



**Axe Valley  
Mission  
Community  
Axmouth**

## **The Annual Meeting of Axmouth Church took place at 7pm on Thursday 28th April 2022**

The meeting was attended by members of the church and the community.

Ann Harding was re-elected as Churchwarden. Regina Bridgeman-Gibbs was elected onto the PCC.

Rose Tidball stepped down as Churchwarden and Iain Purdon resigned as Secretary: both will remain on the PCC. Nigel Harding resigned as Treasurer but kindly offered to keep the books until a successor could be found.

The Meeting received reports on Axmouth Church for 2021, encompassing the PCC Report, the Financial Report and individual reports from the Vicar and all those in charge of the church's activities.

## **The Reports follow**

*Iain Purdon, outgoing Secretary*  
*30.4.2022*

# **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, AXMOUTH**

**Annual Church Meetings  
to be held in Axmouth Church on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.00 pm**

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Notable Apologies

## **ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING**

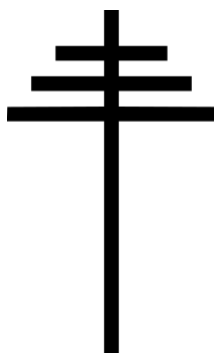
3. Election of Churchwardens

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

4. Reports
  - Vicar's Report
  - Electoral Roll
  - Annual PCC Report
  - Annual Financial Report
  - Churchwardens
  - Deanery Synod
  - Safeguarding
  - Other Reports
5. Election of Parochial Representatives if vacancies have arisen
  - Parochial Church Council
  - Deanery Synod
6. Any Other Business
7. Closing Prayer

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

8. PCC Elections
  - Electoral Roll Officer
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Welcome Team (Sidesmen)
9. Any Urgent Business



**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  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

AVMC Team Rector:  
**The Reverend Clive Sedgewick**

AVMC Team Vicar and Focal Minister for Axmouth:  
**The Reverend Nicky Davies**

Bankers:  
**Lloyds Bank**  
Seaton EX12 2QH

Independent Examiner:  
**Sarah Johnson**  
SIDMOUTH EX10 9SJ

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

## St Michael's Church, Axmouth

### PCC Annual Report for 2021

#### Introduction

All Parochial Church Councils are required to make an annual report to review the year's activity and 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.

It is the PCC's legal responsibility 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 and Office Bearers

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020, 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	Revd Clive Sedgewick	Team Rector & co-chair
	Revd Nicky Davies	Focal Minister, Team Vicar & co-chair
	Rose Tidball	Churchwarden & vice-chair
	Ann Harding	Churchwarden
Elected to Deanery Synod	Hilary Harron	Focal Minister
	Lesley Gubbins	Focal Minister
Elected to PCC	Frances Allhusen	
	Paul Britton	
	Sue Craker	Safeguarding Officer
	Iain Purdon	Secretary
Co-opted by PCC	Nigel Harding	Acting Treasurer
Office Bearer not on PCC	Elisabeth Stewart	Electoral Roll Officer

#### Sub Committees

The sole permanent sub-committee is the

- Standing Committee, required by law and with delegated power to transact business between PCC meetings subject to any directions given by the PCC. It consists of the Team Vicar and two members elected by the PCC, currently the Churchwardens. It tends to meet approximately monthly or as needed.

There are also

- Support Group focusing on Bible reading and Intercession, open to all and meeting weekly,
- Worship Group formulating our worship activities both in Axmouth and elsewhere in the AVMC,
- Fabric Committee helping the churchwardens manage the premises,
- Green Group focusing on supporting the aim of the Diocese of Exeter to be net carbon zero by 2030.

#### Church Attendance 2021

The Electoral Roll for 2021 stood at 37 and attendance at services across the year averaged 25.

UK Government anti-pandemic measures led us to suspend church services between 4<sup>th</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> March. We also had to close Axmouth church to visitors in the same period, so we again created a quiet space in the churchyard as a haven for prayer and reflection.

During the suspension, we contributed to weekly AVMC services, by Zoom 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. Only some of the Axmouth congregation chose to join them.

When we restarted church services, we live-streamed them where possible, and placed video recordings on the church website, for the use of worshippers at home.

Our first post-lockdown services were in Holy Week, with 10 attending Compline on Tuesday, 26 at our Good Friday service and 33 rejoicing with us on Easter Sunday.

The diocese requested our attendance figures in October: we held five services, attended by an average 24.

We had two Christmas Communion services attended by an average 34, less than half pre-pandemic levels.

We held 1 baptism, 2 marriages and 2 funeral services during 2021.

### **PCC meetings 2021**

7 business meetings and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held in 2021. Meetings were online until July.

Subjects included: AudioVisual equipment, Boiler replacement, Charitable Giving, Christmas Tree Festival, Church Services in all their forms, Churchyard Signs and Cross, Common Fund Share, COVID Risk Assessments, Focal Ministry, Friendship Lunches, Green Initiatives, Lent Course, Live-Streaming of Services, Ministers' Dress Code, Quinquennial Report, Risk Assessments, Safeguarding, Support Group, Synod activity, Tower insulation, Website, Wednesday Coffee Mornings.

Details: in separate reports that follow in the Appendix

### **Aims for 2022**

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

- Continue regular worship services on Sundays and on special days in the Christian calendar
- Continue our Friday Support Group
- Continue our monthly Friendship Lunches
- Support the Village Hall's Wednesday Coffee Morning for the community
- Operate a Stewardship programme to improve the church's financial position
- Work with the Friends of Axmouth Church in the upkeep of the building
- Develop the contribution of Axmouth Church to the Axe Valley Mission Community
- Develop new opportunities for people to hear and learn about the Christian faith
- Support the bereaved, sick and housebound

### **Financial Report 2021**

See Accounts and Treasurer's Report attached

### **Other Church Reports 2021**

Also attached



.....  
**Iain Purdon, Secretary, Axmouth PCC**  
**Sun 24 April 2022**



# 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 Parochial Church Council, Axmouth

On accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Charity no (if any)	An Excepted Charity
---------------------	---------------------

Set out on pages

#### 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: S A Johnson

Date: 24/3/2022

Name: SARAH JOHNSON

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

Address: 14, WINDSOR MEAD, SIDFORD, SIDMOUTH EX10 9SJ

**St Michael's Church, Axmouth**  
**Financial Statement**  
**Year ended 31st December 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>Receipts</b>		
Voluntary receipts		
Regular Giving		
Planned giving	£13,240.00	£12,240.00
Collections and other giving	2681.73	1936.61
Income tax recovered	3261.64	4027.70
	£19,183.37	18204.31
Other voluntary receipts		
Donations - <b>Note 2</b>	2924.76	6653.14
Receipts from activities for generating funds		
Parish Magazine <b>Note 8</b>	1687.00	1700.00
Social and fund-raising <b>Note 9</b>	586.00	
Traidcraft - <b>Note 3</b>	1654.81	3927.81
		558.80
		2258.80
Receipts from Church activities		
Fees <b>Note 6</b>	1535.00	1112.00
Receipts from investments		
Bank interest	30.00	115.32
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£27,600.94</b>	<b>£28,343.57</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Diocesan common fund	12000.00	17659.00
R W Dack & Sons: new boiler	5972.22	
Insurance	2176.06	2180.34
Light and heat	707.01	354.88
General Maintenance - <b>Note 5</b>	969.95	831.39
Churchyard maintenance	1950.00	2100.00
Magazine printing <b>Note 8</b>	1544.60	1317.20
Printing and advertising		18.00
Hire of Hall		134.70
AVMC expenses	2304.00	957.00
Russ Palmer: Quinquennial Insp.		600.00
Barbara Newbery: flower stand		664.00
Cost of services <b>Note 7</b>	411.90	406.72
Donations - <b>Note 2</b>	971.80	165.10
Traidcraft - <b>Note 3</b>	1417.19	316.33
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>30424.73</b>	<b>£27,704.66</b>
<b>Surplus/ deficit of receipts over payments</b>	<b>£2,823.79</b>	<b>638.91</b>
Opening cash at Bank and in hand	19403.34	18764.43
Closing cash at Bank and in hand	£16,579.55	£19,403.34

## Note 1

### Restricted Funds

As at 31st December 2021 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 2021	4061	5495	1058	2000	2682	
Movement in year	2929	0	750	0	0	
Balance at 31st dec 2021	1132	5495	308	2000	2682	£11,617.00

## Note 2

### 2) Donations

A breakdown of donations received during the year:

Friends for gatelight	£ 136.00
Council Churchyard maintenance	500.00
Personal Donations	411.58
Friends for new boiler	1667.18
Friends towards heating oil	195.00
Commonwealth War Graves	15.00
	<u>2924.76</u>

A breakdown of donations made during the year:

SEAN	£ 500.00
Partners for Progress	250.00
Royal British Legion: collection	144.80
Seaton Food Bank	77.00
	<u>971.80</u>

### 3) Traidcraft

Traidcraft sales raised £237.62

	£	
Sales banked	1654.81	
Purchases	<u>1417.19</u>	£237.62

#### 4) Diocesan Common Fund

The Diocesan common fund request for 2021 was £17458 of which we were able to pay £12000

The Common Fund required for 2022 is £17848

#### 5) General Maintenance

	£
Fire extinguisher service	169.20
Electrical repairs	369.90
Clock maintenance	222.00
Temporary heaters	143.16
Oil for pews	42.22
Signage repairs	23.47
	<u>969.95</u>

#### 6) Fees

Gross fees received for weddings and funerals	£1,849.00
Less: vergers, organist, bellringer etc	<u>314.00</u>
	<u>£1,535.00</u>

#### 7) Cost of Services

CCLI licences	£349.00
Flower ladies lunch expenses	27.90
RBL: wreath	15.00
Oasis	20.00
	<u>411.90</u>

#### 8) Parish Magazine

Advertising receipts	£1,437.00
Parish Council grant	<u>250.00</u>
	1687.00
Printing costs	<u>1544.60</u>
Surplus	<u>£142.40</u>

#### 9) Social and fundraising

Support group	£87.00
Harvest Auction	77.00
Church lunch	<u>422.00</u>
	<u>£586.00</u>

## Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

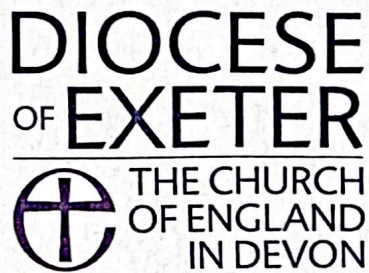
Lloyds Bank Treasurers account  
Cash in hand

£16,447.06

132.49

£16,579.55

Approved by the trustees on.....  
and signed on their behalf by:



**The Right Reverend Robert Atwell**  
**Bishop of Exeter**

The Palace Gatehouse  
Palace Gate  
EXETER  
EX1 1HX

01392 272362

[bishop.of.exeter@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.of.exeter@exeter.anglican.org)

March 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

**In 2021 the Parish of Axmouth contributed £12,000.00 to the Common Fund.**

Thank you for your continuing generosity to the Common Fund, which finances the mission and ministry of the Church of England in Devon. The last two years have been dominated by the pandemic and I do not underestimate the challenging financial climate that many parishes have been operating in. It is a relief now to be returning to some sort of 'normality'. As we do so, our hearts and prayers are with the people of Ukraine as they face the indiscriminate destruction of their homes and cities.

In uncertain times, we continue to walk by faith and pray for God's protection. Meanwhile the 'Next Steps' vision document is helping us plan ahead as a diocese with confidence and hope. We are committed to grow in prayer, to make new disciples, and to serve the people of Devon with joy. The resources that you have given are helping fund this work and grow God's kingdom. Thank you for your generosity in these extraordinary times.

With my thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

The Right Reverend Robert Atwell  
*Bishop of Exeter*

## Vicar's Report 2021

Throughout the last year, COVID has continued to present challenges for us as a Mission Community, as I am sure it has for all churches. Some events could not take place and we continue to be careful, using masks and hand gel in worship. This situation is continuing and is difficult to navigate but we continue to approach all we do in Axe Valley Mission Community (AVMC) with care and positivity. Personally, it meant I was not able to work for close to two months due to contracting COVID.

Despite this, as I come to my second round of APCMs I am glad God brought me here. I am enjoying leading alongside you all.

Here in Axmouth I am encouraged by the collaborative working that goes on both in preparing and leading worship. It is a joy to work closely with Churchwardens Ann and Rose, and both Hilary and Lesley who are now also Focal Ministers with me.

I wish to say a big thank you to the PCC who are active and supportive but we are in need of more members and people to fill key roles, particularly PCC Secretary, Treasurer and Churchwarden. This situation is now urgent.

I am grateful to Rose who has been churchwarden here for many years. It is time for her to take a bit more time for herself and her family, but I am glad to know that she will still be around offering support. Our treasurer Nigel continues to keep our finances in good order but wishes to move on from the role. We are focussing on stewardship this year. Please do keep a lookout for further details. I must at this point say a big thank you to Yvonne, whose sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade goods, mean we not only support producers with a fair wage, but any profit goes to support our church. Thank you, Yvonne.

Iain, currently PCC Secretary also wishes to focus on other things. Iain has many hats; he does a wonderful job on the tech in church as well as keeping the website up to date. He organises rotas and I am sure, much more. Thank you to you three for your dedication to this church community. It is now time that the burden was eased for you.

*Please search your hearts and pray about what you may be able to offer.*

We continue to be very grateful to The Friends of Axmouth Church whose fundraising activities ensure the building is kept in good condition. The group covered the unexpected costs related to the installation of our new boiler to be installed. We are grateful to those who gifted it and fitted it for us. I really enjoyed the Easter weekend coffee morning and look forward to joining in with more of their fundraising events.

Now that we are back in church every Sunday, we have established a Worship Group and that has been very useful. We are able to plan the content and be creative. I am keen to see how we can further develop our worship and continue to serve the community, and pray that God will be visible in all we do.

Axmouth Church is a beautiful building in a beautiful location and I'd love to see how it may further thrive as a place of sanctuary, peace and prayer, both for the community and for visitors.

I continue to support Simon Smith in his youth work, now under the banner of Axe Valley Youth and this year in AVMC we are preparing an application for funding for work with children, young people and families. The Diocese are offering funding from their Mission and Growth Fund to support this mission, as it is one of their key objectives.

In my role as Team Vicar, I am active in four of our AVMC primary schools leading worship and assisting with RE teaching. As I develop that work, I will be wanting to see how we can encourage families into all our churches.

In AVMC we have appointed a volunteer Safeguarding Co-ordinator to work with churchwardens and our parish safeguarding reps. I am grateful to Sue, supported by Lesley, for her commitment to this vital work for us here.

In the Mission Community, Roger Grose is developing our work on pastoral care in consultation and collaboration with others. More details to follow...

Sadly, it has been a busy time with funerals and it will be good to develop better after-care for those grieving. It will also be great to have teams supporting our weddings and baptisms too.

The Friday support group here is a great strength. I am grateful to all those involved and only sorry I cannot attend as often as I'd like. It is a wonderful opportunity to deepen our life of faith and important to offer it. I believe it is essential that we offer learning opportunities across AVMC. Included last year was a lay training day, the Living in Love and Faith course and the Lent course on Generosity.

We look forward to Bishop Jackie coming in July for a confirmation service. So far, we have four adult candidates and two teenagers. This is exciting and encouraging, and the result of building relationships and pastoral care. We must never underestimate the importance of relationship.

I would like to record my thanks to all those who contribute to the life of the church here in Axmouth. In particular thanks to Churchwardens Ann and Rose and to the PCC and many others who contribute so much. I also feel very supported by the AVMC ministry team and glad to have colleagues to work with.

There is much to be thankful for and lots to look forward to. Finally, I want to encourage us to move forward in joyful hope, as we seek to join in with God's mission in this place.

*Rev Nicky Davies, Team Vicar and Focal Minister*

### **Electoral Roll Report 2021**

Following the usual review of the Roll there are 37 names on it. A complete renewal of the Roll will take place in 2025.

*Elisabeth Stewart, Electoral Roll Officer*

### **Financial Report 2021**

Our Planned Giving this year exceeded £13,000 for the first time and, as usual, provided the bulk of our income. Thank you to all our contributors.

The ravages of COVID greatly reduced our fund-raising capabilities and, although Gift Aid, donations and collections all helped, we were unable to pay our Common Fund in full. The amount asked of us was £17,458 but after much consideration we contributed £12,000, retaining a small balance of working capital for 2022. We have no reserves.

The new boiler proved something of an enigma! We now have a much improved heating system but the ancient pipework was found out by the modern pumping system and had everyone scratching their heads! Several leaks were eventually repaired and, with new pressure release valves, all is working efficiently. The costs of all this work were far higher than we envisaged, and we have been rescued by several anonymous donations and by funding from the Friends.

As I said last year, I would like to hand over the job of treasurer, although will continue in a caretaker role until someone comes forward.

Please ask any questions on the accounts, which have been examined on behalf of the PCC by Sarah Johnson, who was treasurer before me.

*Nigel Harding, Treasurer*

### **Churchwarden's Report 2021 (Ann)**

The beginning of last year was still proving difficult with COVID restrictions affecting the life of the Church. Things are, hopefully, returning to some sort of normality and we are looking forward to a Summer of events.

A big thank you to the Friends. Their support is essential to the upkeep of our Church. As I mentioned last year, our boiler failed. We now have a new boiler, but the installation was not without difficulty. Many historical problems had to be fixed; thanks to R W Dack & Sons and Alex Burgess who persevered to get the system up and running. The newly-formed Tower Group are working towards solving the problem of heat loss through the tower arch, thus making the Church much warmer. There will be plenty of discussion, ideas, meetings, grant applications and faculties, but I hope by this time next year we will be on our way to achieving our aim.

The Christmas Tree Festival in December 2021, organised by the Friends was, I think, perhaps the best ever. I know how much it was appreciated.

The list of Thank-Yous is endless in making our Church what it is today, but I would like to specifically mention a couple. The Parish Magazine is now produced in full colour and thriving, thanks to our Editor, Dot and our new advert coordinator, Nancy. The Churchyard is looking beautiful - full of Spring flowers. Thank you Chris for the grass cutting, and the volunteer work parties in the Summer.

As you will have heard, Rose is stepping down as Churchwarden after many years of service; (she will not tell us how many!). She has been a great support to me during my time as warden - our chats on the way to meetings, her advice and enormous hard work. She has dedicated her life to this Church. I understand Rose will stay on the PCC, and I am sure she will continue to help in any way she can.

As with many Churches, we have not paid our Common Fund in full this year. There will be a Stewardship campaign later in the year led by our Vicar, Nicky in an effort to improve matters. I would however say that £17,848 is a huge amount of money to find from a small village Church. This amount of course does not include all the running costs.

We are settling into life within the Axe Valley Mission Community. Thank you to Nicky, our Team Vicar and to Emma, Terry, Lesley and Hilary, who take our services on a regular basis.

Last but not least thank you to the PCC, particularly Iain and Nigel, who are both looking to retire. I know the amount of time they both give, and cannot thank them enough.

Let's look forward to an exciting year ahead. We have much to celebrate.

*Ann Harding, Churchwarden*

### **Churchwarden's Report 2021 (Rose)**

After a year with the church closed because of COVID it has been a joy to have it reopened. The first fundraising event was the Christmas Tree Festival organised by the Friends of the Church. The congregation and many others from the village helped to stage this wonderful display.

The Carol Service as well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The Christmas Eve communion service was well supported as was the morning service on Christmas Day.

In the New Year we celebrated our Christingle. Although not many children attended, the congregation were delighted to take home the decorated oranges. Thank you to the ladies who prepared them.

We knew we were back to normal when we were given small posies of primroses on Mothering Sunday, followed by coffee and individual cakes. Again we thank the ladies who organised this.

The two donkeys Mary and Jane helped us celebrate Palm Sunday. It was slightly different this year as the procession took us for coffee and bacon rolls in the Village Hall, where we held a short service.

I'd like to give my grateful thanks for all the help given on Sundays by so many people, making each service run smoothly. Iain thank you for the work you do and to Ann thank you also for all you do, far and above being churchwarden. We as a church are so grateful.

God bless you all, Rose.

*Rose Tidball, Churchwarden*

### **Support Group Report 2021**

Our group has changed its name over the past few years- originally it was called Praying Together, then it changed to Bible and Prayer Group; and over the pandemic period it became the church Support Group. This name reflects its purpose and nature.

We meet on a Friday morning, at 9.30 in the Bindon Chapel, and we begin by reading together the lectionary Bible passages set for the following Sunday.

It is not a traditional Bible study group. We don't need to know what the experts tell us - although sometimes this is useful - but more important is to understand what the reading says to us, which can be different for each one.

We take turns in leading, and the leader doesn't need to look at commentaries or be an expert in any way. Just to know what the reading is!

We open in prayer, read the passage together, have a few moments of quiet to consider what we have read, read again, and consider again, then find the words that are meaningful or difficult, and share with others -or not.

After about half an hour we slip into prayer, which often follows naturally from the thoughts that have arisen from the reading.

Then the leader ends with the Grace.

On the first Friday of the month, we remove the prayers from the Prayer Tree and pray for each concern on the cards; we use each card for 6 months and then place them in a box.

The Support Group offers a time for reflection and learning; there is trust and confidentiality, and a space where we can support and encourage each other.

All are welcome - if you would like to come along, please just turn up and see if you find this gathering helpful. Or contact me on 01297 20532 / email [hilaryharron@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryharron@gmail.com)

*Hilary Harron, Focal Minister*

### **Honiton Deanery Synod Report 2021**

Axmouth representatives: Hilary Harron, Lesley Gubbins

The year was marked by lockdown due to the COVID pandemic. Updates were given at each meeting. An important point emerged: the lockdown resulted in a loss of revenue for all our churches, making it difficult for us to pay our Parish Share in full. All were urged to make payment, even if at a reduced level, and to report difficulties to the Treasurer.

A key point was the introduction of a fund to cover the synod's expenses, to which each parish would make a small contribution.

March 23 2021 Meeting

The Deanery had been drawing up a plan for the future but at this meeting it was in its early stages and there was little to report. The introduction of the national course Living in Love and Faith was introduced. Reps were advised that all parishes must engage with the course and give feedback.

November 11 2021 Meeting

The diocesan initiative Next Steps was discussed. This refers to a Diocesan vision document for Mission Communities, which draws on a Listening in Communities consultation. The aim was to build a culture that is mutually supportive, working together to make bold decisions, always willing to listen and adapt. Its 3-year strategy includes how best to deploy our stipendiary clergy. We await developments.

*Lesley Gubbins, Focal Minister*

### **Safeguarding Report 2021**

The Church of England has recently placed more emphasis on the importance of safeguarding and tightened up its processes to reflect this. The diocese has helped us with a dashboard to record what we are doing and to guide us to areas where we need to do more.

A co-ordinator has been appointed by the mission community. She is a safeguarding expert and we have met her to make sure we are working to keep vulnerable people as safe as we can.

Lesley and I want you all to know that the increased checks and training are straightforward to do, and will help us all be more aware of the potential risks. Many of those in our church community are vulnerable, whether through age or circumstances, and we must do all we can to keep them safe.

Please ask us if you would like to know more about this and never be afraid to tell us of any concerns that you may have.

*Sue Craker, Safeguarding Officer*

### **Parish Magazine Report 2021**

These last months have seen the relaxation of COVID rules, and the level of more normalised socialising possible with family and friends has helped put us back in touch with each other through community activities. The level of content received for the magazine has continued to be very varied and positive and, with the income and support from our community and advertisers, we have been able to continue to print it in full colour throughout. This certainly helps draw attention to the photographs, Axmouth Children's Theatre posters and the adverts, in colour as they are supplied. The editor is very grateful for the continued proof reading undertaken by Eileen Mather.

The magazine continues to be delivered throughout the Axmouth community by the volunteer distributors, now headed by Jan Stansfield, while it is also collected directly by many who attend Axmouth Church or live in Seaton and beyond. The magazine receives positive feedback from the wider community as well as advertisers and, with the decline of COVID, the range of articles, activities and dates for the diary is slowly increasing.

*Dot Browning, Editor*

### **Green Group Report 2021**

1) The alternatives to the Oil-fired heating system were investigated and, at this time, the best option was to install a new Higher Efficiency Boiler. The increase in the efficiency of the System has been improved by 20%. We also calculated whether it was feasible to install Solar Panels on the roof above the South aisle. This would appear to be ideal and could provide continuous background heating via night storage heaters. It was hoped that this would be discussed at the Site meeting with the Diocese's Architect.

2) We are still trying to reduce paperwastage.

3) The Water Harvesting System / Water Butt has been installed but we need to encourage people to use it. A label is still required on the Stand pipe to discourage use.

4) Changing our Electricity supplier is still outstanding.

5) Door closing Units on the two main doors are still outstanding.

6) Improving the Thermal fabric of the Church including enclosing the Tower. This was discussed at the Diocese' Architects Advisers meeting and a sub-group of the Fabric Committee is still ongoing.

Unfortunately, the Green Group has not met regularly over the 12 months although some work has still continued.

*Paul Britton*

### **Flower Ladies Report 2021**

Axmouth Church is very fortunate to have a very loyal and willing band of 18 Flower Ladies, all doing such wonderful arrangements at the altar and over the Easter and Harvest festival.

We did an extra display over Harvest festival and the Christmas tree festival, with decorative paddles at the end of each pew. Each one different, but looking very professional, and many people remarked how lovely it was.

The flower displays are all supplied by each of the ladies, with no extra cost to the Church, so a huge thank you to everyone.

*Hazel Webb*

### **Exeter Street Pastors Report 2021**

Exeter street pastors resumed their mission last year and now cover only Saturday nights because numbers have reduced during COVID.

In a nutshell, what we do is listening, caring, helping. The short video link will tell you more of what we do.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=395341161072919>

I am still the only member of the team from our mission community, and we are always looking for more volunteers whether as street pastors or prayer pastors.

In October 2022 we will have a service in Axmouth dedicated to street pastors' mission.

*Sue Craker*