

Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham



Agenda and Reports
for Annual Parochial Meetings 2021

**The Annual Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

To be held on Sunday 09 May 2021
in the Parish Church at 12.15 am

Church Committees at May 2021

Priest in Charge		The Revd. Andrew B Norman
Church Wardens		Dianne Lomax Brian Smalley Ian Stirrup
Parochial Church Council	Chair:	The Revd. Andrew B Norman
	Vice Chair:	Brian Smalley (Church Warden)
	Secretary:	Elizabeth Rocke
	Treasurer:	John Lomax
PCC Members	Ex-officio Churchwarden	Brian Smalley
	Ex-officio Churchwarden	Ian Stirrup
	Ex-officio Churchwarden	Dianne Lomax
		David MacInnes
		Sheila MacInnes
		Chris Roberts
		Tess Rowlands
	Ex-officio Deanery Synod Rep:	Dorothy MacLeod
	Ex-officio Deanery Synod Rep:	Vivien Stirrup
	Co-opted by the PCC	Jenny Andrews
Finance Committee		Vivien Stirrup Tess Rowlands John Lomax
Friends of Beetham Church	Chair:	John Lomax
	Administrator:	Brian Smalley Anne Clarke Sarah Easton Dianne Lomax Jenny Marks Sue Smalley Ian Stirrup Vivien Stirrup Dennis Wright
Fabric Committee	Chair:	Jenny Marks
	Secretary:	Harry Parrott John Lomax Brian Smalley Ian Stirrup Dennis Wright
Foundation Governors for Beetham School		John Lomax (Chair of Governors) Tess Rowlands Vivien Stirrup Rachel Wray Dennis Wright Sarah Easton
Ex-Officio Local Authority Nominated Governor		The Revd Andrew B Norman Brian Smalley (Vice-chair)

Parish of St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

Agendas for Annual Parochial Meetings 2021

**The Annual Vestry Meeting
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Sunday 09 May 2021 at 12.15 am

Welcome and introduction

Opening Prayers

Apologies for absence

Agenda: Annual Vestry Meeting

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll or those resident in Beetham Parish and on the Civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 18 October 2020
2. Election of Churchwardens

Agenda: Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote. Verbal reports will not be given at the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 18 October 2020
 - a) Approval
 - b) Matters arising
2. Electoral Roll
3. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2020/2021
4. Finance Report for year ending 31st December 2020
 - 4.1 Gift Aid report
5. Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report
6. Kendal Deanery Synod Report
7. Beetham CE Primary School Report
8. Safeguarding
9. Reports from Church Groups
 - a) Friends of Beetham Church
 - b) Social Events
 - c) Bell Ringers
 - d) Gateway and Community report
 - e) Bookstall
 - f) Church Flowers
 - g) Choir and Music
10. Churchwardens' Report
11. Priest's Report
12. Elections and Appointments
 - a) Parochial Church Council Members
 - b) Independent Examiner
13. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Closing Prayers

Annual Vestry Meeting 2021

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 18th October 2020 (*minutes of the meeting below in italics*)

*The Parish of St. Michael & All Angels, Beetham
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in the church on Sunday 18th October 2020 at 12 noon*

The annual meetings were delayed from April 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Present: The Revd. Andrew Norman Chair, Dorothy MacLeod (DM) PCC Secretary, Brian Smalley (BS) Churchwarden, Ian Stirrup (IS) Churchwarden, Jenny Marks (JM) Churchwarden, with 20 members of the congregation present.

Apologies had been received from: Chris Roberts

The meeting was opened in prayer.

Annual Vestry Meeting 18th October 2020

*1. The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 28th April 2019 were approved
Prop. John Lomax, sec. David MacInnes, agreed unanimously.*

2. Election of Churchwardens: AN offered his immense thanks to Brian, Jenny and Ian for their service over the last year and for their roles in stewarding, leading and guiding. JM was standing down after 6 years of service as Churchwarden so AN expressed, on behalf of the church, his gratitude for all that she has done over these years.

Three nominations were received for the three posts of Churchwarden as follows:

Brian Smalley – Prop. Jenny Marks, sec. John Lomax

Ian Stirrup – Prop. Andrew MacLeod, sec. John Lomax

Dianne Lomax – Prop. Sue Smalley, sec. Viv Stirrup

There being no other nominations these three were elected unanimously.

End of Annual Vestry Meeting at 12.05pm

Agenda Item 2: Election of church wardens

End of Annual Vestry Meeting 2020

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Please note that only those on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote

**Agenda Item 1a: Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 18 October 2020
(minutes of the APCM shown below in italics)**

(N.B. The following minutes should be read in conjunction with the 2019/2020 printed reports)

*The Parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Beetham
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 18 October 2020*

1. a. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 28th April 2019 were approved

Prop. Sue Smalley, sec. David MacInnes, agreed unanimously

b. There were no matters arising from the minutes:

The restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic required that the meeting should be as brief as possible. All those attending had received either a paper copy of the Annual Report or had access to view it online. AN thanked the contributors for their reports which provide a snapshot of the parish and the hard work that goes on and proposed that they should be accepted without further comment unless questions arose. The reports were accepted unanimously and there were no questions arising.

2. Electoral roll: *There was an amendment of the figure of 80, printed in the annual report, to 82. The confirmed figure on the electoral roll being 82.*

3. Priest's report: (Item 12 on the agenda) *AN offered his thanks to the PCC and to everyone who occupies any sort of role within the church, for their effort and determination, for working together and allowing the church to flourish for God's glory and the furthering of the kingdom. He offered thanks for the support and encouragement given to him. AN noted that safeguarding remains a very high priority and recommended that all present should read the summary of the IICSA report (The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) which was published on October 6th. The report shows how the Anglican Church of England and Wales has failed in the past. AN stressed that Safeguarding retains its utmost importance in the life of the church.*

4. Elections and Appointments (agenda item 13):

a) Deanery Synod: *AN noted that although Vivien Stirrup and Dorothy MacLeod had both indicated that they wished to take a break from Deanery Synod membership, no other nominations for this role had come forward, so both VS and DM were willing to represent the church again. AN commended the role of Deanery Synod member as a method of communication within the diocese. Parishes report to Deanery Synod which in turn reports to Diocesan Synod.*

The nominations were as follows:

*Vivien Stirrup – Prop. Brian Smalley, Sec. Sue Smalley
Dorothy MacLeod – Prop. Sheila MacInnes, Se. David MacInnes*

There being no other nominations these two were elected unanimously.

b) Parochial Church Council Members:

3 existing PCC members were due for election at this meeting: Tess Rowlands (willing to stand for re-election), John Lomax (willing to stand for re-election) and John Montgomery who did not wish to stand for re-election. Helen Montgomery stepped down from membership at this meeting. Total lay places for election were therefore five. AN indicated that he was very grateful to John and Helen and thanked them for their service on the PCC over recent years.

There were four nominations for the five lay places:

*Tess Rowlands – Prop. Ian Stirrup, Sec. Dorothy MacLeod
John Lomax – Prop Dorothy MacLeod, Sec. Jenny Marks
Elizabeth Rocke – Prop. Andrew MacLeod, Sec. Jenny Andrews
Jenny Marks – Prop. Sue Smalley, Sec. Brian Smalley*

It was proposed by Dennis Wright and seconded by Sarah Easton that all the above should be elected to the PCC, agreed unanimously. One lay place remained vacant.

c) Independent Examiner:

David Carey had indicated his willingness to continue in the role of Independent Examiner of the church accounts in 2020 so it was proposed by Vivian Stirrup and seconded by Ian Stirrup that he should be

appointed. Agreed unanimously.

5. Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC (agenda item 14): *No matters were raised*

There being no further comments the meeting was closed with the Grace at 12.17pm

The PCC then met briefly to appoint church officers, sidespeople and committee members

End of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 18 October 2020

Agenda Item 1b: Matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 18 October 2020.

Agenda Item 2: Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll:	78
Lesson Readers:	Morning Service – 20 (Evensong – 7)
Intercessors:	7
Offertory:	17
Sidespeople:	Morning Service – 17 (Evensong – 6)

All numbers correct at April 2021. Thanks go to all who volunteer to be on one or more of the rotas, and who make alternative arrangements for cover when they are unavailable. Additional volunteers are always welcome throughout the year

Jenny Marks, Electoral Roll Officer

Agenda Item 3: Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC 2020/21

Elizabeth Roche, PCC Secretary

When I volunteered to take over the role of Secretary little did I know what awaited me. Taking over from the incredibly efficient and productive Dorothy MacLeod who has been so helpful in training and guiding me in the role, I have been quite humbled by the realisation that the Church continues to flourish by the dedicated work and service of a quite a small number of people really guided by our kind and thoughtful Priest Andrew. I have received tremendous support from all of the PCC members who have gently pointed out corrections and have responded to my emails. They say you should try and learn something new every day and trying to carry out the work of secretary has offered plenty of opportunities for learning. I even managed to reduce a left hand margin in this report this morning. I now know a lot more about how the Church functions and the hard work of folk that enables Christian life to thrive there. My thanks go to all who have supported, welcomed and given me their fellowship.

Owing to Covid restrictions there have been no meetings of the PCC. Rule M29 of the Church Representation Rules 2020 permits the business of the PCC to proceed by correspondence. PCC members have therefore through email correspondence conducted the following items of business:

- The unanimous approval on 13 December 2020 of a proposal by John Lomax, Treasurer to obtain a sum of £2000 from Beetham Church Heritage Trust to improve the cash flow position following unexpected and extraordinary repair costs associated with boiler repairs and consequential electrical works.
- The unanimous approval of changes to the risk assessment that outdoor doors would

remain closed during service and that Sunday worship would continue after Cumbria was placed in Tier 4 on 30 December 2020.

- The unanimous approval to suspension of public worship from 10 January 2021 following the further “lockdown” on 05 January 2021.
- The PCC unanimously agreed to delegate its powers to the Standing Committee to determine at its meeting on 30 March 2021 whether Church should reopen for services from Good Friday. The reason for such a delegation was to permit the most recent understanding of data on the coronavirus to ensure that any decision to reopen church was prudent and up to date. A speedy decision needed to be taken as near to Good Friday as possible and there was insufficient time to circulate and obtain the approval of the PCC. The Standing Committee decided to reopen church.

The Standing Committee considered each of the above items of business before making any recommendation to the PCC.

Please note I have not changed the formatting or font of the report from Wendy Nicholas Head Teacher of the school. The report does though stand out on its own. Her report is the last one that will appear in this Annual Report and its reading exudes the dedication and service given to countless children who have developed and thrived under her inspiring guidance and leadership.

Agenda Item 4: Treasurer’s Report for the year ending 31 December 2020

1. Receipts and Payments for the 12 months of the year to 31.12.20

Total Receipts for the year amount to £43,252.84 and Payments £54,014.69. I will resist drawing comparisons with the previous year as the circumstances of 2020 were so extraordinary. Besides, the detailed figures on the receipts and payments accounts display the 2019 figures for the sake of completeness.

I am bound to acknowledge that, despite the limitations placed on several income streams and the outright cancellation of many others, regular giving to the church has held up miraculously well. This is indicative of peoples’ commitments to and affection for the church, whether donating by standing order, bank transfer, cash or cheque. Thank you all!

As a result, the church’s overall balances have decreased, by some £11,000. This we have been able to manage because of our “savings”. “For a rainy day” it is said: but my, it was some “rain” this year! You will see that £8000 was transferred during 2020, in stages, from the Deposit Account to the Current Account.

2. Cash / Investment balances at 31.12.20

The cash / investment balances after adjusting for unpresented cheques at 31.12.20 were:-

	£
Community Account	4,048.75
Petty Cash	20.43
Deposit Account	32,397.30
CCLA Investment Fund (at Cost – but current bid-to-sell value around £17,427.50)	10,000.00
Other CCLA funds	2.53
Total available funds	46,469.01

3.Looking Ahead

A Stewardship Campaign had been agreed by PCC and planned for 2020, but COVID-19 intervened! Given our continued inescapable expenditure obligations, it is expected that a renewed Stewardship Campaign will take place later this year.

4. Finally

Thanks to:

Colin and Julie Clarke who have travelled whenever circumstances permitted to the bank at Carnforth, Andy Macleod for undertaking the role of Gift Aid Secretary so diligently, and to David Carey for undertaking the role of Independent Accounts Examiner.

We thank them all for their help and commitment.

John Lomax Hon. Treasurer

St Michael and All Angels, Beetham – Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS		2020	2019	PAYMENTS		2020
Collections & Donations	r1	£25,411.20	£25,528.49	Upkeep of services		£927.00
Gift Aid Tax recovered		£7,071.93	£7,086.70	Organists	p1	£5,450.00
Coffee Sunday mornings	r2	£167.35	£618.87	Heat, Light & Cleaning		£6,303.67
Wedding & Funeral Fees Gross	r3	£5,476.00	£3,361.00	Insurance premium		£4,256.66
Bookstall	r4	£1,052.13	£2,702.02	W & F Fees to	p2	£1,859.00
				DBF/organist/bellringers		
Wednesday Coffee & Cakes	r5		£171.09	Cemetery & Chyd upkeep	p3	£3,089.60
CBF Interest		£51.08	£49.58	Maint'ce & repairs	p4	£2,680.92
Wedding, Funeral & Baptism collections	r5		£841.79	Copier		£1,934.23
Gateway advertising	r5		£1,289.00	Stationery		£223.90
Grants SLDC			£565.00	Parish Offering to Diocese	p5	£23,366.00
Beetham Sports			£100.00	Charities		
BCHT	r6	£2,000.00	£1,533.60	Priest-in-charge expenses	p6	£1,137.60
Other one-off donations		£400.00	£600.00	Christmas incl Brightening	p7	£914.07
				Beetham		
Fundraising events	r5	£546.80	£206.80	Printing cards,books etc	p8	£756.90
2019 Flower Festival	r5		£750.60	Fabric: projects	p9	£511.30
2019 Harvest Supper	r5		£289.40	Broadband : roof alarm		£206.40
2019 Hamper Raffle	r5		£993.10	Installation		
2019 Christmas music	r5		£68.10	Other: Gifts	p10	£257.44
Brightening B'm 2019 Lent Lunch, Carolsinging, Christingle	r7	£952.00	£1,133.97	contra donation		
2019 Legacy			£500.00	Architect fee		
For Flowers		£100.00		SLDC Licence		£20.00
Deposit a/c interest		£24.35	£80.58	Website		£120.00
Total receipts		£43,252.84	£48,469.69	Total expenditure		£54,014.69
B/F as at 01.01.20				B/F at 31.12.20		
Current Account less uncleared		£6,847.19	£10,180.04	Current Account allowing		£4,048.75

cheques			for uncleared chqs etc	
Petty cash less transcription error (£0.26) correction	£8.19	£12.05	Petty cash	£20.43
Cheques from 2018 voided: never presented		£290.00		
Community account transferred into current account 2019	£0.00	£815.00	Community account	
Deposit Account	£40,372.95	£40,292.37	Deposit Account	p11 £32,397.30
CCLA Investment (At cost)	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	CCLA Investment (At cost)	£10,000.00
CBF Deposit	£2.03	£2.03	CBF Deposit	£2.03
CBF Contingency	£0.50	£0.50	CBF Contingency	£0.50
Total	£57,230.86	£61,591.99	Total	£46,469.01
	£100,483.70	£110,061.68		£100,483.70

St Michael & All Angels, Beetham

Receipts and Payments 2020

The following notes might help the reader's understanding of the balance sheet:

r1 These have held up remarkably well despite the lockdowns. More subscribers have moved to direct payments from their bank whilst others have made payments by cheque to keep up their regular giving; for this we are very grateful.

r2 Inevitably, this figure much reduced by the lockdowns

r3 This is the gross figure: payments from this are made to organist, bellringers and to the Diocese for the assigned part of fees (see also note p2)

r4 Despite the church being closed for most of the year, this figure has held up remarkably well, at least in part thanks to sales of the third edition of the recipe book (sold out now!)

r5 Fundraising Events – much reduced of course this year. No Gateway advertising revenue, no Flower Festival, Weddings postponed etc. Just £217.80 from the Shrove Tuesday Supper and £112 from the Lent Lunch before lockdown prevented any further activity, except the Virtual Harvest Supper which raised £227 given by generous folk who paid for the privilege of watching their own televisions!

r6 We are grateful to the Heritage Trust whose grant alleviated some of the big bills when the heating system failed in the autumn.

r7 Despite the above, "Brightening Beetham" was much applauded and better than paid its way. A repeat in 2021 with similar generous support from sponsors both corporate and personal would make a comfortable profit as we now have all the equipment save the trees themselves.

p1 Our organist has worked exceptionally hard to provide music for services both actual and virtual, with practice files sent to choir members for help with the latter.

p2 See note r3 above

p3 We now maintain both the Churchyard and the Burial Ground

p4 Boiler maintenance bills are a large part of this: see also note r5

p5 The PCC has undertaken to increase its offering to the Diocese by 5% annually until we match the figure calculated as the cost of providing clergy (in our case, one half of a clergy person)

p6 Priest's expenses for 2019 were only a part-year

p7 See note r7 above

p8 See note r4 above

p9 Electrical work: new sockets in the vestry and church lighting replaced by LEDs.

p10 "Other" – a miscellany of items: Easter and Christmas books for Schoolchildren, floral gifts to a centenarian and retiring Church Officers, etc.

p11 This figure reduced by £8000 as meeting our expenses, without the benefit of fundraising income, necessitated four transfers each of £2000 from "savings" deposit account to current account.

I certify that I have scrutinised the accounting documentation for Beetham PCC for the calendar year 2020 and found them to be a true representation of the financial transactions for that period.

David R Carey FCCA (ret'd)
Willowdene, 6 Chapel Close
Storth, Milnthorpe LA7 7BU

D. R. Carey
12.03.21

Agenda item 4.1: Gift Aid report 2020

Grateful thanks are expressed to all who have undertaken to Gift Aid their donations and collectively make such a significant difference to church income.

Summary

From eligible donations given during 2020 we have been able to claim for church funds a total of **£7,004.59** in tax repayments under the two different Gift Aid schemes (compared with **£7,316.64** claimed in tax repayments under the two different Gift Aid schemes in 2019).

Gift Aid Scheme	Eligible Donations 2020	Tax Claimed 2020	Tax Claimed 2019	Tax Claimed 2018
Gift Aid Donations	£20,015.95	£5,004.59	£5,316.64	£5,219.90
GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)	£8,000.00	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£1,821.82
Grand Total	£28,015.95	£7,004.59	£7,316.64	£7,041.72

Gift Aid Donations

During 2020 Beetham Church received a total of £20,015.95 given in Gift Aid donations, from which we successfully claimed tax repayments from HMRC totalling £5,004.59. Five claims were made throughout the year to assist with church cash flow. The final payment was received from HMRC in February 2021 and therefore the 2020 total Gift Aid repayments listed below will not match the 2020 church accounts figure for Gift Aid repayments received.

Claim Period	Eligible Donations 2020	Tax Claimed 2020
1. Feb-20	£3,415.49	£853.87
2. May-20	£3,530.00	£882.50
3. Jul-20	£2,472.00	£618.00
4. Sep-20	£5,144.20	£1,286.05
5. Dec-20	£5,454.26	£1,364.17
Grand Total	£20,015.95	£5,004.59

A total of 72 different individuals gave through Gift Aid during 2020 and have been categorised according to their main method of giving. When compared with 2019 it is easy to see the increasing trend towards bank payments and the decreasing nature of physical envelope donations, which is a natural reflection of the limited church opening during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is worth noting too that bank payments now include the newer methods of direct giving enabled via website links or hand-held electronic devices, where a gift aid declaration has been made.

Donation Method	2020 Number of Donors	2019 Number of Donors
Bank	34	28
Gift Aid envelopes	24	119
Numbered envelopes	14	16
Grand Total	72	163

GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)

GASDS allows a Gift Aid style payment from HMRC on cash donations of £30 or less, where no Gift Aid declaration has been received. For the tax year Apr-19 to Mar-2020 the eligible cash upper limit was maintained at £8,000 and we were able to claim the full £2,000.00 from the £8,155.51 given in cash donations. Many of these non-Gift Aid donations were given within regular church services, though a substantial portion of the total was given at services of baptism, wedding or funeral, where these donations were specifically designated for the church. Next year the GASDS claim for 2020/2021 will be much reduced because of the limited church opening during the year and the consequent limited volume of cash donations.

Andrew MacLeod, Gift Aid Secretary

Agenda Item 5: Fabric Committee and Health & Safety Report

“The committee has the responsibility for implementing the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the church.”

The Pandemic has understandably curtailed the normal functioning of the Fabric Committee over the past year. However, we have continued to manage the regular annual services and inspections which are needed to ensure that our church is safe and functions properly.

ELECTRICAL ISSUES

During the year we experienced electrical problems in the boiler room and the external floodlights, causing electrical circuits to trip out. Fortunately, our electrician, Robert Gunn, was always on hand to help us out, and we have now installed new electrical consumer units in the bell tower and a new LED Floodlighting installation with its own consumer unit. We are now looking at providing Surge

protection to our electrical circuits as we do not have a lightening conductor system at present, and have asked Robert for information on how this could be achieved.

CCTV UPGRADE

We are at present updating the CCTV installation which protects the lead roofs on the north side of the church, and hope that this will be completed in March.

HEALTH and SAFETY

Our thanks go to Brian who has been carrying out ongoing risk assessments for the church during the pandemic. Recently we have installed a new light behind the organ to illuminate a dark area which was considered a health and safety issue, and added additional power sockets in the bell tower to eliminate the use of extension leads.

RE-ORDERING OF CHURCH

On Wednesday 23rd September Jenny, Brian and John met with the **Carlisle Diocesan Advisory Committee** to discuss proposals for re-ordering the church by the removal of a small number of pews. The proposals were to make a more practical use of some confined areas and to improve health and safety, and were well received by the members of the DAC who also added further suggestions regarding amendments to the choir stalls, increased storage, and replacement of the font cover. Detailed Plans have been drawn up by our Architect, Mike Darwell, and we will be displaying these plans in the church for consultation when we reopen for public worship before agreeing the next steps

ROSE PERGOLA

Vigorous growth of the roses in recent years had caused the pergola structure to distort and my thanks go to Ann, Ian, and Viv for their help and hard work in pruning back the roses. Thanks also go to all those who have continued to tend the plants throughout the churchyard and we look forward to seeing the resulting blooms this summer

Harry Parrott, Fabric Committee Secretary

Agenda Item 6: Kendal Deanery Synod Report

After serving two successive terms of office Vivien Stirrup (6 years) and Dorothy MacLeod (5 years) were due to stand down from the role of Deanery Synod representatives at the 2020 APCM. However as no other volunteers for the role came forward at the delayed APCM in October, both agreed to stand for re-election and were duly elected.

Like all aspects of church life, the Kendal Deanery Synod was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Although the February meeting was held (reported at the delayed 2020 APCM) planned face to face meetings in June and October were cancelled.

In November 2020 the Deanery Synod embraced technology and met online from their homes using Zoom. The keynote speaker was Bishop Emma who outlined the process that had been going on over recent months to review and refresh the County's God for All vision. She thanked members of Synod and of local congregations for their input in this process. She described the ambition of the vision as being to release the whole people of God, for the whole mission of God for the transformation of Cumbria in the name of Christ. She went on to explain the four focal points which would encourage and enable the Christian community to: Follow Daily; Care Deeply; Speak Boldly and Tread Gently.

The Revd. Angela Whittaker gave feedback from Diocesan Synod which had received the report of the Financial Task Force and had agreed the diocesan budget for 2021. The real value of the parish offer had fallen by 40% over the previous 10 years. The parish offer in 2020 showed a further fall of 10% and amounted to almost £1m less than was spent on local ministry. This was exacerbated by the pandemic and offers received in 2020 for 2021 showed a further likely fall of around 11%. The diocesan budget for 2021 incorporates short-term measures resulting in a predicted deficit of around £55,000. These measures would buy time for major decisions to be made in 2021.

Dorothy MacLeod and Vivien Stirrup, Deanery Synod members

Agenda Item 7: Beetham CE Primary School Report

The last twelve months has been perhaps one of the most challenging years in education that schools have had to manage, including our school at Beetham. March 20th 2020 saw our school close for 11 weeks due to a national lockdown. During this time children of key workers were able to access school places through provision at our local 'hub' school at Milnthorpe. Other children remained at home with families and began to come to terms with the requirements for Home Learning.

Home Learning has been something that teachers and children are now very familiar with and huge progress has been made in the way that this is managed. However, when it first started in March 20 it was difficult to see how exciting and stimulating learning could be provided for children to access at home. During those first weeks staff at Beetham put together differentiated learning for English and Maths for all children and then organised a whole school topic with a wider range of activities that all the children could access. This was emailed out weekly alongside other learning websites providing home activities for children.

On June 1st we were able to reopen for limited numbers of children with many restrictions, rules and risk assessments in place. With the staff that were available to return to work we organised for two groups of 10 children to be in school each day. In this way we were able offer places to all key worker children. Over the course of the next few weeks we then offered part time places to all our children so that by the end of June all children had returned to school on a part time basis. This was a huge achievement for our small school and was only possible through the dedication and hard work of the staff.

Our end of the school year was different from usual due to the restrictions still in place in schools. However, we were delighted to be able to hold our usual Leaver's Service in church, led by Father Andrew, for the Yr 6 children and their parents. This was then followed by a day out at the Maize Maze for all the children, where we had exclusive use of the whole site and had a wonderful day together celebrating the end of a very unusual academic year.

As a leaving gift the Yr 6 children and their families bought and installed a canopy cover for our Forest School area on the field. This was a wonderful addition and very well used throughout the Autumn Term. We were therefore very sad and disappointed when they this was stolen in January 2021. It has unfortunately not been returned as we had hoped and we have had to buy a new one which will be installed during the Easter holidays.

In September all children returned to school full time with extensive risk assessments and restrictions still in place. The term went well and although several parents tested positive for Covid-19 we did not have any cases amongst children or staff which would have resulted in partial/full school closure.

We worked hard to ensure that the curriculum remained as broad and exciting as possible with outdoor history days, forest school activities and PE/dance coaches still attending but only working outside in the playground or on the field.

Harvest Festival was celebrated in church but with separate services for our two groups and gifts from families being given to Milnthorpe Food Bank. A similar format was used for our Christmas Carol Services where again we had two separate services, only attended by children and school staff. We are very grateful to Father Andrew and the 'church team' for enabling these services to take place and also for providing all the resources needed for us to make our Christingles in school. We also managed to hold Christmas parties and have a visit from Father Christmas which made our end of term very special.

Our Spring Term began with us once again in lockdown. This time our school was open and we had a huge number of requests for key worker places due to the broad guidelines for this category of job. We were able to offer 28 school places each day for key worker children and those who we considered to be 'vulnerable'. Staff were allocated time to prepare Home Learning alongside three days teaching in school.

The Department for Education published updated guidance for Home Learning requiring all children in KS1 to have 3 hours and KS2 4 hours of learning provided each day. This had to include some live teaching, videoed lessons and access to an on-line learning platform. Staff worked incredibly hard to provide a wide range of exciting learning activities for children at home as well as teaching in school. Each week home learning packs were created and lessons posted on line so that children could be taught by their usual teacher. All children attended a daily 'zoom' registration meeting which also gave them the opportunity to meet with their peers and find out about their learning for the day.

On Monday 8th March all children returned to school full time. Restrictions and risk assessments remained in place in order to keep the whole school community as safe as possible.

Our School continues to develop and change in many ways. Our Nursery is thriving and helping to keep the numbers of children growing which in turn secures the future of the school. We now have 53 children on roll with 15 in the Nursery.

Our new porch is now complete and provides a very warm and welcoming entrance to our school. We have a planning application awaiting approval for the development of the field, where we are hoping to install a running track, storage shed, trim trail and compostable toilet. In our back garden we are having some paths laid, a new gate fitted and an outdoor playhouse for the Early Years class. All of these things help to make our school an exciting and stimulating place to learn and are hugely beneficial for all our children.

We have continued to support several charities this year raising money for Children in Need, Save the Children, The Children's Society and Red Nose day. It is important that even during difficult times we teach the children to care for and respect others as well as looking after our own families.

At the end of this academic year I will be leaving my post as Headteacher at Beetham CE Primary School, after 17 years. It has been a huge privilege to lead our village school and be a member of the church and local community and this is something which I will miss greatly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank St Michael and All Angels for its continued support for our school and myself personally and wish you all the very best for the future.

Best Wishes

W E Nicholas

Wendy Nicholas

Wendy Nicholas, Headteacher

Agenda Item 8: Safeguarding

During the pandemic many members of the congregation have been keeping in touch with each other to maintain contact and to help ensure good mental health all round. Thank you to the Rev'd Andrew who seems to have kept in touch with all his congregation both in Arnside and in Beetham. His weekly services have also been spiritually uplifting.

There have been no new measures from the Diocese so we must ensure that all new PCC members do the on-line Safeguarding courses 0 and 01. There may also be some people who need to re-new their DBS certificates in the coming months and I will be in touch if that applies to you.

Sue Smalley, Safeguarding Officer

Agenda Item 9: Reports from church groups

(a) Friends of Beetham Church

Our Committee members are John Lomax (Chairman), Brian Smalley (Administrator), Anne Clarke, Sarah Easton, Dianne Lomax, Jenny Marks, Sue Smalley, Viv and Ian Stirrup and Dennis Wright. Rev'd Andrew joins us whenever his diary allows.

Regular committee meetings were arranged to plan our social and fund-raising calendar. Our January meeting had envisaged a year full of events: little were we to know how the year 2020 would unfold!

We did manage to hold a Shrove Tuesday Supper excellently entertained by Clive's Quiz, and early in March a Lent Lunch.

Then came COVID and the very necessary lockdown, so all our further plans for the year were scuppered! However, the Committee continued to meet monthly via the miracle of modern technology, both to entertain ourselves and to maintain the essential ritual of coffee and cake at Friends' gatherings, even virtual ones!

Among such attempts at amusing one another we tried "Lockdown Limericks", for example:

A bard (no relation of Ovid)
Documenting the outbreak of COVID
Asked all whom he knew
If lockdown made them blue,
But mostly they said "I'm not bovered"

So no Beetham Duck Race could be held, for the first time in over 15 years. Our Friends Sunday, AGM and Tea Party planned for June, with Bishop Emma as our guest was also necessarily cancelled – or postponed to 2021(???) watch this space! No concerts, no Beetham Sports, no Flower Festival, no Christmas Hamper Raffle. As well as denying the PCC and BCHT the benefits of Fundraising, we also ourselves were forced to forgo the FUNraising we have previously enjoyed.

But we were not to be defied entirely. Some bright spark dreamt up the idea of celebrating Harvest at home, given that we could not this year use the Corn Mill Barn and Alison Thompson's delicious repast. Our "Harvest Supper Hotpot at Home" idea arose and, thanks to Jenny's video-editing skills, produced a YouTube entertainment viewed over 250 times!

Further imaginative musings at our Committee meetings recognised that, because in 2020 we'd be unable to bring people into the Church to celebrate Christmas in the usual way, we should instead take Christmas out into the village for all to see. Thus was born "Brightening Beetham" – a simple enough idea but the public response was hugely encouraging. Sponsors and donors ensured that all costs were more than covered, so we still have all the hardware to repeat the exercise in years to come - thanks to everyone for their hard work, skills and generosity!

Since COVID, it appears that our plight
Is that we must forego the delight
Must Christmas be banned?
No! Instead we have planned
"Brightening Beetham" – a great feast of light!

So much for Lockdown Limericks – now, for 2021, can we possibly move on to Vaccination Verses, perhaps? Any suggestions?

John Lomax, Chairman

(b) Social Events

Our social activities have been somewhat curtailed in 2020/21 as result of the Coronavirus which prohibited any such 'goings on'! We are usually to be found in the Heron Corn Mill Barn where we enjoy convivial evenings with excellent suppers provided by Alison Thompson of Akenthwaite, followed by hilarious entertainment.

However, Covid 19 continued to do its worst throughout the year and consequently, we were forced to cancel the usual Harvest Supper on the 2nd October. Not to be deterred, we decided to put a 'virtual Harvest Supper' on YouTube, on 16th October with an entertainment programme of new and old sketches and songs. This time, the audience had to make their own hotpot and apple crumble and provide their own wine in suitable quantities! The whole experience seemed to have been cheering and much enjoyed and in the absence of the usual raffle, generous donations were received for Church funds. Thank you to you all!

Sadly, the 16th February found us still in 'lockdown', resulting in our having to cancel the Shrove Tuesday Supper and Quiz Night. Nevertheless, our Quiz Master, Clive Holden provided his usual challenge in the form of 'Brain of Beetham', a round to be found each month in the Gateway.

Our very grateful thanks to everyone who has taken part in helping to brighten what has been a very difficult year.

We live in hope of better times, so for your diaries, the next Harvest Supper is scheduled for Friday 1st October 2021 and the Shrove Tuesday Supper on Tuesday 1st March 2022! We look forward to seeing you there.

Dianne Lomax

(c) Beetham Bell Ringers

In the first two months of 2020 the towerbell ringers were making good progress, with great plans for a special ring at Easter. Then, as with so many other activities, the tower was closed in March, and advice continually being updated by the Central Council of Church Bellringers made it clear that ringing could be one of the last activities to return to normal due to the close proximity to each other in the ringing chamber. The handbell ringers had similarly started planning the year ahead and a new programme was being devised for ringing at various events throughout the Spring and Summer, but then lockdown stopped all handbell ringing too.

As various technologies began to emerge, the ringers decided to hold a regular Zoom meeting to keep in touch with one another. Starting as a largely social evening, part way through the year a new computer application was recommended, known as the Ringing Room. This enabled both towerbell and handbell ringing online, with each ringer being assigned a bell and able to ring it by pressing a key on the keyboard. Sounded simple enough, so we thought we would give it a try! We soon realised that it was not as straightforward as we thought, but we carried on and at Christmas the handbell ringers were able to record Good King Wenceslas for the Advent Calendar, and the towerbell ringers are continuing to make progress with method ringing

Just before the first lockdown we were all deeply saddened by the sudden death of Anne Fielden, a long standing member of both the handbell and towerbell teams. She is still very much missed and her joy at ringing Norwegian Wood and Christmas carols will never be forgotten

Many thanks go to Brian Smalley for continuing to encourage us to have a go at the Ringing Room (with homework), and also for his regular weekly maintenance of the towerbells to ensure that they will still be in good order when we are all able to return. We look forward to the day when the bells will ring out over the village again in celebration, in hope, and in calling people to worship

Jenny Marks, Tower Captain

(d) Gateway and Community Report

Church Website

The church website at www.beethamstmichaelandallangels.co.uk has been kept up to date with news and notices during this past year. As well as useful information you can also find links to special 'on-line' services which have been created throughout the year to recognise special services and celebrations.

Grateful thanks

It is essential to thank everyone who has been involved in contributing to and putting together on line services during this past year, particularly Andrew, Jenny and Geoff, the choir, the readers, the intercessors, the band, the poets and all those who have sent pictures and videos through to Jenny. We have all learned much about the technology which has allowed the development of on line services. Jenny, in particular, has become an expert in compilation, visual and sound control and editing. This technological ministry has been time consuming and labour intensive and Jenny's dedication, patience and skill has been outstanding. Thank you Jenny.

Gateway

The decision was taken in March 2020 to complete a full paper edition distribution of The Gateway for April to enable important information regarding the 'Beetham Aid' helpline to reach everyone in the parish at the start of the first lockdown. Since May, however, all editions have remained online only, circulated to known email addresses and uploaded onto the church website each month, with the exception of a few printed copies posted to church members with no electronic access and some copies available to pick up in the church porch. It has continued to be a source of local information and updates during the past year, and contributions have been varied and entertaining. My thanks go to all who have sent such interesting articles and competitions, and to those who have relayed their thanks to me as they continue to receive the electronic version of the Gateway. *Jenny Marks.*

Pastoral Care

This has been a difficult year in a lot of respects. What has been apparent is that we have an exceedingly loving community. In loving our neighbour, as a church and in collaboration with other caring people, we have set up and maintained a formal and practical support network during this past year. It is interesting to note that this established support system has not been needed as we thought that it would. Indeed, informal and highly effective caring support systems have sprung up and continue throughout these difficult times. Telephone contact has been an important aspect of reaching out into our church community and the wider community. 2020 has made us realise that we're all inhabitants of this global village that we call earth. We may not all be in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm together and together we will prevail. This year, we learned to be kinder and more compassionate to others and in doing so we found out that others were kinder and more compassionate towards us.

Wednesday Communion

No Wednesday services have been held since the last APCM Community Report was produced.

Evensong Services

No Evensong Services have been held since the last APCM Community Report was produced.

Home Communion

No home visits have been able to take place because of Government restrictions.

Nursing Home Visits

Communion has not been taken to the two nursing homes that we regularly visit those being Elmsfield Nursing Home at Whasset and Lunesdale Nursing Home in Hale. Telephone contact has been made offering a pastoral care service should the need arise and at that time, both care homes were thankfully, Covid free.

School Links

Children have used the church on a number of occasions whenever possible and it's been a joy to see them in church. Social distancing measures were in place and the church was sanitised after each visit whenever necessary.

Village Coffee Mornings

No coffee mornings have taken place during the past twelve months.

Flower Festival 2020

Sadly, this event was cancelled but it is hoped that we may be able to have a flower festival in September, should restrictions allow.

Beetham Community Band

Beetham Community Band have continued to rehearse every Saturday morning between 10.30 and 11.30 via Zoom. Our conductor Sarah Easton struggles to keep time across a variety of locations such as Slackhead, Beetham, Blackpool, Storth and Hale with variations in Wifi speeds providing a real challenge. As you can imagine Saturday morning rehearsals are accompanied by much laughter. As we (hopefully) get back together to rehearse in the church in the future, it will be a real novelty to hear all the musicians actually playing together. That's the aspiration anyway! We are grateful to Sarah for her perseverance with an almost impossible situation. Our thanks also go to Tess and Ned who continue wholeheartedly to support the band that they set up some years ago. They are an inspiration to us all. We must also thank John Lomax for taking on yet another treasurer's role as the band's finance guru.

In conclusion

This last year has been a great challenge that has been unprecedented. We are blessed to belong to our church community of St. Michael & All Angels, Beetham and we look forward to the time ahead when we can be together in worship and fellowship under more 'normal' circumstances.

Vivien Stirrup

(e) Bookstall

All the goods have been put away during the pandemic, but soon we will hopefully be able to re-stock. We manage to sell some Easter cards and Christmas cards during the periods when the church was open and all the stock sold out.

During the lockdown we have been planning to replace the old guide brochure. We intend to replace it with a number of booklets on individual topics, e.g. windows, textiles, music, and I am very grateful for the offers of help to prepare these texts. They will add to the existing booklets on the Crib and the WW1 Soldiers which John Lomax prepared. Anyone who would like to offer a specialist topic e.g. brasses, memorials, please get in touch. Any suggestions for items or cards to sell will be much appreciated.

Sue Smalley

(f) Church Flowers

Flowers are usually arranged by a rota of twelve members of the congregation in the Sanctuary, Lady Chapel and Porch throughout the year, excepting Advent and Lent. The Church is especially decorated for the major festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas, together with poppies on Remembrance Sunday.

However, the Coronavirus in 2020/21 has resulted in three national lockdowns when the Church has been closed for services. The Flower Rota for the year, therefore, has been suspended until further notice.

Sixty small bunches of daffodils were put together for distribution on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, the beginning of the first 'lockdown'. As a result of no services being allowed in the Church, the daffodils were distributed to the local Care Homes. Daffodils were ordered and placed in Sandy's Cross. All the Easter services were recorded on YouTube.

The Annual Flower Weekend was to be held on the 23rd, 24th, 25th May 2020 but sadly, had to be cancelled owing to the Covid-19 'lockdown'.

During the Summer months of the 'lockdown', it was decided that a flower arrangement should be placed in the porch each week to indicate that the Church was still there for everybody, even if it was not possible to hold the normal services. I am very grateful to all those people who have been kind enough to give donations towards the cost of the flowers.

The Church being open again for services in September and October, allowed flowers in Autumnal colours to be arranged for the Patronal and Harvest Festivals in the Church, as well as in the porch.

Arrangements of poppies in the Sanctuary and by the War Memorial to accompany the 'there but not there' figures, were put in place on Remembrance Sunday.

The Advent Wreath was prepared again and the Church decorated for the Christmas Festival with greenery and with white flowers, together with red, silver and gold artificial arrangements to avoid the need for water during the second 'lockdown'.

Flowers were also arranged for a wedding in August, as well as for the funerals of Bill Helm in December 2020 and Peggy Cox in January 2021.

We are very grateful to everyone who continues to help, give and arrange the flowers, as well as for the donations towards oasis, flowers for 'extra' occasions etc.

The Church flowers remain an important part of the peace and tranquillity of Beetham Church and of course, are particularly important during these present difficult and trying times.

Dianne Lomax

(g) Choir and Music

Like all aspects of the church's activities this year, the choir, and music in general, have been greatly affected by the ongoing pandemic. Although normal service routines were happening up until March, the subsequent lockdowns, and ban on singing, have changed the way that music has been provided for services throughout the rest of the year.

With the prohibition of singing together as a group, we turned to technology, and the engineering skills and audio software of Jenny Marks, to enable a virtual choir to be created. Although initially daunting for individual members to have to record themselves singing their part on one piece of IT whilst listening on headphones to a backing track on another, our intrepid singers soon got the hang of the new disciplines. With the first hymns proving a success, we then moved onto anthems, and these have continued throughout the year, either for the weekly audio services, or the very popular YouTube video services which have marked special occasions in the church's year.

Organ voluntaries during this time have also been recorded from home, with music in a wide variety of styles being used for the online congregation to enjoy each week. Initially hymns were also played on the organ for members of the congregation to sing along with at home, but we have also used the splendid resources of pre-recorded hymns by the St Martins-in-the-Field choir to supplement our own virtual choir.

I would like to thank the choir members (both in Beetham and Arnside) very much for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the Virtual Choir, and especially for the hard work they put in between recordings to learn new music without the help of weekly choir practices. And, above all, huge thanks to Jenny Marks for all her digital expertise - without whom not much of this could have happened at all - and also to Rev Andrew Norman for his ongoing support and encouragement throughout these difficult times.

Geoffrey Field, Organist

Agenda Item 10: Churchwardens' Report

This time last year we said that our problem was how to compress the events of the previous year into a single report that would not need a booklet of its own. On the face of it, the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic should have made the task this year so much easier – but that is not the case. So, let us say right at the start a big thank you to everyone who has worked throughout 2020 to ensure that the life and work of this church has not just survived but thrived. Without your efforts, our church and our parish life – and we as people - would be much the poorer.

2020 will be remembered as the year of lockdown, church closures and restrictions. And yet, amazingly, we were open for worship on more Sundays (31) than we were closed (21). We started the year, of course, before the lockdown began, with a special Epiphany Carol Service in January and a Choral Evensong for Candlemas on 2nd February. And when we were unable to meet in person for public worship, we managed to create a virtual on-line link to enable us to both worship and maintain the precious contact with each other that has been vital to our continued health and well-being. And many regular church activities took place under the lockdown restrictions: a happy wedding (despite the limited number attending); sadly, five funerals, including those of our good friends Anne Fielden and Canon Tom Thompson (whose funeral service was the last of any kind conducted before the first lockdown began in March). We held special outdoor services of commemoration for VJ Day in July and for Armistice Sunday in November. We were able to welcome the pupils from our Church School for their leavers' service in July, for Harvest Festival and for end of term Christmas Carol services.

A major innovation has been the production of special video services, published on YouTube, to celebrate specific occasions of the church year. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Geoff for coaxing and coaching the choir to record hymns individually in the comfort of their own homes and for lending his own inimitable musical talents to both accompany the choir and to create such magnificent atmosphere with his organ voluntaries. And of course, above all, to Jenny without whose skill and willingness to spend countless hours putting together the music and visual images none of this would have been possible. A look at the website to see all the special videos that have been produced is breathtaking: Easter Songs & Praise; VE Day Service; Ascension Day; Pentecost Choral Evensong; Patronal Choral Evensong; Harvest Festival Songs & Praise; All Souls'; 1st Sunday of Advent; Nine Lessons & Carols. And that list does not include the special videos produced for Harvest Supper entertainment or the Amazing Advent Calendar, which included, on Christmas Eve, a special Christingle Service.

Advent was marked by the arrival in the churchyard of the new Crib and the Christmas trees. Together, these provided a visual focus for our celebration of Advent and the events leading up to our celebration of the birth of our Saviour. We are very grateful to Ian for constructing the Crib and to Katriona for creating the figures for the tableau. Although we could not hold our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, we were able to celebrate both Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Eucharist on Christmas Day itself.

So, despite all the difficulties, of the past year, we have continued to worship and praise and to give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us as a church and community. Our thanks go to all who have led our worship, especially the Rev'd Andrew for his guidance and inspiration and sheer hard work during what has been a difficult year for him personally. And we must give individual thanks to the Rev'd Geoff Turner, and our own Licensed Lay Ministers, Viv and Chris.

Before the first lockdown began we managed to hold the Shrove Tuesday Supper and Quiz and the Lent Lunch to support Christian Aid. Following a resumption of public worship we were able to hold our Harvest Festival in October to continue our support of Manna House; and the Children's Society benefited from our 'DIY' Christingle initiative. As a church we have supported Kent Estuary Mission Group services both as leaders and participants.

Some things have necessarily continued throughout the whole year. Maintenance of the building has been a major concern and we have had to spend money on the boilers and the lighting, including a replacement of the complete floodlighting system with LED lamps and new wiring. Our thanks to the Fabric Committee under the guidance of Harry and Jenny for ensuring that our church building is maintained in good order for the safety of us all.

And we are delighted that we can report on real progress towards our plans to reorder the interior of the church. A scheduled visit by the Diocesan Advisory Committee had to be postponed until the autumn but our plans were well-received. Our architect is working on detailed plans and we are continuing our preparations for the next stage of the process.

Although the church building has been closed for most of the year, the church porch has been a colourful and welcoming beacon of light and hope. Many thanks to Dianne and her lieutenants for maintaining Beetham's floral tradition despite the limitations imposed by social distancing, the rule of six (or nine or fifteen or whatever!) and travel restrictions. Decorations in church for Christmas were determined largely by the need for low maintenance displays but nevertheless added much needed colour to our lives, so thanks to all who gave their time so generously.

Some things, of course, have not been possible: Duck Day, the Dallam Plant Stall, the Flower Festival, Beetham Sports, the Winter Fair. It is not difficult to spot the link between all the above –

they are our major fund-raising events and their collective absence in 2020 has left a big hole in our finances. The Friends' Committee has met regularly to consider ways of raising both funds and spirits and the Brightening Beetham project which saw illuminated Christmas Trees around the village provided a great boost to morale at the end of a fairly dismal year. And the virtual Harvest Supper was an inspired, if not inspiring, reminder of good times past!

We must record a huge vote of thanks and appreciation for all the work John has done to manage our financial affairs and to keep us and the PCC informed throughout the year of our financial situation. Thanks to previous good management and, of course, the continuing generosity of our congregation, we have been able to absorb the hit to our finances that the lockdown restrictions has necessitated. Andy's assiduous work to ensure that we have been able to claim as much Gift Aid as possible has also been immensely important and we record our thanks to him.

And we have all had to learn new ways to do things; Zoom meetings have become the norm (for the Standing Committee, the Friends, the Bellringers). Even the new Churchwardens were admitted to their office via a Zoom service led by the Archdeacon. We have learned a lot about Risk Assessments and disinfecting church pews. We have discovered just how few people we can seat 2 metres apart - 26, (not counting the old servants' pews!). We have learned how to make voice recordings and send them as files by e-mail. The monthly Gateway is mainly available on line, with only a few paper copies printed for those who do not have access to electronic media – again, a huge thank you to Jenny for managing to keep this valuable monthly digest of church and parish news available despite all the other demands on her time.

As wardens, we are extremely grateful to the PCC for their collective support throughout the year. The Annual Meetings had to be delayed until October which meant that the members of the 'old' PCC were in office for six months longer than they would otherwise have been. So special thanks to Helen and John and Dorothy for their extra tour of duty! And thanks to the new members who have taken their place: Elizabeth (who has taken on the work of PCC Secretary); Jenny (Marks) who having stepped down from her role as Churchwarden after 6 years immediately stepped back up again as PCC member with no time off for good behaviour; Jenny (Andrews) who must surely hold the record (under 5 minutes) for the quickest secondment ever to the PCC; and Dorothy who, also with no remission of sentence, is still on the PCC as Deanery Synod representative. Our thanks to them all.

And thanks also Sue for her work as our Safeguarding Officer. This increasingly high profile responsibility is constantly challenging and requiring of attention to ensure that we are compliant with all current requirements and that the vulnerable are not neglected during these difficult times.

2020 has been a year like no other and this report will reflect that. As last year, we could go on (and on, and on) but we will finish by saying another big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life of St Michael & All Angels. You know who you are – and so do we!

Dianne, Ian and Brian, Churchwardens

Agenda Item 11: Priest's Report

In my report for last year I recalled the words of Bishop James at my Licensing on that warm summer's evening at Arnside in July 2019 that reminded us about what it meant to be followers of Christ in daily life and work. Little did I think that the first anniversary of the beginning of my ministry as Priest-in-Charge, Sunday 12 July, would be marked by the resumption public worship in the parish following the easing of restrictions following the first Coronavirus lockdown. We have heard it recorded many times that 2020 was an 'unprecedented year', a tumultuous year where the shadow of death, sadness, pain and grief has loomed large across our communities, country and world.

Together we have navigated our way through restrictions and difficulties, learning a new way of living and behaving, reassessing our common priorities and living apart from our families and those closest to us. There can be little doubt that 2020 for all of us, whether or not we have been personally affected by the Coronavirus, will be a year that we will never forget and where we have been given fresh insight and purpose into what it means to know Lord's help, strength and support in the midst of all that we have been asked to endure.

Those who received my weekly sermons and parish emails will know that I reflected a great deal on this week-by-week, a way of seeking to remind myself as much as anyone else, that even in the hardships, sadnesses and worries we have faced, the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ is alongside and present to us in all things. The one in whom we find a focus for faith and hope and who reminds us that even though we might be called upon to carry heavy burdens, if we look to Him we can find not only solace and grace, but the promise of lasting rest and refreshment. As the well-loved hymn puts it, *'thus provided, pardoned, guided; nothing can our peace destroy'*.

In the gospel of Mark (4.35-41), as in the other two Synoptic gospels of Matthew and Luke, we are given the account of Jesus calming the storm. The story reminds us that as the evening draws on, Jesus together with his disciples, decides to leave Galilee and to cross to the other side of the lake. A passage that is set as the light of day is diminishing when the disciples are likely tired and weary following all that the day has held. A situation that is only exacerbated when upon the waters their boat is caught up in a ferocious storm, catching them out unexpectedly as they struggle to know what to do. We might find in the narrative a similarity with the feelings that many of us shared throughout 2020; keenly aware of the power of the darkness and being caught off guard by the bewildering impact of the pandemic on every aspect of our lives, struggling to know what our response should be when faced with such pressures and challenges.

It such a deep fearfulness that we see evidenced in the reaction of the disciples to the challenges of the storm on the Sea of Galilee, concerned that all is lost and that their future looks unmentionably bleak. The unexpected arrival of the storm has overturned all that they hoped and planned for and they have no idea what the future might hold, they can't see a way forward and understandably think that all is lost as they struggle for survival. It is in this state of panic that the disciples scramble to wake Jesus, who bafflingly is sleeping through their plight, seemingly indifferent to all that they are going through. Only then does Jesus wake up and then quickly in a demonstration of God's presence, power and authority, orders the storm to be calmed, *'Peace! Be still'*. What follows is quite remarkable, as Jesus immediately challenges the attitude of his friends, *'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'* Even in the midst of the storm, despite the disciples' deepest fears and concerns for their security, safety and well-being, Jesus reminds his followers that ultimately with God there is nothing to be afraid of, prompting us to consider that faith is to be found in the pressures of life as well as its pleasures.

At the heart of the story is a call for faith, not so much believing that God exists, rather coming to Christ and trusting in him. As Pope Francis writes:

'Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.'

So often, it is in the tempests and turmoils of life that we are reawakened to all that our faith believes and hopes for, an Easter faith in which our trust is ever-more rooted and grounded in the God who

overcomes death and tragedy with the unshakeable assurance of resurrection life and hope. We have been reminded of this with great urgency throughout 2020 as individuals, as a community and as a parish; an invitation to greater faith in one who still has power to calm the storms of our lives, summoning us to deeper faith in the realities of everyday life.

In moving forward this will require us to change and to transition, not seeking after a simple return to normality, but looking ahead to more stable times when our common and individual experiences might shape and form us in new ways as we seek to live obediently, confidently and joyfully in fellowship with the Lord. This might mean that things change and adapt, things aren't what they once were and have to be different. Yet, in all this and more, faith will still remain, the faith which Jesus continues to make our own, to grow into; a faith to be used to re-shape our own lives and the lives of those around us with the love and purpose that are the foundations of God's kingdom, which we pray to come on earth just as it is in heaven.

In reflecting on all this I continue to be immensely thankful for the encouragement, kindness and support that I receive from so many from within our church community. It is a great blessing to me first and foremost as a Christian and also as your Priest-in-Charge, as we seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit in forming and shaping us for ministry both now and as we look to all that will be.

This report then, allows me to record my gratitude to all those who in any way, support, enrich and encourage the work and witness of the Church here in Beetham, without whom we would be diminished in our walk of faith and work of discipleship. Whatever part you play in the mission and ministry of St Michael and All Angels, through administration, hospitality, liturgy, music, maintenance of the building, pastoral care, service on Sundays, 'The Gateway' preparation and delivery, school governance, odd-jobs or indeed everything else that makes up the life of the parish. I offer you my thanks for your service which does much to inspire the work of God in this place. I realise that during 2020 this has had to be demonstrated in different ways, in straightened circumstances and perhaps not in the manner that we would have envisaged or wished for.

However, in every act of service God's name is glorified, however small or seemingly insignificant. So whatever you have done, pastorally, prayerfully or practically, please know that I am exceedingly thankful for the way in which you have sought to contribute not only to the work of ministry but to the living out of the good news in this parish.

'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.'
(2 Corinthians 13.13)

The Reverend Andrew B Norman

Agenda Item 12: Elections and Appointments

- (a) Parochial Church Council Members
- (b) Independent Examiner

Agenda Item 13: Comments from the meeting for consideration by the PCC

Closing Prayers