

## St. John Baptist Church, Broughton

### PCC Secretary's Report for 2019 at Annual Parish Church Meeting on 24th November 2020

2019 was a difficult year for Broughton Parish. We are particularly grateful to Barry Townsend as the single churchwarden for all his hard work, who together with the Ministry team have arranged and maintained services at the worship centres.

In 2019 the Standing Committee of the PCC, consisting this year mainly of one Churchwarden, PCC Treasurer and PCC Secretary, met on six occasions. The PCC met for 6 scheduled meetings, to carry out PCC business. The attendance at meetings has averaged just short of 77% during the year. The sub committees are Standing, Social, Communications, Land & Buildings with Parish Hall Management, Finance They report to the full PCC with their observations and any recommendations. Following discussions, decisions are reached. This year there were also to be the focussed groups of the Parish Review.

The January meeting was the first one after the PCC had unanimously accepted REGENDA as the partner to redevelop the Parish Hall Complex. Fr Shaun reminded the PCC of the Mission Statement to make Jesus known through prayers and teaching and to do this we need a base for the Parish. The Parish Hall was once a Chapel with a parish hall and now it has become a community centre with a chapel. It needs to be a building to serve the parish community first and then the wider community. Fr Shaun reminded the meeting that we needed to look at the Parish Review and have follow-up meetings with people who said they would volunteer. He felt that the Mission Action Plan needed more structure.

It was at the meeting in March, chaired by Barry Townsend that he informed us that Fr Shaun had been signed off sick for at least 2 months. This is the meeting at which the Treasurer presented the 2018 accounts for approval by the PCC. He answered a variety of questions, particularly about the Parish Share, and the use of our reserves towards the St. Martin's Chapel and Parish hall proposals

Rev. Rie and Rachael Ainsworth who is our Safeguarding Officer have been looking into the Safeguarding Training provided by the Diocese to book at suitable dates for the PCC to attend. We discussed the need for Parish organisations to provide detailed Risk Assessments, in particular for off-site visits, as these need to be signed off by the PCC.

Rachael Ainsworth reported that she had communicated with the 3 Jigsaw groups regarding the choosing of a Rose Queen and her attendants for 2019. Communication with the groups had not been easy this year and there had been little response regarding children of the appropriate age. It was discussed and the decision was to postpone the event least for this year. The clergy will arrange a service to acknowledge the end of the current Rose Queen's year. There was a feeling that we need an item on a future agenda for Children's Ministry.

It was at this meeting that Barry Townsend explained that in Fr Shaun's absence, Archdeacon Michael has offered to chair the APCM but he was not available for Monday, April 1st. The PCC agreed to his offered date of Thursday, 4th April in the Parish Church. The PCC also confirmed that the 'PCC should go ahead with the Planning application to redevelop St. Martin's Complex and to obtain grants as previously agreed at the PCC meeting on 19th January 2019. The vote was 10 in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

As is tradition, the May meeting, which is the first after the APCM, Barry Townsend welcomed everyone, particularly the new members who this year were Dave Brand, Carol Buckley, Richard Edney, Chris Kerry, Carol Pettinger and our new churchwarden Sam Walmsley. Barry reminded all members that we were here to represent the whole parish. He also told us that Fr Shaun would be absent until June 30th at the earliest with a phased return. We need to discuss the services we can make available. Since Easter we have had no help from the Diocese in providing services, particularly Eucharist. Our Ministry Team has populated a rota of services providing a Eucharist somewhere in the parish, as well as St. Margaret's each Sunday with help from retired clergy. We are going to need lay help as Rev Rie is now only available for 1 service a week. As parishioners we need to appreciate the changes of services.

All Parish Policies are reviewed at the May meeting and all PCC members had had the opportunity to read them and submit any alterations or amendments. The policies were all adopted with the necessary amendments. The Standing Committee of the PCC had been asked to consider a Transparency Policy which will be presented at the next meeting in July. The Options Appraisal Group reported on the progress with the St Martin's redevelopment project and each member had a handout.

The July meeting was held at St. Peter's School as this was the one at which the Head Teachers of both our Primary schools presented an overview of the schools over the past 12 months. This included events in the schools and the effects of any government changes to the curriculum. The PCC had the opportunity to ask any questions and to thank them and ask them to pass on our thanks to the staff.

During the rest of the meeting, the PCC was presented with the Social Media Community Guidelines to accept. They are proposed for the PCC and those who use social media to promote the parish. The PCC agreed it should be regarded as good practice, although it isn't really enforceable.

It was at this meeting, after much discussion, the PCC voted 14 votes for and 1 against a proposal for the Parish Hall to close to ALL commercial lettings (including the Club) on 30th September when the Electrical Wiring Safety Inspection ran out.

Sadly at the September meeting, again chaired by Barry Townsend, we received 2 letters of resignation, one from Rachael Ainsworth as Safeguarding Officer as from 31st October and Sam Walmsley as churchwarden with immediate effect. Sam realised the impracticality of the role as he began university at Durham. We thanked them both for all they have done.

There was some consideration of amendments to the wording of the Confidentiality and Transparency Policy to which the PCC agreed.

The Safeguarding Officer was concerned that not all those required to complete safeguarding training through the Diocese had completed the training or booked on a course. These would be completed in the next few months. Rachael was thanked for her report and all she had done as Safeguarding Officer.

In November, the PCC was pleased to welcome Fr Shaun back to his first meeting since January. He thanked the PCC for its support during his absence. However, he expressed his disappointment that the three individual worship centres show little interest outside their own centre. We need to start implementing Vision 2026 and make mission important by planning and looking forward. The Parish Survey brought great ideas but we need offers of help. There has been a good deal of criticism regarding the Parish Hall Project but it will focus on the new Parish centre for parish life, with the added bonus of community use. We are still awaiting planning consent, and the costings to pass onto the PCC as soon as possible, for their final approval.

The PCC is fully aware of all the excellent work that is being done in the Parish to encourage young families. JIGSAW and MESSY CHURCH could not continue without the hard work of their leaders. There is always room for more people to help and to increase the numbers of children. Little Fishes continues to meet each Wednesday afternoon during term time for pre school children and their carers.

The annual reports sent from committees and organisations in the Parish are contained in the paperwork available for you tonight and show how much hard work is put in by so many volunteers in all the wide range of activities. The report from the Deanery Synod, which has four representatives from our parish, is included in the paperwork.

Thank you to Vicki Thornley, our amazing Parish Administrator for all her hard work in 2019 and for collating all the paperwork for this meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the smooth running of the PCC and the Parish in 2019.

*Marilyn Couper PCC Secretary*