

St Helen's Church, Welton with Melton

Parochial Church Council Annual Report 2020/21



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
25 March 2021 at 1.30pm**

Vicar's Report

What a difference a year makes! Last year I wrote my 'Vicar's Report' on 10 March 2020. It was very similar to my reports for previous year. I thanked many people for their contributions to church life, ministry and mission. I described our activities throughout the year, many of which were similar to previous years, with some new initiatives. Although the coronavirus was around, there was no hint in my report of what was to come. I wrote it on the last Sunday that we worshipped in church in a normal way. Events escalated rapidly and of course within two weeks we entered the first national lockdown.

So, my report this year is very different, as are some of those that follow – and I write it having read the reports that follow. It covers the period from January to December 2020, with reference to the first three months of 2021 too. During the very early part of the year, we sadly said goodbye to Graeme and Carol, as mentioned in last year's report. We had slightly over 2 months of 'normality' in 2020, then almost everything about church life changed.

St Helen's closed on 23 March 2020, along with every other church in the country and the vast majority of public buildings. Initially we worked with 'Welton Business Circle' to distribute food and cleaning materials donated by schools, when they too closed. This was a time of panic buying and shortages and the immediate need was to help those who were unable to go shopping or collect prescriptions or carry out some of the basic tasks of life.

I began a weekly update, believing it would be for three to six weeks – and I still write a weekly update now, a year on! At first I pointed people in the direction of national online or televised services but just two weeks into lockdown, on Palm Sunday, we held our first zoom service. In parallel, Anthony wrote software and began a virtual choir, who led our singing for the first time on Easter Day. The mainstay of our worship, became a 'Spiritual Communion Service', by Zoom, which is still running now, and Anthony, Helen and the choristers have recorded one or more hymns or anthems every week, to enrich our worship of God. Very soon we had a regular congregation of 90 to 100 people, including many of our regular congregation, and quite a number of friends both old and new. The wonders of technology allowed us to continue to gather and to worship God together, despite the incredibly difficult circumstances of our daily lives. I am enormously grateful to the worship team, including Linda, Liz, Gerald and Peter, and to Anthony, Helen and the choristers and musicians, for enabling us to continue 'St Helen's Online' for over a year.

As well as Sunday mornings, there have been other highlights in our online services. The development of a monthly 'Messy Church at Home' draws a regular congregation of 35 – 50, with a focus on a bible story or theme each time. Contributions from a number of our young people including Emma, Cath, Millie

and Lily have been very well received, as have musical items from the Naidoo and Cook families. A choral evensong at harvest and a pet service which included a gheko for the first time! were well attended, as was an online Crib Service – partly filmed in a safe socially distant way in half term!. We also had a visit from Bishop Alison to officially welcome Peter as a Reader with Permission to Officiate and a visit from Archbishop Stephen who gave a very thought provoking sermon that led to a number of discussions afterwards ...and more.

Other online activities included an amazing 'Virtual Gardens Festival' – with thanks to David, Hilary, Anthony, Emma, Helen and the choir and a Lent Course by Zoom, school assemblies by Zoom and much more. The Messy Church and Children's Church teams have combined to produce a weekly update for children and families – grateful thanks go to Liz and Rachel for producing the regular updates.

Of course, not everything can happen online and I am grateful to Anne Thompson and the Pastoral Team for maintaining contact by phone with some of our members who have been housebound or isolating over the last year and at times of illness and bereavement. Regular paper updates are produced for those who cannot connect to the internet, in order to keep in contact. Christmas and Easter cards, with small gifts were distributed to residents of the flats, to say they were still in our thoughts and prayers even though the church wasn't open as much as usual. I am also grateful to Sue for continuing to produce the weekly newsletter, which is available both electronically and on paper, which can be collected from the church porch.

We recognise that online worship is not for everyone, including some who can connect to the internet, but do not find it a helpful way to worship God. We were very pleased when we were allowed to open the church again in July, for both private prayer and public worship – the latter with limitations, for example we are not allowed to sing. With the exception of a second lockdown in November, we have remained open for a 12 o'clock service since then and welcome a regular congregation of 15 to 20.

Because the church has had to remain locked for much of the time, which is in stark contrast to our usual 'open door' policy, great efforts have been made to make good use of the outdoor space. Thanks go to the Craft Group and friends and to the flower arrangers for decorating the churchyard at different times of the year. The large wooden cross was brought into the churchyard and prayers were added around All Souls Day and Remembrance Day. A display of knitted poppies highlighted the season. At Christmas, villagers were invited to add a bauble to the Christmas tree, which could include a prayer if they wished. The churchyard was decorated with 522 knitted Christmas trees and a Christmas crib in the porch. Carol singing in the churchyard was particularly moving. We took part in the National Day of Reflection, on the anniversary of the first lockdown, with the Craft Group decorating the church gates with knitted daffodils and an opportunity to

light a candle and pray in the church. At Easter the Craft group again decorated the churchyard with knitted flowers, a bunny trail for children, an Easter Garden and more. Knitted angels at Christmas and butterflies at Easter, both with a Christian message, were given out to people who were unwell or live alone – and some were left in the porch for people to take away.

As always, much work has continued behind the scenes over the last year and I am grateful to everyone involved, particularly Churchwardens, Jackie and Roger, who have continued to maintain the church and to greet people at the door for services (and ensure we all follow government instructions not to linger around the door!!). My thanks also go to our Treasurer, David, for all his hard work on our finances – and much more. Thanks too to Mary as PCC secretary, members of the PCC, and everyone who has contributed in some way towards the ministry and mission of the Church throughout the pandemic.

Before moving on to talk about the future, I would like to pay special tribute to Linda, Liz, Gerald and Peter, who have met every Saturday to plan and organise the worship, and other activities, taking into account the restrictions of the moment, and then led, responded, preached or prayed at our online and church based services. Special thanks too to Linda for sharing the weddings and funerals over the last year.

We have been able to continue to gather as a church throughout the pandemic, but only because we have pulled together – to the glory of God.

Turning to the future, the key task for the next few months is to return to worshipping in church safely. When the time comes, we will follow government and Church of England guidance. We will do everything in our power to minimise risk and make St Helen's a safe place. Meanwhile, I have invited everyone to prayerfully discern what you believe God is calling us to do and to be as a church as we move into the future and to send me your comments and suggestions. This includes what our pattern of worship might be and how we might encourage and nurture faith. To date I have had a few replies, but not many. Please do pray about this - it would be good to hear from more people. We have a great opportunity now, to look at what was good about church before the pandemic and we would like to take forward, and what was not helpful and maybe we need to discontinue or change.

Finally, last year I said that a key issue is to raise the profile of safeguarding, not only amongst those involved in activities with children and vulnerable adults, but for everyone. During the pandemic we were unable to do this as we hoped but it will be an issue that we address soon after fully returning to the church building. The safety of our congregation and visitors is paramount and the more people are aware of safeguarding principles, the easier it is to maintain this.

In common with so many of you, I am longing to return to gathered worship in church, and to our midweek activities, but I also feel we have been blessed that so many have been able to worship together online over the last year. Please do continue to take care and to pray for growth, in faith and in number.

God bless you all

Elaine

Electoral Roll Report

The Revised Roll for the year 2020 stood at 85 names. The revision for this year will be completed on 9 April and the number will be reported at the annual meeting. This is the second revision of the Electoral Roll produced in 2019.

Mike Stead

Churchwardens' Report

It is pleasing to report that despite all the restrictions we have managed to hold a service in church each Sunday since last July, with the exception of the November lockdown when we opened for private prayer. We also opened the building each Thursday for a mid-week session of private prayer. Following guidance from the Church of England Elaine consulted a small group and produced a risk assessment and document setting out how we could safely re-open and conduct services to comply with the rules on hygiene and social distancing. This has worked well and attendance numbers on Sundays at 12 noon has remained in the upper teens.

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However the main success in maintaining contacts and providing a weekly church service has been via Zoom and for this many thanks are due to Anthony for all his time and expertise. The Zoom connections each Sunday are well over 50 and these represent an attendance of around 80 people and it is lovely that we have been joined by people who would not regularly attend at St Helen's. In addition

the weekly Wednesday morning Zoom service has attracted a regular attendance of around 20 people.

There are a few small maintenance issues which will hopefully be resolved soon. These include the tri-fold doors in the kitchen area which need re-hanging and the replacement of some hinges. These doors are inevitably heavy and are suffering after ten years of use as is the water heater which appears to have failed. There are a few discoloured patches at the top of the walls at the west end of the church caused by damp but this may be due to the slow drying out of the stone following the remedial works to the roof a couple of years ago. In discussions with the architect he feels that some areas of plaster that have been soaked will not now be firmly attached to the wall and will eventually need cutting out. The main south door became very difficult to open during the winter due to its binding on the stone frame but has now eased slightly perhaps as the weather and the church have warmed up. If necessary a small amount could be shaved from the top of the door as a temporary solution but in the longer term the door would need to be re-hung which will not be an easy task.

Following concerns about the drop from the churchyard into Smootings a meeting was held with an officer from the East Riding Council who agreed to provide temporary fencing pending the establishment of a hedge.

A contract for the repair and replacement of corroded stonework mainly to the porch and the south walls of the church has been prepared and it is expected that work will start in June following receipt of faculty approval and an acceptable tender.

New curtains have been hung inside the south and west doors and the organ vestry door and an order has been placed for new pew cushion runners to replace the existing old and very worn carpet runners.

Once again Jackie and I would like to thank everyone for their continuing help in a variety of ways over this last, rather unnatural, year to maintain the life and spirit of our church.

Roger Peacock

Secretary's Report

Membership of the Parochial Church Council currently comprises the Vicar, two Churchwardens and 12 elected members plus Liz Russell as Reader in training.

The PCC met by Zoom on seven occasions during 2020/2021 with an average attendance of 89%. This included an extra meeting on 15/06/2021 to discuss the

opening of the Church following lockdown. Verbal reports were received from the Treasurer, Churchwardens and PCC representatives attending Diocesan Synod, Deanery Synod and Deanery Leadership Team (by Zoom) although these were fewer than usual due to Covid19. Similarly the Pastoral Group, Social and Fundraising Group, Worship Group and Communications Group meetings were disrupted due to Covid19.

The Standing Committee (comprising the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary) met on six occasions during the year.

The PCC dealt with business matters during the year including:

- Accepting the accounts for presentation at the APCM and approving the budget and fees for the coming year
- Maintenance of the Church building, grounds and churchyard wall.
- Planning services in Church and via Zoom
- Swanwick 2020/2021 – booking and cancellation
- Come & See Initiative
- Virtual Gardens Open Day
- Covid19 planning and restrictions
- Replacement of pew cushions and door curtains
- Adoption of photo/video policy
- Confirmation and display of Churchyard Regulations
- Welcoming of Peter Ainsworth as a Reader
- Clergy Covenant Consultation
- Living Christ's Story Together
- Safeguarding issues
- Health and safety issues

Mary Stead

Treasurer's Report 2020

This year 2020 has been extraordinary for all of us due to Covid19 but thankfully the finances of St Helen's Church, Welton are in good order due to many parishioners continuing to give on a regular basis through standing orders, weekly offering and Gift Aid envelopes and I thank them for that. These methods of giving are a very tax efficient method of contributing to the ever increasing running costs of the Church as we receive an extra 25p in every £1 given under Gift Aid from HMRC and in 2020 this tax recovery amounted to £10,554.

The Garden's Open day was "virtual" this year and raised an incredible £2,360 which was donated to the Fabric Fund and I thank Rev'd Canon E Bielby for having the idea and the Mason family in particular for collating all the wonderful

photographs and setting up the Just Giving page. This year activities were curtailed by Covid19 but additional funds were raised from the sale of mugs, tea towels, books, tea & coffee and the SMASH project raising £883 in total. Thank you to all involved in these events.

Due to the picturesque setting for our Church in Welton this continues to attract couples to hold their weddings at St Helens again contributing significantly to our funds.

We are fortunate in having several restricted funds for major projects but by their very nature this money can only be spent on the Church and Cemetery if it qualifies under the rules of the respective funds.

We still have significant deposits in the Fabric Fund these monies need to be held in reserves because as is set out in the 2019 Quinquennial report there is significant work to be done on St Helen's mainly roofing and stonework work to be undertaken. So with our main expenses being insurance, repairs, heating and the Parish Share we have managed to record a good surplus of £6,436 in the year ended 31 December 2020.

The Parish Share (Freewill Offering) was agreed by the PCC at £36,500 for 2021 and we are budgeting a break-even situation for 2021.

We do all that we can to control costs and over the past few years we have been able to cover our costs year on year with our General Fund thankfully shows another improvement this year to £31,787 at 31 December 2020.

As ever I would be very grateful if we could all review the level of our giving by whatever means possible, be it taking a box of weekly offering envelopes under Gift Aid; setting up or amending standing order contributions or encouraging our friends and neighbours to partake in the upkeep of our beautiful Church here in Welton.

David Johnson

Howden Deanery Gathering Report

The Deanery Gathering has been unable to hold any meetings in person this last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However we met via Zoom on three occasions. There was no formal agenda for these meetings. They were held to be able to keep in touch with what has been happening in the churches around the deanery.

Jackie Naidoo

Baptism Team Report

I started my role as Baptism Co Ordinator in January 2020 and a meeting was held for the whole team to organise a rota for the coming year for those that were available to assist and manage the baptism services held at St Helen's Church, Welton. The services are held on the first Sunday of every month after the All age service usually at 12.30 but occasionally a 2pm service may be required if there is demand. It is also possible for a child to be baptised during the main 10.15 service if there is a connection with St Helen's by prior arrangement with Elaine.

In February 2020 2 children were baptised and in March 2020 1 child was baptised then as we went into lockdown due to the global pandemic of coronavirus Baptism services were temporarily postponed along with everyday worship in churches. We did have a family who had previously booked for a June Baptism service and they chose to cancel and postpone due to the restrictive nature of any service to be held. When restrictions began to be lifted gradually in the Summer months an enquiry was made and provisionally booked a service for October 2020 but this family also chose to postpone because of the restrictions around numbers of people who could attend the service and wanting the baptism of their child to be an inclusive service for all the family.

Due to the second lockdown phase of the country no further enquiries or bookings were made for Baptisms for the rest of 2020. A meeting of the Baptism team will be arranged with Elaine to discuss how we might proceed in providing services in the current situation for 2021 and following the guidance from the Church Of England on how these services can be carried out safely whilst still in the mist of the pandemic.

An anniversary card is sent to every child and their name added to the register which is left open to view in the glass cabinet behind the font. I will continue to visit or hold an online meeting where possible with each family in the month leading up to the Baptism service for a preparation meeting to talk about baptism, choose hymns if allowed or music and talk through the baptism service according with the current guidelines. Any enquiries regarding baptism should be directed to either Elaine or me.

Jo Capes

Choir Report (to 28 March 2021)

Because last year's Choir Report went up to 29 February 2020, this report covers almost entirely the period affected by the Covid-19 coronavirus. We had two 'normal' weeks of Sunday morning choir practice and church in the church building at 10.15 am at the beginning of March 2020, then the next week the

church went to Howden Minster (when the choir had been invited to form the choir with the Minster Choir and 17 of us were able to go) and then the next Sunday we were going into lockdown and since then we have not been able to meet as a choir. However we have still been very busy - as St Helen's Virtual Choir – and so I have distinguished between the two slightly different entities in the rest of this report.

St Helen's Choir:

I think I can safely speak for everyone when I saw we are all looking forward to being able to sing together again just as soon as government and Church of England guidance allows

Numbers: on our books we now have 29 members of the choir proper including organist Gareth Naidoo plus our returners who sing with us when home from college/visiting and a number of guests we can call on for special services or when numbers might otherwise be low. The 29 are split into 6 juniors (18 years and under - 2 boys, both now with low voices and 4 girls), 18 ladies (8 sopranos, 10 altos, with Louise helping out on tenor when it is not too low) and 5 men (3 basses, 1 baritone/tenor plus Gareth singing tenor when not playing).

In August we said au revoir to Alice who left to take up a place on the prestigious Dyson Degree Apprenticeship in Dorset, through Warwick University, and a few weeks later Charlotte left to read Medicine at Glasgow University.

Current Under 18s (with approximate ages and school year at 28 March 2021):

Thomas Gilbert	15	Yr 10	Cosmo Plummer	13 (yesterday!)	Yr 8
Catherine Sleight	14	Yr 10	Millie Mason	11 (nearly 12)	Yr 7
Emma Duffus	14	Yr 9	Lily Mason	10	Yr 5

Although our numbers are small at present we are looking forward to one or two of our tinies in our congregation turning 7 later this year and hoping they might like to join the Junior Choristers.

Annual and Extra Services and Events: most of our annual/ special/extra events such as the Cottingham Music Festival and RSCM Festival Evensong were cancelled, as was a John Rutter workshop which we were looking forward to. Most weddings were deferred and the choir were not permitted to sing at those that went ahead. Former chorister Amy Putnam's wedding was postponed but then went ahead with a small number of guests a few months later and the rules at that point made it possible for the Duffus trio to sing Amy's chosen anthem 'For the beauty of the earth' by John Rutter and for the organ to be played.

Musical Instruments: for the last year the music at St Helen's has largely moved on line and our organ has mostly been silent. However we were grateful to Ken Fergusson (husband of former chorister Stacey) who played the trumpet in an Act of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday in November.

St Helen's Virtual Choir:

I think we must be one of the luckiest choirs in the country, in that our bass Anthony Mason is a Computer Programme Designer and early in the first lockdown Anthony asked me if I would like him to design us a virtual choir website. I jumped at the chance and Elaine was also keen so Anthony set to work. Elaine and I investigated the necessary extra licences and purchased these and enlisted a few singers to test the system. Anthony's website worked so well that on 3 April 2020 I was able to send out the first set of instructions to the whole choir and Elaine was able to use two Easter hymns and an anthem from our newly formed Virtual Choir at the St Helen's Easter Day service by Zoom on 12 April 2020!

To take part in the virtual choir it is necessary to have a computer with webcam or a lap top, or iPad and tablet with smart phone or similar. The way it works, in brief, is that each new member of the St Helen's Virtual Choir registers on the website and joins our email group. Once I have chosen a hymn or anthem Anthony kindly prepares a backing track and accompaniment and I then send out instructions to the choristers. The singers go on to the website first to practice and then to record. Once a singer is happy with their recording they upload it to the website. The website makes the uploads of video and audio from all the different devices compatible and then Anthony adds each recording to the system before rendering it so that each new piece is ready for Elaine to use at our Zoom services. In addition members of the choir, congregation and other friends of St Helen's can enter a code word and watch any of the pieces whenever they want.

After Easter we continued recording one or two hymns or an anthem most weeks and then in May we began to record pieces for an on-line Gardens Day Choir Concert, which Anthony put together to accompany the on-line Gardens Event.

Most items have been full Virtual Choir ("VC") but our Junior Choir has also recorded several lovely items including a couple for Messy Church or for the Crib service. We have had three flutes in one anthem and Philippa and Louise playing violin in others. We have also experimented with one item (so far) for our male voice group which was very successful. We have some VC members who have sung in every item involving their voice part, and others who just join in from time to time.

Only four of our St Helen's Choir members have not joined the Virtual Choir but on a positive note because distance is not a problem when logging onto a website, and recordings can be done at a time to suit each contributor, we have been able to include returners and friends, both new and old, who are usually far too far away from Welton to sing in the choir on a regular basis and who do not have to be free on a Sunday morning to be in a recording (although many of the Virtual Choristers are also attending the Sunday morning Zoom services). We have specifically done some items for young members of the congregation – with Felicity aged two being the youngest singing participant and Jacob at 5 days being the youngest to make an appearance in a video!

In the Autumn we recorded some extra items for a Harvest Choral Evensong which Anthony put together for us and from October, on top of the regular items we were providing for Elaine to use on Sundays we began building up a collection of Christmas carols and hymns or anthems for use at the Nine Lessons and Carols service by Zoom and other Christmas services. I was also interviewed by Crispin Rolfe from the BBC's 'Look North' and a brief snippet of the Virtual Choir was broadcast as part of an item about how various choirs in the area were managing with all the coronavirus restrictions.

We have now recorded over 100 pieces of music with over 50 virtual choristers altogether, mostly from Welton and surrounding areas, including several from Cottingham and Howden, and with contributions coming in from Ipswich, London, the other St Helen's, Glasgow and even on one or two occasions from Qatar! Choristers range in age from very young to juniors, adults and the over 80s. We record new items every week, at least one, but quite often two and sometimes three. Video editing, done by Anthony, takes about 4 hours per video. Then the final rendering process takes between 20 and 30 minutes per render, with about 10 renders required before a video is finished.

Despite the effects of Covid-19 and a longing to be able to meet up to practice in the Games' Room and then to worship together in church again, we have been able to adapt and continue our music and worship albeit in a different format and there have been a lot of positives during the last 12 months. As always I am very grateful for the wonderful support for the choir from the St Helen's clergy, congregation and choristers but I think this year everyone will agree that special thanks are due to Anthony, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Helen Duffus

Messy Church and Children's Church Report

What a year! We managed the first two Messy Church of the year in church. The story of Noah saw great acting out of the story using the whole church, the choir stalls became the ark and the lighting in church was used to great effect. The last Messy church on 14th March, was a "Come and See" event and we were joined by the visiting Bishop and area Dean. We took many precautions because of the threat of Covid-19 but little did we know what was going to happen next.

Children's Church met weekly during the 10.15 service up until the first lockdown with Rachel, Mandy, Mary and Corrine continuing to be creative in how they presented the Gospel message to children. This followed a monthly structure with craft sessions two or three times a month tied in with the lectionary readings or events, allowing the children to participate in the church and share some of their

work with the rest of the congregation. Once a month during Matins, video sessions using the Friends and Heroes cartoons and lesson plan, were shown to the youngest children in the congregation to give them a wide range of bible stories.

Since that first lockdown Messy Church and Children's Church have joined forces. We have been able to produce a weekly sheet for children that included a YouTube version of the Gospel reading and activities with conversation starters for parents to do with children. We have a wide circulation list. We send out using the Bcc button for safeguarding reasons and are trying to keep in touch with as many families as we can.

We have launched Messy Church at Home, meeting once a month by zoom on the third Saturday morning at 10am. Because children are online so much, we kept the session to 30mins. We have called upon the expertise of the teenagers in the choir to demonstrate crafts and lead singing. The story is made visual using Duplo figures in costumes and scenery.

The numbers have steadily increased as it is a way for Grandparents to worship with Grandchildren even though they are not in the same place.

We managed to do a Christingle Messy Church and a Crib service all by zoom. I would like to thank everyone involved and thank God for the inspiration and technology that has allowed us to keep in touch.

Rachel Sleight and Liz Russell

Hunsley Churches Together Report

Unfortunately I have to report that there have been no activities during the year because of the pandemic.

Christine Rippingale

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues to be important to us at St Helen's. I am working through all the required courses. When full services in church resume, I will ensure all confidential declarations and DBS checks remain up to date. I am looking forward to getting back to church and seeing everyone again.

Whilst services have been held online, precautions have been taken to protect young people and vulnerable adults eg regular service links are only available through the vicar or members of the church and are not published on the internet or social media.

Lizzy Gilbert

Pastoral Group Report

Sadly the Pastoral Care within the Parish has been very low key owing to the Pandemic. The main focus of attention has been to keep in touch with those in need. In particular those living alone, or those unable to go out because of underlying health needs. Keep in touch has been done mainly by regular telephone calls or on Zoom.

Again this year we have witnessed the loss of a number of our dear friends in Christ who will be sorely missed; by the Church Family when we are able to get back together again. Those who have gone have all served the Parish of St Helen's & Melton with differing gifts in exceptional ways. May they Rest in Peace & Rise in Glory.

I am sure we are all now looking forward to the future, after such hard times. There are bound to be many challenges & we will most likely have to adjust to different ways of giving service.

But I am sure that St Helen's Church Family, will be able to adjust to the new ways of working in the service of Our Dear Lord.

Anne Thompson

Flower Arrangers' Report

Well, it has been a very different year!

Lockdown began half way through Lent so there were no flowers to clear from the church but I did manage to rescue a small selection of containers and jars which I brought home to store here for the time being. This meant at least we could have some flowers in the porch for Easter.

However, buying flowers was not so simple any more and hard to class as a necessity, so our gardens came to the rescue providing greenery and blossoms and flowers all through the Summer months and into Autumn. I quickly learnt to

remember to take water with me as well as scissors when tending the flowers as the church was usually locked and flowers get thirsty!

When restrictions eased a little, we provided flowers on the welcome table in church but no pedestal at the altar, as no member of the congregation was allowed that far. Instead, we kept an arrangement of flowers in the porch where it could be seen by everybody entering or simply passing by.

The porch became a very valuable space for displaying art work from the "Messy Church" group and also projects from the craft team, so we all worked together to bring the work of the church to the outside of the building for all to see.

Artificial flowers came into their own for Remembrance Sunday as we have a lovely selection of poppies which served the welcome table and the porch for two weeks. More were used for an Advent ring arrangement near the pulpit for the limited Sunday services and again for Christmas on the welcome table and in the porch.

Flowers for remembering or celebrating loved ones were impractical for the year as access to the Church building was severely curtailed.

As always I must thank Hilary Drysdale for her help and support all year, and also mention that all other flower arrangers including Hilary and myself have been busy supporting the craft group by knitting poppies, Christmas trees, daffodils and other flowers to decorate the churchyard - which is in fact alternative flower arranging!!

Christine Walker

Prayer Group Report

Unfortunately we have been unable to meet up for a year now, but continue to Pray for the people and situations on our list.

"Prayer is not only asking for things that we badly need,
it's talking to one who understands, one who will always heed,
One who will give us courage to go on once again,
One who, however much we ask, we never ask in vain."

Maureen Gillies and Margaret Lee

Members of the PCC (immediately prior to the APCM 2021)

The Revd Canon Elaine Bielby
Jackie Naidoo
Roger Peacock
Mary Stead
David Johnson
Corinne Cook
Hilary Drysdale
Helen Duffus

Gerald Fox
Elizabeth Gilbert
Sue Gilbert
Mandy Green
Liz Russell
Mike Stead
Anne Thompson