

ALL SAINTS CHURCH RAVENS DEN

In accordance with the Notices fixed to the Notice Boards, the meeting for the Parishioners will be held on SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021 11.15 am and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Ravensden will be held on SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021 immediately following the Meeting of the Parishioners.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Parishioners 2021

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 8 March 2020
3. Election of Church Wardens
4. Presentation of the Terrier and Inventory
5. Churchwardens' remarks
6. AOB

2. The Parish of All Saints Ravensden Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners Sunday 8th March 2020 11:30am in the Church

Present

10 members of the Parish/on Electoral Roll, the Priest in Charge the Rev Timothy Wilson and 2 observers.

Apologies

Received from Mr Trevor Stewart, Mrs Margaret Bright and Mrs Chris Bend.

Minutes of Meeting 10th March 2019

Approved: proposed by Mrs Krystyna Oborn, seconded by Mrs Cathy Goodman; all in favour.

There were no Matters arising.

Election of Churchwardens

No one had been nominated to serve as Churchwardens so once again the Parish has no Church Wardens for a further year.

Presentation of the Terrier & Inventory

Thanks were given to Trevor Stewart and Paul Woodcraft for maintaining the Terrier and Inventory and keeping it up to date.

There was no any other business. The meeting closed at 11:45am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 8 March 2020
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (not covered in the agenda)
4. Formal Reports for 2020
 - a. Ravensden Annual Report of the PCC
 - b. Rectors Report
 - c. Treasurers Report
 - d. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for 2021
 - e. Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2020
 - f. Ravensden Church Electoral Roll
5. Elections
 - a. Six representatives to Parochial Church Council
6. Other Reports
 - a. Building and Churchyard Report
 - b. Sharnbrook Deanery Synod report
 - c. Friends of Ravensden Church
 - d. Ravensden Primary School
7. Safeguarding Update
8. GDPR Update
9. AOB

2 The Parish of All Saints Ravensden Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020 Held on 8 March 2020 at 11:45am

Present

10 members of the Electoral Roll, the Priest in Charge the Rev Timothy Wilson and 2 observers.

Apologies

Received from Mr Trevor Stewart, Mrs Margaret Bright and Mrs Chris Bend.

Minutes of the Meeting 10th March 2019

Approved: proposed by Miss Alison Baggott, seconded by Mr Ian Petley; all in favour.

There were no Matters arising.

Formal Reports for 2019:

Trustees' Report

A report of the workings of the PCC as Trustees of the Parish for the year to 31 December 2019 was presented by the PCC Secretary Mrs Krystyna Oborn and received by all.

Financial Report

A report from the Treasurer and Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 was presented by Miss Alison Baggott in the absence of the PCC Treasurer Mr Trevor Stewart. The meeting received the unexamined 2019 accounts that had already been formally adopted by the PCC.

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for 2020

It was noted with sadness the recent death of Mr Gerry Garner who had offered to examine our 2019 accounts. During his final illness Mr Garner had passed this task on to a colleague - Mr Richard Fone - who was still working on the 2019 accounts awaiting various items of paperwork.

Mr Fone was willing to examine the forthcoming accounts for 2020, proposed by Mr Paul Woodcraft and seconded by Miss Alison Baggott, and all were in favour.

Electoral Roll Report for 2020

In the absence of Mrs Margaret Bright, Electoral Roll Officer, The Rev Timothy Wilson reported the Electoral Roll stood at 25 following the recent Revision. I name had been added during the year but no new names had been added at the recent revision. We sadly noted the recent death of Mr Christopher Money, who has also been our church organist for some years.

Elections:

Election of 1 representative to Sharnbrook Deanery Synod

Mr Ian Petley was proposed by Mrs Cathy Goodman and seconded by Mr Paul Woodcraft; all in favour.

Election of 6 representatives to Parochial Church Council

Miss Alison Baggott, Mrs Cathy Goodman, Mrs Christine Jones, Mr Trevor Stewart and Mr Paul Woodcraft were proposed by Mrs Dorothy Petley and seconded by Miss Krystyna Oborn.

There being no further nominations these 5 were elected; all in favour.

Mrs Jones was especially welcomed as a new member of PCC standing for the first time, and other members were thanked who had stood for some years for standing once again.

There remains one vacancy for an elected member of the PCC.

Mrs Krystyna Oborn is also a member of the PCC as an elected member of St Albans Diocesan Synod.

Reports from groups within the church in the parish

Thanks were given to Mrs Krystyna Oborn for compiling the Annual Report which contains our full financial and treasurer's report for 2019, also the PCC's Trustee's Report.

- Mr Paul Woodcraft had written a Building and Churchyard Report
- A report on the Sharnbrook Deanery Synod from Mr Ian Petley
- A report from the Friends of Ravensden Church by Mrs Chris Bend, presented in her absence by Mrs Cathy Goodman
- A Safeguarding report for the 5 Parishes in our 2 Benefices was written by Mr Doug McWilliam from Colmworth, our Benefices Safeguarding Officer.

Miss Alison Baggott is our local Parish Safeguarding Rep

Rev Timothy Wilson noted there are 55 different places for people across the 5 Parishes including PCC members, Churchwardens and others involved in leading group. There are 17 vacancies across our PCCs,

So of those remaining 38 people, 26 had completed the DBS check process – ie $\frac{3}{4}$ - which is very encouraging since all this was recommenced less than a year ago. The 12 people yet to complete this process are all on the way to it being done

- Mrs Lorraine Knight from Colmworth who is part of the Wilden congregation is the GDPR officer for the Benefices.

Ian Petley is the Ravensden Rep and is working with Lorraine for us to be GDPR Compliant.

The Rev Timothy Wilson gave his own personal report on his first full year in the Parishes in his 'Vicar's Voice' which is attached separately to the Annual Report.

Any Other Business

Mr Paul Woodcraft explained to the Meeting that due to the large number of grave reservations already in our small churchyard, and a number of recent ones that have been approved, the PCC had recently taken to decision not to support any further grave reservation applications, since we wanted the remaining space to be available for parishioners who die in the coming years.

The meeting closed with Prayer and the grace said by all at 12:30pm.

4. Formal Reports 2020

a. Ravensden Church Annual Report of the PCC 2020

Who and what we are

Ravensden Church is in the Diocese of St Albans and Sharnbrook Deanery and is part of the three Parish Benefice of Wilden with Ravensden and Colmworth. During 2019 the Benefice agreed to work in partnership with the Benefice of Bolnhurst and Keysoe.

The village of Ravensden is about 4 miles north of Bedford and consists of a series of rural hamlets each with a distinct personality. In addition, an urban estate had been built which falls within the ecclesiastical boundary of the village (not however within the Local Authority parish boundary). There is however no vehicular access from the estate to the Parish. This estate is due for extension by some 200 units which will be accessed from the Parish.

Development is underway on the conversion of the Curry Mansion into a small number of houses. There are currently ongoing discussions in relation to any housing development within the Parish.

All Saints Church is a grade one listed building which stands at the top of the hill in Church End.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a Corporate body established under Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church together with the care and maintenance of the church building and its contents. The PCC co-operate with the Minister to promote the whole mission of the Church: pastoral: evangelical: social and ecumenical

Unfortunately, the church remains without Churchwardens however members of the PCC and a team of volunteers have kept the church operating.

The church is well supported by the wider community and a Friend's Group remains however it has not been possible for the group to organise any social or fund raising activities throughout the year because of the COVID situation.

Aims and Purposes

The Church remains in contact with Ravensden VA Primary School located at Church End. Which became Ravensden Church of England Primary Academy - part of the Diocese of St Albans multi academy trust on 1st January 2021.

Our primary objective is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England

Worship

The current pandemic has seriously impacted the life and work of whole community and Ravensden church. With the initial national lockdown, the Church was closed to all in March 2020. After extensive risk assessment and enabling work, the church re-opened for worship on a limited basis, with the congregation observing social distancing, and without singing.

Across the two Benefices online pre-recorded Words of Hope have been produced on a weekly basis since the first lockdown. This has been well received and draws a good number of hits on a regular basis. A regular Wednesday bible meeting has continued to take place remotely throughout the year and we are all becoming more adept negotiating Zoom.

Two weddings were due to take place in the church during 2020, one was postponed to September with very restricted attendance. The second was postponed to 2021.

Mission Action Plan

The PCC have held an initial meeting to consider the update of the current Mission Action Plan identifying the key themes of services; partnerships; outreach; music. The PCC will continue to develop the MAP during 2021.

b. Rector's Report for 2020

In January we began our new Service Pattern for the 5 churches which had been widely planned and consulted and was well received. We began the process of Reviewing our Mission Action Plans with the Rev Paul Davies meeting Wilden PCC and others through the year. I also completed my first year so began a midterm report for Bishop Richard and Archdeacon Dave.

In February we marked Ash Wednesday with school services at both Wilden and Ravensden and a joint Communion Service at Keysoe with our benefice choir. Sadly, our organist at Ravensden Christopher Money died after a short illness and his unique character as well as his playing for church services is sorely missed.

March was to see the biggest challenge our world has faced for many decades as we went into full Lockdown due to COVID. We had planned Mothering Sunday services and our first joint 5th Sunday service for the 5 Parishes, but we filmed our first online act of Worship within 2 days of Lockdown being announced and this has continued every Sunday ever since. But I conducted my first Baptism at Ravensden which was to be the last since then. We also began assemblies at Kymbrook School at Keysoe and have managed a couple of visits since then and welcomed them to church despite the Lockdown. Our Lent course met just once 'LIVE' but we soon started our weekly Wednesday night 'ZOOM' gatherings which have also continued since then.

In April we celebrated Holy Week and Easter online and got used to cancelling and postponing trips, holidays and weddings. Ravensden had held their APCM in March before the LOCKDOWN, but all our other planned APCMs were put on hold for further notice and eventually happened later in the year.

May was full of cancelled events but lots of meetings on ZOOM. And we marked VE Day with tolling church bells, 'virtual' and socially distanced teas with neighbours and a very moving event at Keysoe War Memorial. Ascension Day Deanery Service was held on ZOOM and we also met for Deanery ZOOM 'Thy Kingdom' Come' prayers each evening until Pentecost, when what was to be our 1st joint 5th Sunday service at Bolnhurst with the Archdeacon Preaching was pre-recorded for 'Words of Hope', and we had a live ZOOM 'virtual after church coffee' chat with Archdeacon Dave.

In June I had a number of ZOOM meetings with the Bishop and Archdeacon and Deanery Leaders and also with various other people about the future of my 2-year Interim Post here in preparation for our pre-planned 18 Months review July meeting with the Bishop and Archdeacon. Lockdown began gradually to ease so I was able briefly outside to visit the Parishes again, and we began a number of ZOOM meetings with reps from each of our 5 churches about how we could soon reopen our Parish Churches for Public Worship - and we prepared many risk assessments!

In July I celebrated my 30th Ordination Anniversary with all my colleagues from 1990 online rather than at Hereford Cathedral as we'd planned! We held our 18 months review open

meeting on ZOOM. The Bishop announced that I would be staying on as Priest in Charge (still at 0.8) for the foreseeable future, although we began a process of 're-imagining the Deanery' with the challenge of so many Grade 1 listed Parish churches serving very small communities in this very rural and sparsely populated part of North Bedfordshire.

In August we recommenced Public Worship at all our 5 Churches and with the beautiful weather and life beginning to open up again with holidays and eating out we felt we were coming out of the worst of the Pandemic. Our children's summer venture camp we've run for many decades residentially was run virtually 'on-line' over 2 mornings, but I was encouraged that 6 youngsters from our Benefices joined us! We continued discussion about the future of both Ravensden and Wilden Schools, beginning the process of Ravensden joining the Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust and appointing a third interim head teacher for Wilden this time to explore working in collaboration with Riseley Church of England School.

September felt like a time of new starts with sorting a number of practical projects at our churches now we could meet up again albeit still with many restrictions. Wilden had its new lighting fitted. Colmworth continued discussion about major investment needed as the building is on the English Heritage 'At Risk Register'; Ravensden had work done on electrics and heating and other works thanks to a generous legacy. Keysoe continued with exploration of the tower, walls and windows as they too are on the English Heritage 'At Risk register. Bolnhurst also made plans for building projects and we all began to plan postponed APCMs for October, some actual but one virtual.

In October we marked Harvest in all our churches and some outside but missed our harvest suppers with the opportunity not just to eat and drink as we celebrated together but also to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves. But I was encouraged by the ongoing support our churches and individual members continued to give the Food Banks and Homelessness projects in Bedford and St Neots.

November we were all shocked with the sudden rise again of COVID cases as we went into the second complete Lockdown. But we did manage to arrange some small Remembrance Sunday events at very short notice. We were glad we had continued with 'Words of Hope' online services every week and our ZOOM gatherings and meetings.

December saw the Lockdown lifted as we prepared for Christmas services and events albeit very limited, and many more planned events were cancelled. But some amazing creativity came out with outside events and the famous Colmworth Nativity went live on ZOOM! By the end of the month, we could see the third Lockdown coming and 2021 began with what seemed to be a really bleak future ahead.

But looking to our future as our Benefices of 5 Parishes, I see many opportunities and encouragements as well as challenges ahead. All our 5 Parishes have considered our Mission Action Plans as well as work we have done together as Benefices and some similar themes are emerging. Working together and in partnership with others in our Parishes and Benefices is vital, with our Governance and Administrative Structures including with other churches in our Deanery. This especially involves our buildings where we need to have radical vision for their greater community use especially for social, cultural, arts and health and wellbeing gatherings if they are going to survive and continue to serve our communities and wider as Parish Churches. But financially, despite worrying predictions due to COVID earlier in the year, 4 out of our 5 Parishes were able somehow by God's gracious provision through His generous people to pay their Parish Share in full, so collectively we were only a few thousand short of our £48,000 joint requested Parish Share which was very encouraging. We also want to continue as places of prayer and worship and pastoral and practical care where we can

welcome others into our services and events and be equipped to go out and serve others in our communities and all of God's world.

Timothy Wilson; April 2021

**c. Treasurers Report and Financial Statement for end of financial year at 31st.
December 2020.**

The financial Statement 2020 is attached and the audited financial statement 2019 are provided as appendices to these papers.

The confirmed balance at the end of the Financial Year 2020 was £16210 - 37 including the £7500 – 00 reserved sums, leaving £8710 – 00 to cover routine housekeeping expenses etc.

This balance is £5746 – 48 more than the previous year but that is almost entirely attributable to the already allocated, but as yet unpaid, amounts from the Reynolds Bequest. This will be almost entirely used up as soon as the heating works have been completed, and the notice board and shed erected.

The income during the year was unsurprisingly down on both 2019, and 2018, almost entirely due to the absence of any plate collections. This was cushioned by the Reynolds Bequest and fortunately the planned Gift Aided Donations held firm with no cessations. That made a very considerable difference and a sincere thank you is due to everyone who helps in this way.

Payments in total were higher in 2019 mainly because of an increased contribution to the Parish Share, the 2020 expenditure includes the purchase of the notice board, electrical repairs, additional works on the organ and full gutter clearance.

The grant from Bedford Borough Council in respect of the shed was not received until 2021.

Although this balance may appear significant, it should be noted that £3000 – 00 has already been spent during 2021 on part payment of the Parish Share and the Council may recall that in the absence of a significant grant from the Parish Council for 2021, most of the cost of the contracted churchyard maintenance will have to be found from the reserved churchyard account during the coming year.

The electricity supplier has been changed in order to make some savings from a better tariff, oil is always purchased at the best available rate on the day, the insurance cost increase has been kept down to 1% by being part of a three-year contract. Water can of course only be supplied by one company.

This report and the accounts were received and approved by the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd. February 2021.

T.N.Stewart. Treasurer

d. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner for 2021

Richard Fone has agreed to provide this service for the church for 2021 accounts. The meeting is asked to formally appoint Mr Fone.

e. Ravensden Church Electoral Roll

A verbal report to be given at the meeting.

6. Other Reports 2020

a. Building and Churchyard Report

It has been a difficult year with the church being closed basically since last March, so any work has been problematic. The fire extinguishers have had their annual service and some electrical repairs have been completed. The heating continued to be a problem, but a new radiator has been fitted along with a new pump and the boiler serviced. The system has been power flushed as well so let us keep our fingers crossed. The roof had its annual inspection. Some repairs had to be done and all the gutters cleaned.

During the year, our Architect resigned so work on the Quinquennial Report came to a halt. The PCC are in the process of appointing a replacement. Once completed he will be requested to look at the Tower steps and Porch along with the other urgent repairs.

We have a new Noticeboard sitting in the Church waiting to be fixed but is being delayed by the work required to the tree at the main gate. It is hoped this can be resolved shortly. All the required planning and faculties are in place for the new shed being erected at the back of the churchyard. It is hoped this will be completed early Spring. Subject to covid restriction being eased.

We were able to light the Cross at Christmas and Holy Week much to the pleasure of all. Our thanks to those who managed to change the bulbs and carry out the required maintenance. Also, a big thank you to all who made donations to cover the costs.

The Churchyard continues to be maintained by a contractor to cut the grass and some hedges, but a big thank you to the volunteers who cut the front hedge. Five stones have had major repairs done by their families to make them safe. Work on clearing the Spinney has started and will continue through this year. Our thanks to the two Duke of Edinburgh boys for volunteering to do this work (and their Dad for his support) Sadly the cost of maintaining the Churchyard continues to rise and support by the Parish Council is very much appreciated. However, this coming year we will have a short fall which the PCC will have to find the funds to cover.

To all those who continue to support and help with the work on both Building and Churchyard a big thank you.

Paul Woodcraft

b. Sharnbrook Deanery Synod Report 2020

One meeting took place before lockdown on 17th Feb 2020

the remainder due to Covid 19, took place on Zoom as follows; -

In February Rev. Phil Bryson & Mark Dunwoody from the "Reaching New People Team" updated the Synod with opportunities for Lay Minister training and enablement which the diocese wishes to expand upon focused on people's gifts. Foundation courses are available.

Keith Williams spoke further about the "Leading Through Change " document and some of the Achievements of the last few years . 30 Churches work together and have launched

"Our Voice Youth Group" a Mission Support Plan is in place and we are encouraged with the "Big Conversation" to think about growing younger.

In June David Bevan from Historic Churches gave a talk highlighting that there are still Churches in the Deanery that do not have roof alarms or Smart water protection. Grants are available to cover most of the cost of installation.

Life in Lockdown was discussed Zoom and You Tube (online) services and informal meetings as well as formal, PCC Wardens and reps and viewing figures have been high, a lot has had to be learnt in a short time.

The Re-imagining the Deanery paper was discussed, to use this time as positive into a new normal, not managing a decline as the church is facing huge pressures Nationally with finances, building repairs and an inability to fill Churchwarden and PCC vacancies.

In September Cliff Andrews from Beds. Rural Community Charity gave a talk on its support of rural communities involving a wide range of different activities in Bedfordshire.

Covid 19 has presented many new challenges to all parts of the Deanery and has shown the importance of the Re-imagining the Deanery project. God is showing us the way we need to discuss share thoughts and prayerfully follow his will, so we can grow.

In November Canon David Moreton reminded that although not many children attend services that there are 8 Church and 11 Community led schools in the Deanery. The work of the Diocesan Board of Education, working and supporting these schools with regular communication focused training with pastoral support and prayer.

Re-imagining the Deanery project was discussed, remembering that this is Gods Church that we must discern his will and how he is guiding us forward, together, and united. A review is happening to engage and involve incumbents and parishioners in discussion to assess the current situation and common themes.

The Parish Share was discussed, a third parishes are not able to pay in full. For some other things are taking priority, some are withholding payment whilst holding significant reserves. There is also evidence of sacrificial giving.

Ian Petley

c. Friends of Ravensden Church Report

I would normally now be writing a short report about the activities, fundraising or otherwise, that the Friends had organised in the church over the past year. Sadly, all the events that we planned at our meeting in February 2020 had to be cancelled due to the virus. On a train home from London in November I had a bright idea about a fun activity over the colder months, but that would have involved groups of people wandering around the village and Boris soon put paid to that. Once the route map allows us we shall hopefully be back with lots of exciting events.

I would like to use this report though to say a huge thank you to everybody who has continued to support the Friends of the Church with donations over the year, even though we have not managed to improve the fabric of the church due to Covid restrictions or even entertain you in any way. All your contributions are very welcome believe me and will be put to good use when we are able to get back to normal. Many thanks.

Chris Bend Chair Friends of the Church

d. Ravensden School Report

Ravensden Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School closed on 31st December 2020 and re-opened as Ravensden Church of England Primary Academy on 1st January 2021.

2020 was a challenging year not just due to COVID restrictions, school closures and online learning, but working through the implications of Ofsted placing the School in Special Measures in January 2020 following the Ofsted in the Autumn of 2019. In Autumn 2019 the Governing body was already small so were recruiting new Foundation Governors. The PCC were just in the process of appointing Mrs Amanda Colbert and Mr Mark O'Leary to the Governing body and Mrs Lorraine Knight was being appointed by the Diocese. After a few further resignations from the Governing Body at the beginning of the year, there were just 4 Governors - so two of us were appointed as joint Chairs – Mr Alleyne Leach (The LA Governor) and myself; and two parent Governors as joint Vice Chairs – Mrs Isabel Harker and Mr Garry Russon, along with the Head Mrs Anna Spyropoulos and Teacher Governor Mrs Kate Larkworthy, although the 3 new Governors quickly joined us.

Following the Ofsted report made public in January, a Parents' meeting was held attended by representatives from the Diocese, Bedford Local Authority and our School Improvement Partner. The meeting was remarkably positive and supportive of the school, the Head and the staff, who had already worked hard to respond to the recommendations of the Ofsted report and noticeable changes and improvements in all aspects of the school were clearly already evident.

However, under Government Legislation the school was automatically under an enforced academisation order, and a Rapid Improvement Board was set up under the terms of this order. I chaired this Board throughout 2020 which included Mrs Lorraine Knight, the Head Teacher, a Deputy Director of St Albans Board of Education, a Representative of Bedford Schools Department, and our School Improvement Partner. The Board met 6 times during the year whilst discussions between the Diocese and Bedford Education Authority continued.

In August, St Albans Director of Education met with Alleyne Leach and myself and the Chief Executive of St Albans Diocese Multi Academy Trust (DStA-MAT) about the School joining this Trust. In September Governors unanimously received this news and the Regional Schools Officer authorised this move in October. Much legal exploration and administration was undertaken by the Officers of the Trust, The Governors, and the School - especially by the School's Business Manager Miss Sally Gloyn to whom our grateful thanks need to be recorded – and remarkably the legal transaction was completed as hoped by the end of the calendar year.

The Diocesan MAT is a growing group of approximately a dozen schools, due to be reworked into areas as another Primary school joined at the same time as we did.

All legal decisions and approval of policies etc is now done by the Trust. But the Trust are anxious that each school has a Local Governing Body and were pleased that a small Governing Body had stayed with the school through this difficult transition year, although Garry Russon had to resign in the summer due to work promotion and move to Norfolk and their children left the School as well. Mrs Amanda Colbert also resigned in the Autumn due to pressure of work.

The members of the new 'Local Governing Body' are no longer elected by the former Stakeholders of PCC, Diocese, Parents and Staff, but all members are appointed by the Trust who are keen to consult at a local level, and the number of members of the Local

Governing Body is yet to be determined but the expectation is it would be about 7-9 maximum. Currently including the Head there are 7 members and the Deputy Head also attends meetings. The majority are still former PCC and Diocesan appointees, so the church foundation of the School is maintained. We are also in the process of recruiting another parent to join the Body. Unlike some Trusts across the Country who have a very strong narrow focus on how all their Academies must be run, DStA-MAT are passionate about supporting, building on but still challenging local initiatives from staff, parents and the local Governing Body. For this reason, the Governors, staff, and parents were and still are fully enthusiastic about this move to be part of the DStA-MAT.

Our Clerk Mrs Jacqui Gibson stepped down in the Autumn, after many years' faithful service, due to family pressures, but also clerked the Rapid Improvement Board throughout 2020. We appointed Mrs Anne Thomas as our new Clerk who is also Clerk at Renhold and Bromham Church Schools, so brings much practical and relevant experience to our new role.

The life, curriculum and Christian character of the school continues to grow and thrive, and as Governors we have been fully involved in improvements and supporting necessary changes including Visits when we could between lockdowns. Lorraine and I are link Governors for RE, Wellbeing including Staff and Collective Worship. I continue to lead Collective Worship once a fortnight and this has been by ZOOM since the Autumn. We also continued to welcome the school to All Saints Church for Ash Wednesday, (but not Easter due to COVID closures), Summer, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which we hope to increase post COVID during 2021.

The Rev Timothy Wilson, Co-Chair of the new Local Governing Body, March 2021

7. Safeguarding Update

This is a Benefice Wide Safeguarding Report.

As many of you may be aware Doug McWilliam has done sterling service over the last 18 months in addressing the Safeguarding needs of the benefice and moving the situation forward at speed.

During 2020 Doug sadly decided that he was no longer able to fulfil the Safeguarding lead role across the benefices and no one felt able to take on. We currently have 4 safeguarding leads across the five churches

Jane Snaith	for Wilden and Colmworth
Caroline Griffin	for Keysoe
James Gooch	for Bolnhurst and
Alison Baggott	for Ravensden

These representatives agreed to work in collaboration on Safeguarding across the Benefices and are in the process of being set up for the online DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checking service.

In the early part of the year significant progress was made in completing DBS checks for all PCC members, and some identified other key members of the church communities. This progress was sadly impacted by the current COVID situation as it has not been possible to

complete the face-to-face validation of documents which is needed for a DBS check to take place.

In addition, many PCC members have completed the online training units, however progress has been halted following the withdrawing of face-to-face training for the final safeguarding module. The Diocese did offer a series of online Zoom training sessions however these were fully booked very quickly. The Diocese have now advised that the training for Safeguarding is under review.

Once the current lock down is lifted and the new Safeguarding training offer is finalised the Benefices will be able to continue to make progress to address the safeguarding requirements placed upon them.

Alison Baggott

Safeguarding APCM Declaration

“The PCC considers that they have, to the best of their knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. They confirm that there have been no incidents recorded since the last APCM.”

8. GDPR Update

During this challenging year the main focus on GDPR was ensuring we had a website data privacy notice in place for those parishioners wishing to access our on-line services and keeping our contact lists centrally managed and protected. We hope to be able to continue with our individual churches GDPR audits once we have returned to worshipping again in our churches. It can be reported that the majority of our benefice PCC members have moved to dedicated e-mail address, we actively encourage and recommend that where possible, everyone starts to use the dedicated church e-mails allowing enhanced data protection of our parishioner's personal information.