

Reports from Committees and Organisations - 2020

Bellringers' Report

As with many organisations, the bellringing team were unable to meet for most of the year.

Prior to the lockdown, in February 2020, Broughton played host to the monthly meeting of the Preston Branch of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers. The group consists of ringers of all abilities from towers around the county who meet at a different church each month for ringing in a social atmosphere.

During the autumn the team were allowed to ring briefly for Sunday services, although restrictions were imposed to ensure safety. These involved only allowing 3 bells to ring at any one time to maintain the social distance requirements for the ringers. This was a strange experience to say the least with strict time constraints and limited ability to ring anything technical. The last service we were able to do this for was Christmas Day.

The handbell team were unable to meet, practice or perform during 2020. This was the first time for more than 20 years that local charities have not benefitted from our annual efforts.

We are hoping that as 2021 progresses restrictions will be lifted and the ringers will be able to return to more normal ringing.

Communications Committee

Currently the Committee is made up of 4 PCC members, who oversee the content and distribution of its publications, In normal circumstances the committee meets each month to discuss relevant content: under Covid restrictions, meetings have been replaced by email exchanges.

The Committee received information from a variety of sources and contributors, which was published through a weekly mailing, including a parish newsletter, pew sheet and ministry team Reflections, as well as in the parish magazine. This information and the publications were also made available online. Updates to information on the Parish website were made weekly.

Pre-Covid, the magazine was printed and published professionally and included advertisements from a variety of businesses, the accounts for which were managed by the Parish Administrator. During the periods of Covid restrictions, it was decided not to continue this production process, largely because the printer closed for some time as did the church itself. This decision coincided with the annual renewal date for advertisers and consequently these renewals were not offered.

Broughton Outlook, currently printed in-house each month, is edited by a PCC member, who chairs the Committee. It has continued to be delivered or sent to annual subscribers. While the magazine is clearly not as professionally produced, the in-house alternative has certainly brought with it a flexibility of content and layout not otherwise possible. It has also shown that much of the information repeated each month, such as *Who's Who* in the Parish for example, could be successfully transferred to the website.

The Committee will need to decide in the near future, once restrictions have ended, whether to continue this in-house with or without advertiser content. Consideration will also be given to the format of the magazine in consultation with the PCC. It is hoped too that past regular contributors will be able once again to submit articles once parish activities have resumed.

Social Committee

This year of Covid19 lockdown has meant we have been unable to hold any of our usual social event. We look forward to the time when we can once again meet together as a Parish in fun and fellowship.

Women's Fellowship

Before the lockdown, Women's Fellowship stopped meeting due to low numbers attending. We did have one meeting for coffee and a chat at 25, Northway. This was well attended but we are not sure if we will start up again after lockdown. We will see how things go. Sorry there is nothing else to report.

Fulwood St Peter's Primary School and Nursery.

Normally a year's report would consist of achievements and developments. This year was clearly dominated by reacting to events and doing as best as possible.

In common with all schools we had to grapple with the need for remote learning for which parents had different expectations and faced different situations. Homework has always been an area with varying expectations and this was homework on a grand scale.

We developed a hybrid of videos and tasks which could be done flexibly as home learning took place with varying levels of parent support and access to computers. Most children responded with hundreds of tasks over many months and successfully kept their learning up to speed. The most popular tasks were maths (probably because there is universal perception of its usefulness) and physical activity (depending how much garden space they had!). For teachers this was a new way of working which they responded to well but at times there was the frustration of not being directly with the children, which is what teaching is all about.

We refurbished two classrooms which added some cheer to the September return and the dry Summer gave opportunity to improve different outdoor spaces which can now be used for Forest School learning.

Restrictions to visiting schools meant no open day visits for families with new Reception children in 2021. We will be making sure they have some extra time to come into school before they start.

In the Autumn term we checked the children's learning and found the amount of learning loss varied considerably from child to child. UNESCO estimate that two thirds of an academic year has been lost on average worldwide due to Covid school closures. Generally children who liked reading carried on with this and did well. Positive cases resulted in some class closures and by half term the majority of staff had needed to isolate at some point either due to domestic or school based positive cases.

Broughton CE Primary School and Nursery

I was unsure where to begin with writing the report for last year, so I turned to my diary. It is quite astonishing how normal 2020 was at the beginning. I can see evidence of all our usual activities including monthly Eucharist worship in church, many sporting engagements and successes, trips out and visitors in, coffee afternoons for parents and, on 12th March, a 'Sing Together' concert at St. George's Hall, which turned out to be the last time that we would gather with other schools in such a way. I could fill pages writing about all the opportunities which the children have missed out on and all the things which we have not been able to do. Instead, I would like to focus on what we have gained as a school community. We have all gained IT knowledge as we have learnt how to use a wide variety of technology to help us provide effective remote learning. Throughout this difficult year, the staff and children forged even stronger relationships and we now know our children even better than before. We have learnt how much our parent community value all that we do and we were overwhelmed by the support and love which they showed us. We also gained time as the world of education slowed down for a little while without the usual whirlwind of events and tests. We used this gained time to provide the children with different learning opportunities in school and to focus on their mental and physical wellbeing more than ever. 2020 was undoubtedly the most challenging year I have ever known as a teacher and a headteacher but we still had much to be thankful for and we still found opportunities for love and joy in each day. Carolyn Singleton, headteacher.

Little Fishes Toddler Group

We had only just begun to re-establish ourselves in our new home and our numbers were low when Coronavirus struck. We have been unable to meet since the first lockdown. Sadly, under the current regulations and with the limitations of St Martin's House we are unlikely to be able to restart the group for the foreseeable future. Judith Billington, Group Leader

Parish Church Choir

With normal Parish Church Services for just a quarter of the year, no London Cathedral Services, the annual cover at Liverpool Cathedral cancelled, no Isle of Man Holiday Course for our Choristers, no Dads and Lads Football, no Choir Sports, no Kit-Kat Cricket, no trip to Llandudno, no day at the Pleasure beach, no Car Treasure Hunt and even no Choir Dinner, the year 2020 could be considered pretty rotten.

And indeed, by and large it was..... with only a few highlights worthy of note.

Up until 15th March the Choir's thirty Boys and twenty gentlemen were singing some fine Services, and so it was fortuitous that they at least had the opportunity to sing the glorious Stanford in G setting of Evensong at the final Service prior to Lockdown, fortuitous also that the music selected for this Service enabled one of our outstanding treble soloists the opportunity to sing, what turned out to be, his final solo as a Boy Chorister.

And that was it! No more Choral Services until the Boys sang a shortened Service of Seven Lessons and Carols in December, an important Service musically, in that it presented an opportunity to allow two Junior School Boys to assume the role of principal soloists, replacing senior Boys who had been lost to voice change. They showed not a little promise.. The Gentlemen sang the Midnight Mass and the Boys the Christmas Morning Eucharist.

During the singing periods of 2020, we were fortunate to have the assistance of Mr Shaun Turnbull, the Assistant Organist at Blackburn Cathedral, two further Cathedral Assistants, and Mr Harry Spencer and Mr Peter Brand, who accompanied the main Sunday Choral Service of Evensong and occasional Services such as the Carol Service. To assist the Church financially, during this difficult time, the Choir was happy to cover the cost of all Organists fees throughout the year, amounting to just under £500.00.

Under the leadership of Mr Peter Brand, some singing has continued, and a group of Gentlemen in the Choir, the 'Composite Choir', has been busy making virtual recordings of hymns, anthems

and music for Evensong, all of which appear on 'you tube', and which have been much appreciated.

Remembrance Sunday normally sees our Choristers lead the procession to the Village War Memorial. As there were no Church Services on this day, with the permission of the Local Parish Council, our two Head Choristers read a short Service consisting of Lessons and Prayers, prior to laying the Choir Wreath at the Cenotaph.

As always, we are keen to encourage our Choristers to consider the possibility of studying the Organ, and fourteen year old Daniel Harper, already holding an ABSM Grade 8 piano Distinction, is receiving lessons, and would have enjoying playing opportunities at the Choral Services.

During the various Lockdown periods, to maintain contact with Choir families and the Friends of the Choir, the Choir has produced the weekly seven page 'Sunday News' paper. This publication opens and closes with music performed by Choirs both UK and Overseas, drawing readers' attention to significant Church Festivals or perhaps to events which require our prayers; it includes quizzes, most designed to assist our Boys with their musical development, their understanding of Services and their biblical knowledge....but there have been some challenges for adults too; readers have supplied poems and humorous contributions; and there are regular interest articles and spotlights on our adult singers.

It has certainly been a difficult time, but we have attempted, with a considerable degree of success, to lead principal Services in our Parish Church where possible, to keep the Choir family together, and to continue our vital work with young people, and look forward to a return to 'Normal Service' as soon as possible.

John Catterall

Fairtrade

We started 2020 holding the usual monthly Fairtrade stalls at St Peter's. February saw the purchase of some items, mainly marmalade, from Traidcraft and the notification in the pew sheets in early March for Easter Eggs orders.

The closure of church services from 22nd March and the subsequent lockdowns meant that we were unable to hold any further Fairtrade stalls in 2020.

We were able to supply marmalade to a parishioner in a Covid secure way during the year. The remaining food items were arranged in best before date order and I purchased them before they achieved their end date. This meant there was no wastage in the remaining stock.

We did sell £90.30 of Fairtrade items during 2020, obviously reduced from 2019 when over £350 items were sold but that was with Easter and Christmas orders.

Hopefully we will be able to hold some Fairtrade stalls at St. Peter's during 2021.

Thank you

Graham Riding

St. John's Parish Fairtrade Representative.

Knit & Natter

Many ladies from the group have continued knitting during lockdown producing useful and much appreciated knitted items. Hearts and rainbows were made and donated to the Hospital to be given to patients and their relatives. Hats were also knitted for premature baby unit.

Last year due to Covid restrictions we were unable to sell the knitted chicks we had made in preparation for Easter therefore the chocolate eggs were donated to the food bank. This year we did manage to sell some chicks in church, and the Broadway Pantry also very kindly sold some for us. £130 was raised and is to be donated to the new St Martin's Chapel.

Although we were unable to knit poppies and sell for the Royal British Legion last November more were knitted and added to the altar display at St John's Church.

Hopefully Knit & Natter will soon be able to re-unite and the group will continue to develop and blossom.

Sue Stephenson