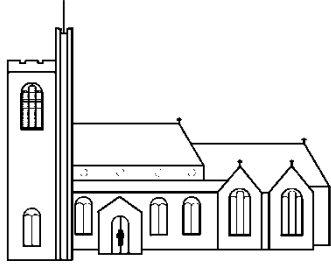


The Parish of
St Mary the Virgin, Welwyn,
with St Michael and All Angels,
Woolmer Green



St Mary's, Welwyn



St Michael's, Woolmer Green

Annual Parochial
Church Meeting
(APCM)

Wednesday 28th April 2021
On Zoom only at 7.15pm

Please email hello@welwyn.org.uk for Zoom details

Signature

Date

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Notice of a Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

A meeting of parishioners for the election of Churchwardens will be held on Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 7.15pm via Zoom.

AGENDA

1.	Opening prayer
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 th October 2020
3.	Election of churchwardens

Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 7.17pm following the meeting for the Election of Churchwardens via Zoom.

Agenda

1.	Chairman’s welcome and opening remarks
2.	Attendance List and Apologies for Absence
3.	Minutes of APCM held on 14 th October 2020
4.	Matters arising

Elections

5.	Assistant Churchwardens for St Mary’s and St Michael’s
6.	Lay members to the Parochial Church Council
7.	Side persons
8.	Financial Report and appointment of Independent Examiner

Presentation of Annual Reports

9.	Team Rector’s Report
10.	PCC Report
11.	Deanery Synod Report
12.	Team Council Report
13.	St Mary’s Fabric Report
14.	St Mary’s Safeguarding Report
15.	St Michael’s Church Report
16.	Other reports

17. Any other business

Closing Prayers

Notes relating to the 2021 Parochial Church Council

Candidates nominated for election to the Parochial Church Council must:

- 1* be on the Electoral Roll

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- 2* be 16 years of age or upwards
- 3* have communicated at least three times in the past year

It is the practice in this Parish:

- 4* to obtain the express consent of the candidate
- 5* to complete a nomination form, signed by the proposer and seconder

6. Make up of PCC as at eve of APCM 2021

Ex-officio: Church Wardens: Diane Jenkin Sue Keach Stuart Westley	Nominated	Seconded
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4 representatives to the Welwyn Hatfield Deanery Synod

Ex-officio: Deanery Synod: (Should be 4) Vernonne Allan Colin Hull Shoena Eggington		
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Readers on the Parochial Church Council

Readers: (does not mean they are not members of deanery synod) John Burnapp Colin Hull Usha Hull		
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Election of Lay members to the Parochial Church Council

Elected PCC members (12)	Notes / Position	Term from 2020
Don Bell (Welwyn)	Treasurer St Michael's	End of term
Jackie Davis (WG)		End of term
Jean Perriman		End of term
Geoffrey (Geoff) Cummings		2 years to go
Georgina Beck		2 years to go
Emmanuel Odiachi		1 year to go
Maggie Varco		2 years to go
Stuart Jenkin		2 years to go
Joan Shelley		2 years to go

There are therefore 6 places on the PCC for a 3-year term. 3 vacancies and 3 people at end of term.

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7. Appointment of Sides persons for St Mary's and St Michael's church

Vernonne Allan
Peter and Patricia Brattle
Martin & Liz Browne
Alice Burnapp
Rose Cantillon Webber
Michael & Gay Carpenter
John Constable
Geoff Cummings
Joyce Davis
Jim Evans
Heather Knappett
Diane Petty
Bill & Pat Morris
Jane Robson
Keith Thompson
Roger & Carole Trigg
Ann Harper

16. St Michael's Church sides persons:

Christine Allday
Gill & Simon Blewett
Doreen Croft
Lurline Champagnie
Shoena Eggington
Nita Gowans
Betty Hodge
Margaret Holdcroft
Susan Keach
Janet & Rob Slater
Margaret Paterson

Primary Reports

Team Rector's Report – *The Rev'd Dr David Munchin*

This will be read aloud; copies to be made available at the meeting.

PCC Secretary's Report – *Louise and David Hughes*

The Parochial Church Council continued to meet during the coronavirus pandemic via Zoom. There were six meetings during 2020 as in a normal year.

The 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was delayed from April until mid-October by the coronavirus pandemic of course. In 2021 we will get back on course by holding the APCM on April 28th, although it will be via Zoom only.

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The PCC meets every other month to discuss and make decisions concerning all aspects of church life, including its people, its property and finances.

The then secretary to the PCC, Daniel Holroyd-Thomas, stepped down at the late-running October APCM and provided a handover of advice and large quantities of paperwork to the new, incoming, volunteer secretary, Mrs Louise Hughes.

From then onwards the duties of the secretary have provided a steep learning curve from which it has become apparent that the most difficult part of this work is preparing for the APCM! So, thrown in at the deep end you might say. However, we can tell you that your new(ish) PCC secretary has a secretary or personal assistant of her own to help with the preparation of the minutes of meetings and the writing of reports, namely her husband.

Our responsibilities include caring about proper procedure, issuing notices of meetings in good time, ensuring that reports are prepared on time, preparing the agenda for the meetings, dealing with correspondence, preparing the minutes of the meetings, keeping a check on the parish diary, knowing what is going on and to act quietly and efficiently. Apparently, we need to be “good organisers, tidy and methodical, calm and clear headed, tactful and friendly.” So, work to be done!

Since I took over the role in 2020, I have attended the October Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the November PCC meeting and I am pleased to say that our minutes of the November PCC meeting were approved without query or objection at the January meeting so we must be doing something right. We hope to be able to continue to serve on that basis going forward.

Please contact my email address if you have any questions relating to the PCC at louise@elhughes37.plus.com

Welwyn Hatfield Deanery Synod Report – *Vernonne Allan*

In the past year the Deanery have had only two meetings, both online using Zoom.

Shortly before the start of the year covered by this report there had been a meeting at All Saints, Datchworth, in February 2020 when Rev'd Phillip Waller spoke about ordinands, their training and their calling. Little did we know then what lay ahead in 2020.

The synod planned for May did not happen but we did meet for our first Zoom synod in October 2020. By then churches were beginning to get to grips with bringing worship to people as people could not go to church. In breakout groups we discussed Christmas plans; in Hatfield Kathryn Alford was planning a live door to door advent, which she later posted on social media, Susannah Underwood was planning a village nativity for Datchworth and Rev'd David Munchin planned to deliver Christingles to all schoolchildren in our Parish. We heard that the Lambeth Conference of 2020 was being rescheduled for 2022.

We recently met again by Zoom on March 3 2021 when our speaker was Dr Kate Middleton who gave an excellent talk on mental health, very much based on the experience of living through a Covid year, the stress, depression and anxiety it has caused, but she also proposed turning to Romans 5 v 3-5. For every eventuality it appears there's an answer or explanation in our Bibles.

Team Council Report – *The Rev'd Dr David Munchin*

The Team Council has met on only one occasion due to the COVID19 pandemic: February 21st.

The Team Council consists of the Team Rector, five representatives of the Ministry Team, two lay representatives from each church.

The purposes and tasks of the Team Council are laid out in its constitution.

Matters discussed in these meeting included:

- Safeguarding (Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection) –
- Team events and activities (e.g., Summer Evensongs)

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1. Heating

The old faulty gas boiler was removed and a new flue installed in the existing chimney. As at the time of this report a heating contractor has been appointed and is on site. The works involve the installation of a new gas boiler, the installation of a new gas main, essential maintenance of the ground source heat pumps and an overhaul of the building management system that controls all the equipment in the boiler room.

2. Flooring

An area of loose parquet flooring was taken up and refixed within the church.

3. New Hand Rail

A new handrail to the side of the organ housing and along the staircase to the upper Vestry was installed.

4. The Eastern Cemetery Wall

The Eastern wall that fell down in Feb 2020 has still not been reinstated. Discussions continue with all parties.

5. North Cemetery Wall

During the year part of the top section of the North Wall collapsed. The Parish Council has erected a temporary supporting structure to prevent further collapse.

6. St. Michaels House Woolmer Green

A redecoration, new ground floor carpets, electrical works and a completely new kitchen has been completed.

7. Roof Leak

A small roof leak in the tower was fixed.

8. Compliance

During the year the following have been completed

- Renewed Gas certificate for kitchen appliance
- Electrical Appliances (PAT) Test
- Lighting Conductor testing and new ground earthing
- Roof Safety inspection
- Fire Extinguishers inspection and upgrade of various items
- Lift Service Church House
- Fire safety grease extraction clean
- Kitchen Deep Clean
- Roof Alarm testing
- Insurance Engineering Report on Lift & Boiler
- St. Michaels House – Gas safety
- St. Michaels House – Electrical
- Gutter Cleaning

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St Mary's Safeguarding Report – Vicky Jenkin

Vicky Jenkin took over from Susan Harris as our safeguarding officer. If you wish to report a safeguarding concern you should contact her or the Rector. There were no safeguarding incidents reported in 2020.

St Michael's Church, Woolmer Green Fabric Report – Sue Keach

I am pleased to report that this has been a trouble-free year in Woolmer Green. The dedicated team of cleaners have kept the church looking clean and tidy and routine tasks have been carried out. The roof has been inspected and gutters and drain pipes cleared. The fire hydrants have been tested and the inventory checked.

We continue to employ Coopers to maintain the church yard and they do a wonderful job. We held a garden clear up in the spring (We just managed to fit it in before lockdown) and another in November in preparation for the Memorial Service the following day.

The only repair job was the replacement of a window in the kitchen. We have a list of things which would be good to carry out but none are essential, or threaten the state of the building.

Secondary Reports

Bible Discovery – Gay and Mike Carpenter

"I've been a member of the Bible Discovery Group for about 4 years. It means a tremendous amount to me in terms of knowledge and friendship. I have learnt so much in our discussions, particularly regarding the Old Testament of which I knew very little. I feel my understanding of the Bible has been enriched." Judith.

"Our little group has been a lifeline. The WhatsApp Group we started so that we could continue last year's Lent Course, and your subsequent booklet of our ramblings was such a comfort during the first days and weeks of the pandemic. And that support and fellowship has continued throughout. It was lovely to be able to continue our exploration of the Bible on Zoom, following Peter's life and journey from fisherman to disciple to the absolute rock that the church was founded upon. Someone who was flawed and human, who made mistakes, but who sought and received forgiveness. Someone who teaches us that Jesus can take our flaws and use them for His work." Fiona.

Our intentions for running Bible Discovery are to enjoy exploring the Bible together in a warm and friendly fellowship, never allowing it to turn into a clique, sharing all our experiences and thoughts and respecting each other's views, especially when we have differences of opinion. We know how to laugh and how to enjoy partying together (when the virus lets us!)

Firstly, a glance back at the last term of 2019 when we explored the life of King David. We started 2020 with a study of the last part of his life, then met to read aloud selected chapters in the Bible covering his whole life. What a journey we'd had! We drew together all we'd learnt from our study from David's life, how God was graciously able to call him "a man after my own heart" and what those qualities were for us to strive after.

We then had one more meeting before Lent. Members from each of our groups chose Biblical characters to present. Mike's group chose Anna, Benjamin and Joseph (husband of Mary); Gay's investigated Joshua, Judas and Jesus's mother, Mary.

We then joined in with the Lent course, which was drawn from Ruth Valerio's excellent book: "Saying Yes To Life" taking the account of creation in Genesis Ch.1 and seeing what we've done to the planet since God appointed us to take care of it and what we can now do about it. In the middle of it all we went into the first lockdown. At first, we continued by email, post and WhatsApp which Mike set up to keep us all connected,

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and has proved to be a big blessing. The outcome of the course was a lovely booklet we made together, a collection of pictures, prose and poems reflecting on all we'd learned and shared.

After Easter, we took a vote on what people would like to tackle next and the vote went to the disciple Peter. People said they wanted to get to know Peter "because he's like us." We had a fascinating time following his life through the Gospels and Acts and, even though we were now using Zoom, we all felt we'd got very close to Peter. Fiona speaks so eloquently for us all in what she says above.

We usually like to follow a New Testament course with an Old Testament one, but people wanted to investigate one of his letters to find out how he got on after Jesus's resurrection. We were amazed to see the transformation in him! Despite Zoom, we felt we'd really encountered the changed man himself.

This brought us to the end of 2020, sadly unable to enjoy our usual Christmas party. A weird year with steep learning curves for us all. Awaiting us next will be a chance to meet the Prophet Isaiah, especially investigating the Servant Songs.

Bible Breakfast Study – *The Rev'd Dr David Munchin*

Every Wednesday morning a group meets in Church House from 8am – 9am with breakfast provided from Katie's. We study the bible by looking at the three readings for the Sunday 10 days hence. We use a version of *lectio divina* before meandering off to whatever takes our fancy. All are welcome, breakfast is free, you can say what you want and get the drop on the Sunday preacher.

This study moved on line due to COVID19 but has continued on Wednesday at 10.30 for 40 mins on zoom. Anyone would be welcome to join – numbers attending on line have been good.

St Mary's book/card stall – *Pat Brooks*

Due to Covid the last year has been a very quiet one for the bookstall as, during the main lockdown, the bookstall had to be covered. There is a range of Christian greetings cards and a small selection of children books suitable as baptism gifts. There is also a very limited range of adult books and some of Tony Rooks' booklets. Payment for the cards/books is put in the wall safe. Recently £400 was transferred from bookstall profits into church funds. I am able to get discount on Christian books. Please contact me for further information patbrookswelwyn@gmail.com

Church Warden's Report, St Mary's, Welwyn – *Diane Jenkin and Stuart Westley*

This has been an unprecedented year for our Church due to the COVID19 pandemic. However, although it has disrupted the normal function of the church, it has not brought it to a complete halt.

The Church and the Church house boiler are undergoing significant repairs. All the details of this have been set out by Stuart Jenkin in his Fabric Report. We would both like to thank him for his work in these matters. When the lockdown was lifted and limited services were resumed, safeguards were introduced to protect everyone. These included hand sanitizer and social distancing measures. We would like to thank all those involved in this, with special thanks to Peter Brattle for his seating plans and his continued support and Rose for stepping up and cleaning the church before the Sunday services.

Due to limited numbers at services, we have had to look to other means of including our congregation, this has been done very effectively through social media.

Church House has had mixed fortunes. The positive being renewed interest in the hiring of the facilities. Although, lockdown has put a halt to this at present, it is hoped that these activities will resume when it is safe to do so. Church House provides two especially important functions in addition to providing for use by Church groups; firstly, it provides for the community's needs and secondly it produces much needed revenue for the church.

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Church Warden's Report, St Michael and All Angels, Woolmer Green – *Sue Keach*

Obviously, this is a difficult year to report on, for so many of our usual activities were put on hold, but thanks to the clergy in this amazing team the church continued to function throughout lock down etc. but 'not as we know it'.

Until March Dominic plus helpers continued to run the After School Christian Club. The numbers attending were a small but loyal band and it is rather sad to realise that some of these children are at secondary school now. The combination of Dominic's departure and 'Lock down' have hit hard, and we haven't met since March.

All services were cancelled over the Easter period. We placed Mothering Day Posies in church for people to help themselves to. We were pleased to tune into the 'Streamed' services which have helped to feel part of corporate worship, all be it in a limited way. Once we were allowed to meet in church, whilst observing social distancing, most of the congregation returned and we are grateful to all the clergy who conducted worship for us.

During this time, we celebrated the feast of St Michael with a Taizé service and enjoyed Harvest Festival. We held a Remembrance Day service around the war memorial complete with the Woolmer Green Band. Social distancing was observed but we didn't move into church, feeling it safer, with the enhanced congregation, to remain outside.

Just before the next Lock down period, we were able to hold a beautiful reflective Carol Service which the choir and Penny had put together. We enjoyed meeting for worship on Christmas day in a beautifully decorated church but, then came the next lock down. The wise men visited the crib unwitnessed by a congregation.

During this difficult time the team of church cleaners have kept the church neat and tidy. Whenever I go into the church it looks clean and loved; an empty church but a living one.

While Dominic was with us, he instigated an open food table and we have continued to provide this facility. There have been times when people's generosity has outstripped people's need in Woolmer Green and we have passed the excess donations to the Stevenage food bank.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Dominic (and Daniel) in September. We benefitted from his ministry and were grateful to take advantage of Daniel's IT skills which brought our communication up into the twenty first century. We hope they will settle happily into their new life.

In the autumn we held an on-line Quiz. This worked very well. We are indebted to Jane Carr and Su Blanch who worked out the logistics and to all who supported us and helped swell the St. Michael's funds.

Hopefully this is our final lock down and life will turn to normal next summer. It remains to be seen what the new normal looks like!

Church Fellowship – *Marjorie Lyon, Secretary*

It is difficult for me to write this report because of the COVID Pandemic, I can only record what happened prior to March 2020.

We had very interesting meetings in 2019. The membership had continued to grow and our finances were adequate for what we need. The total of our donations for the year was £375.00 leaving our closing balance in the bank £283.43. Our income is derived from a donation of £1 from each person attending a meeting

We hope the Fellowship will re-start when it is safe to do so.

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Fairtrade – Maggie Varco and the Fairtrade team

Our fairtrade café and stall took place on Saturday mornings in Church House, thanks to our team of volunteers who make this happen each week. The drop-in café is a popular meeting place, offering a warm welcome to newcomers to the church. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unfortunately only able to open in the first couple of months of the year, and in September and October. During the Autumn opening period we carefully followed all the Government precautions, one of which was having table service only for refreshments. We were very grateful to have help from Christopher with this, as part of his volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh award. We are very much looking forward to the time when it will be possible in reopen in 2021.

During the first lockdown in the Spring, we kept in contact by phone with our regular customers, making sure that people had the help that they needed, as well as the companionship from a chat over a cup of coffee. We continued to take fairtrade orders and these were delivered by Maggie on her daily walks or by car once a week, or collected by customers.

Traidcraft plc was exceptionally busy during 2020 especially during the first lockdown when basics such as pasta, rice and toilet roll were out of stock in the supermarkets. This happened again in the November lockdown, when a lot of customers ordered their Christmas gifts online. We were extremely glad that Traidcraft could continue to trade throughout the lockdown periods and that we in turn could support them, and the producers who sell their goods to Traidcraft, by continuing to place regular orders.

We were very pleased with our turnover of £8,350, much of which was made up of orders placed when the stall was closed. We made a surplus of £800 which was sent as a donation to Traidcraft's sister charity, Traidcraft Exchange, to support people to trade their way out of poverty.

Giving Action Group – Geoff Cummings

The role of GAG is twofold: -

Stewardship: to look at strategies to motivate people, as they are able, to give of their time, talents and their money to the church.

Charitable: to facilitate charitable giving by St Mary's to achieve a target equivalent to at least 15% of planned and plate giving on a rolling 3-year average.

There is a sense in which giving to St Mary's and giving support to the charitable causes promoted through our church in Welwyn, are one and the same. If we, as a church, are to honour our commitment to give a proportion of income to other charities, we, as individuals, are supporting our church by organising and responding to activities for the benefit of those charities, be they special collections, social events (coffee mornings, quizzes), or produce stalls such as Fairtrade, to mention but a few.

Needless to say, 2020 was an unusual year. The pandemic prevented a number of regular or annual events from taking place that would normally have contributed to the charitable giving total. For the first time, the PCC had to consider making top up donations in order to meet its target. A total of £5200 was paid in this way making a total for the year of £14273 donated to 12 different charities. Fortunately, the St Mary's finances were bolstered during the year by several legacies. Further details will be displayed on the notice board in New Church House, shortly.

Thank you for helping the church maintain its mission and finances in this difficult time and its commitment to supporting the less fortunate through various charities.

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Lent Courses – *The Rev'd Dr David Munchin*

Lent courses were started using the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio. The course addressed some of the environmental and sustainability issues addressed in the book. Sadly, the course came to an end after 1 or 2 session for groups because of the COVID19 lockdown. Given the speed of this, it was not generally possible to move this on line.

The Mothers' Union – *Gina Beck, Branch Leader*

The Mothers' Union has continued at all levels: internationally, regionally, at diocesan level and locally during the past year. Sadly, the best bit of MU, our regular "live" meetings here in the parish have not taken place since February 2020 due to restrictions. We had a zoom Diocesan Annual meeting in November with 75 members present and an Epiphany service via zoom which was attended by members from our Central cluster of branches. Our branch here at St Michael's remains small but loyal and we are looking forward to our meetings resuming in 2021.

St Mary's Bellringing Band – *John Williams*

Prior to the pandemic St Mary's Ringing Band rang regularly before Sunday Services from 9.00 - 9.30am (every Sunday) and 6.00 - 6.30pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays) when enough Ringers were available. When it was still possible, the Band practised on Tuesdays from 7.45 to 9.00pm. In normal times we are usually able to ring all 8 bells for services. In addition, the band rings 6 bells for weddings when booked and 8 for special services when requested - if possible, depending on availability. The band also maintains the clock, winding it once a week, and hoist and lower flags on the Tower when required.

After mid-March 2020 we have been unable to ring the bells because of the vulnerability of most of the band and the relatively confined ringing chamber in the Tower.

We currently have 14 regular ringers, however only 4 are Church members so St. Mary's owes a debt of gratitude to all the band for turning out for Sunday and special service ringing so reliably – unlike so many towers where service ringing is occasional, not regular.

It takes quite a while to become a competent ringer so it needs determination, but we do have an enjoyable time on the way. When the pandemic has faded away and we are back to normal, please consider whether you could learn to ring and enjoy the gentle aerobic exercise (and the not so healthy – but optional - social activity after practice). We will always welcome another learner, especially as several of us are in our 70s!

For more information contact the Tower Secretary John Williams, on 01438 715679 or email bells@welwyn.org.uk. It's one person on each rope, so to ring all our 8 bells we need 8 ringers. It goes without saying that when we are back to normal, if you have rung in the past and are not currently part of a band that rings on Sundays, you would be very welcome at St Mary's Welwyn.

St Mary's Evening Book Group – *Wendy Lawrence*

The St Mary's Reading Group meets at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month to discuss a book chosen by agreement. We have read a wide variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Until March 2020 we gathered in each other's homes; since then, we have met over Zoom. We always have an interesting and thought-provoking evening. The group is open to all members of St Mary's.

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St Mary's Flower Team – Jenny Wiseman

Due to Covid 19, the Flower Team were a lot less busy during 2020. Weddings had to be postponed and we were unable to decorate the church for Easter due to the restrictions at the time. That was particularly sad as the vibrant Spring colours we use at Easter are very much appreciated. Easter flowers include white arum lilies which have been given in memory of a loved one. It is hoped that we will be able to do this again in 2021.

However, we did assemble as a team (socially distanced of course!) to decorate the Church for Harvest Festival and also for the Christmas services. We all had a new appreciation of doing what perhaps had been taken for granted in the past. In addition, a lady who recently moved into the village, was welcomed into the team.

When restrictions allowed, we provided sponsored altar arrangements. We were privileged to be asked to provide flowers for the funerals of two much loved people from the St Mary's family – Audrey Taylor and Dennis Dinsdale.

When services were live-streamed, it was good when David angled the camera so that the flowers were in view.

One of our regular and most gifted members, Alice Burnapp, has been very unwell during 2020. She has contributed her talents for many years – always coming up with new creative ideas. The Team send her heartfelt get well soon prayers.

Thanks to all the Flower Team for everything they've done during 2020. Let's face it – it was a year like no other.

St Mary's Website and Social Media – Su Blanch and Jane Carr

Digital communication has been particularly important since lockdown in March 2020, although we recognise that not everyone is on the internet. A number of people who had been inactive internet users skilled up with a little help here and there, and we were able to reach the vast majority of parishioners this way. Working as a team, Su Blanch and Jane Carr produced content and updated the website and social media. Su has taken care of Facebook (630 people follow the St Mary's page) and the occasional use of Twitter. Key events are shared with the village page which reaches the wider community quickly and efficiently. Jane has updated www.welwyn.org.uk on a weekly basis enabling people to access online worship and find out about activities taking place. Our 'A Church Near You' page has been directed to the website to save time in updating both.

St Mary's Parish Prayers – Wendy Lawrence

Prayer underpins the life of the parish. There is an informal prayer meeting in the St Nicholas chapel every Saturday morning, from 9 – 9:30, led by the clergy. Everyone is welcome to attend. We pray for the parish and the churches in the team, and also for individual concerns and topical issues. Prayer requests can be given to members of the clergy or attached to the prayer board by the entrance to the St Nicholas Chapel.

St Mary's Theatre Group – Sue Knowles

Not much to report either as obviously no theatre trips have been allowed. I also think that it will be very hard to run them again as people will be reluctant to go to crowded places especially in the Autumn and Winter. I would quite like to stand down from this role so please consider whether you would like to take on this task.

St Michael's After School Club –

The St Michael's After School Club meets in St Michael's Church on a Wednesday from 3.15pm-4.15pm.

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St Mary's Music – Linden Innes-Hopkins

Choir

Between the last submitted report regarding the choir at St Mary's (September 2020), and the end of 2020, the nuts and bolts of the choir activities have remained unchanged. A group of 10 singers was permitted to meet for a shortened choir practice on Fridays and to sing at the Sunday morning services. In addition, the scattered diaspora of the virtual singers continued to provide at least one item for inclusion in the Sunday worship. Singers in this group included mostly our regular members but also willing extras from – among other places – Dundee and Biggleswade! This group was renamed STARS, for that is certainly what they are, but also because STARS contains a hidden acronym: St Mary's At home Recorded Singers.

Despite the restrictions in terms of numbers and limited practice time, the choir sang not one but two Carol Services, on consecutive evenings. These were accompanied by Claire Innes-Hopkins, Director of Chapel Music at the University of St Andrew's and we were delighted to have her with us. Determined not to allow such a highlight of the choir year to fall prey to mediocre music, the singers learned two new pieces for the occasion: *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* by the Swedish composer, Sandstrom, and Philip Stopford's heart-wrenching *Lully, lulla, lullay*.

The choir's tradition is to hold a party after the Carol Service; in 2020 this was held online and was surprisingly successful, with everyone in good spirits and raising a glass to the hope of singing together in the future. John Swift somehow managed to secrete surprise thank you gifts to the homes of Nikki Lewis and Stephen Jupp to thank them for their continued offering of their time and skill to the editing of the virtual hymns and anthems!

Of course, we are all hoping that 2021 will see a return to choral singing as we know it but, as I write, choirs can only field three singers at any one time.

Welwyn Tune

For most of 2020, Welwyn Tune did not meet. However, there were a few Zoom practices towards the end of the year, which enabled Welwyn Tune to participate in some of the Christmas services. The younger members, particularly, have been reluctant to come along to the Zoom practices, but it is hoped that – once practising together is permitted again – they will be keen to come along.

Organ recitals

Sensing that people were really missing live music and realising that an organ recital would never be oversubscribed (alas! for there is much fine organ music!), Linden Innes-Hopkins (Director of Music at St Mary's) decided to give an organ recital on the first Saturday morning of September. It proved popular and has developed into a 'first Saturday of the month' series. Linden was joined by Michelle Boylan (soprano) for the December recital. Thanks to John Swift for his 'front of house' presence and to Nikki Lewis for recording the recitals and uploading them to YouTube.

Signature

Date

St Mary's Walking Group – *Joy and Robin Whitten*

We were lucky to manage a few walks between the lockdowns this year. Ever optimistic, we hope to be able to do some in the spring/summer of 2021

We have about 60 members of whom we about 25 walk each month. We welcome newcomers and the walks offer a great opportunity to meet people.

On the third Monday of each month, we meet at a local pub, walk some four to five miles and return to the pub for lunch. The walks are led by volunteers who help us to enjoy the wide variety of lovely countryside around Welwyn. It is a very enjoyable way to have some exercise and a friendly chat. If you are interested and live in or around Welwyn or have a connection with our church, do contact us.

Joy and Robin Whitten 01438 716036

St Mary's Welcome Team – *Jenny Wiseman*

During 2020 the ministry of Welcome has been demonstrated in all sorts of unexpected ways.

You will have read previous APCM reports from me where I have said that showing welcome to newcomers to St Mary's is the duty and joy of all of us – not just for those on the Welcome Team.

During each phase of the Lockdown, either when St Mary's was completely shut, and then when restrictions were eased, and our church was open in a restricted, socially-distanced way, we have come to understand that we are being directed to demonstrate our love for each other as Christians. We have seen this happen in our concern for each other. Technology has helped in this. Most of us, a year ago, had no idea what Zoom was. Now it is being used by many to stay in touch. WhatsApp groups have linked people sharing good news and not-so-good news, and have alerted us to requests for prayer. Telephone calls became even more important to check on and catch up with old friends.

Daily walks have given the opportunity not only to bump into friends but also to meet new people and in this way, find out how they are coping with the enforced separation from family and friends. We have also been given the opportunity in all sorts of situations to show kindness and consideration to strangers – for example, giving space on the pavement or in the supermarket. God directs us all in everything we do.

Like many of you are, I am really pleased when we can resume gathered worship. However, this difficult time of the pandemic has shown us that *Welcome* is about everything we do and say as Christians in any place or situation we find ourselves. We have been given the opportunity of demonstrating Welcome with a fresh eye and energy to always share a story of hope and trust in God.

Welwyn Magazine – *Jane Carr*

As the pandemic restrictions took hold the Magazine team continued to produce the planned issues and from April 2020 made them available digitally on the church website. Our band of 50 volunteers resumed delivery in September. Alongside this we continued to provide digital copies to gain wider readership and help our advertisers at this difficult time. We did not collect subscriptions in 2020 but will ask subscribers to pay £10 in June 2021 to cover the issues received over the two years. We have bound copies of every issue of the magazine since 1871 and they provide a useful social history when looking back at local events in the past. There are many people involved who rightly deserve thanks and the magazine team is listed at the back of each issue. In particular we thank Tony Keach, Rita McNeil, and Evelyne Welch who take it in turns to put the magazine together, Joy & Robin Whitten who bundle the copies for the distributors, Helen Thompsett who manages the advertising and Sue Muncer who looks after the finances. Despite all the difficulties the Magazine Team has still been able to donate £6500 for 2020 to be divided equally between St Mary's and St Michael's churches.

Signature

Date

Email Bulletins: Church Updates – Jane Carr

In mid-March 2020 as church services were suspended, I offered to send out email communications to parishioners to help keep people in touch with the church. I had no idea that these twice-weekly 'email bulletins' would still be continuing a year later but feedback has been such that many people have found them to be of value, and so they continue. In the early days as people were locked down at home it seemed important to provide information about local services as well as giving church notices. The original distribution list emanated from the Electoral Roll for St Mary's and St Michael's and subsequently others, including non-church-goers, asked to be added and so it now goes to over 260 email addresses. Luckily the vast majority of people are on email as this was really the only practical way to communicate on a regular basis. The content has changed a bit over time and the bulletins have worked in conjunction with updates on the website to provide as much information as possible. We do recognise however there are some people who are not on the internet who we have been unable to reach in this way.



St Mary's Bookstall



St Mary's Card stall

Signature

Date

APPENDIX 1 – Draft Minutes of the 2020 APCM

Minutes: Election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (St Mary’s Welwyn with St Michael’s Woolmer Green)

Meeting: Wednesday 14th October 2020 in Church House and via Zoom at 8.00pm

	Names
Attendees	David Munchin [DM] , Veronne Allan [VA], Jane Bacon, Beth Bates, Gina Beck [GB], Don Bell [DB], Su Blanch [SB], John Burnapp [JB], Geoff Cummings [GC], Jackie Davis [JD], Joyce Davis, Shoena Eggington [SE], Daniel Holroyd-Thomas, Linden Innes-Hopkins, David Hughes, Louise Hughes, Diane Jenkin [DJ], Stuart Jenkin [SJ], Stephen Jupp, Sue Keach [SK], Wendy Lawrence [WL], Joan Shelley [JS], Jane Smith, Michael Smith, Maggie Varco [MV], Joan Webb, Stuart Westley [SW], and Jenny Wiseman. 28 attendees
Apologies	Gay Carpenter, Mike Carpenter and Ann Harper.
Minute taker	Daniel Holroyd-Thomas.

Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

NO.	AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	ACTION POINTS
1	Opening Prayer	The meeting was opened with a prayer.	N/A for information. Complete ✓
2	Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting (3rd April 2019) To be approved and signed.	-----	Approved and signed as an accurate record. To be communicated ✉
3	Election of Churchwardens	The existing churchwardens, Diane Jenkin, Stuart Westley (St Mary’s) and Sue Keach (St Michael’s), were nominated and seconded. DM thanked the churchwardens for their continued ministry.	The nominations of Susan Keach, Stuart Westley and Diane Jenkin were unanimously approved. Complete ✓

Signature

Date

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

NO.	AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	ACTION POINTS
1	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks	-----	N/A for information. Complete ✓
2	Attendance and Apologies for Absence	-----	N/A for information. To be communicated ✉
3	Review of Minutes from Previous APCM (3rd April 2019) To be approved and signed.	-----	Approved and signed as an accurate record. Complete ✓
4	Matters Arising	-----	-----
5	Assistant Churchwardens for St Mary's and St Michael's	No assistant churchwardens were elected this year; DM remembered John Farrow, and remarked upon all he had done for the church.	John Farrow was unanimously elected. Complete ✓
6	Lay Members to the Parochial Church Council	DM extended a thank you to Wendy Lawrence and Su Blanch, who stood down at this meeting. It was confirmed that JS, GB and GC would continue as members of the PCC. JS's nomination was proposed by SJ and seconded by DJ. GB's nomination was proposed by SK and seconded by Jane Smith. GC's nomination was proposed by DB and seconded by JB. Newly elected to the PCC were SJ and MV. SJ's nomination was proposed by DB and seconded by VA. MV's nomination was proposed by Su Blanch and seconded by VA. The PCC extended their welcome to the new members.	Stuart Jenkin and Maggie Varco were unanimously elected. Complete ✓






Signature

Date

7	Sidespeople	Margaret Tucker's removal from the list at St Michael's was unanimously approved.	Margaret Tucker's resignation was noted. Complete ✓
8	Independent Examiner	The PCC's current independent examiner, Peter McKay at Nicholson Chartered Accountants was elected as the examiner for the next year. DM reported that DB is happy with Nicholson.	Nicholson Chartered Accountants was re-approved as Independent Examiner of the parish. Complete ✓
9	Team Rector's Report	DM's report was duly noted.	N/A for information. To be communicated ✉
10	PCC Report	The PCC report was distributed in the compiled booklet before the meeting.	N/A for information. To be communicated ✉
11	Deanery Synod Report	VA's report was duly noted. DM extended his thanks to the Deanery Synod Reps.	N/A for information. To be communicated ✉
12	Team Council Report	-----	N/A for information. To be communicated ✉

Signature

Date

13	St Mary's Fabric Report	DM expressed the PCC's thanks to Stuart Carr, who had stepped down since the last PCC, and extended a welcome to SJ, who has kindly replaced him.	N/A for information. To be communicated 
14	St Mary's Safeguarding Report	DM reported that there had been no incidents since the last APCM.	N/A for information. To be communicated 
15	St Michael's Church Report	A thank you was extended to SK for all the work she and the rest of the team do for St Michael's.	N/A for information. To be communicated 
16	Secondary Reports	The reports were duly noted.	N/A for information. To be communicated 
17	Any Other Business	-----	-----
28	Conclusion and Grace	The meeting ended with the Grace.	N/A; for information. To be communicated 

Signature

Date



Signature

Date