



# ST MARY WITH ST LEONARD, BROOMFIELD ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The meeting will take place following the 10.30am service.  
The Vestry Meeting (for the election of Wardens) will be followed by the APCM.

The formal business will be followed by lunch and the opportunity to share time together.

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**Whereas every effort has been made to include all the activities in the life of St. Mary's Church within this Annual Review, there may be some omissions. We apologise for these and they are in no way deliberate. However, we hope that you will agree that this review gives a flavour of the many diverse groups that are active within the parish to promote our worship of God and to proclaim the Good News in the wider community.**

***Carol Knott***  
(PCC Secretary)

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✠ **St. Mary with St. Leonard**

**Church Green, Broomfield, Chelmsford**

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31 December 2019

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**1. Administrative Information**

St. Mary with St. Leonard is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 10 Butlers Close, Chelmsford, CM1 7BE.

As from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 St. Mary's PCC became a charity in its own right under the title "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary with St. Leonard, Broomfield" with the charity number of 1173143.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2019 are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev'd.. Carolyn Tibbott	(Chair)
<i>Associate Priest:</i>	Rev'd.. Anne Harvey	
<i>Curates:</i>	Rev'd.. Julie Hardy Rev'd.. Diana Garfield	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Peter Baker Margaret Powell Mike Harvey Michael Jones	(Vice Chair) (Until April 2019) (From April 2019) (Assistant Warden)
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	Ros Mercer Kathy Rouse Jill Readings	(NCMMP Representative) (From April 2019)
<i>Other PCC members:</i>	Vic Barker Sue Browning Rachel Butterworth Sarah Clark Susan Garwood Lis Hardy Carol Knott Alun Powell Trudy Stevens Jim Tibbott	(Until April 2019)      (Hon. Secretary) (Hon. Treasurer) (Minutes Secretary)

## **2. Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may stand for election to the PCC. St. Mary with St. Leonard's Church gained independent Charity Status in 2017 resulting in all PCC members becoming Trustees.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC has a Standing Committee to progress decisions agreed by the PCC; and two groups responsible for reporting back to the PCC and referring to it for any decisions that need to be approved:

- The Churchyard Extension Group: a small group which focuses on land issues, fencing, costing and legal issues concerning the churchyard extension, composed of Peter Baker, Jim Tibbott, Sue Garwood and Mike Harvey; and
- The Funding Group: a small group to focus on fund raising and applying for grants for repairs to the organ and spire composed of: Alun Powell, Sue Browning, Rachel Butterworth and Trudy Stevens. The date for the organ to be fully re-leathered and cleaned is now booked in for Jan-March 2022 and will require over £30,000, so far we have raised just over £17,000. The tower needs to be re-shingled with woodpecker-proof hardwood shingles and the weather vane repaired and replaced, this work is yet to be scheduled and will cost in the region of £100,000. Our spire fund now stands at just over £20,000 and one grant for £10,000 has been promised for the construction phase of the tower work; further grants have been applied for and the group continue to work on an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Reports from the Churchyard Extension group is included later in this Annual Review and an update from the Funding Group is included with the Financial Report.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 70%, a decrease of 8% from 2018. The Standing Committee met on four occasions.

During 2019 the majority of PCC time was spent on discussing how we serve the community; finances; ensuring compliance with new regulations and guidance from the Diocese; making decisions on repairs and maintenance of the church building and grounds, including the churchyard extension project and funding for the works required to the organ and spire; plus making decisions on requests to use St. Mary's facilities and charities to support.

## **3. Aims and purposes**

St. Mary with St. Leonard's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd. Carolyn Tibbott, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Church; St. Leonard's Hall attached to the Church; and Broomfield Churchyard.

## **4. Objectives and activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and contributes to discussions on how our services, groups and activities can involve and meet the needs of the diverse groups of people that live within our parish. We are always looking for new opportunities to worship God and build fellowship in this Church.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the gospel, developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St. Mary's and its associated buildings and land.

The following reports collectively demonstrate that St. Mary's continues to be a vibrant, ever-evolving church and welcoming to people of all ages, both within the church building and out in the community.

## **5. Achievements and performance**

### ***Worship and prayer***

St. Mary's offers a range of services each week and over the course of the year, which the PCC hopes our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. We have the regular services on a Sunday: early morning service at 8am for Holy Communion; and then a 10.30am service which includes Holy Eucharist, with the first Sunday of the month being a Family Service. If any member of the congregation wishes to speak to a member of the clergy for personal prayer, this is offered in the Lady Chapel immediately following the 10.30am service. We still offer Evening Prayer on a Sunday at 5.30pm which is becoming ever more unusual in the majority of churches.

The electoral roll numbers sadly declined during 2019. The average Sunday attendance during 2019 is estimated to have been 88 adults (over 16) and 4 children (under 16). Average weekly attendance is decreasing: although 14 adults joined the church in 2019, sadly 22 people died. There has been a decrease in the number of children attending: Edward Bear was stopped due to insufficient numbers and attendance at Sunday Specials has been inconsistent. The number of Baptisms and Weddings has dropped; sadly the only number rising is for funerals. The estimated age of our congregation is: 99 people aged over 70yrs; 71 people aged 18-69yrs; 5 aged 11-17yrs (the Light Group attendees); with a total of 28 children.

The worshipping community also includes those who only attend monthly or mid-week services. We have a variety of worship during the week for people who cannot get to the Sunday services: Morning Prayer is held on most weekday mornings during term time at 8.40am in the Lady Chapel; the Mid-week Eucharist is held on or around the second Wednesday of each month, this is followed by the Parish coffee morning. The format for the regular NCMMP prayers is changing for 2020: there will be a meeting on the final Thursday of each month and this will be held at St. Augustine's, North Springfield; the prayer meeting will be from 12:00-15:30 for prayers, lunch, conversation and reflection which anyone is invited to join. Dates are noted each week in St. Mary's notice sheet and via a weekly news update circulated by email to PCC members.

For young families, we have 'Thanksgiving on a Thursday' during term time where those with little children can feel comfortable joining in with worship whilst the children play. Every other Tuesday there is a group for parents and carers of children to meet for mutual support and discussion; this group used to be called Pray & Play but, as the children of the regular members are all now at school, it has been re-named Friends with Faith to reflect that this group now caters for parents and carers of children of all ages. It can offer time and space for children to play and adults to reflect on life and explore Christianity; the core membership has decreased by one this year and they are hoping to welcome some new members in 2020. Unfortunately, very few people were attending the Edward Bear group (which offered gentle worship to parents, carers and their little children) and was proving challenging for the ministry team to be able to run, so the PCC took the difficult decision to officially close the group in April 2019, although this will be re-visited in the future.

We have two bible classes, one held in house and the other in St. Leonard's Committee Room, both on Wednesdays, to which anyone is welcome.

The Pastoral team hold monthly services in the local residential Care Homes and the Ministry Team also lead acts of worship at assemblies in schools, usually once a month.

The total number of people attending at Easter was 112, a decrease of 34 compared to 2018. Though the total attendance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 453, a decrease of just 3 compared to 2018, the number attending for special services during Advent e.g. Carol services and School services was 448, a decrease of 111 people compared to 2018.

We want our church to be open to our community for private prayer and thanks to a rota of parishioners the church continues to be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

### ***Ecumenical relationships***

St. Mary's is one of 11 churches in the North Chelmsford Mission & Ministry Partnership (NCMMP). The aim of the MMP is to enable churches within the unit to work together, share resources and support one another and there are a number of networking groups. More about the NCMMP is contained in the North Chelmsford Mission & Ministry Report included later in this Annual Review.

St. Mary's also has a Covenant with Broomfield Methodist Church with whom it shares some ministry and meets about three times a year to plan our work together; and the Lutheran Church continue to hold some worship at St. Mary's.

The Chelmsford Diocese have a Youth Synod and two of the young people who attend our church continue to represent the churches in this area on it. They met three times in 2019 and Gracie is going to write something for the APCM about what they have covered.

### ***Mission and evangelism***

Our aim as a Christian Church in this community is to make Christ's love known to everyone. We enable this through teaching, worship, bible study and discipleship groups; through baptisms; services and groups for parents with babies and young children; and through groups that give opportunities for fellowship for young and older people alike.

Fellowship groups that regularly meet at St. Mary's are: St. Mary's Ladies Group which meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm and the Film & Lunch Club on the first Monday of the month, which continue to be well supported; Beetle Drives; Lunch & Laughter on the third Monday in the month; and a Men's Group. A new initiative, instigated by Rev'd. Anne in 2019, is 'St. Mary's Sunday Diners' to enable people who would otherwise be eating Sunday lunch alone to go out once a month as a group, after church, to a venue within half an hour's drive (different pubs, restaurants, garden centre cafes) and enjoy one another's company; this has proved really successful. All the meetings are listed in the Round Tower magazine and on the church website. Reports on the activities of the various groups are contained later in this Annual Review.

Two Lent Bible Study series were offered again in 2019, an afternoon and an evening one, running in March and April. The Lent film-based evening course, co-led by Rev'd. Anne and Trudy Stevens, was "The Mystery of Everything" and took the award winning film The Theory of Everything as its starting point. Film-based Lent courses have been offered for the last several years and have proved easy to engage with, thought provoking and meaningful. In Lent Group 2 the Wednesday afternoon Bible Study group undertook a 5 week course entitled "The Final Week"; the course followed the events of Holy Week through texts from Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels, giving an opportunity to

think more deeply about the events and discuss their relevance to our lives. A lent course was also undertaken by the Wednesday morning Bible Study Group.

St. Mary's work with children, families and youth needs is still evolving. There is a child-friendly area at the front of the church so that children can play while attending church with their family and on the first Sunday of the month the 10:30am service is a family service. On the second or third Sunday of the month we have 'Sunday Specials', an afternoon family service in the hall. It is aimed at 5-11 year olds and based on a 'Messy Church' style: a Bible story, crafts, film clip or puppets, prayer and perhaps a song, followed by sandwiches and cake. It is aimed at children and their families (parents, grandparents and great grandparents!). The group is led by the clergy team and supported by Irene and Stan Collins and Joan Vine, as well as the Puppet Crew, and others who make refreshments. Claire McIntyre (who ran an art club in the hall) has also helped from time to time. Over the months, Sunday Special has focused on specific events, eg. Halloween, carving pumpkins with a heart shape to let the light of God's love shine out, Creation, Christmas, Baptism, and Easter to name a few, as well as Bible stories. Each month the group created a big picture to go on display in the church, showing what the families had got up to. Disney film clips were used to explain the gospel message in a different way. Some months several families have attended and other months just one or two – these were not just church families, but also families where this was the only connection they had with the church. All who attended enjoyed Sunday Special, and many meaningful conversations were had over coffee or craft activities. This group is very important for outreach, but takes a lot of planning and preparation and manpower on the day. Rev'd. Carolyn decided that the group should run for a year and then a decision be made about whether it should continue.

Little Lambs continues to flourish; it runs in the hall every Thursday morning and is suitable for babies and toddlers with their parents, grandparents or carers, for play and friendship. The Puppet Crew meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and performs at Sunday Specials and other selected services. It is a joy to have children in church worshipping with us and we will seek to find other ways to teach our children the Christian Faith.

St. Mary's has joined with the NCMMP for regular youth-focused provision, led by members of the Clergy along with people who work with young people across the MMP, with Rev'd.. Julie involved from St. Mary's:

- The Light Group is a group for 8-14 year olds who would like to find out more about the Christian Faith. It continues to meet once a month on the last Wednesday of the month for an hour at St. Mary's. The group first formed to prepare for First Holy Communion and has carried on ever since, with some of our younger children now attending. There is generally a discussion around a theme, a chance for young Christians to ask questions about their faith, and lots of toast.
- During the year the NCMMP youth committee arranged a Pop Up Pancake Event at St. Mary's. Children came from two of the other churches in the NCMMP, as well as St. Mary's. In addition, St. Mary's and St Augustine's young people attended Solid – an outdoor worship and outdoor activities event at Stubbers - in the summer. This was thoroughly enjoyed.
- Holy Trinity Church in Chelmsford hold The Bridge event once a quarter for 11-18 year olds to meet together from different churches with a worship band, games, a talk and space for prayer and reflection. Julie visited this event and it is hoped that some of the older young people will attend this at some point.
- Julie is awaiting a New Year meeting of the youth workers across the NCMMP.

'Pints of View' in the local pub on a Wednesday evening, started by Rev'd.. Julie in 2018, ran until Easter 2019. The aim was to be a visible presence in the community, building up relationships by going each week and being with people. .

Other groups that use the church facilities are: U3A Hand bell ringing group; Friends of Broomfield Hospital; Soroptimists' meeting; Epilepsy Action Group; and a Children's Art Group was running up until Easter 2019 but has currently ceased. In 2020 there will be a new user of St. Leonard's Hall – The Ark Support Group – set up by volunteers who are parents with children with additional needs. The aims of the group are to support, listen to and help advise other families with children with additional needs where they can; and this will be held every second Friday of the month 9.30-11.00am.

### ***Review of the year***

In terms of variety of services and social events, 2019 was another busy year.

The Christingle Family Service was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and the March Sunday Special included pancakes.

At Easter, on Maundy Thursday, there was an evening Eucharist with washing of feet in church; reflections at the cross on Good Friday; and a Family Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

On 20<sup>th</sup> April a Confirmation service was held at Chelmsford Cathedral at which one member of St. Mary's congregation was Confirmed.

The APCM in 2019 was held after a shortened service on the Sunday Morning of 28<sup>th</sup> April. 48 people attended, an increase of 2 compared to the previous year.

St. Mary's, together with the Methodist Church, once again took part in 'Thy Kingdom Come' an international prayer initiative inviting Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. It began with an Ascension service at Pleshey on 30<sup>th</sup> May, a joint service for all the Mission & Ministry Partnership churches, and concluded with a celebration on Pentecost Sunday (Whit Sunday) 9<sup>th</sup> June with a family service at St. Mary's. During the 10 day period people volunteered to go out in pairs to "prayer walk" to pray for the residents of our parish. The aim was to lift our neighbours up to Christ for his blessing in the hope that more people may come to know Christ's love.

During Christian Aid week in May, 23 volunteers delivered and collected envelopes around Broomfield and we were able to send £2,114.26 to the charity. The Lunch and Laughter group also held a lunch in aid of Christian Aid.

A Songs of Praise service on the Green was held in June and was followed by a Strawberry Tea – over 50 people from St. Mary's Church, Broomfield Methodist Church and the community of Broomfield came along and thanks go to the Puppet Crew for performing and to all who were involved in setting up, providing hospitality and food, as well as clearing up.

The Pet Service this year was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July on the Green.

The Harvest Festival service took place in October and gifts of food were shared around the community with any surplus being donated to the Food Bank; monies collected at the service were sent to Christian Aid.

At the Patronal Festival Family Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 43 decorated shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child along with 200 hats knitted by Vera Wilsher, were gratefully received. Two films were shown during the service, one of children joyfully receiving their boxes, the other of a young woman whose life had changed because of the box she received as a child which showed her she was cared about. Thanks to all who gave a box and to Vera for knitting the hats.

The Remembrance service was very well attended and once again the knitted poppies adorned the lych gate, entrance door and inside of the church. The Armistice Day service at the War Memorial was also well attended, with Chelmer Valley High School sending representatives to lay poppies for the first time; The Kings Arms pub also laid on refreshments for everyone afterwards. Thanks to the Royal British Legion and the RASC for their help and support.

Four evenings of reflections were held on Mondays throughout Advent. A quiet hour of led prayer and reflection to prepare for the coming of the child Christ into the world. 9<sup>th</sup> December saw 12 carollers from St. Mary's offering a little Christmas joy to those on Terling ward and in the Maternity Unit at Broomfield Hospital. On 14<sup>th</sup> December several members of our Clergy and congregation attended a Christmas Torchlight Procession through the parish in conjunction with Broomfield Methodist Church. On 21<sup>st</sup> December a Blue Christmas contemplative service of remembrance, light and hope for those experiencing loss was held. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our Traditional Carol Service. On Christmas Eve there were again two Crib services, as they have proved so popular, plus Midnight-Mass; these and the Family service on Christmas Day all had large congregations.

A number of social events were held during the year. In February there was a bingo event and the second of a series of six People and Stone talks, both raising funds for the restoration of the spire; February's talk was about Church People – "Stories in Monuments" – the speakers were Ros Mercer and Alun Powell, with a tour by Dr Ruth Siddall, the presentations and tours of the church were well received by an appreciative audience and booklets to accompany the People & Stone series were on sale.

In March there was a concert in support of the organ restoration fund, a Festival Concert in church featuring the Chelmsford Festival of Music and Drama prize winners; and the March quiz night raised more money for the spire fund.

In April we had the third People and Stone talk, this was on Church Material – "A deep History in Walls" by Ian Mercer. Also in April, Malcolm Taylor walked The Way of St James – the Camino de Santiago – a 120 mile walk. He very generously used this to help raise money for the restoration of the spire. With sponsorship, donations and a raffle at his subsequent talk, plus the Cottage Gardeners Society nominating the Spire fund as the Society's charity of year, in total almost £2,000 was raised for the Spire Fund. So sincere thanks go to Malcolm for his sterling effort and all who sponsored him.

In May Rev'd. Diana organised a "Meet your Neighbours" event in St. Leonard's Hall to which people from one of the new developments, Saxon Gate, were invited; a chance to extend hospitality and welcome to these new villagers and six families from Saxon Gate attended. Although the numbers may have been small it felt like a very worthwhile event and thanks go to all those who supported Diana and provided copious amounts of cake! Also in May there were three evening flower arranging workshops in St. Leonard's Hall.

The May Fayre, including 'Broomfield's Got Talent', was a church fundraising event as well as a community event and raised over £2,900 gross. The weather turned out dry. There was a constant flow of people visiting and we were delighted that two of our stall holders were young people raising money for their World Challenge trip in the summer. There was a stall in support of MS; as well as the Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society; the Scouts; the Guides; the Blood Bike; and other local businesses and groups. A big thank you to all who volunteered their time and services to make the event a success and to everyone who donated items for the raffle or to sell. Particular thanks go to Rachel Butterworth, Sarah Clark and Sue Browning for organising the event. The importance of the community spirit and teamwork generated cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately, Rachel and Sue are not able to organise the event in 2020, although Sarah Clark is still happy to organise Broomfield's

Got Talent if we can find volunteers to organise the rest of the event – please speak with any member of the clergy if you would be willing to take up the mantle.

In June there was a classical guitar Concert in church, organised by Jill Parkin, again raising money for the organ restoration fund.

In July Rev'd. Julie and three young people from St. Mary's, as well as their parents, went to the Solid Festival for a day. This event was run by Scripture Union and the Diocese of Chelmsford, as well as many other charities. The aim was for young people to go and camp for the weekend or visit just for the day with their friends and to try activities they had never done before, as well as hear about Jesus. Everyone had a great time and said they would like to go again next year.

September was a busy month. On the 7<sup>th</sup> the St. Mary's Men's Group joined with the Men's Group at St Andrew's Church Boreham for a Men's breakfast. St. Mary's was open on the 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of September for the Heritage Open Days and gift weekend; 25 people signed the visitors book and those who visited had an opportunity to make a gift towards the life and work of the church, the organ and the spire funds. The gift weekend raised a total of £2,375 and thanks go to all those involved. As well as being a place of worship and somewhere for people to find rest and peace, our church building and grounds have an important heritage in their architecture, geology, art and history and, in addition to the Heritage Open Days, we are hoping to make the heritage of the church and grounds more accessible for both school pupils and the wider community in the future.

There was a quiz night on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September which raised £438; and the fourth People & Stone talk was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September entitled "Broomfield's Princely Saxon Burial" by Nick Wickenden of Chelmsford Museum.

The fifth talk of the People & Stone series happened in November, on Broomfield's Vicars by Dr Michael Leach. In total the People & Stone talks raised £2,236.60 for the spire restoration fund. Our grateful thanks to Trudy Stevens, Alun Powell, Ros and Ian Mercer, Neil Wiffen and all who were involved in organising the talks and developing the booklets; and of course to the speakers.

Also in November: a Men's group bowling event was held; and on 30<sup>th</sup> November we held a Wreath Making Workshop and Christmas Fayre which raised £871 - our thanks go to Margaret Pinkerton for running the workshop and to all who helped on the day.

The pantomime trip on 1<sup>st</sup> December was enjoyed by all who attended and thanks go to Rachel Butterworth for organising that.

Although our planned financial giving covers a large proportion of church spending, our church still relies on other forms of finance – fundraising and donations. Fundraising initiatives such as 'tubes for the organ' and sales of Ladyhope honey and alpaca poo for our gardens, continued; also, there was a sponsored slim from September to December which raised money for the spire restoration fund. St. Mary's is registered with 'Easyfundraising', which generates free donations from online shopping - so far 31 members of the congregation have signed up and together have raised £1,150 since we started, so congratulations and thank you to all those members of the congregation who have used this method. In total, fundraising amounted to over £11,000 during 2019.

St. Mary's continued to support various charities and collections at services raised money for Christian Aid; The Children's Society and Operation Christmas Child; and the 2019 Collection from St. Mary's Children's Society box holders totalled almost £620, with potentially another £78 in Gift Aid. Our charity for this year was Kids Inspire - a speaker from the charity came along to the family service on 7<sup>th</sup> July and £185 was raised for them. Profits from the monthly coffee mornings raised £500 for Little

Havens Hospice. Once again this year, in conjunction with Churches Together in Chelmsford, we supported the Angel Tree Project – St. Mary’s collected 19 gift vouchers; 28 gifts; plus a £20 note (used to pay for wrapping and stamps) for this charity, which was a significant contribution to their total – they aim to provide a Christmas gift to children who have a parent in prison. Donations from our giant Christmas card, to send Christmas greetings to other members of St. Mary’s, raised £105 which went to CHESS, who offer homeless and vulnerable individuals the sustenance, support and guidance needed to enrich their future.

As a PCC we are very pleased that we are able to support all the Clergy. We thank all the Ministry team for their hard work and dedication in providing worship which inspires and guides us all on our Christian journey; and the pastoral team who continue to support people in their own homes and in care homes in our community.

The PCC is very grateful to all the committed volunteers who work tirelessly in the background on church cleaning; church sitting; making coffee and tea; washing the holy linen; counting money; and for maintaining the website and writing the pew sheets. Without the dedication of the volunteers, St. Mary’s Church would not be able to function as it does. Very many thanks go to all those who have dedicatedly undertaken church cleaning over the years; this last year has been difficult with so few people on the rota; the church has nevertheless always looked spick, span and beautiful. Although we have tried to find more people to come onto the church cleaning rota, this has not been possible and so in March 2020 we will be adding church cleaning to the work of the person paid to clean St. Leonard’s Hall, toilets, kitchen and link.

It takes a very significant voluntary commitment by the members of the Churchyard Working Party to continue to maintain our churchyard to such a high standard. We thank David Marcus and all the working party, which consists of members of the congregation and the wider Community, plus Peter Baker, our tree officer, for all their hard work.

It has not been possible to mention all groups and involved people individually in this report, but as a PCC we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who tirelessly devote time and effort into running the groups and thank all who are mentioned in the following reports. We would particularly like to thank our Church Wardens and Treasurer for all their hard work. Peter Baker, who has served as Churchwarden for many, many years will be stepping down and his retirement from office will be recognised officially at the Vestry Meeting and APCM in March 2020 and most sincere thanks go to him for all his support and hard work over the years. We thank Rev’d.. Tibbott for all her support and guidance through what has again been a very industrious and at times taxing but successful year.

***Carol Knott***  
***Hon. Secretary***

## **Financial Report**

### ***Summary***

The Parish finances registered a very healthy surplus in 2019 of £28,093.26 well up on the (itself healthy) surplus of £9,679.35 in 2018. Both the general and restricted accounts recorded a positive figure. This was an excellent outcome which was overwhelmingly the result of two large bequests of £10,000 and £35,000 respectively. Moreover, the £35,000 was an interim payment and a further large sum is expected in 2020. Fund raising, including events for the spire and organ funds, showed an increase on the 2018 figure but planned giving and collections at services combined were static. The larger bequest was allocated as follows: £10,000 to the spire fund; £10,000 to the churchyard extension fund; an extra £3,500 added to our parish purse allocation; and the remainder to general funds.

### ***Unrestricted funds***

#### **Income**

Planned giving raised £40,325.73 in 2019 down from £40,761.60 in 2018. This was the fifth year in succession that planned giving has fallen. Although there were a number of new members joining the planned giving scheme, this was not enough to offset the number who left it. We continue to be affected by a net loss in the number of regular givers. Loose collections at services rose from £6,172.60 in 2018 to £6,518.67 last year. Net fee income also strengthened rising from £11,827.84 in 2018 to £13,150.25. Money raising for the general fund amounted to £6,152.35 compared with £5,827.15 in 2018.

Donations to the general fund amounted to £8,270.66 last year slightly down on 2018's £9,026.61. Bequests added a further £25,000 to general fund income and investment income totalled £480.75.

Tax recovered on planned giving and donations brought in a further £12,308.09 which meant that overall unrestricted income amounted to £114,767.29.

#### **Expenditure**

The major item of expenditure, as usual, was the Parish Share which amounted to £71,315.00 compared with £65,481.60 in 2018. The Parish has always prided itself on paying its share in full and, when the Deanery Synod was the vehicle for calculating parish contributions, that target was consistently achieved. Under the Ministry and Mission Partnership set up, however, the method of calculation has changed. Each parish is now asked to cover, in full if possible, the cost of its clergy and a proportion of indirect costs such as training. Previously, parishes were assessed on other characteristics – electoral roll, congregation size, social traits, etc. - which reflected an ability to pay rather than the true economic cost of the Parish to the Diocese.

For Broomfield, the new method of calculation has meant a substantially higher target payment. The aim of the PCC is to move closer to that higher figure over time by increasing our payments faster than the increase in the target. For 2019 our economic cost (after fee credits) was calculated as £81,688 towards which we agreed to pay £67,815. This was a 3½% increase on the £65,481.60 paid in 2018. The bequest of £35,000 towards the end of last year, however, allowed us to increase our agreed payment by a further £3,500 to £71,315.00.

The cost of utilities amounted to £3,617.65, almost exactly the same figure as the previous year (£3,626.59). Gas accounted for £2,016.92 compared with £2,021.42 in 2018; electricity for £1,366.84, up from £1,253.28; and water for £234.09, down from £351.89. The cost of insuring the building and hall amounted to £3,269.66 compared with £3,296.07 in 2018.

Spending on the maintenance of the churchyard amounted to £1,689.34, well down on the 2018 figure of £3,690.84 which had included the purchase of new equipment. Repairs to, and maintenance of, the building amounted to £4,513.85, up from £1,895.59. Other church running costs totalled £8,230.76, compared with £9,853.60 for 2018.

In total, expenditure out of the general fund amounted to £95,552.03 leaving a surplus of £19,215.26.

### ***Restricted funds***

#### **Organ Fund**

At the beginning of 2019, the organ fund totalled £14,783.88. Donations during the year plus the proceeds of the concerts organised by Jill Parkin added £2,344.00, leaving the fund in surplus at the end of the year by £17,127.88.

#### **Spire Fund**

At the beginning of 2019 the spire fund stood at £9,088.02. Donations to the fund during the year amounted to £3,734.74 and a further £10,000 was allocated to the fund from the £35,000 bequest received towards the end of the year.

Fund raising raised a creditable £4,629.90. Lunchtime presentations and The People & Stone series of talks organised by Trudy Stevens, Neil Wiffen, Ros and Ian Mercer and Alun Powell accounted for £2,236.60, while sales of the accompanying booklets amounted to £1,142.75. Against this must be set the cost of printing the booklets, which was £1,219.00, but it does mean that all future sales of the existing booklets will be profit. Two quizzes run by Kathy Rouse and family brought in a further £807.37 and a bingo evening run by Rachel Butterworth raised £182.00; with sales of jam, sponsored hat making and sponsored slimming raising £258.18. In addition to the cost of producing the booklets, an initial payment was made to the architect of £6,143.64. At the end of the year the spire fund stood at £20,041.52.

#### **Churchyard Extension Fund**

The churchyard extension fund also benefitted by £10,000 from the bequest of £35,000. Expenditure on the extension amounted to £14,247.83, leaving the fund in surplus at the end of the year by £2,108.17.

#### **Other Funds**

There was no movement in the stained glass window fund; the cremated remains area fund; and the sound system fund. Payments totalling £135 were made out of the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership and Deanery Synod funds. Details of the charities supported in 2019 can be found below.

### ***Outlook***

In 2019 planned giving and collections at services held up while fees and fundraising strengthened. The major impact on the accounts was, however, the two, very gratefully received, bequests. These totalled £45,000; with the expectation of a further payment from the second bequest to be received in 2020. That second payment will almost certainly ensure a healthy surplus this year. We have benefitted enormously from large one-off gifts over the last three years – a total of £63,500 - which, when added to the myriad of smaller donations, has meant that the Parish has remained comfortably in the black.

Planned giving and collections at services are healthy and we are grateful to our congregation for their generosity but, in turn, we should not be complacent. Over the last few years we have become dependent on large gifts from individuals without which the parish would have been in deficit. These gifts, needless to say, while exceedingly generous, cannot be expected to be repeated every year.

We are extremely grateful to all our parishioners who support the church in Broomfield financially, whether through planned giving, donations, or in support of fund raising events. As a congregation we are generous. Cost pressures, however, continue to increase. In particular, we need to stay committed to moving to a position where we can pay the economic cost of our clergy in full. We are very fortunate as a parish not to have to share a priest, but we do need to ensure that we are seen to be (financially) deserving of such a position. It is important, therefore, that every church member look at his or her giving and, if possible, help us become less reliant on the generosity of a few people.

*Alun Powell*  
*Honorary Treasurer*

## Parochial Church Council of St. Mary with St. Leonard, Broomfield

### Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2019

#### Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>					
Planned giving		40,325.73		40,325.73	40,761.60
Collections at services		6,518.67		6,518.67	6,172.60
All other voluntary giving	5a	33,270.66	25,617.24	58,887.90	19,468.36
Gift Aid recovered		12,308.09		12,308.09	12,469.86
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	5b	6,152.35	5,042.90	11,195.25	9,089.38
<b>Investment income</b>	5c	480.75		480.75	332.00
<b>Church activities</b>	5d	15,711.04		15,711.04	15,879.53
<b>Charitable income</b>			4,102.62	4,102.62	4,852.49
<b>Deanery Synod/NCMMP</b>				0.00	0.00
<b>Total receipts</b>		114,767.29	34,762.76	149,530.05	109,025.82
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
<b>Church activities</b>					
Diocesan parish contribution		71,315.00		71,315.00	65,481.60
Clergy and staffing costs		2,627.98		2,627.98	2,094.48
Church running expenses	5e	21,321.46	20,391.47	41,712.93	26,006.69
Charitable giving	5f		4,139.29	4,139.29	4,925.34
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		287.59	1,219.00	1,506.59	688.50
<b>Deanery Synod/NCMMP</b>			135.00	135.00	149.86
<b>Total payments</b>		95,552.03	25,884.76	121,436.79	99,346.47
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		19,215.26	8,878.00	28,093.26	9,679.35
<b>Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January</b>		63,318.54	43,338.17	106,656.71	96,977.36
<b>Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December</b>		82,533.80	52,216.17	134,749.97	106,656.71

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Bank current account	76,688.34		76,688.34	48,621.12
CCLA deposits	5,573.69	52,216.17	57,789.82	57,358.70
Other cash and deposits	631.77		271.77	676.89
	<u>82,530.80</u>	<u>52,216.17</u>	<u>134,749.97</u>	<u>106,656.71</u>
<b>Investment assets</b>				
Tithe Chancel Fund		8,066.74	8,066.74	6,591.33
J Gyne Foundation		1,706.05	1,706.05	1,437.22
		<u>9,772.79</u>	<u>9,772.79</u>	<u>8,028.55</u>
<b>Total monetary assets</b>	<u>82,533.80</u>	<u>61,988.96</u>	<u>144,522.76</u>	<u>114,685.26</u>

### Notes:

- (1) The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.
- (2) The income from the J Gyne Foundation is for ordinary church purposes. Income from the Tithe Chancel Fund is undistributed and is added to the capital sum.
- (3) The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Balance c/fwd
Organ Fund	14,783.88	2,344.00		17,127.88
Spire Fund	9,088.02	18,316.14	7,362.64	20,041.52
Stained Glass Window Fund	12,500.00			12,500.00
Churchyard Extension Fund	6,356.00	10,000.00	14,247.83	2,108.17
Cremated Remains Area Fund	24.74			24.74
Sound System Fund	58.37			58.37
Charity Fund	84.83	4,102.62	4,139.29	48.16
Deanery Fund	200.41			200.41
North Chelmsford MMP	241.92		135.00	106.92
	<u>43,338.17</u>	<u>34,762.76</u>	<u>25,884.76</u>	<u>52,216.17</u>

**(4) Further Analysis of Receipt and Payments Accounts**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>a) All other voluntary giving</b>	5c				
Donations		8,270.66	5,617.24	13,887.90	10,968.36
Legacies		25,000.00	20,000.00	45,000.00	8,500.00
		<u>33,270.66</u>	<u>25,617.24</u>	<u>58,887.90</u>	<u>19,468.36</u>
<b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>	5b				
Parish Magazine - advertising		1,050.00		1,050.00	955.00
May Fayre		2,940.28		2,940.28	2,921.50
Christmas		871.03		871.03	0.00
Other		1,291.04	5,042.90	6,333.94	5,212.88
		<u>6,152.35</u>	<u>5,042.90</u>	<u>11,195.25</u>	<u>9,089.38</u>
<b>c) Investment income</b>	5c				
Dividends					
Interest		480.75		480.75	332.00
		<u>480.75</u>		<u>480.75</u>	<u>332.00</u>
<b>d) Church activities</b>	5d				
Fees for weddings, funerals etc		13,150.25		13,150.25	11,827.84
Parish Magazine - sales		1,121.25		1,121.25	1,146.83
Other		1,439.54		1,439.54	2,904.86
		<u>15,711.04</u>		<u>15,711.04</u>	<u>15,879.53</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>e) Church running expenses</b>	5e				
Music		2,409.24		2,409.24	2,890.00
Cost of services (utilities)		3,617.85		3,617.85	3,626.59
Cost of services (insurance)		3,269.66		3,269.66	3,296.07
Printing & stationery		110.70		110.70	36.00
Church building running expenses		2,658.04		2,658.04	4,409.96
Parish Magazine - printing costs		1,597.28		1,597.28	1,440.64
Church repairs & maintenance		4,513.85	6,143.64	10,657.49	1,895.59
Churchyard		1,689.34	14,247.83	15,937.17	7,334.84
Other		1,455.50		1,455.50	1,077.00
		<u>21,321.46</u>	<u>20,391.47</u>	<u>41,712.93</u>	<u>26,006.69</u>
<b>f) Charitable giving</b>	5f				
Children's Society			767.94	767.94	1,053.74
Christian Aid			2,277.88	2,277.88	2,097.07
Little Haven			500.00	500.00	400.00
RBL Poppy Appeal			273.23	273.23	398.38
Kids Inspire			185.30	185.30	0.00
Angel Tree					210.00
Mercy Ships					155.48
Lifewords					100.00
CHESS			105.10	105.10	170.00
Friends of Essex Churches					305.00
Expenses			29.84	29.84	35.67
			<u>4,139.29</u>	<u>4,139.29</u>	<u>4,925.34</u>

Approved by the PCC on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Signed



Rev'd. C A Tibbott  
PCC Chairman



Mrs C Knott  
PCC Secretary

***Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council  
of St. Mary with St. Leonard, Broomfield***

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

**Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner**

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2022 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



Mr John Wallis  
239 Main Road, Broomfield

25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## VICAR'S REPORT

2019 always did look like it was going to be a busy year for us here in St. Mary w. St. Leonard's Church Broomfield. The year did not disappoint in this regard! There were four People & Stone Lectures, which drew in people from far and wide to find out more about the ancient building of the church; the geology of the building and churchyard; and the people of the parish. My thanks to the organising committee and to those who use their expertise and knowledge to lead these lectures. My favourite, I must say, was the one about my esteemed predecessors, the Broomfield Vicars, this gave us an insight into the ministry that would have taken place here during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. We found out that some of them had multiple parishes but would visit the parish to collect the tithes (which was a payment of one tenth of annual produce or earnings of the people of the village, taken, in those days as a tax for the support of the Church and clergy.) Any work of ministry fell to the poor, lowly curates whose names are not on our memorial board, who worked hard serving the people of the parish whilst living in slum conditions in a freezing cold Vicarage! I hope the curates here realise how fortunate they are now.

We also held a series of Flower Arranging workshops, which proved so successful that we decided to ask Margaret to help with the Christmas Fayre. The draw to our Christmas event was the Wreath Making which was attended by over 30 people, young and old. It was such good fun, and everyone had a great time. People came from our NCMMP partner churches too, so it goes to show that the advertising across the parishes is making a difference. Everyone had a great day and my thanks must go to Margaret Pinkerton who always seems so ready and willing to take on any flower arranging challenge I offer her.

There was a talk by Malcolm Taylor who had raised money for our Spire Fund by asking for sponsorship for his pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago. The talk was inspiring and there were quite a few of us who are now thinking about doing this pilgrimage. Fortunately, Rev'd.. Anne will be leading a pilgrimage later in 2020, so if anyone is interested there are plenty of information booklets at the back of church. Along with the regular quiz nights, which are generally sold out, there was: the Open Heritage Weekend, which was very well attended by people far and wide; two concerts, which you will read more about in Jill's report; the May Fayre; and other ongoing fundraising events. 2019 was a very good year for fundraising. It was also a good year for bringing people into the church who otherwise would not attend for worship.

It would seem that this church is becoming a place known for its history, geology and culture. We will be continuing to work with these themes more in the coming year as we put together bids for the Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant giving bodies in order to support the fundraising we need for the Spire and Organ funds. Disappointingly we found out at the end of 2019 that the organ would not be repaired in 2020. However, we have pencilled in a new date with the company which gives us a couple more years to fulfil the prerequisites (DAC advice and faculty application) in order that the work can be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines from the Diocese.

The other major project this year has been the completion of the churchyard extension and it seems that every month has seen a development in that new area. By the end of the summer it was clear that the churchyard part of the extension was ready to be consecrated and, seeing that we had only about 6 burial plots left in the old extension, we arranged for Bishop John to attend to Consecrate the land for us. It was a fairly cold and miserable day on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, but of course that did not put the people of the church off and there was a large group who gathered to witness the Consecration of the land. To-date there has been one burial of ashes in the new area, which is going to be much less formal

with no plaques. There will still be a grid system, held in the vestry, so that people will know exactly where someone's final remains are and we are discussing the option of a Memorial book in church for people to visit.

The meadow side of the extension is also taking shape and we were extremely grateful to Broomfield Scout Group who came along to plant the new hedgerow for us at the end of November. The Parish Church and the Scouts in Broomfield have always had a special relationship and it is good to know that this is continuing. You will be pleased to hear that on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 we finally heard that the faculty for the remaining work to the Churchyard Extension had been granted, so there will be more work going on up at the end of the Churchyard this year too. My thanks to our Church Wardens and to Jim and Susan for all the work they have done so far in order to ensure that the Churchyard Extension is progressing so well.

In 2019 there were 12 baptisms held here in the church. We conducted 5 wedding services here last year. Members of the ministry team officiated at 48 funerals of which 20 were held in church, all the others were conducted at the Crematorium. We continue to conduct many interment of ashes services in the churchyard and much ministry time is consumed caring for the churchyard and advising people on appropriate memorials. We also have a compassionate bereavement team, who contact those who have been served through funeral ministry here, offering them support and inviting them to groups, clubs and worship.

In 2019 the Ministry Team here in Broomfield remained fairly stable. Rev'd.. Anne continued in her role as Associate Priest taking responsibility for bereavement care in the parish. She is the main minister who serves Ayletts Care Home. Having retired in October from a long career as a GP, one of Anne's first concerns was to arrange a retreat in November to St. John the Baptist Orthodox Monastery in Tolleshunt Knights. This was well attended and appreciated by all those who went along. Anne also started Sunday Diners, being aware of the loneliness that people can experience when eating alone after a significant bereavement. This simple monthly group trip out for a Sunday Lunch together is proving to be a lifeline for those who would otherwise eat alone. Anne is also busy planning our Parish trip to Oberammergau this year.

Rev'd. Julie has completed her Title Post here in Broomfield and it was a delight to support her as she applied for her first Role of Responsibility as a Priest. I was thrilled to announce in December that she is to be Priest in Charge of St. Paul's Bentley Common, St. Nicholas' Kelvedon Hatch and St. Thomas Navestock. Rev'd.. Julie has been a positive and caring priest as she has ministered to all of us here in Broomfield and these three parishes do not yet know what a good choice they have made! We will, I am sure, continue to hold Rev'd.. Julie in our prayers as she moves with her family to these parishes in Brentwood, makes her home among the people and brings enthusiasm, compassion and care to the ministry in those places. We wish her all the best for the future.

Rev'd.. Diana has continued with her training throughout the year. She has particularly enjoyed some pioneer ministry to the Saxon Gate Estate, she has conducted many funerals and baptisms and she will be conducting her first wedding in the spring. Rev'd.. Diana brings a wealth of knowledge and the Bible study group values her insights. During the year she set up a regular meeting for a group of Christians who are in the workplace. It is surprisingly difficult today to maintain one's Christian integrity in an increasingly secular world. Although this group has paused over the busy Christmas period, I am sure that those who attended will value it and want it to re-start in the Spring. Rev'd.. Diana is also now leading a CCS course at the Diocesan Offices. Rev'd.. Diana is now in her third year as a curate here and discussions are underway as to what her future in ministry holds.

As planned, I took a period of 3 months Extended Study Leave between May and August 2019. I was able to take some down time and it was a great joy that my middle daughter and her husband were

married in this church a couple of weeks into my Sabbatical. Having no pressures of work meant that I was able to concentrate on their needs and I am grateful to Rev'd. Anne for conducting such a beautiful wedding for them. I was also able to undertake the research I needed to begin the dissertation I was writing towards the MA I am studying for. Jim and I spent some time in Madeira and by the time we left the people at the English Church in Madeira knew our names and we felt that we were part of the church family there, rather than just being occasional visitors. I remain very grateful to the PCC for supporting me in studying for the MA. I also need to thank the Ministry team for being so gracious in ensuring that all services were covered during my sabbatical, and that I was not disturbed at all for three whole months. I have continued my work as Vocations Adviser for North Chelmsford Deanery, which started off slowly in 2019, but is now gaining pace as I meet more people who feel called to ministry in the church. I am enjoying guiding them and watching them flourish as they discover the breadth of ministry, both lay and ordained, that is available to them.

The North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership (NCMMP) also continues to flourish. In 2019 Rev'd.. Mike Aston was appointed as Priest in Charge of Pleshey; Rev'd.. Emma Wiley was appointed as Priest in Charge of Boreham with half of her time to be spent with the Pioneer Ministry at St. Francis Church in Beaulieu and Channels; Rev'd.. Caroline Brown moved from the Great & Little parishes to St. Augustine's as a House for Duty Priest in Charge. We were also fortunate to have Rev'd.. Jackie Pearson join the Pioneer Ministers on the Beaulieu and Channel's estates as a Curate in Training. This leaves just one vacancy in the Six Great & Little parishes. As an Incumbent within the NCMMP I am supporting the administrator of the parishes and Rev'd.. Sandra Sykes who also ministers in that benefice. There are a lot of services to cover in the six parishes and we have been doing our best to provide that cover from the Ordained Ministers of the NCMMP.

At Deanery level we now know that Rev'd.. Canon Tim Ball has been appointed as acting Area Dean for North Chelmsford Deanery. There are ongoing discussions about the Deanery plan and about whether it would be wise, in the light of the success of the Mission & Ministry Units, that Chelmsford North Deanery and Chelmsford South Deanery join to become one large Deanery again. We remain grateful to Rev'd.. Tim for his kind and encouraging ministry amongst us.

So 2019 has been a full year with lots of positive forward movement in many different areas of church life. However there have been losses and disappointments. So many faithful church members died in 2019 and it is sad to have conducted the funerals of those whose characters are woven into this place. However, we are the guardians of God's promise in Jesus Christ, that God will gather his faithful ones to Himself as they pass from this life. We are the ones who have absolute confidence in this deep truth, which allows us to grieve for those whom we miss, yet continue with the mission and ministry of the church, in the hope that future generations will be able to live their lives to the full, firmly assured of Jesus' defeat of death, for our benefit.

We have also been disappointed with the lack of support for our work with children and young people. We have a faithful core of young families, children and young people who are a great joy to us. Yet, Edward Bear had to close due to lack of attendance. The Sunday Specials and even family services are not well attended by many children or families and we continue to look at different ways that we can bring the Good News of Jesus to the children and young people who should be the church of today. So although we are disappointed, we will not be defeated. We are always looking at new ways of offering ministry in this church and across the NCMMP.

One of the overriding issues of 2019 was that of climate change. I believe, as many others do, that this generation will be judged not just by what it does, but also by what it does not do. As a church, I think that we should be at the forefront of all the changes that need to be made. As we all know, before we can change anything or anyone else, before we can comment on their behaviour... we have to look at ourselves and what we need to allow to be transformed in our lives. Bishop Stephen in his Christmas

message asks us to 'live gently in the world and enhance God's creation'. There are lots of words in scripture which help our understanding of God's creation... but I have chosen these from Psalm 65 for us this year:

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.  
By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.  
By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.  
You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.  
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

2019 was a mix of sadness and joy, hard work and rest, study and worship. Outside of the church we were caught up in the frenzy of Brexit, a General Election, political turmoil and evidence of climate change across the planet. Yet, each one of us, as Christian people is called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. In 2020, a new decade, we take up that challenge afresh. Take a while to reflect on these words of Psalm 65, and pray that God will move your heart to change. Only then will we really be able to begin to make a difference!

Knowing that there is much work to do, yet not being overwhelmed or deterred, we continue what those who went before us began. We must be the ones caring for God's amazing, awesome creation and serving Christ's Kingdom in the power of the Spirit, wherever we are and whatever we choose to do in 2020, let this be our purpose.

*with every blessing*  
*Carolyn*

## THE CHURCH WARDENS' FABRIC REPORT

### ***Buildings:***

We are pleased to mention that the fabric of the church and St. Leonard's Hall is well maintained and in good order.

The vegetation on the shoulder of the return wall facing east between the nave and chancel was removed in January. This was a quinquennial report item. A new gas meter for the supply of gas to the church and hall boilers was fitted during February. Repairs to the tree-damaged church wall were completed in March by the laying of the coping stone. The stone work was carried out during the previous month.

In April a defibrillator donated by Sue and Geoff Garwood was attached to the hall lobby wall near the entrance to and from the church. During this month the slipped and damaged tiles on the church and hall roofs were repaired/replaced. This was a quinquennial item. A lightning protection certificate was received in July. It was during the hot spell in July that honey was seen to be making its way down from the top of the chancel arch leaving a sticky mess below. A problem for us and the church bees! Once the temperature dropped the escape of honey ceased. In November the fire extinguishers were serviced, two needed to be replaced. Also during this month the hall boiler underwent its second service when the gaskets were replaced.

### ***Grounds:***

During the year two young oak trees were planted in the new churchyard extension. One in the North West corner and the second in the south west corner. The large cedar in front of the church required work to be carried out when it was discovered there was a crack in the branch facing Church Green. The condition of the tree was considered to be dangerous and the branches involved were removed. Further investigation will be carried out on the tree in the New Year.

Once again we must mention how fortunate we are in having a dedicated Churchyard Working Party, who work in the churchyard each Tuesday morning and maintain it in a neat and tidy condition. Our grateful thanks go to all those involved.

Our grateful thanks also to those who quietly go about keeping the church and hall clean; the laundering of the church linen; and those who are on the Church Sitting list to welcome visitors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

*Peter Baker and Michael Harvey*

## THE CHURCHYARD EXTENSION WORKING GROUP REPORT

Quite a lot has happened since last year's report. The meadow area to the west of the footpath is now well established. Two memorial trees have already been planted in this area. The perimeter of the meadow has been hedged following a successful appeal to the Woodland Trust for 400 native bare root hedging plants. The planting was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November by volunteers, including the scouts, under the direction of Roger Cole. The area to the east of the footpath has been cleared and grassed. This area of land was consecrated by Bishop John on 9<sup>th</sup> September and the first burial of ashes has taken place in the new informal area at the southern end, near the retained hedge. A maintenance contract has been agreed with JCM services to keep the land in good condition. This will involve regular mowing on the east side with weeding as necessary. The meadow area to the west only needs cutting once a year and the newly planted hedge will not require any regular maintenance for some years. This area of land will not be consecrated until the need arises as the area on the eastern side has sufficient burial space for many years to come.

We were visited by representatives of the DAC on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June to assess progress and comment on further work to be done following our faculty submission. They were, I am pleased to report, delighted with the work that had been carried out to-date and they made some helpful suggestions regarding the metal fencing. Our original plan was to re-site the existing fencing on the northeastern boundary of the existing churchyard to mark the boundary of the eastern border of the new churchyard. This would have meant purchasing new metal fencing to match the old as there would not have been sufficient to achieve this task. Expenditure in the region of £18,000 would have been needed. The DAC felt that this expenditure was not strictly necessary and that removal of the existing fencing might be more appropriate. This was discussed at the PCC and there was agreement that we should go down the latter route. This is likely to cost in the region of £1,000.

Further work to be undertaken in the near future includes completion of the wooden post and rail fence at the northern boundary of the consecrated section of land, together with a wooden kissing gate to be

installed across the footpath. This work will then complete the boundary of the new churchyard and the subsequent removal of the metal fencing will render the new area contiguous with the old. A water catchment feature will be installed by the footpath at the northern boundary of the old churchyard and a new metal sign with information about proper use of the churchyard will be erected. The informal burial of ashes area will be marked out with 4 oak posts to enable a grid system to be used to identify remains.

The churchyard extension is an important and much needed addition to our current burial area and has been welcomed by all who have commented upon it.

*Mike Harvey*

## ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years, according to the Church Regulation Rules, the Electoral Roll has to be completely revised. Everyone on the previous Electoral Roll has to re-apply to be placed on the new roll. This exercise happened during February and March of 2019 and will not be repeated again until 2025.

This has been a sad year for St. Mary's in that many older members of the congregation have died and their names have been removed from the Electoral Roll. Consequently, the number of names on the Electoral roll has decreased and is now 134 compared to 161 at the end of 2018, despite new names entering the roll.

*Kathy Rouse*  
*(Electoral Roll Officer)*

## NCMMP

St. Mary with St. Leonard Church is a member of the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership (NCMMP) which also includes: St. Mary's - Great Leighs; St John's - Little Leighs; St. John the Evangelist - Ford End; The Chignals with Mashbury; St Mary with St Lawrence - Great Waltham; St Martin's - Little Waltham; St Augustine's - Springfield; All Saints - Springfield; Holy Trinity - Pleshey; St Andrew's - Boreham; and St. Francis - Beaulieu.

The NCMMP council, comprising both Clergy and Lay members, met 4 times during 2019: in February, April, July and October. In addition, the treasurers, lay ministry, youth and young people and safeguarding networks held meetings outside of the Council meetings. These meetings were productive and produced NCMMP-wide guidance and procedures.

Numerous items were discussed at Council meetings, including decisions on the parish share for each parish: an application to the Diocese, for a grant to help the collective churches meet their parish share commitments, was agreed in full.

The current support for lay ministry and the Deanery Plan were discussed in full and comments forwarded to the Deanery. A presentation on Christian Giving was given by Robin Stevens at the July meeting.

Rev'd. Susan Iskander took over as Clergy Co-chair in February. There were several vacancies in churches during the year and Clergy members of the NCMMP were able to help out in other churches.

In March Rev'd. Iskander held a study session on "Handling Tension in Church Life" for NCMMP church members which was well received. A joint Ascension Day service was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May at Holy Trinity Church, Pleshey. A Safeguarding day was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September; and on 19<sup>th</sup> October a Networking day was held at Mashbury Village Hall. The framework for the day was St. Johns Gospel 15: the "Fruits of the Vine". The day was attended by members from all the churches in the NCMMP and produced useful information on what each church required and what each church can offer.

The rota for Thursday Prayers at 12.00pm continued, open to all members of the NCMMP.

The NCMMP continues to move forward, after a year of hard work, and looks to the future when, hopefully, further innovations and ideas will transpire.

*Kathy Rouse*  
*Lay NCMMP Representative for the PCC*

## DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod met three times during the past year. Being a Synod member is a good way of obtaining a wider view of the Church and meeting with people from other churches. The emphasis is on the sharing of resources which is now being implemented via Mission and Ministry Partnerships (MMPs). The Deanery Synod elect members of the Diocesan Synod who in turn elect members of General Synod.

Rev'd. Tim Ball who is Area Dean for Chelmsford South Deanery was appointed Acting Area Dean for Chelmsford North Deanery in anticipation of the merging of Chelmsford North and South Deaneries back together now that clergy numbers have reduced and much inter-church business is being done by MMPs.

The Synod met on 12<sup>th</sup> February at Chelmsford Cathedral when Rev'd. Hugh Dibbens addressed the meeting on the resources of older people in the congregation. On 15<sup>th</sup> July, again at the Cathedral, the main topics were a revised Deanery Plan and the Deanery merger.

The spirit of working together was carried forward to the joint service between the North and South Deaneries held at the Cathedral on 19<sup>th</sup> November. A brief meeting of the North Deanery was held beforehand to receive an updated Deanery Plan, which would be taken to the February 2020 Synod for final approval. The vexed question of reducing stipendiary clergy numbers is at the core of the Plan. This underlines the necessity for sharing resources and raising up local ministry both lay and ordained.

Deanery Synod members for St. Mary's Broomfield are: Rev'd. Carolyn Tibbott, Ros Mercer, Kathy Rouse, Rev'd. Julie Hardy, and Jill Readings.

*Ros Mercer*

# WORSHIP & MINISTRY

## ASSOCIATE PRIEST'S REPORT

As associate priest at St. Mary's I enjoy a privilege denied to so many in ministry: a supportive and enthusiastic ministry team and a supportive and caring church family.

The ministry to the bereaved in the parish has been the work of the bereavement support team all of whom have given their time and energy to this work. From that team emerged what has proved to be a very popular venture, the Sunday diners. This group requires no formal membership other than the alternative of dining alone on Sunday lunchtime. Lunches out once a month at garden centres, pubs and restaurants have provided good company, good food and an opportunity to support one another in difficult times. Jesus' ministry so often involved the sharing of food and we hope that Sunday diners makes evident the love we bear for one another in Christ.

This year's away day was spent at the orthodox monastery of St John in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. 25 of us enjoyed a tour and talk, tea with the community and evening vespers. It was a new experience for most of us and thus good to be aware of the different theology and worship of our Christian brothers and sisters.

Our pilgrimage to Oberammergau to see the passion play is all set for June. It has seemed a long time coming as we started our booking nearly 2 years ago but no doubt the excitement will grow as the months pass. We have quite a mixed party of 27 travelling; many from St. Mary's and others who are friends of those travelling with us. As with all the pilgrimages I have made, I'm sure we shall all be firm friends by the time we return.

My own pilgrimage in June 2019 to Santiago di Compostella was an amazing time, with a very real awareness of the presence of God and power of the Spirit at work. In July 2020 I am leading another pilgrimage to Santiago, for the pilgrimage company McCabe, and looking forward very much to offering pastoral guidance to the group of 24, all of whom will begin as strangers to me.

2019 saw me turn 60 and retire after 37 years in medical practice. I am prayerfully considering God's next plans for me, for my ministry and for my family.

*Rev'd. Anne Harvey*

## THE CURATES' REPORTS

Over the year it has been a joy to continue to support the different groups at the church, in addition to working with Broomfield Primary School leading the Splash group with Cynthia, Jo and Karen. Once again, I had the privilege of going to Broomfield Library to read the Nativity Story to the young children and their families. For six months I held Pints of View in the Kings Arms Pub – getting to

know some of the regulars who meet there on a Wednesday night. It gave me many insights, including what it must feel like to walk into unfamiliar settings and how the welcome is so important. The Candlelight Procession, which we lead jointly with the Methodist Church, was well supported and this year we completed the procession at the Royal British Legion Hall, where we then joined in with their carol service accompanied by the Silver Band.

The past year has flown by and during that time I was officially signed off by Bishop John as completing my training as Curate. My thanks go to Carolyn for all the training she has provided me with; also for her encouragement and wisdom in guiding me through this. My thanks also go to Anne and Diana for all their support in so many different ways. I could not have completed my Curacy without all the love and encouragement, patience and understanding, which everyone in the congregation has shown to me. Covering Carolyn's sabbatical was testimony to all I have learnt from everyone.

I am looking forward to moving on to my first Incumbency at Kelvedon Hatch, Bentley and Navestock churches, although I will miss everyone at St. Mary's and hope that you will be able to visit me at some point. My Priestly role has been shaped by God and also by everyone at St. Mary's Church – what a blessing you all are!

*Rev'd. Julie Hardy*

The older I get the more I feel that life is a journey or pilgrimage and that you really never know what you are going to discover around the next corner! This has been the third year of my curacy here at St. Mary's and I continue to experience new aspects of priesthood and parish ministry every week. There is always something to challenge or inspire me afresh. It is a privilege too to work as a team with Rev'd.s Carolyn, Anne and Julie and I continue to learn a great deal from them all.

Presiding at the Eucharist becomes more and more lovely as time goes by. St. Mary's is indeed one Body that shares one Bread and the oneness and mutual care in our congregations is wonderful and humbling. Our sense of unity in Christ is one of our most precious gifts, and meeting with others to share prayer needs, or study the Bible, or visit our Care Homes, or listen to the experience of Christians in their workplaces are all times of blessing for me because the day to day stuff of ministry is where I find Christ alive and working in our church and in our parish.

Writing this just after Christmas I am more aware than ever that our church belongs to the village and not just to our congregations. Our Carol Service and our Crib services attract so many people who obviously feel that they belong in our church community and want to be here at Christmas. Our gospel of peace, love and justice is needed more and more in our world today and it is a privilege and a joy to be a minister of that gospel in Broomfield. Thank you for all the love and support from our church family that sustains our ministry here.

*Rev'd. Diana Garfield*

## Servers

This has been an interesting year for the Servers at St. Mary's Church.

We have served and assisted at 8am and 10.30am services on a Sunday and also at the 10am monthly Communion service on a Wednesday.

Various members have attended Chelmsford Chapter of Servers' days at the following Churches: 30<sup>th</sup> March Server's day at Maldon; and 22<sup>nd</sup> June Server's day at Gt Burstead.

On 11<sup>th</sup> May we were honoured to attend the National Chapter of Servers' day at Chelmsford Cathedral, attended by Servers from all over the Country.

We continue to feel honoured to be able to serve the Clergy at the altar during the Eucharist and find the ministry fulfilling and a part of our Christian life.

We would welcome new people to join the team but if you feel that you do not wish to serve fully, to assist with the chalice is very fulfilling. Please do speak with any member of the Clergy team or any server.

*Margaret Ginn, Margaret Clarke, Sue Browning, and Kathy Rouse.*

## BIBLE READING ROTA

Thank you to Val Vicary who has done an excellent job of coordinating the Bible Readers for many years and has now passed this to myself to organise.

Over the year we have had some people step down from reading and we thank them for their support over the years. We have also had a couple of people join the team, which is always appreciated.

Thanks must go to our team of readers and substitute readers who read so well at all our different services; it is good to hear the Bible read in all different voices and accents.

Proverbs 30:5 *'Every word of God proves true, he is a shield to those who take refuge in him'.*

*Rev'd. Julie Hardy*

## INTERCESSORS

Thank you to all the Intercessors who have led the Intercessions each week for us, who prepare inspired prayers reflecting the thoughts and prayers of all the congregation.

We currently have a small group of people who lead the intercessions and it would be very helpful if we had some more people to do this. If you think that you would like to try this, or would like some more information about what this involves, please speak to the clergy team.

*Rev'd. Julie Hardy*

## INTERCESSIONS GROUP

We continue to meet bi-monthly for prayer and to update any requests which are placed on the board in church. We would appreciate being told if there are any changes. The Ministry Team put requests in the Altar Book. Our website is also well used and this information is compiled and passed on to us by Joan Vine, for which we thank her. We also thank Alun Powell for updating our Intercessions List twice a year. We are pleased that Rev'd. Diana is now meeting with us.

*Mavis Tebby*

## THE PASTORAL CARE AND VISITING TEAM

The Pastoral team continue our monthly services in the local residential Care Homes – Ayletts and Madelayne Court. Our visits provide interest and stimulation for residents and give encouragement to over-stretched care staff. Our presence in the Homes is an important part of the outreach and mission of our parish church.

There has been a need for a good deal of hospital and home visiting this year as several of our older members have been poorly and needed support. Sadly, bereavement visiting has also been keeping us busy.

We would be very glad to welcome some new members to the team. Please speak to me if you feel called to this rewarding ministry.

*Rev'd. Diana Garfield*

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP (1)

Every Wednesday between 10am and 11am a group of around 12 of us meet for Bible Study at the home of Ros Mercer. We thank Ros and Ian for making their home available to us. It is much appreciated by us all.

We are an open and friendly group and we all feel relaxed and happy to cover a wide range of topics at our meetings, which leads to a greater understanding of our shared faith.

Mavis and I take turns to prepare our studies and to lead the group, which works very well. Our studies are based on the church calendar so that we are always topical. We always have Bible readings and use many different translations which promotes discussion and understanding. Within that structure we range from formal Study Courses such as The York Study Course for Lent or Advent; books on Reflection by authors Nick Fawcett and Stephen Need; Studies on Women of The Old Testament and Women of The New Testament. We also use study aids such as DVDs and CDs at some of the more structured courses. This faithful group has been established for more than 40 years and we remember with gratitude many past members who have shared our faith journey with us.

New members are always very welcome. We would love to think that the group would still be continuing in another 40 years!

*Mavis Tebby and Christine Watson*

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP (2)

Two new members have joined our group in the past year and we have been very pleased to welcome them. We continue to meet in the Committee room at 1.45pm each Wednesday in term-time. Over the past year we have studied the Book of Job; some of the Psalms; and the Gospel of Mark. We have also undertaken lively Lent and Advent Bible studies with material by John Birch of Faithandworship.com. We learn from scripture and from each other, and our discussions are always friendly and surprising.

*Rev'd. Diana Garfield*

## LITTLE LAMBS

Little Lambs continues to flourish. Two of our children attending regularly since they were babies left in July, progressing to pre-school in September. Since then our number has risen to 20 families, with 13 families attending regularly, including 3 new babies who we are very pleased to welcome. While the parents, grandparents and childminders enjoy a chat and refreshments, the children learn through play, puzzles, games and colouring.

*Margaret Deacon*

## EDWARD BEAR

The Edward Bear group has been held for many years at St. Mary's – led by teams of volunteers who put much effort into planning and preparing crafts, activities, singing and puppets. Our thanks go to everyone who has been involved with Edward Bear over the years.

During 2019 the decision was made by the PCC and Rev'd. Carolyn that Edward Bear had now run its course and it was time to cease running it, as very few parents/carers and children were attending and there were no leaders available to run it. The clergy team had stepped into this role for several months. However, this was not viable on a regular basis.

The Bible teaches us that sometimes something has to die/cease in order for something new to spring up, therefore we watch and wait for God to reveal how we can serve families and children in Broomfield. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let the clergy team know.

*Rev'd. Julie Hardy*

## PRAY & PLAY / FRIENDS WITH FAITH

This group was developed for parents and carers of small children to meet for mutual Christian support and discussion whilst the children play. It meets on alternate Tuesdays during term time from 9.15am for an hour. It is run by Rev'd. Carolyn Tibbott with support from the Rev'd. Julie Hardy.

We have a core group of 5 regulars, a slight drop on last year. We all enjoy open and relaxed spiritual discussions. It continues to be a group valued by its members providing shared support, a great opportunity to talk about issues beyond day to day child care and also explore member's Christianity. This year's discussions have all been based around Bible passages and have enabled us to deepen our Christian understanding and faith.

Members of this group have been attending for several years and their children are all now at school. Therefore, to show that this group caters for parents and carers of children of all ages the group is now called Friends with Faith.

We are looking forward to continuing our spiritual discussions on the issues and experiences that effect our daily lives in future meetings. We also look forward to welcoming further new members who have children of any age and especially welcome those with little ones who are not at school and can play while we chat.

*Rachel Butterworth*

## SUPPORTING WORSHIP

### SIDESPERSIONS

#### **8.00am Communion Service**

Lis Hardy  
Sheila Hasler

Sue Browning  
Christine Watson

#### **10.30am Morning Service**

Margaret Ginn & Doris Baker  
Yvonne Heaver  
Susan Garwood & Jill Reading  
Jennifer & Brian Whymark  
Karen Paxton & Sylvia Edey

Rosalie Ritson & Charlotte Tew  
Marie & Ted Williams  
Sean Casey  
Keith Rouse & David Ellingford

Relief Sidesperson - Mavis Tebby

#### **5.30pm Evening Prayer**

Dr Trudy Stevens

Vic Barker

Michael Jones

The above is the Sidespersons list as at January 2020. As we are in need of Sidespersons at present to make up the numbers, if any of you reading our report are interested in taking on this important role in the life of our Church please contact us. You will be made very welcome.

Changes during 2019: at the 2019 APCM Margaret & Alun Powell, Margaret & Malcolm Deacon, and Margaret Clarke & Christine Ray did not stand for re-election. Our grateful thanks to them for their dedicated service over previous years.

We take this opportunity to thank our dedicated band of Sidespersons for all their help and support during 2019.

The Churchwardens certainly appreciate your assistance at the various services which enables us to attend to other duties as and when required. St. Mary's is a very happy and welcoming Church due to the welcome the congregation and visitors receive at the door. Our grateful thanks to you all.

*Mike Harvey, Peter Baker and Michael Jones*

## PUPPET CREW

The Puppet Crew continued to meet on Wednesdays between 7pm and 8.30pm during 2019. We still have seven members; however we are likely to lose two as they leave to go onto further education. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a member.

Throughout the year, we performed at many family services, including Mothering Sunday. We also performed at some Sunday Special events, Songs of Praise on the Green and the Crib services on Christmas Eve.

We are looking forward to performing at the Christingle service and on Mothering Sunday in 2020.

*Michelle Curtis*

## CHURCH MUSIC

Music in our church continues to thrive and I think it is important that we realise how lucky we are to have a choir, three organists and a regular set of concerts. Many churches have none of these and their congregations sing hymns to pre-recorded backing tracks at every service.

Therefore this year's report is about thank yous. Thank you to the choir, who turn out every Friday evening to rehearse for Sunday services. They practice new music regularly to bring to you during communion. At major festivals we try to prepare an anthem and they lead the singing in church with commitment and expertise. We sang this year at a number of weddings and occasional funerals. Of course there is always room in the choir stalls for more members so if you'd like to join us please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you to Jane Mitchell and Gwilym Morris for playing the organ. I couldn't possibly play at every service and so with their help we cover both services on Sundays as well as all the extra ones at festival times.

The organ continues to "battle on". We have raised a considerable amount towards the restoration costs and thank you to those of you who have been so generous. Over the last couple of months we have had a few issues with the instrument, so if you've heard some odd sounds I am blaming the tools not the player! Hopefully our tuner can rectify these so that we can keep playing it right up until restoration time.

Concerts have been fewer this year with March seeing a return of the young people from the Chelmsford Festival. In June we were treated to the wonderful solo guitar playing of Ian Kelleher. I am very sad to report that Ian died in December with an aggressive cancer. Another person taken far too young, but his music will live forever.

A final thank you to all of you – the St. Mary's congregation and community. Your encouragement and lovely comments after services is much appreciated and valued by all of us who provide music for worship.

*Jill Parkin*

## ST. MARY'S BELL RINGERS

St. Mary's campanologists regularly ring our Tower bells for Sunday service and for weddings as required.

This past year has seen 3 new recruits start learning the ropes and we have a healthy number of ringers now, if a little short on skill at this time! We are also fortunate to have regular assistance from other ringers based in the local area. No doubt the band will continue to go from strength to strength during the coming year.

We hold a practice and training evening on Wednesdays, with the first Wednesday of each month at Little Waltham Church. If you are interested in learning to ring then please speak to us on Sunday or come over on Wednesday evening between 7:45 and 9pm. You will be very welcome.

For further information please contact Chris Marcus (Tower Captain) by email at [broomfield@eacr.org.uk](mailto:broomfield@eacr.org.uk) or by telephone 07730 796 422.

*Chris Marcus*

## BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP (BRF)

BRF issues currently read by our group are: New Daylight, Guide Lines, Upper Room and Day by Day with God. The New Daylight can also be obtained with a larger print.

The booklets are issued four-monthly and currently cost £4.70 per copy; and £5.95 per copy for the large print.

Back-dated copies and other information regarding this fellowship are situated on the bier in the passageway to St. Leonards Hall.

*Margaret Ginn*

## CHURCH WEBSITE

The website is going well I hope. I try to update it every week with articles regarding an activity or special service, or the theme of the weekly sermon. I also update the weekly verse (or 2). I also update the calendar once a month and I manage the website prayers and print out very shortened versions of the prayers for the Prayer Group meetings. Many thanks to Andy for changing the heading banners and managing any problems that arise with the website.

*Joan Vine*

## SAFEGUARDING

The Parochial Church Council agreed and adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policy - Promoting a Safer Church - on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

In accordance with this policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Safeguarding posters with telephone numbers are displayed in the church and church hall.

All volunteers whose role requires a DBS Certificate have these completed and are updated as required. Six of these volunteers also attended Level 2 Safeguarding Training this year in addition to the initial online training that has to be completed by all the volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

I will inform the PCC of any changes and the formal adoption of the Safeguarding Policy is reviewed every year by the PCC.

*Lisbeth Hardy*

# THE WIDER CHURCH

## FILM AND LUNCH CLUB

It was a varied programme for 2019. During the year, with a few of our films, we visited a famous boys' school with Goodbye Mr. Chips; followed the exploits of Eddie the Eagle; visited the Viceroy's House leading up to the independence of India and Pakistan; and followed Martin Luther King's struggles with the authorities in Selma. We saw the life of an evacuee during the second world war in Goodnight Mister Tom; and followed the exploits of an Australian farmer in his attempt to trace the resting place of two of his sons killed in Gallipoli during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, as well as his youngest son who he felt was still alive. Finally, in December we saw how an angel was successful in warming the heart of a Bishop in time for Christmas.

We meet in St. Leonard's Hall on the first Monday of each month, unless the Monday is a Bank Holiday when we meet on the second Monday of the month. August is the only month we don't meet. Arrival time is between 12.00 noon to 12.30pm and the film commences at 12.45pm with an average running time of approximately two hours. We each bring our own lunch but tea or coffee is available in the hall.

My thanks to all who supported the Club during the past year, also those who made the tea and coffee for us and helped to clear the hall after the film. A big thank you to Julie for her help and for standing in for me when I was on holiday. If any of you feel you would like to join us each month, please do, we shall be pleased to see you.

*Peter Baker*

## LUNCH AND LAUGHTER

We meet every third Monday except August. We are a very happy group and enjoy the friendship and of course the soup and cake. The donations for lunch go to church funds, so thank you everyone for your kind contributions. The dates for the lunches in 2020 are on the noticeboard in the hall. God Bless.

*Sue Browning*

## BEETLE DRIVE

Venue: St. Leonard's Hall

Time: 2pm to 4.30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month

Cost: 50p – yes just 50p!!

After over 25 years of holding Beetle Drives the number of Beetle Drivers had begun to wane. 2019 however saw a resurgence, with numbers reaching a dozen or more on occasion.

If you would like a friendly, relaxed game of Beetle please join us. There is room for more! There is absolutely no skill involved. You need to be able to roll a die and draw a basic Beetle on a form. Your score depends on the number of parts you can draw. There is a prize for the winner and a booby prize for the person in last place.

We finish with tea, cake and a friendly chat. Do come along.

Dates for 2020: 16<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 15<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November. There is no meeting in December.

*Margaret Powell, Margaret Deacon*

## TUESDAY CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The Working Party continues to meet every Tuesday morning from 9am to 1pm. We maintain the Churchyard and the car park and our tasks include cutting the grass; clearing leaves; tidying the graves and the cremated remains area; attending to the flower beds; sweeping the paths around the Church; clearing the surface water channels; maintaining the trees etc. The large variety of trees is a notable feature of our Churchyard.

We were very saddened in 2019 by the death of Brenda Rowley and Howard (Ted) Price early in the year. Both were stalwarts of our group. Brenda turned up with Eric on Tuesday mornings to prepare the coffees and sausage rolls for our mid-morning break. Ted joined us after the death of his wife in 2013 and was a fountain of knowledge on all matters concerning nature and conservation. Both are sorely missed and remembered by us all with affection.

The PCC have given us authority to ensure that the Churchyard is maintained in accordance with the rules and we remove items from graves that are deemed in contravention of those rules. This includes grave surrounds, plastic and artificial flowers, photographs, cards, balloons, wind-chimes, soft toys, ornaments, candles and personal belongings or memorabilia etc. A minority of visitors to the graves disregard the rules and one of the least pleasant aspects of our work is dealing with the removal of these inappropriate items. It is necessary to have rules to ensure common standards which respect other bereaved families. The inappropriate use of the wheelie bins is also a matter of concern, with some visitors having no concept of re-cycling or just cannot be bothered.

Expenses are kept to a minimum as much as possible, but during 2019 our total costs were £450. This was made up of £300 for a skip in February 2019 to remove all the rubbish and £150 for petrol and oil for the mowers. It is estimated that over 1,000 man hours of work go into the maintenance of the Churchyard and car park every year. This is a very significant voluntary commitment by the members of the Working Party to the benefit of our Church.

An important part of our role is a presence in the Churchyard on Tuesday mornings when we are available to talk to visitors. We have many regulars with whom we enjoy a chat.

We continue to look after the Churchyard in a manner so that there is a balance between the need to make it attractive to local people and visitors whilst also encouraging wild flowers, insects, birds and bats. Our Churchyard is at least as old in places as the Church Building and has been a refuge for plants and animals for generations.

We are a very social group and enjoy coffee, sausage rolls and a natter mid-morning. Our special thanks go to Eric Rowley who turns up each Tuesday to prepare our coffee and sausage rolls and clear up afterwards.

Anybody who enjoys a chat with a bit of gardening thrown in would be very welcome to join us. We don't bite – the only biting we do is on the sausage rolls, so call in and see us on a Tuesday morning!

*David Marcus*

## ST. MARY'S LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in St. Leonards Hall and we are always happy to welcome new members. Our meetings are varied with outside speakers talking about their charities or covering topical issues, whilst others are of a spiritual nature. Other meetings are light-hearted and member-led such as our Harvest Supper and annual Christmas Celebration in 2019. We were pleased to invite other church members and friends to a number of our meetings in the past year.

During 2019 we have supported charities including Dementia Adventure; The Woodland Trust; Diabetes UK; and the Soroptimists.

Birthday cards are sent to all 2 and 3 year old children baptised at St. Mary's inviting them to attend Little Lambs.

Our 2020 programme will cover a variety of topics including ReCycle (bikes to Africa); SCAM awareness; The Workhouse in Chelmsford; CBM An overseas disability charity.

Details of our meetings are published in the Round Tower and on the Church website.

*Sue Cole*

## ST. MARY'S MEN'S GROUP

The Group has been going since 2017. The Group meets every third Tuesday of the month at various locations and a monthly email is sent to the Men's group members with information and reflection. The number of attendees at the group's events varies from 3 to 20 men at times.

Past activities have included bowling; walking along the footpaths; and social meetings at the local pubs. We linked up with St Andrews Church Boreham and attended and enjoyed their Men's breakfasts over the year and look forward to many more.

*Paul Hardy*

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

At present there are 19 box holders who attend St Mary with St. Leonard's Church (this is 2 less compared to last year). These supporters of the Children's Society collect their loose change during the year. The boxes were collected in November 2019 and blessed in church before their contents were emptied and counted. The total collected was £620 (a 4% increase over last year) with potentially another £78 in Gift Aid. St Marys as a whole also supports the Children's Society by having a Christingle service in February.

In 2019 the Children's Society worked with over 18,000 vulnerable children and young people in the UK bringing life changing support. This includes helping families trapped in poverty and debt; providing support to young carers; and combatting child sexual exploitation. The kindness and compassion shown by box holders in donating enables the Children's Society to make it possible for these children to escape from potentially harmful surroundings and lead the happier lives that they deserve.

I would like to thank all those who have donated to the Children's Society during 2019. If you would like to become a box holder, please contact me.

*Sue Cole*

## CHRISTIAN AID

Once again May found 23 stalwart volunteers pacing the roads around Broomfield as they delivered and collected envelopes during Christian Aid week. Despite the poor weather, snapping letterboxes and occasional rejections, we were able to send a cracking £2,114.26 to the organisation; the second highest amount raised this year by any of the churches in and around Chelmsford. Well done everyone and thank you again.

This collection has become synonymous with May-time, having been undertaken since the end of the second world war; however, the total amount raised diminishes year-on-year, with many people reporting they don't carry much cash. Perhaps recognition of the changes in technology and social habits indicate it is time to consider re-evaluating how we undertake this important witness of Christian caring?

Christian Aid has suggested communities identify and set up central collection points where filled envelopes can be deposited, rather than undertake door-to-door collections. Apparently 1 in 10 delivered envelopes do get returned in this way. The PCC is being asked to consider this option at their February meeting.

Can we accept the challenge of delivering a Christian Aid envelope to every house in Broomfield when they do not need to be collected?

Can you help?

Will you undertake a gentle walk delivering envelopes in your area during

Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020

The considerable housing development within Broomfield means there are a lot of new houses in our parish, so there are many more roads to target. However, undertaking this activity means we are spreading the Christian message to a much wider community, and proving we are an active and caring parish church, not just a beautiful building. PLEASE will you consider volunteering to undertake the delivery of envelopes in a road near you?

Thank you, in hope.

Trudy Stevens

01245 359079

Trudy\_Stevens@outlook.com

*Trudy Stevens*

## FLOWER ARRANGERS

Our flower team has willingly and beautifully decorated the Church for the usual festivals of Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. We were again able to utilise the knitted poppies, made last year for the 2019 Remembrance Sunday service. 150 posies were presented at the Mothering Sunday services. Wedding flowers were provided for 4 couples and wreaths for 2 funerals, one of which was for Elaine Richbell, a member of our team.

A flower arranging demonstration and workshop was held during May and a Christmas Wreath making demonstration and workshop was held at the end of November with 38 amazing results. A donation from surplus funds has been given to the Church Treasurer. I am again most grateful to Carolyn and the Ministry team, and the flower ladies for their support in decorating our Church.

*Margaret Pinkerton*

## THE ROUND TOWER MAGAZINE

We distribute just under 200 copies of the Round Tower each month and many thanks to our distributors for their efforts in ensuring their delivery. We also sell 20 to 30 copies over the counter each month. Since many copies of the Round Tower go to families, it is likely that our readership is even greater, making the magazine an effective means of communication with our parishioners. The Round Tower continues to be used as part of our Mission and Outreach. Through much of 2019 Rev'd. Julie has organised delivery of free copies to Broomfield's new households stemming from the substantial housebuilding which has occurred and which is set to continue for some years yet. This is a good way of welcoming new families into the village and letting them know we exist and are a welcoming church.

Compiling the magazine each month is made easier by the amount of copy we receive. Many thanks to all who contribute. When visiting other churches, I always look at their magazines to look for new ideas and I have to say that our Round Tower compares very favourably with the level of "home produced material". There's always room for new writers, however, so if you feel the urge to put pen to paper, please do so. We try to keep a balance between articles, announcements and advertisements but if there is anything you would like included please let us know.

Many thanks to the editor, our Vicar, the editorial panel and proof readers, Margaret Clarke, Margaret Ginn, Peter Watson and Trudy Stevens. Peter also does an excellent job in dealing with our advertisers.

*Alun Powell*

## CHELMSFORD FOOD BANK

Our local Foodbank has gratefully received generous donations of food, household goods, personal care items and cash, including those from our congregation. Once again, the requirements of applicants have been met without having to organise manned appeals to the general public.

The recent installation of several shipping containers to provide additional storage at the central warehouse in Galleywood means that the satellite store has been dispensed with, thus reducing costs and avoiding shipping items between sites.

Now into its eighth year of operation, some of the original volunteers have left due to health or other commitment issues but they have been replaced by equally enthusiastic recruits. Nearer to home particular thanks must go to Barbara Curren who has reluctantly given up the task of delivering your donations to a collection point, a task which she has dedicatedly undertaken for several years. We now have two new volunteers from our congregation to continue with that role and are very grateful to them for undertaking this.

Unfortunately, the need for a Chelmsford foodbank continues to exist but with your help we are confident that it can continue to be met for as long as it is required.

*Brian Worboys*

## MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Another year has passed and we are still sending any profits from our monthly coffee mornings to Little Haven Hospice for Children.

This year we have been able to send £500. This is partly due to our bring and buy sales and also the raffle. Our bring and buy has proved very popular, it is surprising that one person's unwanted present can be just what someone else needs!

To-date we have now sent £5,700 to the hospice.

*Ann Hurrell*