

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, AXMOUTH

**Annual Church Meetings
to be held online on Monday 10th May 2021 at 7.00 pm via Zoom**

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Notable Apologies

ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING

3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

4. Minutes of the APCM held on 18th March 2020
5. Matters arising not covered in this agenda
6. Reports
 - Vicar's Report
 - Electoral Roll
 - Annual PCC Report
 - Annual Financial Report
 - Churchwardens
 - Deanery Synod
 - Safeguarding
 - Other Reports
7. Election of Parochial Representatives if vacancies have arisen
 - Parochial Church Council
 - Deanery Synod
8. Any Other Business
9. Closing Prayer

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

10. PCC Elections
 - Electoral Roll Officer
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Sidesmen
11. Any Urgent Business

AXMOUTH CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING 2019

The meeting was held on Wednesday 18th March 2020 at 7 pm at St Michael's Church. The Revd Clive Sedgewick, Team Rector of the Axe Valley Mission Community, took the chair and opened in prayer.

ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING

This was a meeting of church members and of anyone residing in Axmouth and on the register to vote in local and national government elections. The purpose was to elect the Churchwardens. Rose Tidball was proposed by Judy Weeks and seconded by Frances Allhusen. Ann Harding was proposed by Sue Craker and seconded by Elisabeth Stewart. Both were elected unanimously on a show of hands.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This was a meeting of church members at which everyone on the church electoral roll was entitled to vote. Reports were for the previous year 2019 and Elections would be for 2020.

The minutes of the 2019 APCM were proposed by Nigel Harding, seconded by Rose Tidball and carried nem con. There were no matters arising that would not be covered by the current agenda.

Clive gave the Vicar's Report. It had been a shock when Kate Woolven resigned but he thought the way Axmouth Church had risen to the challenge to achieve regular worship and services and provide lay leadership had been exemplary. He had reflected that to the bishops as an example to other churches who might be in a similar position. He announced that there had been no objections to the Pastoral Reorganisation and we were now close to being formally licensed as a mission community of 8 churches. The pairing of Axmouth with Uplyme would be discontinued and both churches would join Axminster, All Saints, Chardstock, Combpyne, Holy Cross and Membury in the Axe Valley Mission Community. under the leadership of the Team Rector and the Team Vicar. Discussions were in progress. The other churchwardens were enjoying working with Rose Tidball and Ann Harding. The ministry team were pleased to have Hilary Harron, Lesley Gubbins and Roger Grose as part of the group. Adverts had gone out for our new team vicar. We would be joined in this role by Nicky Davies. Shuna George would be licensed as a priest to the team at the same service.

The Electoral Roll Officer, Elisabeth Stewart, said there were now 36 members, an increase of 4.

The Secretary, Iain Purdon, gave the PCC's Annual Report. Services had been held every Sunday and on other occasions in the Christian calendar. Our regular worshippers had amounted to 32 and attendance on a typical Sunday was 26. The diocese had asked for our average attendance each Sunday during October 2019: this was 29. Easter had seen a congregation of 65 and Christmas worshippers totalled 88. PCC business discussed could be found in the report.

The Treasurer, Nigel Harding, presented the audited accounts and gave the Financial Report. Accounts were for the year to the 31st of December 2019. The starting balance was £19,786 and the closing balance £18,764. We also had £15,960 in restricted funds. Our regular giving and the weekly collections were our main form of income. This was up slightly at £16,400. The Diocesan Common Fund was £18,998, however, and that was paid in full. For 2020 the figure would be slightly lower at £17,659. But it would still be a big challenge to achieve such a large sum, as our income hadn't been sufficient for the past two years. Church repairs had been funded mainly by the Friends of Axmouth Church. The total cost for this work exceeded £31,000. We continued to be financially vulnerable and needed to address this during 2020. Without the support of the Friends and Rose's "Making Waves" we would be able neither to maintain the building nor to provide any charitable giving. The report was proposed by Paul Britton, seconded by Hilary Harron and carried nem con.

Clive said the Honiton Deanery Synod had held three meetings. Jeremy Trew had stood down as Rural Dean and Cate Edmonds had made a promising start. The long-term plan was to move towards three large mission communities in the deanery. The Axe Valley Mission Community churches were the guinea pigs for that.

Ann Harding, in her Churchwarden's report, thanked the Friends of Axmouth Church for their enormous contribution both financial and practical. In 2019, we had seen the completion of the external repairs to masonry and rainwater disposal. The sudden death of Mike Clement in November had been a great loss and his widow Doris had stepped up as interim chairman, determined to carry on as Mike would have wished. The Christmas tree festival had been a great success and, thanks to Yvonne Zwaferink's persistence, it had made a slot on the local TV news. This year we would face another Quinquennial Inspection.

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Rose Tidball, in her Churchwarden's report, said many people had visited the church during the year, leaving glowing reports in the visitors' book. It was very special to welcome new people to our Sunday services. She thanked the Flower Ladies who had excelled with their beautiful displays at Easter and Harvest. The Christmas Tree Festival had been well supported, as had the Rogation service with the delicious tea that followed, and the Harvest supper. Fundraising events had been organised during the year to benefit the Friends of the church and "Making Waves" our church charity. Chris Wakely continued to do a great job looking after the churchyard. Rose thanked everybody who gave freely of their time to support our church.

Clive said Ernie Fox was stepping down from the Deanery Synod. Lesley Gubbins was elected to join Hilary Harron to represent Axmouth on the synod: proposer Sue Craker, seconder Elisabeth Stewart, carried nem con.

Clive invited Elisabeth Stewart to continue as Electoral Roll Officer. She kindly agreed.

Clive said Ernie Fox, Elisabeth Stewart and Louise Clinch were all stepping down from the PCC. Paul Britton had accepted nomination: proposer Nigel Harding, seconder Elisabeth Stewart. Paul was unanimously elected to join the PCC for a three-year term.

Clive mentioned that the diocese wanted churches to put together a continuity plan for all their office bearers, so that when anyone stepped down or became unavailable, there was always someone alongside who knew enough to take over.

Clive drew attention to the other written reports: the Flower Ladies by Hazel Webb, the Wednesday Get-Together by Sarah Johnson and the Magazine by Dot Browning. He praised all these enterprises and those involved for their valuable contribution to the life of the church.

Clive closed in prayer and the meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

PCC MEETING

A brief meeting of the new PCC re-elected Iain Purdon as Secretary and co-opted Nigel Harding again as Treasurer. Clive welcomed Paul Britton to the PCC. The election of sidesmen, which used to be done at the APCM, was now the responsibility of the PCC under the new representation rules. Clive suggested we speak to each one of them to establish that they were happy to continue. (Later: this was done and all had agreed.)

With a pandemic lockdown beginning the next day, including the temporary closure of the church building, Clive urged PCC members to make sure that nobody in the church or community ended up isolated.

Iain Purdon

Secretary, Axmouth PCC

Minutes updated 26.4.2021

Report from Team Vicar, Rev Nicky Davies

What a challenging start to my first incumbency and time among you in Axmouth. It has been lockdown for the majority of the period, since my licensing on 11 August. Despite that I am very glad God called me here.

I was very inspired by the advert for this 'new' role and will remind you of what it said:

You wanted an enthusiastic and encouraging priest: I hope you have found me to be that! Despite the hardships and challenges around the pandemic and the very sad funerals, I have tried to maintain a good work/rest balance and have endeavoured to be as positive as possible. I am delighted to see the breadth of worship that Axmouth enjoys and am excited to see how we continue/develop these as well as livestreaming some services for those unable to get to church for whatever reason. My huge thanks goes to Iain Purdon for all the tech support he offers including the livestreaming.

You wanted someone to continue your growth and mission: that has been challenging in lockdown but through initiatives like the Christmas Lights and Easter Cross we have been visible in the community. The work started by our Green Group, I believe, is also hugely missional and is already helping us to have conversations with village groups. In these encounters we hope and pray that God is visible and that people can see that the church is their church and a place where they can develop their spirituality. Axmouth Church is a beautiful building in a very special place and I'd love to see it thrive as a place of sanctuary and prayer, open every day for visitors. I really look forward to deepening relationships, being together in person, restarting some established events and to looking outward together to increase our service to our community. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events and all our Sunday worship in so many ways.

Across AVMC you wanted someone to inspire, develop and co-ordinate work with youth, children and families. I have worked closely with Simon Smith and instigated the youth-led service at Uplyme. Simon and I meet weekly with the Explore Group, in person or on zoom. Although Simon is wanting to move on, there is some fantastic work established and I am excited about the possibilities going forward. Holiday clubs, Messy and Forest Churches are all ideas to consider going forward... and I am sure you'll have ideas too! I'd love to see how we might develop an eco-trail for families?

I am active in two of our AVMC schools leading worship and as I develop that work I will be wanting to see how we can encourage families into our churches. It may be that our eco-trail could be available for school groups?

You wanted someone to be liturgically creative: again, challenging with lockdown, but I have supported and contributed to a host of different services across the team. I look forward to developing our worship in Axmouth and establishing a pattern that serves all the church family.

You wanted someone with a pastoral and evangelistic heart: I have been glad to hear of the ongoing phone calls, prayer and care for each other. The Axmouth Tuesday Support Group is a place for Bible Study, sharing and prayer and I am delighted that this has found a regular slot in the week. As we get back to some kind of normality, I am looking forward to establishing good pastoral teams so we can have a co-ordinated approach to pastoral care.

I would like to record my thanks to all those here who have made me feel so welcome. Thanks to Anne and Rose, our churchwardens, who have been sources of wisdom and support as I have begun this role. To Hilary and Lesley for their commitment and advice, Iain and all members of the PCC for their work and care. And to Terry, Emma and others who offer their time and service. I also feel very supported by the AVMC Ministry team and glad to have colleagues to work with.

In this Easter season, as restrictions are beginning to lift and as we have enjoyed some singing together outside; I am feeling very hopeful about the future of our church and excited to see the AVMC grow and develop.

I hope we can keep this question in our minds as we continue on this adventure with our Trinitarian God: How best can we join in with God's mission in this place, as we seek to share the good news of God's astounding love for us all?

Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

**The Parish of St Michael's Church, Axmouth
within the Axe Valley Mission Community**

Address for correspondence:

The Axe Valley Mission Community, The Rectory, Church Street, Axminster EX13 5AQ

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

of the Axmouth Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2020

AVMC Team Rector:
The Reverend Clive Sedgewick

AVMC Team Vicar:
The Reverend Nicky Davies

Bankers:
Lloyds Bank
Seaton EX12 2QH

Independent Examiner:
Sarah Johnson
14 Windsor Mead, Sidford, SIDMOUTH EX10 9SJ

Our web presence:
<https://www.axmouthcommunity.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/axmouth>

Introduction

All Parochial Church Councils are required to make an annual report. The purpose of this report is to

- review the year's activity
- provide perspective for the financial accounts

This Report complies with requirements of the Charity Act 1993 and the Church Accounting Regulations 1997. The Council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

The PCC is a charity, but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

The PCC's legal responsibility is to cooperate with the Rector/Vicar in promoting the whole mission of the Church in the parish through pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical work.

The Churchwardens and PCC are ultimately responsible for the church building but the Friends of Axmouth Church undertake most of its maintenance and raise funding for it.

PCC Membership

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected at an Annual Church Meeting or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served:

Ex Officio Members

Team Rector	Revd Clive Sedgewick	Chair
Team Vicar	Revd Nicky Davies	Chair
Churchwardens	Rose Tidball	Vice-Chair
	Ann Harding	

Elected to Deanery Synod

Hilary Harron
Lesley Gubbins

Elected to PCC

Frances Allhusen
Paul Britton
Sue Craker
Iain Purdon

Safeguarding Officer
Secretary

Co-opted Member

Nigel Harding

Treasurer

Not on PCC

Elisabeth Stewart

Electoral Roll Officer

Sub Committees

The sole permanent sub-committee is the Standing Committee, which is required by law. It has power to transact business between meetings subject to any directions given by the Council. It consists of Licensed Ministers, the Churchwardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer. It meets monthly.

Church Attendance

- The Electoral Roll for 2020 stood at 36, not all of whom are able to come to church. Our regular worshipping community includes people not on the electoral roll; we put it at 37.
- UK Government anti-pandemic measures made this a most unusual year. From 19 March, our regular pattern of church services every Sunday and on Festival days had to be suspended. We also had to close Axmouth church to visitors from the same date, so we created a quiet space in the churchyard as a haven for prayer and reflection.
- We brought in and contributed to weekly AVMC services, online and by telephone, with the twin aims of providing a regular mutual worship opportunity for our congregation and nurturing a degree of contact and fellowship among those taking part. However only some of the Axmouth congregation chose to join them.
- We mounted live church services on occasions when restrictions allowed. We live-streamed these where possible, and placed video recordings on the church website, for the use of worshippers at home.
- The diocese requested our attendance figures in October: we held two services, each attended by 26.
- We managed a single Christmas Communion service attended by only 23 (a third of normal).
- No baptisms, marriages or funerals could be held in church.

PCC meetings

5 online business meetings and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held in 2020. We covered:

- Pastoral Reorganisation – arrival of Team Vicar
- Online Services
- Revised Pattern of Live Services – dropping 0800 communion on 1st Sundays and holding services for the whole AVMC in Axminster on 5th Sundays instead of an individual service in Axmouth
- Live streaming services and posting video recordings of them to our website pages
- Open-air Remembrance service, external Christmas light display and other ways to maintain our presence in the parish during the pandemic
- Boiler Failure
- Establishment of Green Group to develop new eco-friendly ways to meet our energy needs
- Bible and Prayer Group evolving into a Support Group that can operate with or without meetings
- Discontinuation of the Wednesday Get-Together
- Safeguarding – now a mandatory agenda item for every PCC meeting
- Other activity – detailed in separate reports that follow in the Appendix

Aims for 2021

We exist to nurture a Christian community at the heart of the parish. In the coming year we will seek to:

- Develop the contribution of Axmouth Church to the Axe Valley Mission Community
- Continue regular worship services on Sundays and on special days in the Christian calendar
- Continue our Support Group
- Continue our monthly Friendship Lunches
- Consider a replacement for our suspended Wednesday Get-Together for church and community
- Develop new opportunities for people to hear and learn about the Christian faith
- Support the bereaved, sick and housebound
- Support social initiatives in the community

Financial Report

See Accounts and Treasurer's Report attached

Other Reports

See Appendix



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Iain Purdon, Secretary, Axmouth PCC
Sat 24 April 2021

St Michael's Church, Axmouth
Financial Statement
Year ended 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Voluntary receipts		
Regular Giving		
Planned giving	£12,240.00	£11,325.00
Collections and other giving	1936.61	5139.06
Income tax recovered	4027.70	18204.31
		<u>2572.01</u>
		19036.07
Other voluntary receipts		
Donations - Note 2	6653.14	35617.32
Receipts from activities for generating funds		
Parish Magazine Note 8	1700.00	1299.00
Social and fund-raising events		2768.58
Traidcraft - Note 3	558.80	2258.80
		<u>933.40</u>
		5000.98
Receipts from Church activities		
Fees Note 6	1112.00	2459.00
Receipts from investments		
Bank interest	115.32	80.44
Total Receipts	£28,343.57	£62,193.81
Payments		
Diocesan common fund	17659.00	18998.00
R W Dack & Sons: tower repairs		31466.04
Insurance	2180.34	2151.16
Light and heat	354.88	1522.10
General Maintenance - Note 5	831.39	1761.70
Churchyard maintenance	2100.00	1800.00
Magazine printing Note 8	1317.20	1062.90
Printing and advertising	18.00	98.49
Hire of Hall	134.70	355.20
Clergy expenses	957.00	565.62
Russ Palmer: Quinquennial Insp.	600.00	
Barbara Newbery: flower stand	664.00	
Cost of services Note 7	406.72	540.95
Donations - Note 2	165.10	1976.77
Traidcraft - Note 3	316.33	917.00
Total payments	£27,704.66	£63,215.93
Surplus/ deficit of receipts over payments	638.91	-1022.12
Opening cash at Bank and in hand	18764.43	19786.55
Closing cash at Bank and in hand	£19,403.34	£18,764.43

Note 1

Restricted Funds

As at 31st December 2020 included in the bank current and deposit account balances were the following restricted funds:

	Fabric Fund	C/Yard Fund	Making Waves	Music/ Books	Millions for Mission	
Balance at 1st Jan 2020	4725	5495	1058	2000	2682	
Movement in year	664	0	0	0	0	
Balance at 31st dec 2020	4061	5495	1058	2000	2682	£15,296.00

Note 2

2) Donations

A breakdown of donations received during the year:	£
Friends of Axmouth Church: Gift Aid	593.80
Council Churchyard maintenance	400.00
Personal Donations	400.00
Listed Places of Worship: VAT refunde	5244.34
Commonwealth War Graves	15.00
	<u>6653.14</u>

A breakdown of donations made during the year:	£
Childrens Society re Christingle Service	82.10
Royal British Legion: collection	83.00
	<u>165.10</u>

3) Traidcraft

The Traidcraft stall raised £242 during the year:

	£	
Sales banked	558.80	
Purchases	<u>316.33</u>	£242.47

4) Diocesan Common Fund

The Diocesan common fund request for 2020 was paid in full £17659 compared with £18998 for 2019

5) General Maintenance

	£
Fire extinguisher service	205.62
Electrical repairs	325.20
Boiler maintenance	180.00
Penguin Internet fee	81.58
Covid screen	38.99
	<u>831.39</u>

6) Fees

Gross fees received for weddings and funerals		£1,279.00
Less: AVMC expenses	£33.00	
Diocese share 2018	134.00	<u>£167.00</u>
Net shown		<u>£1,112.00</u>

7) Cost of Services

CCLI licence	£278.70
EDBF: course for Hilary	100.00
RBL: wreath	15.00
AVMC: palm crosses	8.09
AVMC: lectionary	4.93
	<u>406.72</u>

8) Parish Magazine

Advertising receipts	£1,700.00
Parish Council grant	200.00
	<u>1900.00</u>
Printing costs	1317.20
Surplus	<u>£582.80</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

Lloyds Bank Treasurers account	£9,282.08
Barclays Business Premium Direct access closed	
Barclays Business 10 day notice account closed	
Lloyds fixed term deposit	10000.00
Cash in hand	121.26
	<u>£19,403.34</u>

Approved by the trustees on.....25 March 2021
and signed on their behalf by:

Ian Purdon
PCC Secretary



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of St Michael's Church, Axmouth

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Charity no (if any) An Excepted Charity

Set out on pages 1 - 7

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

SA Johnson

Date:

29/4/2021

Name:

SARAH ANNE JOHNSON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FCCA (retired)

Address:

14 WINDSOR MEAD, SIDFORD, SIDMOUTH

EX10 9SJ

Financial Report 2020

I must begin as always by thanking all those who have set up regular giving mandates to the PCC. They provide the bulk of our income and contributed over £12,000 this year.

We were also fortunate to receive a refund of VAT on the large amount of work carried out on the Church building in the previous year, amounting to more than £5,000.

These two figures, plus Gift Aid of some £4,000 made up the majority of our income for the year. Collections and fundraising activities were greatly reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic, and there was reduced income from weddings and funerals.

The village magazine was well supported by our advertisers and the Parish Council and we are now able to produce a full colour version.

You will see from the accounts that we were able to pay our Common Fund in full again this year - £17,659.

However, without the fortuitous VAT refund, which was, of course a one- off, we will be struggling to achieve sufficient income in 2021, particularly bearing in mind the lockdown in the first few months.

Our architect, Russ Palmer has carried out a Quinquennial Inspection and, fortunately has not come up with any really urgent matters. A kind benefactor has come forward to provide us with a new oil-fired boiler, so we can look forward to next winter with confidence!

As I have already indicated, I would like to hand over the role of treasurer, although I will be happy to help my successor in any way I can. I will continue in a caretaker role until such time as someone comes forward.

Nigel Harding

Churchwardens

Rose's report

We were glad to welcome Nicky Davies as our new Team Vicar alongside Clive Sedgewick the Team Rector. This brings our clergy numbers up to strength once again.

It was frustrating being unable to run our usual "Making Waves" fundraising events during the summer, meaning we could not raise any new money for the charities we support. However, we were able to make some charity payments from reserve funds in an effort to help tide them over.

Between lockdowns we did manage to run some of our Friendship Lunches for those living alone. We'll resume them as soon as we can. Meanwhile it was heartening to see the amount of mutual support going on in the village with phone calls to those on their own and prayers in our support group for those in need.

The churchyard is looking really lovely with new flowers put in by Bernard and Yvonne in addition to those I do myself. Many thanks to Chris for keeping the grass in good shape. It really is quite a haven for anyone wishing to spend a bit of quiet time.

Thanks also to Ann, who is a great support to me.

Rose Tidball

Ann's report

Last year was a difficult one for all of us and our lives have been affected in many different ways. Here in Axmouth with our rural surroundings and good community life we have perhaps been more fortunate than most.

As far as Church life is concerned, although the building has been closed for most of the time, we have found new ways of joining together for services and support. Zoom and telephone services together with our prayer tree outside have been well received, but it is now great to have a weekly service again each Sunday, and we have welcomed back a good congregation.

Of course, all our fund-raising activities have been put on hold. The Friends have a few plans for later in the year, and I think Rose has too.

The pandemic has caused financial problems across the whole Deanery and we are no exception; this is covered in the Financial Report.

The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out and luckily gave rise to no major problems in the short term, though there are major repairs required to the tower in the years ahead. Our boiler failed in November and we are very grateful to an anonymous donor via the Friends, who has agreed to pay for a replacement. This is awaited from the manufacturer and will be installed in due course.

Although we could not hold our Christmas Tree Festival in 2020, the Friends put on a magnificent display of lights outside the Church. This was appreciated by many passing by, and we hope to hold the Festival both inside and out in 2021.

A big thank you to all the PCC, particularly my husband, our treasurer. Remember he is looking to retire, and we still seek a replacement. Iain, our Secretary, has put in a tremendous amount of work in many ways over the past year, as has Rose, who is a great support to me.

Ann Harding

Deanery Synod

The meeting in March was well attended, with over 40 people present, both clergy and laity, gathered together on zoom.

The first half of the meeting was taken up with reports from the various Mission Communities in the Honiton Deanery - Axe Valley, Coastal, Dunkeswell, Holyford, Honiton, Offwell, and 5 Alive (Kilminster).

Archdeacon Andrew then talked us through his slides on Moving on in Mission and Ministry ([here](#)).

The Deanery Plan was started 2 years ago, and has now moved on to use the Hub model as a focus, with a minster/central church and surrounding satellite churches.

There was a time for questions afterwards and several concerns were raised - including the viability of such large groupings, the place of PTO's and the risk of clergy exhaustion.

Rev'd Tracey Voysey commented that there is an abundance of generosity in our diocese through SSMs, Readers and PTOs; she said we also need to remember that the Holy Spirit is important.

The Rural Dean, Cate Edmonds, mentioned recent diocesan initiatives including Living in Love and Faith, Clergy Care and Well-being, and the introduction of Anna Chaplaincies.

The Treasurer Tony Nixon reminded everyone that many churches were struggling to pay their common fund, but that even if they could not meet the full amount any contribution would be welcome.

Hilary Harron

Safeguarding

The Church of England this year has recognised more than ever before how important it is to check and to raise awareness of the need for safeguarding and to recognise situations where there are risks to vulnerable people.

Many of us, adults and children, may be vulnerable at difficult times in our lives, through loneliness, illness, poverty, addiction, or other trauma. All of us who want to show Jesus to others through our

church must be sure that we know what we should and should not do, to keep ourselves and others safe. We must all recognise that the tiny number of people who would do harm not good could be anywhere, even in our community.

Whether we are helping children in church, taking part in services, or helping our neighbours and friends in the community, we represent our church and therefore people trust us.

We have therefore been ensuring that all of us are attending training and are open to the possibility of harm, whilst not being afraid to support each other and our community in whatever way we can.

We have a new electronic way of safely checking our safeguarding processes and we are all in the early stages of learning to use it. We are working with the other parishes in our mission community as we do this. We pray that in the coming year we will learn more about how to do this.

Sue Craker

Support Group

Our original Bible and Prayer Group has undergone a gentle transformation over the lockdown months, which meant it could no longer meet in the Bindon Chapel.

After a few weeks of meeting in warmth and comfort at Emma Loveridge's house before Christmas we discovered that we could become a Support Group and so could meet together under COVID restrictions even if numbers exceeded 6.

This was a great step forward, as we had found that the mutual support our group offered in the pandemic was invaluable and needed to continue.

Now with the new restrictions we have adapted once more, and meet online. There are 12/13 regulars in our group, and as before we take turns to lead each session. The 'leader' chooses the reading/s for the group from those set for the following Sunday worship, and so we read together and pray together, and support each other as we do so.

There is also a section on Axmouth Church website dedicated to the Support Group, and there you can find the readings that we share each week.

Where do we go from here? We are optimistic for the future and will go where the Spirit leads us.

The group is open to all, and if you would like to join us please ring Hilary on 01279 20532, or email hilaryharron@gmail.com.

Hilary Harron

Wednesday Get-Together

Wednesday Get-Together 2020 – just a few weeks in the first quarter of the year sitting round the tables having a chat over a cuppa. Short but sweet!

A big thank you to the helpers for their efficiency and enthusiasm.

Sarah Johnson

Parish Magazine

The impact of the Covid pandemic increased significantly over 2020 but this did not interrupt publication. Though the issues lacked a calendar of dates, or reports on the usual community activities through the village, a wide variety of interesting and fascinating articles were submitted by Axmouth residents alongside many impressive colour photographs including our 75th Anniversary VE Day Celebrations, village history and the natural world. Reaction to printing the Autumn issue in full colour was extremely positive and it is hoped that full colour will continue with advertisers choosing to update any mono adverts. The level of advertising continues to be positive with many reporting that their business benefits from this local presence.

While the magazine continues to be delivered throughout the Axmouth community by the volunteer distributors, the magazine is also 'collected' by many who attend Axmouth Church but who live a considerable distance away and is in one case being sent by post to Wales.

While many choose now to rely on digital technology - reading media publications online - it is the intention to continue to produce and distribute the printed magazine although it is also available in digital form on the Axmouth church website.

Dot Browning

Green Group

Following the Diocese's initiative to reduce the Church's Carbon Footprint and at the request of the Revd Nicky Davies the Green Group was formed.

We have made use of various Webinars in our research and have instigated the following actions.

1. Looking at alternative heating system following demise of the existing system.
2. Reducing paper usage in services.
3. Installing rainwater harvest system with water butts for use in the graveyard.
4. Changing our electricity to a green supplier.
5. Installing door-closing units on the 2 main doors.
6. Improving the thermal fabric of the church, including enclosing the tower.

We are meeting with the Diocese's Architectural advisers to assist us in formulating our plans for a Faculty application. We are continually liaising with the PCC/Fabric Committee and Church Wardens.

Paul Britton

Exeter Street Pastors

One of our mission activities is to support Exeter Street Pastors in their work to keep the streets of Exeter safe for those who venture into the City at night.

I am part of this work and if anyone would like to join me, either as a street pastor or prayer pastor, I would be happy to tell you more.

Through this past strange year, we have only been out for one month, last September, as the night time economy shut down in the pandemic and the streets were largely deserted. We will be sending teams out again this month as things open up. We are expecting a busy time as people are newly able to celebrate, dance and be together again after such a long time at home. Some will undoubtedly find the new normal a struggle and our listening ears and observant eyes will be very necessary.

We are all having refresher training to prepare for this, which is why I can't be with you tonight. Please pray for us all and for the people we meet.

Sue Craker

Flower Ladies

Axmouth Church is very fortunate to have a loyal band of Flower Ladies, currently 15 on the rota. Sadly due to the church being closed for the whole of 2020 due to the pandemic the flower ladies had to be furloughed!!

Some of the ladies help with the Christmas tree festival. As the church still remained closed to the public over the Christmas period, the churchyard at the front was beautifully lit up with fairy lights, which certainly put a smile on everyone's faces, cheering up the village and passers-by no end.

It is hoped that we can all get back to fill the church with flowers again as soon as it's safe to do so.

Hazel Webb