and we have continued to grow and work on this venture moving a great deal to online but also ensuring we have continued to complete the ARoche Survey and getting a base line for 360 Carbon. During 2020 we have offset our Carbon and have been classed as D for our building and A for our Activities on our Energy reports

Rachael Kiel has worked to ensure we all do our absolute best for God's Creation and ensuring good stewardship as we prepare for the future. Also working with a team of youth who are also Environmental Officers for St Cuthbert's.

Our website is updated with links and useful information regarding Eco Church and how we can get involved. And even though Online we continued to hold Creation Sunday and Climate Sunday and encouraged all the photos of changes made to be sent in for the morning's activity files.

Rachael Kiel took the sermon spot on Sunday 22nd at 1030 am to explain all things Eco church about what we do, what we can do and how we can improve and work towards the gold award.

We continued to support and work with the payback team looking at environmental issues and we began changing the way we cared for and used the gardens.

We do hope to provide in the future allotment areas and We have had in place during 2020 a low mowing schedule, put up birdboxes, left an area as a wildlife area, and had a family of hedgehogs move in!

Below are the guidelines we are asking the congregation to work to in 2021.

1. Each day of Lent pray for one thing in creation that you care about e.g. the birds in your garden, or even your favourite food. Thank God for it.
2. Set aside time each week to go for a walk (or look out of your window if you are not able at present) and actively appreciate Gods creation, remembering how we are wholly dependent on it for our survival.
3. Come to the Eco days and litter picks and of course pray for us as we work to maintain our Silver award and improve to Gold to protect God's environment. look up www.prayandfastforclimatechange.org.uk
4. Become part of the Eco Group.

Vision - the plan is to work towards the Gold award and to involve more of the congregation, especially those who do not have access to the internet to look at the hints and tips available. To build a greenhouse using the eco bricks that we continue make. To make raised beds and to continue to look at what we can do to raise awareness of climate issues especially with our MPs and councillors. To start up a craftivism group and to embed the environment and climate awareness into all we do

Our challenges in 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed a strain on our wonderful Church Wardens, vicar, but also on finance specifically and the Parish Share remain at the fore of our needs for the coming year. We are not however down-hearted!

So, our prayer for the year going forward is

'Loving Lord, you are our hope and our strength – You are our ever-present help in this difficult world and Lord we know that You hold the future in the palm of Your hands, and we trust You. We thank You that You are always there to provide for our needs and to protect us from the storms of life...and we pray that no matter what the future holds – You will remain there beside us. We know that no matter how difficult life becomes Your grace is sufficient for all our needs. Help us to rely on You no matter what problems and difficulties arise – for our hope and future is in You.'

Vicars and Church wardens Report for APCM April 18thth 2020 [1 Corinthians 12:12-27]

What St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth 2000 years ago, is just as true today: the church is the body of Christ, and when each of its members contributes with the gifts they have been given, the whole church flourishes. As St. Paul makes clear, we are meant to be reliant on each other for the mix of gifts we need. I am privileged to have a particular role in the church as an ordained minister, but that is only one role among many, and I'm grateful to all of you who exercise your God-given talents in the life and worship of the church. Some of those gifts are exercised in visible and audible ways in our worship. I thank the Intercessors, readers for stepping up in new ways and for many of you engaging with church either online or through, buddies or even different activities that we have continue to hold. This year has been incredibly difficult for all of us, So I want to say thank you to you the parishioners who have allowed me to care for you, and I hope as a church nurture you through these difficult times. I look forward to sitting sharing food with you and most of all sharing the Good news with you all once more. I do need to say Thanks, too, to all those involved in leading worship services, those who help us to hear and receive Scripture, those who lead us in prayer, and those who work to ensure our physical needs are met with welcome. I thank all who have helped and been involved in some way doing the online worship from pictures for the activity files to leading worship each evening and stepping up in what has been a difficult year for all of us.

Some work is less immediately visible, and I thank June and Janet, our churchwardens for their consistent, reassuring competence and dedication. I thank everyone who has been a buddy either phone or in person. Thanks to Gaynor our treasurer, during these difficult times of Covid and the financial situation and all the PCC members for your time and effort in looking after the governance of the congregation and its finance, and the fabric of the building. A mention to, to Tricia who kept us all in line as PCC secretary and produced the minutes of each PCC which I know can be a difficult job when its on Zoom as well as in person. I thank her for gifts in doing this and I also thank Pam for keeping the electoral roll in check. Some work can easily go unremarked, despite, as St. Paul pointed out, being at least as important. So I thank all those who clean, decorate and maintain our building, especially Phil, Tommy and Rachel. I thank those who look after the linen, those who prepare for worship, those who faithfully make sure the building is open for users, and all who pray for the flourishing of our spiritual life together.

For the full flourishing of the church, it's vital that as many people as possible are using the gifts God has distributed among us, so I would say to you, please don't hide your own gifts away!

Vison. 2021

In the beginning of 2020 There were three services each Sunday with a total of around 75-80 adults across the three services. of course, we have on certain Sundays during the year, have larger than normal congregations but we now must learn to embrace whatever the new normal may be. We need to look at financial restraints and environmental restraints too when we develop the new pattern of worship and we must be aware of the planet and our impact on the climate, using the building to a full capacity as much as

possible and we must too remember that church on a Sunday no longer fits many people especially the very families we are trying to engage with across the estate. We have continued and done well in 2020 to keep going and to engage new people through online ventures All of this is particularly good, but it could be simply a foretaste if we all open our minds and hearts to God's mission. For the long term, for this church to carry on being the visible part of God's kingdom in this park and estate, we will need everyone's concerted effort. This may mean **not waiting to** be asked before offering your own gifts in the church's service. It's always great to be asked, but because I and the rest of the church's current leadership are fallible, we won't necessarily pick up on what you have to offer. So, if you are feeling God is nudging you, please don't wait till someone else notices God is nudging them too – please raise a hand!

Finances are a constant worry and I do hope people can begin to see that caring for the church financially and giving to the upkeep of the church is essential to their whole wellbeing and part of their own Stewardship and faith. I hope we will continue to work on our Gold award and at the end of this year we are just about ready to try and submit our papers to see if we can go forward to Gold. The Garden to be extended with allotments areas gives us the hope that we can grow our own organic local food for 'APlace2B', and of course we will need to get the kitchen sorted out for regular food to be given out. I hope that as a church we will look to working towards goals of good stewardship and becoming sustainable. I hope to be working better with Croxteth park estate, and with Rhys Jones, the shops, and the nursery and to be an active part of the school. I hope that one day soon we can worship, share and eat together regularly once more and to cherish what we have, to grow and share that love with others and to be the very best that God wants us to be for our community.

Thank you and God bless you all

Rev Laura

Churchwardens report 2020

Janet and I know that there are not all the usual reports at this APCM but we have asked Laura to include just a short message from us both in her report. All we want to say actually, is the most enormous thank you – to everybody. People have stepped up to the mark in so many ways which are too numerous to mention, and we are so very grateful. You have shown the real meaning of the word community. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can see lots of you face to face. Until then, carry on taking care and keeping safe.

God bless June and Janet

Safeguarding Coordinator (Children & Vulnerable Adults) -The PCC is responsible for ensuring and promoting the best possible safeguarding culture and expects that everyone will work within the church Safeguarding Policy. In particular, the church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to any member of the congregation immediately raise this with members of the Clergy or the Safeguarding Coordinator. The PCC being responsible, to ensure that all activities involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults, are managed and supervised by appropriately trained and recruited volunteers. Utilising Liverpool Diocese 10 Steps Safer Recruitment Policy, new members of the congregation, before they are eligible to volunteer and work with children, young adults, and vulnerable adults, must have attended regularly at Services/and church activities for six months.

All volunteers are required to attend an interview with the Safeguarding Officer or Revd. Laura and complete a DBS application and undergo the appropriate Safeguarding training.

Safeguarding Advisor Catriona Richardson is our link in the Diocese.

We have adhered to and implemented the new Safeguarding rules and policies advised.

It applies to all and offers a great foundation for good safeguarding practice.

As a PCC we have complied with the duty under section 5 of the safeguarding and clergy discipline measures 2016 (Duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Objectives for 2021/22

To review Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to ensure that they fulfill Diocesan policy and guidelines.

To ensure that the 10 Steps for Safer Recruitment for new volunteers are in place and adhered to.

To review volunteer role descriptions, vacancy adverts, and interview criteria.

To invite Catriona to the church to speak at Sunday services about safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within the context of the church.

To review and implement all new the policies within Promoting a Safer Church.

Next Apcm St Cuthbert's APCM for the year of 2021 – April 2022