

2020 Draft Accounts showed a deficit due to covid and lack of visitors and tourist. We were very fortunate to receive a legacy from Countess Poulett which kept us going through Covid. We have recently obtained a 'Good Box' card reader which will enable donations to be used by a card, instead of cash.

The 2021 accounts will be moved onto a computerised system.

Thanks were expressed to both Christine Whitfield, Christine Tostevin and Ruth White for their work on the 2020 accounts. The accounts are currently being audited by Roger Bignell.

Roger Bignall as Auditor was re-elected.

Proposed by: Eddie Cuthbert

Seconded by: Mary Jordan

MAINTENANCE – Churchwardens Report

Frank Walker said that the Rectory and Churchyard and carpark all in good condition. The Parish allocated the Tresor account £30,000; and we hope that we will receive the same again in the coming year. The biggest work undertaken during 2020 was the maintenance of the Oak Tree by the path down to church from the Lych Gate. Sadly, the branch overhanging the pathway had to be removed for safety reasons; and the whole tree had a good prune. Hopefully she is now safe and healthy and can continue for a long time.

Frank thanked both the sextons and Ruth for their work around the church and churchyard.

Worship

Mark discussed what a strange year it has been – we were excluded from church for a long time due to Covid and we're not used to having a closed church. Gladly we're now back in church for services and once some electrical streaming equipment is more secure we hope to re-open the church during the daytime in the coming weeks.

For several months our services were a pre-recorded service which was then streamed on the website. Fortunately Mark had the skills and equipment to do this and really enjoyed it and at some points we had over 200 devices logging onto the stream. We now have the situation where although we are back in church for services, we still have a lot of people watching either the live streamed service or the recording of it. So this will be here to stay. Jane Cuthbert expressed her thanks for this option, as when she wasn't able to attend service, she could still join in online. We regularly have people watching from Scotland, France, India and Maison St Brelade Care home. To give people privacy (and also for GDPR rules) when people go up to take communion, there is a video shown on the streaming, so that people cannot be identified. Whilst a church service is public, people's individual religious views are private.

We are currently using TV screens for the liturgy and hymns; and so we have brought our church worship into the 21st Century. We are waiting for our Organ to be tuned, which is due to happen in August. The feedback that we've had from wedding couples is that they're happy to have video'd music instead of the church organ as it gives them more flexibility. Kevin our Organist is due to move to Jersey in the summer.

Safeguarding Policy

We have to adopt this policy every year at the AGM which was duly done.

GDPR Policy

We have to adopt this policy every year at the AGM and this was duly done.

Health and Safety Policy

We have to adopt this policy every year at the AGM and this was duly done.

Above Policies unanimously accepted by all.

Electoral Roll

2021 Electoral Roll – Total of 90 people; comprising 66 from St Brelade and 24 from St Aubin on the Hill

HOSPITALITY – Sales

Ruth reported that no sales accounts were produced as due Covid and the lack of visitors the church was locked and there were no sales. The Fishermen's Chapel remained open and all the money in the sales safe in there went straight into church funds – this totalled £1,700 over the year. The year ended in December 2020 with £3,400 in the Sales Account.

Retreat Cottage

A quiet year for the cottages; but they managed to donate £1,000 to Mercy Ships; £1,000 to Crisis and £250 to the Salvation Army.

Bookings for 2021 are back to the usual busyness.

Verger

Ruth reported how different it had been, but despite reduced numbers of services, weddings and baptisms it was still busy but in a different way.

Along with Tony Bellows and Judy Dingle she was involved with the creation and production of the Weekly Marantha newsletter and this is sent out to nearly 130 email addresses and 20 postal addressed. The Marantha will be taking a break over the summer but will resume in the autumn. Anyone who would like to contribute was asked to get in touch. The facebook page has increased it's followers from 70 in early 2021 to nearly 230 now.

In another effort to keep in touch, a small coffee get together was organised in the Church Hall for parishioners who were on their own – but this was very restricted due to covid numbers. At Christmas time we delivered little Christmas Gift Bags to people who we felt would be especially missing seeing their families.

The technology in the church has changed a lot over the past year, and now requires two people to operate it on a Sunday morning. More volunteers are needed to help this work on a rota basis.

Ruth expressed her thanks to Mark for his patience as she learnt the new technology and to Judy Dingle for all her help during the year.

OUTREACH

Communicare – The Library that was at the old Les Quennevais school has recently relocated to Communicare. The staff were furloughed during covid, but it is now fully functioning again and is very busy with bookings.

Occasional Offices – Funerals were slightly down last year; Weddings were much lower but we have bumper bookings for this year to catch up; Baptisms are still not allowed as Mark is not allowed to hold the baby; but we hope to resume these soon.

Mission Project – Mercy Ships is still our project, and we keep links with Joel and Manjula in India; their daughter in law has been very unwell with covid; but is fortunately now out of hospital and back home.

Sanctuary House – Two houses, one in St Aubin which is the entry house; once the resident is back on track they can then move to the second house at Beaumont. Hopefully from there they will be able to move into their own flat, but still with support where required. Sanctuary Trust have bought a second house in St Aubin which is currently being refurbished and this will provide another entry house for 6 men. There are also plans in place to implement a similar scheme for women in Jersey; which will hopefully happen at the end of 2021. Frank said how grateful they are to the some very generous donors who support this valuable work. It is good to be associated (and the owner of the shares) of this fantastic charity. If anyone would like to visit, then let Frank know.

Love Thy Neighbour – Also owned by the Church. The shop hopes to re-open soon. Cat helps out with lots of people in the community.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm with thanks to Eddie and Jane Cuthbert for their generous donation of a sound system to play church bells, which we hope to start using at the end of June.