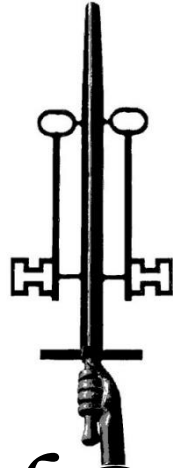




God's growing family; praying, loving, transforming.



*Annual Parochial
Church Meeting*

Celebrating the Life of our Church

Monday 15th May 2022

7:30 pm

The Chapter House

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The Annual meeting of Parishioners
to be held on Monday 16 May 2022 at 7.30pm
in the Chapter House, St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Road,
Flitwick. MK45 1AE

Agenda

Opening Prayer

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021
2. Election of 2 (two) Honorary Parochial Church Wardens
3. Election of 2 (two) Honorary Deputy Parochial Church Wardens
4. Chair's Closing comments.



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners
held on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm
in Church and on a Zoom Forum**

Revd Lucy Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting and led a few moments of quiet before opening the meeting in prayer.

There were 18 Parishioners in Church and another 14 joining the meeting on Zoom, Lucy thanked everyone for coming

1, Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12th October 2020

With Chris Macintosh proposing, Mary McKeand seconding the minutes were unanimously approved by the meeting.

2, Election of 2 Parochial Churchwardens

Lucy explained to the meeting that Churchwardens were elected for a year and were only permitted to serve for six years but in previous years a special resolution has been passed to allow David Watson to be elected for longer, this year however he is standing down.

Lucy read out the nominations for those wishing to be elected as Churchwardens
Chris Macintosh was proposed by Sue James, seconded by Alison Billington
Linda Foale was proposed by Marion Tucker, seconded by Carol Thompson
The meeting unanimously approved the nominations

3, Election of 2 Honorary Deputy Wardens

Lucy read out the nominations
David Golding proposed by Trevor Davis, seconded by Marion Tucker
Richard Fullbrook proposed by Carol Thompson, seconded by David Watson
The meeting unanimously approved the nominations

4, Chair's Closing Remarks

Lucy told the meeting that it had been an extraordinary year to be a Churchwarden and that she was privileged to be supported by David Watson and Chris Macintosh who were calm and didn't panic and were remarkable with what they achieved and were owed a debt of gratitude.

She added that she was grateful to the new team who come with a rich sea of gifts in which will be a challenging year.

Lucy thanked David Watson for his many years of dedicated service and presents him with gifts.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners
 16 May 2022
 Agenda items 2 and 3
 Election of 2 (two) Honorary Parochial Churchwardens
 Election of 2 (two) Honorary Deputy Parochial Churchwardens

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Churchwarden	Linda Foale	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor
Churchwarden	Richard Fullbrook	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor
Deputy Churchwarden	Chris Macintosh	Ciaran Diver	Helen Jackson
Deputy Churchwarden	David Golding	Ciaran Diver	Helen Jackson



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held on Monday 16 May 2022 at 7.30pm
in The Chapter House, St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Road,
Flitwick. MK45 1AE

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021
3. To receive the Vacancy Report
4. To receive:
 - a) The Electoral roll
 - b) A report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - c) The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021
 - d) A report on Safeguarding in the Parish
 - e) A report on the Deanery Synod
 - f) A report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments
 - g) A report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2021
 - h) Reports from Church groups
5. Election of 7 (seven) Representatives to the Parochial Church Council
6. Appointment of an Independent Auditor to the PCC
7. Outgoing Churchwarden Comments
8. Questions
9. Closing remarks from Revd Claire Harald



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Held on Monday 26th April in Church and via Zoom

1, Apologies

Apologies were received from Anthony Davis

2, Approval of the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 12th October 2020

There were no amendments to the minutes which were proposed by Carol Thompson, seconded by Ian Cook and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

3, To Receive

a) The Electoral Roll

Lucy told the meeting that there had been an increase in numbers on the Electoral Roll even during the year of COVID. She thanked Richard Fullbrook for carrying out the roll of Electoral Officer adding that he was an extremely efficient one. Richard had nothing to add to his report.

b) A Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

This is often called the PCC secretary report which had been written by Linda Foale and she had nothing to add to it. Lucy admitted that she had coerced Linda into becoming Churchwarden for the next year and thanked her for being PCC secretary and great support.

c) A Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.

Lucy explained that the report was short due to COVID restrictions not allowing in person meetings. She added that there had been some very important Deanery Synod work during lockdown which has been passed on to the PCC but will be part of the 2021 review. She thanked all those who served on the Deanery Synod adding that it adds another layer to Church functions.

d) The Annual Report and Financial Statement

Donna added to her report

“ Thanks to Anthony Davis for production of the accounts and financial statements. Also for his support and patience during handover in 2020

Subject to questions there are two key points to highlight

1, The net expenditure is approximately £300 less than 2019.

2, Giving (in all its forms) has been extraordinary and a testament to the generosity of the parish

Total giving –despite the reduced number of services (in church) and fundraising events - is only £1000 less than 2019”

e) A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Lucy told the meeting that the Quinquennial Inspection was going ahead at the moment and she felt that it would say that the building had been well cared for and that is thanks to the fabric committee who do such a great job.

f) A Report on Safeguarding in the Parish

Lucy reminded the meeting that for the first part of 2020 Wendy Harris was the Safeguarding Officer and Jane Thompson took over in October.

It had been a remarkably smooth handover with the foundational work Wendy did to prepare making it as straight forward as possible for Jane as it could be.

Lucy added Jane is equally as diligent as Wendy with regards to Safeguarding and she thanked them both for all they had done.

g) A Report on the Ministry and Witness of the Church Throughout 2020

Lucy explained to the meeting that this section would normally include group reports but for 2020 they would all say the same. So instead included was a composite of what's gone on from our own Vision Statement.

4, Election of Representatives of the Parochial Church Council

There were vacancies for 5 representatives.

To serve three years

Jo Chandler proposed by Anthony Davis, seconded by Becky Mynett

Jane Thompson proposed by Alison Billington, seconded by Susan James

Ian Cook proposed by Alison Billington, seconded by Susan James

Heather Macintosh proposed by Susan James seconded by Alison Billington

To serve one year

Nigel Taylor proposed by David Golding, seconded by Mary McKeand

The meeting unanimously voted for all nominees to be elected.

Lucy introduced to the meeting new members Jo Chandler and Nigel Taylor and invited them to say a few words about themselves.

Also joining the PCC was Becky Mynett who was joining as an ex-officio member in her capacity as Licensed Reader.

5, Election of 1 Representative of the Deanery Synod

Anthony Davis who had been elected to the Deanery Synod had to stand due to his and Lucy's departure which left a place to be filled. Nominations were received for David Watson to be elected, proposed by Richard Fullbrook, seconded by Anthony Davis and unanimously agreed by the meeting

6, Vicar's Remarks

Lucy's remarks are attached to these minutes and Andrea added to them:

"I would like to thank every single person in this Church and everyone in the Parish for the love, support and kindness shown to me and my family making us most welcome when we arrived and still doing so.

It has been brilliant to plan worship and pray with a newly formed Ministry team which has been fabulous and a privilege to work with.

Thank you to the Churchwardens, David and Chris, for their support and thank you Ciaran and David for support and help with the new initiative of Echo Church, we are now waiting for a bike rack. Echo Church is one of the 5th marks of mission of the Church of England and very important for our future.

Though strictly speaking the Confirmation was in 2021, it was delayed due to COVID preparation actually started in 2020 which was a real joy to see God in this way

Thank you to Lucy for my training during Curacy. There is a lot going on in the background with writing and re-writing reports so thank you Lucy for your grace and commitment during the past three years and for the ability for making good coffee!! I know you have many gifts to offer to St Andrews, Bedford and that God will be with you on your next journey.

May we all be good for each other and always for the greater glory of God.

I will continue to keep you and this Church and Parish of Flitwick as we begin to discern God's call on our lives."

7, Questions

Rosemary Ingram asked what was the current position regarding St Andrews.

Lucy asked Ciaran Diver to answer who gave a short update of the history of selling the land stating the monies of the sale will come back to this Church. Working with an external planning consultant the plans are now ready for submission to CBC Planning Committee explaining that selling the land with planning permission gives significantly more value to it than without. Ciaran added that the PCC were meeting following this meeting to approve submission. Once submitted it should take about two or three months to be approved then we can market the land.

Lucy thanked Ciaran and the rest of the St Albans group which consists of Ciaran, who heads the group; David Golding; Jo Lacy a retired Property Lawyer; Charles Gomm; a CBC Councillor and Bill Kosh who was a surveyor and did most of the initial work, all have been working hard with their immense skills

Lucy informed the meeting that everyone would be kept in touch about the vacancy which would be headed in the first instance by the wardens with the Archdeacon and Bishop then wider consultation with the Church about the sort of person needed to take the Church to the next step.

Ian Cook thanked Lucy for all she has done and said that they would miss her.

8, Closing Remarks

David Watson offered closing remarks which are attached to these minutes

Lucy thanked everyone in Church and those on line for attending the meeting and for the support and commitment that comes with that.

Lucy led the meeting with the Grace and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Vacancy Report for the APCM 16th May 2022

We sadly had to say goodbye to Revd Lucy Davis on the 4th July 2021 thus beginning the long process of Vacancy

Until the end of August our Curate Revd Andrea Maffei kept our services going before she left to be a Vicar of her own Church.

The Church of England dictates a timetable of procedures to be carried out during vacancy and the Churchwardens work together to put those procedures into place to recruit a new Vicar while also being responsible for the running of the Church. During this time Chris Macintosh had the unenviable task of finding clergy to cover all the Sunday services which he carried out with steadfast determination filling all the services until the beginning of May 2022 he even recruited the Bishop and the Archdeacon to take our Christmas services. The visiting Clergy also took the Baptism services that were booked in to follow Sunday morning worship. Weddings and Funerals have been taken by local clergy steadfastly booked by Kathryn Brown and Carol Thompson respectively.

Our Wednesday Communion Service changed to a Coffee & Reflection session expertly run by Susan Wight, to whom we are very grateful.

The Ministry Team worked with the visiting clergy and the Churchwardens to help run a smooth passage through this vacancy period.

The rota for opening and closing the Church daily was compiled by Richard Fullbrook and we thank him and the volunteers very much for keeping our lovely Church open so people could pray or just sit in its tranquil surroundings.

The search for a new vicar starts with deciding what sort of Vicar would be suitable for our Church, questionnaires were first sent to the PCC and then the wider Church family and on local social media people of Flitwick were asked what type of person they would like.

A Parish Profile had to be compiled; the profile is like a prospectus of the Church to make it as appealing as possible to encourage candidates to apply for the position. This takes some time as it not only has to cover everything that goes on within a Church it also needs to cover the local area, not just the parish but amenities and travel opportunities beyond. This took several months to complete and present to the Bishop and Archdeacon's offices for approval.

There was also a Vacancy Meeting led by the Bishop and Archdeacon which the entire parish were invited to attend along with local organisations and business people.

Once approved we advertised in the Church Times and on a Church of England website called Pathway and the advert also appeared on the Diocese web page. We were very lucky to receive eight applications which were short listed to four candidates for interview. Interview day consisted of a tour of Flitwick and the Vicarage, discussion forums, lunch and the formal interviews. The day had to be organised with sufficient detail so the candidates had the minimum chance of meeting. The day was very successful and we would like to thank everyone who helped and made that possible.

On 5th December the Churchwardens were delighted to announce in Church the appointment of Revd Clare Harald as our new Vicar.

After Christmas we then set to make arrangements for the Licensing Service for Claire while continuing to make sure the day to day running of the Church still went on.

Clare had to finish her Curacy before she could join us and had to be installed and inducted by the Bishop and Archdeacon of Bedford at a Licensing service before she was able to lead us in worship. This service was held on Thursday 5th May and was a wonderful way to welcome Claire into our church family.

The Church was filled with warmth and love with Claire's family, friends and ex colleagues wishing her well. Local dignitaries, organisations and businesses attended to welcome her and young and old members of the Church completed the congregations welcome.

The choir sang beautifully and the bells rang out in celebration followed by some delicious refreshments. It was a truly wonderful service.

By the time you read this Claire will have taken her first services and settling in to Flitwick with her husband Toby and daughters Jessie, Lottie and Izzy. We hope that they are very happy here and that God will bless their time with us.

Linda Foale
Churchwarden

Flitwick Church: St Peter & St Paul with St Andrew

Electoral Roll report – May 2022

The Electoral Roll has been revised this year in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

- In April 2021 there were 165 people on the Electoral Roll
- 6 names were added to the Roll
- 10 names were removed from the Roll
- The net effect was a decrease of 4
- There are 161 people on the new Electoral Roll of May 2022
- Of that number, 31 people reside outside the Parish

Report produced by:

Richard Fullbrook, Electoral Roll Officer

fully1961@hotmail.co.uk

01525-751936



Background - The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish the whole Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility of the Parish Church, Chapter House and St Andrews Hall, Windmill Road.

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter and St Paul with St Andrew, Flitwick is a registered Charity and is registered with the Charity Commission. Registration number 1169624.

Membership – Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church representation rules or co-opted during the course of the year. There are also three members of the PCC who have been elected as representatives of the Deanery Synod.

All members of the PCC are DBS checked and have to undertake safeguarding training.

The PCC is scheduled to meet on the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

The Standing Committee which consists of the Vicar and Curate, Church Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer is scheduled to meet in February, April, June, August, October and December.

However, due to being in a period of “Vacancy” additional PCC meetings have been held and in some cases replaced the Standing Committee. There have been ten PCC meetings. These have been held in May, July x2, September, October x 2, November, January, March and April.

During the year, the following have served as members of the PCC (numbers of meetings attended in brackets).

Incumbent	Rev Lucy Davis	(1)	Left 4 July 2021
Curate	Rev Andrea Maffei	(2)	Left 29 August 2021
Church Warden	Christopher MacIntosh	(9)	
Church Warden	Linda Foale	(10)	
Deanery Synod	Tony Brown	(10)	
Deanery Synod	David Golding	(7)	
Deanery Synod	David Watson	(7)	
Treasurer	Donna Morris	(6)	

Secretary	Nigel Taylor	(8)	
Safeguarding Officer	Jane Thompson	(1)	Resigned 22 July 2021
Safeguarding Officer	Emma Williams	(7)	Co-opted 22 July 2021
	Joanna Chandler	(9)	
	Ian Cook	(7)	Resigned 10 March 2022
	Samantha Davis	(9)	
	Ciaran Diver	(10)	
	Emma Herman	(3)	Co-opted 10 January 2022
	David Loader	(4)	
	Heather MacIntosh	(3)	Resigned 10 October
	Mary McKeand	(10)	
	Becky Mynett	(8)	
	Karen Rabjohn	(0)	
	Carol Thompson	(10)	
	Sophie Tucker	(3)	Co-opted 10 January 2022

Safeguarding

The past 12 months have seen significant change in our parish; we have begun to face the challenges of Covid recovery and said our farewells to both Lucy and Andrea. During the period of Vacancy, safeguarding has continued to be a highly relevant and important part of our church life and ministry.

In July 2021, Jane Thompson completed a detailed handover of the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter roles and responsibilities. I have been fortunate to inherit a highly organised and comprehensive database and records and thank Jane for her care in maintaining these. Thank you also to members of the PCC who supported with the transition at the time and continue to provide help and support when needed.

During the year we have maintained all of our safeguarding activity on the Parish Dashboard and we still use this as a reporting tool to the PCC. We continue to review our practices in line with requirements and recommendations from both the Diocese and the Church of England as a whole. We will be in a strong position to complete and return the diocese Safeguarding Declaration Form, which forms part of our annual return, stating that we are compliant in current safeguarding requirements. At present, there are no outstanding actions to be completed with regard to safeguarding requirements, however this of course fluctuates over the course of the year.

As many of our activities have restarted in the past year, we have continued to be careful in our approach to safeguarding. There has been significant 'catching up' of safeguarding training which had become overdue, however activities had been suspended due to Covid. Significant changes have been made to training requirements; activity leaders are no longer required to complete C2 leadership training which drastically reduces the amount of training to be undertaken by volunteers. Training continues to be delivered online and we have maintained our consistency in ensuring all volunteers are appropriately trained.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to give safeguarding a high priority, especially those involved with restarting church activities, starting new activities such as Toddling Tots and all who have completed or renewed training over the past 12 months.

However, as we all know we must never be complacent, because policies, procedures and training are just part of safeguarding the young and vulnerable. Please do continue to be vigilant, particularly as we move into a new phase in our ministry life, and speak to Claire or myself if you have any concerns around safeguarding issues within our church or in the wider community. Thank you.

Emma Williams

Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter for St Peter and St Paul's, Flitwick

Deanery Synod

There have been three meetings of the Deanery Synod this year and we have now returned to holding meetings in person. We continue to have a variety of guest speakers who have spoken this year on the subjects of the role of laity in worship, the organisation *Good News for Everyone* and the diocese's *Living in Love and Faith* initiative.

The reorganisation of parishes within the Ampthill and Shefford Deanery has started and will continue throughout the coming year. The parish of Flitwick has been fortunate in appointing a new incumbent within such a short period of time; many parishes in the Deanery have fared less well, which is particularly pertinent as several local parishes will enter their own vacancies within the next six months.

As we move towards a return to normality, the Deanery hopes that parishes will seek to address their weakened financial positions, their stagnated mission growth and their reduced congregations following the pandemic, and it is anticipated that resources from the Deanery and the Diocese will be made available to assist in these matters.

David Watson

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The pandemic has seriously affected many opportunities for meetings and progressing activity relating to the Quinquennial survey and report.

A meeting was convened in October with only three members and the chair able to attend. Whilst there has been no progress on the remedial works contained within the report, much consideration has been given to the tasks envisaged. The pandemic has stalled most possible meetings and group working and contractors have not been responsive to enquiries for estimates until recently.

Porch and old vestry roof verges

I made some preliminary investigation of the verges to the porch and old vestry roofs and decided that this work is beyond the scope of volunteers. I now have two quotes for the remedial works one from a local company and one from Kinns.

External redecoration of the Chapter House

Again this is not work for the congregation but needs professional attention. The various colours and types of varnish/stain previously used on the quality oak frames has, in the past been poorly applied with differing colours and various failures of the finish. Much of the work needs stripping back and in places colouring up to give an even tone of finish before full coats of a yacht varnish is applied. I now have two and maybe a third quote for this work.

Rusting rainwater pipes

I have included the de-rusting and repainting of these in the above pricings
THE OAK SUPPORT TO THE LEAD SPITTER ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE TOWER

Our architect thinks that this is in need of replacement.

I have spoken to a few specialists about this and in contradiction of my first thoughts it is beyond the scope of a steeplejack to remedy. On close inspection it appears that the lead rainwater spitter (chute) sits on the oak board which is cantilevered from under the copper tower roof covering by about one third of its length. This means that in order to effect a replacement the copper roof will need at least partial stripping back, the very heavy, lead chute removed and access to replace the board can then be made, plus reinstatement. Scaffolding for the above works would cost in the region of £1800.00 plus vat, and I can currently find no one who would like to take on the work to the roof and spitter.

Perimeter French Drain

This is the one job that we can possibly do if we can get together some volunteers. Sections of the drain need to be excavated for inspection to see if the system is still working or in need replacement. An appeal needs to be made to those more fit and healthy than I to dig stones out.

All but the French drain will cost money that we do not have and whilst most of the work could wait until funds are available the tower works could be a worry. Although how serious the problem is seems hard to define. It is in a very difficult position to carry out close inspection.

David Golding

Ministry and Mission Report 2021

This report details the work of the Ministry team during the calendar year.

The year 2021 began with a further Covid Lockdown and the PCC voted to suspend public worship. This time the Church remained open daily for private prayer; a big thank you to all those who made this (and continue to make this) possible. Services at 9am continued on Zoom with the 10.30am service being live streamed from Church by a small team of people taking on specific roles, latterly with streaming technology enabling more people to contribute from home (a bit thank you to Anthony Davis for this).

Due to continued suspension of public worship, the Ash Wednesday morning service took place via Zoom, with Church members ashing themselves at home while an Ash Wednesday Eucharist was livestreamed in the evening. Lent-in-a-bag from the Messy Church team was provided in Church for people to collect and proved very popular as usual. The Lent course for 2021 was 'Living in Love and Faith', led by Lucy over Zoom and was well attended by members of the Ministry team, PCC and wider church congregation. After this a resolution was passed by the PCC that St Peter and St Paul (with St Andrew) should become an 'Inclusive Church'. This means that we have signed up to the Inclusive Church Statement, which says,

"We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

This statement is on display in our building and we are 'searchable' on the Inclusive Church website so people looking for an inclusive church can find us. On the 7th March there was a special dispensation from Covid restrictions to allow for a Confirmation service by Bishop Richard of Bedford. There were candidates from our Church of all ages (from 11-73!) and the event was enjoyed by all those attending in person (candidates and their family or support bubble) and the rest of the congregation who joined online.

With the approach of Easter, case numbers began to drop and thanks to this and to vaccinations, Church was once again opened for public worship, with the first services (9am and 10.30am) being on Palm Sunday. During Holy Week we were joined by Bishop Richard who led a 'mixed mode' Holy week, with three services via Zoom on Monday–Wednesday, a Eucharist for Maundy Thursday and reflections via Facebook by the Ministry team on Good Friday, culminating with the Last Hour at the Cross in Church. Easter day was celebrated with the first Eucharist of Easter, again led by Bishop Richard and then services at 9am and 10.30am.

After Easter the 9am service stayed on Zoom until May, when it was back outside for the Summer season with the Church remaining open for private prayer daily and public worship on Sundays. In May we took part in raising much needed funds for Christian Aid with a quiz online.

The PCC and Ministry Team also had discussions around the theme 'as we emerge from Covid' – and our priorities were: worship, pastoral care and meeting the needs of community; priorities that are still at the top of our list and being carried out in a variety of ways by different groups of people.

As summer began we had the sad task at the beginning of July of saying goodbye to Lucy and Anthony (and their family) as Lucy was moving on to a new post at St Andrew's Bedford. There was a special service on the lawns outside the church, it was a day of mixed emotions both from Lucy and ourselves.

In the Summer Holiday 'Toddling Tots' successfully ran for six weeks, this group was aimed at toddlers from the local community and involved a walk, activity, a story and short time of worship. The group was very well attended; thank you to all those involved.

In August we also had the difficult task of saying goodbye to our Curate Andrea, she was taking on her first Incumbency at The Church of the Transfiguration in Kempston. A party was organised (due to relaxed covid restrictions) on the lawn with cake and fizz, it was another day of mixed emotions for the Flitwick Church family.

With the beginning of Autumn came our official vacancy period. Sophie Tucker has been overseeing the 9am Sunday Celebration service and team and Becky Mynett has continued as Director of Music but has also taken on the role of heading up the Ministry Team. Sue Wight has been overseeing the Wednesday 10am coffee and reflection during the vacancy period. We were delighted that Open the Book began again in schools and that Little Fishes, our term time toddler group was able to begin again. Over the autumn there were a number of special services, Harvest Festival, Baby Loss and In Loving Memory; thank you to all those who were involved with these services.

As the end of the year approached we advertised and interviewed for our new Incumbent. A huge thank you to all involved in this process but especially to Linda Foale and Chris Macintosh our Churchwardens for the huge amount of work that they put in to the whole process, including the Parish Profile and the Interview days themselves. It was announced that Reverend Claire Harald is to be our next Incumbent and we eagerly await her joining us in May.

Christmas, as always was a busy time, with many services including Blue Christmas, a Traditional Carol service with Bishop Richard, an all age outdoor Christingle service on

Christmas Eve as well as Midnight Mass led by Archdeacon Dave, 10.30am Parish Eucharist on Christmas Day and a Christmas Celebration on Boxing Day. Once again huge thanks to all of those who played a part, big or small, in making these services possible, especially in the challenging times of vacancy and pandemic!

Sam Davis

Reports from Church Groups

Bell Ringers

We currently have 8 regular ringers and one learner, with practices occurring from 19:45-21:00 on Fridays. When co-vid social distancing restrictions have allowed, the bells were rung for most Sunday services and for all weddings where bells were requested. The bells were rung half-muffled on Armistice Day.

The bells and fittings are inspected by the ringers on a regular basis to ensure that the frame, ropes, wheels, pulley blocks, stays, sliders, headstock and clapper bolts are in good order. Whites of Appleton carried out the most recent formal inspection in November 2021, and all

fittings were fully inspected and found to be in good order. Some of the rope tail ends are showing signs of wear and it is likely that new ropes and sallies will be needed within the next 1-2 years.

Ian Holman

Children's Church

The situation with COVID19 over the last two years has meant Children's Church has not been able to meet.

Nigel Taylor

Churches Together in Ampthill and Flitwick

With the departure of the secretary, chairman and several of the clergy from Ampthill and Flitwick Churches Together combined with Covid, very little happened in the name of CTAF in 2021. However in the Autumn, with the possibility to meet again, CTAF has risen from the ashes. A new chairperson from Ampthill Baptists and a new secretary from Sacred Heart have come forward and breakfast meetings have been held. Representatives from all the churches attended and planning for combined events have been put in place. There is now a great emphasis on communication among the churches and the real hope is for a shared 2022 with meetings, services and events which are "owned" by all the area's congregations.

Mary McKeand

Director of Music's Report 2021

Due to the Covid pandemic, the choir was not able to function normally during 2021.

Sundays at 10.30am

At the beginning of the year we were in lockdown and there was no singing. Once we were able to resume services in church we had two soloists from the choir (usually myself and one other) to sing the psalm and a piece during the distribution of communion. As covid cases subsided in the summer and regulations relaxed the congregation were able to join in with the psalm response and a final hymn, which to start with was sung outside. This remained the situation for the rest of the year. Many thanks to Richard, Uday and Phoebe who have joined me as cantor for the psalm.

Having had a disrupted scholarship year in 2020, our organ scholar, Louise, stayed with us in 2021 continuing with her lessons and playing twice a month. She finished her time with us in November and it was decided to suspend the scheme pending the arrival of the new vicar.

My thanks to our regular organist Martin and Richard, who directs the Music Group, for their flexibility and patience in what has been a challenging year.

Hymn Recording

In the Spring, we returned to hymn recording at home (with thanks to Richard George for mixing them) as we recorded a hymn for the reflections that were live streamed on Good Friday. We now have a collection of hymn recordings that could easily be assembled to form a CD as a future fundraiser!

Special Services

We were able to muster a choir for a number of special services in the latter part of the year involving members of the regular choir, the music group and a number of other members of the congregation. The first of these was the 'In Loving Memory' service at the end of October. We also sang at 'Blue Christmas', our carol service on 13th December for those who find Christmas difficult. We also had a Traditional Carol Service for the first time this year, which was held on the Sunday before Christmas and led by Bishop Richard. My particular thanks to Richard Luscombe who stepped in to direct at the last minute when my family was struck down with covid!

Becky Mynett

ECO Church

The Church is an ECO Church. We have had a bike rack installed which will hopefully encourage people to cycle to the Church. We have put the journey to the next steps on hold until our new incumbent arrives.

The Eco Church Targets we had for 2021 were:

- Eliminating single use plastics in Messy Church and events
- Only using eco friendly cleaning products like Ecover
- Encouraging cycling to church
- Establishing an environment section on the church website with an eco blog
- Marking Climate Sunday, World Earth Day and Creationtide.
- Changing our energy supplier to reduce our carbon footprint

With the new Incumbent joining us in May, these areas will be reviewed by the PCC.

Ciaran Diver

Flower Team

2021 was a very strange year, following on from Covid 2020. Whenever the church was open, we managed to provide flowers for the shelf and altar, thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the flower team.

Early in 2021 we said goodbye to Wendy Harris and Anne Hardy, who had been part of our team for some years, when they moved to Somerset and Lincolnshire.

We currently have two permanent members on our flower team – Marion Tucker and Carol Thompson. We are pleased to have support from Sheila Briggs, Pat Payne, Pam Parker, Belinda Jenkins, Clare Thompson and Noreen Clark for our major celebrations.

We are grateful to all the individual sponsors which ensured the flowers incurred no cost to the church. A sheet is kept in the porch and anyone wishing to sponsor a week's flowers should put their name on the list.

Over the past year Marion and Carol have continued to offer wedding couples their services to decorate the church for their wedding. This has resulted in extra funds being raised for church. They will continue to offer their services to wedding couples in 2022.

In December we also ran a Christmas Wreath workshop in the Chapter House attended by 13 people, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came. We were able to give profits from the session to the flower fund.

Church flowers are an integral part of church life and we would welcome any new members to our team. If you would like to see how it's done, we are usually preparing the display on a Friday morning (except during Lent and Advent) and would welcome anyone who might be interested to join us. You do not need to have any experience – just enthusiasm!

Carol Thompson

Food Extra

Over the past year Flitwick Food Extra has continued to provide boxes of ingredients, recipes and activity booklets to families in Flitwick as shown below. We have provided a total of 102 parcels over the previous 12 months to families with children at the lower and middle schools or the Children's Centre in Flitwick.

Delivery Date	Holiday	Children	Adults	Total	Total Parcels
29/05/21	May HT 2021	46	33	79	22
26/07/21	Summer 2021	33	25	58	15
06/08/21	Summer 2021	33	25	58	15
21/10/21	Oct HT 2021	29	23	52	14
17/12/21	Christmas 2021	19	19	38	22
11/02/22	Feb HT 2022	25	24	49	14
		185	149	334	102

In November 2021 we formally severed our link with TLG. By breaking away from TLG we now have the freedom to adapt to the local situation and to respond in a way that is flexible and suits our families at the time. By joining with Flitwickfx, and being known as Food Extra rather than Make Lunch we are able to take total control over the Flitwick Food Extra project and change and adapt our offering according to local need, free from TLG constraints.

In December 2021, with due regard to GDPR we checked with all the families to ask them to 'opt in' to remain on our records to be contacted this year. 22 families remain on our list (we had 40 in December 2020). We lost some families as the boxes were no longer required; some families were in work and another moved out of the area.

An anonymous survey of our families via Survey Monkey showed that they preferred main meals and health snacks as opposed to main meals and desserts – so we have altered the contents of our boxes accordingly.

Examples of recipes we have provided include:

Veggie Supreme Stir Fry	Root vegetable casserole & jacket potatoes
Creamy Pasta Bake	Muffiza - pizzas made with muffins
Beany Enchiladas	Pitta pockets with tuna & salad
Macaroni Cheese & green veg	Stuffed peppers
Bean & Halloumi stew with naan bread	Parmesan crispbread
Sage & onion burgers with salad & sweet potato fries	Cheese straws (make own pastry) with sour cream & chive dip
Mediterranean veg tart	Recipe ideas
Vegetable frittata	Flapjack
Veggie lasagne	Popcorn - to pop
Loaded potato skins	Peanut butter cookies

We have positive from our Food Extra families. Examples of the comments received include:
 “they are just brilliant”
 “very much appreciated”
 “the boys absolutely love them and really enjoy making the creations”
 “thank you so much for the bits today - such a bit help in these tuff times and the kids love it”
 “Thank you so much! The box is fantastic and such a much needed help”

We have started a closed Facebook for the Food Extra families. Step by step photographs of some of the recipes are posted on this site.

During the past year we lost 2 volunteers throughout, but gained others so now have 8 - 9 regular volunteers.

We hosted the market day coffee morning and tombola on Friday 14 January in the Flitwick Village Hall to raise funds and have applied for a grant via the Tesco Community Grants Scheme. Flitwick Food Extra is currently approximately £657 in credit.

Judith Carrington

Little Fishes

We had our last Little Fishes pre-covid in March 2020 and after some discussion and taking precautions, were able to start back again on Monday mornings from the 5th October 2021 with our risk assessment being reviewed for Covid.

We opened by parents sending an email to register an interest and had all new children, the original ones having moved on to nursery school etc. We have kept the cost to £1.50 per child which covers our expenses and also enables us to contribute to the church's heating expenses by £100 per term.

We have a team of church members running Little Fishes which include Enid Clark and Lesley Coglán helped by Christine Denton and now Jane Thompson which makes it a viable and enjoyable activity.

We have met all the Mondays in term time with varying numbers from 5 to 15, with mums, Dads, grandparents and carers. The children are noticeably younger and less mature with some parents saying this was the first contact their children had had with other children.

We have toys, playdough, jigsaws etc and pre-prepared crafts which the adults do with their children, fruit and water for the youngsters and tea or coffee for the adults which we encourage them to drink safely. Following this we have more constructive play for the children to mix and share, with a story and music time concluding with a children's prayer.

We hope to be able to continue Little Fishes safely and feel we are providing an outlet for mums, babies and toddlers after two years of uncertainty.

Enid Clark

Magazine

Due to COVID 19 hard copies of the magazine were ceased. However, a Christmas edition was printed and delivered to over 300 homes in Flitwick. Copies were also available at the Flitwick Town Council Christmas lights event. In the light on the lifting of COVID restrictions and the arrival of a new incumbent, the PCC will be reviewing the magazine.

Ciaran Diver

Messy Church

Due to the situation with COVID over the last two years, we have not been in a position to run Messy Church.

Nigel Taylor

Mother's Union

For most of 2021 MU were still unable to meet in person and Diocesan events were mostly on Zoom. However, we continued faithfully with our mission of praying for the world, our diocese and our town. Much of our outreach work also continued and we sent Easter eggs, Advent Calendars and Christmas presents to the children living in refuges in Bedford, Luton and St Albans as well as making Mothering Sunday posies which were delivered to those ladies in our church congregation who continued to shield. We also made 70 Christingles for those attending the Christmas Eve Service on the church lawn. Knitting for the hospitals and for overseas continued and at Christmas we sewed hearts of love for those attending

the Blue Christmas Service and for the carers at Little Fishes. By the end of the year it was lovely to be able to meet up again and plan for a more social 2022!

Mary McKeand

Music Group

It has been a tentative re-start over the past months; with evolving Covid guidance, changes to morning worship and reduced numbers. We are giving thought to our future role.

Richard Luscombe

Pioneer Enabler

Open the Book returned to in person assemblies in September 2021. After ABC found it necessary to step away from Flitwick Lower School I was able to include them in our rota. We are now doing monthly visits to all three lower schools. We are having to be flexible and in some months have had to record the story for one or more schools who have experienced sudden increases in their covid cases, but we are maintaining our presence in the schools and have a good working relationship with them. In December I was asked to run a lesson in Templefield about what I do in the church and community as part of their RE curriculum. The children seemed to enjoy the lesson and had lots of questions at the end.

I have made contact with Woodland's Head of RE and World Views. She is new to the post and so has asked for a more low-key involvement this year with a view to regular interaction with the children from next September, either through year group assemblies or whole school reflection events.

Flitwick Church has now severed ties with TLG, the franchise holder for Make Lunch. The food provision is now called Flitwick Food Extra. We will now be able to focus more on connections with these families through doorstep interactions and online conversations via our Facebook group. We have welcomed more volunteers to the team which has enabled us to 'foster' families at a 3:1 ratio giving each volunteer time (and energy) to really connect with the adults receiving this provision. We hope that by the summer there will be scope to hold an in person meet-up but this will not be labelled as a Food Extra initiative. I have applied for grants for Food Extra through the Tesco Community scheme (blue tokens) and the Town Council. We are still waiting on the results of these.

Sunday celebration has continued to serve the early risers of Flitwick through the last twelve months. The last outdoors service in 2021 was our Harvest Service officiated by Rev Tim Bull and saw 51 attendees, including families from the uniformed groups. I intend to return to outdoor worship after Easter, weather permitting. I would like to thank Sam and Richard for helping me plan these services and to the wonderful members of our congregation who have volunteered to serve in various ways.

Café Connect has been led by Sarah Donbavand since Rev. Andrea left in August. It has been a pleasure to be involved with this initiative and to see this small group of individuals become a caring, safe group who look out for and support each other. The group is getting to the size where we will need to stop admitting more people or risk losing the personal

connections that have been built up over time. Sarah and I are looking at the possibilities of starting a second group.

In September, Flitwick Church hosted a reflection tent at the Family Fun Day. The tent gave people the opportunity to reflect on the past 18 months, look forward to our new vicar joining us and make suggestions on how we can further help our community. This year we are looking forward to be involved with the fun day by hosting a marque of old fashioned games for young people and those young at heart. In November Flitwick Church was invited to get involved with the Christmas Lights switch on. Unfortunately, due to a few factors we ran out of time to co-ordinate as we had hoped but Zoe of the town council is eager to have us involved next year. Thankfully we were still able to get involved with the event and held a craft stall to raise funds for the church.

Through these events and by attending the village hall coffee mornings I have been able to build a relaxed relationship with several members of the Town Council. I am excited to see what their plans are for the Barclays building and how Flitwick Church might be involved in the provision coming out of there.

In November I was approached by Rev. Tim Weeks to provide worship for the Bishop's Conference at the Rufus Centre. In preparing for this I made a worship video that highlighted all the wonderful things our church has done in the last 18 months. It was a great reminder that my role is to enable others to show God's love to the community in which we are serving.

Sophie Tucker

Youth Group

Due to the Vacancy and COVID19 restrictions, we have not been in a position to organise and run the Youth Group.

Nigel Taylor

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

16 May 2022

Agenda item 5

Election of 7 (seven) representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
PCC Member 3 year term	Nigel Taylor	Ciaran Diver	Samantha Davis
PCC Member 3 year term	Emma Herman	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor
PCC Member 3 year term	Emma Williams	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor
PCC Member 3 year term	Chris Macintosh	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor

PCC Member 3 year term	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor	Samantha Davis
PCC Member 2 year term	Samantha Davis	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor
PCC Member 2 year term	John Stafford	Ciaran Diver	Nigel Taylor
Deanery Synod 1 year term	No nominations received		