



**ST ANDREW'S BUCKLAND MONACHORUM WITH
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MILTON COMBE**

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

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For the year ended 31st December 2019

Aims and Purposes

There are two churches in our parish and the Parochial Church Council includes representation from both. Alongside the new Vicar, Andrew Bowden (appointed in September 2019) the PCC aspires to extend the ministry and teaching to the wider parish community of over 2000 people.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The 5-year Mission Action Plan written in 2009, was reviewed by the PCC in late 2014 and was considered still to be relevant but is regularly reviewed at each PCC meeting and considers the following 5 basic objectives:

- 1) Looking up: - enabling worship and cultivating an intimacy with God in our worship;
- 2) Looking in: - concerning the health of the body (the congregation), unity within the church and the fruits of the Holy Spirit;
- 3) Looking outwards: - Using outward-looking discipleship courses; continuing to strengthen youth and children's ministry; utilising the Buckland Chapel in more effective ways to benefit the community;
- 4) Looking beyond: - recognising the international nature of the family of God. Developing our mission partnerships. Making them effective and personal, and enabling reciprocal visits, which is a key priority for us as a church;
- 5) Looking towards: - a growth in a personal relationship with God – for each person to be eager to 'make their calling and election sure'. 2 Peter 1 v10.

These above have been met in various ways, and include the following:

Regular Sunday worship at both churches. This has continued on a similar pattern to last year, although our Healing Services on the evenings of the fifth Sunday in the month, have not been held since the beginning of the interregnum.

- **Prayer** is offered within services, for the church, the world, the local community, and for those who are ill or bereaved. There is also the opportunity to stay after a service, for more personal prayer with trained prayer teams.
- **Teaching** is given from the Bible in order to attract people to God as their loving heavenly Father and for worshippers to 'grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ'.
- **Invitations** are extended by means of leaflets to all who live in the parish to attend Christmas and Easter services. These and other services are also promoted through our website and monthly Outreach magazine.
- **A pastoral care team** engages in practical action to befriend and welcome those who move into the area, by means of welcome suppers, teas and information packs. In addition, Christmas gifts and harvest produce extend the love of God to the lonely and house-bound.
- **Mission partners** in different parts of the world keep us informed about their lives and needs, and there is a commitment to the retention of a global vision in line with Jesus' teaching: 'Go into all the world to preach the Gospel.'

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of both churches in Buckland Monachorum and Milton Combe.

Ministry Training

Andy Farmer was ordained as a priest in September and now can fully participate in this role working in our two churches as a Self-Supporting Minister.

a) ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - 2019

The most significant achievements during 2019 are divided into three separate headings:

Guidelines and Policy documents:

- i) **Health & Safety Policy** -The church has a policy in place for both churches to ensure that current legislation is being met and measures put in place where required.
- ii) **Safeguarding** - St Andrew's Church Buckland Monachorum & the Church of the Holy Spirit, Milton Combe adopt the Exeter Diocese Policy and procedures. See full report below.

- iii) **Reporting of Safeguarding and Serious incidents** – the reporting to the Charities Commission of serious incidents both in regard to Safeguarding and other serious incidents will be delegated to the Diocese of Exeter Board of Finance via the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and the Diocesan Secretary in a resolution to be passed by the PCC in January 2020. This is in accordance with the House of Bishops Guidance. There have been no incidents to report in 2019.
- iv) A **Privacy Statement** has been written, covering how the church handles personal data and has now been added to our Website in line with current legislation.

Safeguarding

The PCC and members of the Church recognise that they have a responsibility to support, protect and safeguard all, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. We continue to be fully committed to providing a safer culture by acting within current legislation, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures. Staff and Volunteers are recruited in accordance with the Diocesan Safer recruitment Guidance. We are committed to ensuring they are fit for the role, are fully DBS checked, where appropriate and fully supported through training.

An Action Plan was written by the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and approved by the PCC. This has been worked on throughout the year and progress was reported at each PCC meeting. A final Review took place in November 2019 which outlined the progress made and the areas that needed to be taken forward into the 2020 plan.

Key Action Areas with Progress made:

- Safeguarding Policy review - The procedures were separated from the Policy and were reviewed and updated.
- Awareness raising - The Church website was updated; confidentiality of email addresses was promoted; Church notices are used regularly to raise awareness; meetings have been held with key groups who work with children and young people, and the Pastoral team; A training database has been revised and updated; an identification of training needs has been done for key personnel and volunteers, and is on-going.
- DBS checks- A review of records and identification of renewals and new checks was undertaken.
- Confidentiality issues- Set up of and use of confidential email addresses; all historic and confidential paperwork now locked away in the Upper Vestry; storage of data is in line of with GDPR regulations.
- Risk assessments were written for the key groups as well as for any activities taking place away from the Church site. Each leader also has a reference folder with extracts from the Parish Handbook as well as generic documents for registration, safety logs, code of conduct, contacts list, safer working practices and what to do if a disclosure is made. All groups are now using the most up to date advice and forms from the Diocese. Trish Topham Parish Safeguarding Officer

b) OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY - as shown in the following reports

Charleston Friendship Cafe

This initiative was started in June 2018 with an Open Afternoon to explain the aim of the café which is to support those living with dementia and their carers'. The Café is also for anyone who is looking for friendship and company either as a participant or helper.

The Café meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (excluding August when the Village Hall is closed). We meet from 2.00 – 4.00 pm and take a theme for each session which could be seasonal for example in the Autumn, at Harvest etc, and design activities around that theme. We use music and games to stimulate but not overwhelm our participants. Cognitive Stimulation Therapy is an important part of our programme. Tea and cake are served and there is always time for conversation and general banter.

We have had the school choir singing to us twice, poetry readings by Pam Smith, Art sessions with Richard Mabey and pottery with Dave Cox as well as an afternoon of musical entertainment with The Poslips. These are simply examples of the many and varied activities with food, plants and creative woodwork which have been enjoyed. We usually offer some chair – based mobilising exercises to music with which we finish the session.

Our numbers vary but we can be twenty including helpers and carers. Tavistock Area Support Services (TASS) have provided transport and some funding. We have also received funding from Yelverton Rotary Club and Buckland June Fair as well as other sources.

The Café benefits those within the community who are isolated and coping with dementia as well as those who simply enjoy some company and chat. Some of those who come along are loosely associated with the church and one who used to be a member of the congregation but is now too frail to attend the church. There are three of us who are committed to running the café: Trish Topham, Mandy Hall and Margie Goodfellow, and of course, also our much-valued helpers.

Piano Festival in Milton Combe Church

The Church again hosted this year's successful concert that benefitted both the Village Hall and the Church.

- The **first concert** – held on 23rd June was a triumph when Lucy Parham (pianist) and Edward Fox (actor) chronicled the life of the Russian composer and pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff. This was a new experience for us all and greatly appreciated.
- The **second concert** on 26th June was performed by soprano, Natasha Day accompanied by pianist David Malusa who had taken time out from his busy schedule to play for us again. The other Headline Act on this evening was Stewart French, the classical guitarist who brought new perspectives to both familiar and less well known pieces of classical and traditional music. Again, the concert was greatly enjoyed by everyone.
- The **third concert** was held on Sunday 28th June and this was given by the young pianist Luka Okros. He has performed for us on several previous occasions, despite his busy programme around the world - we were very fortunate to hear his wonderful renditions again. We are very grateful to all those who worked so hard to enable this event to take place. It was a real community collaboration. A further one is planned for 2020.

Buckland June Fair

Once again, the Church and Chapel were central to the success of the June Fair. For 2019, the Fair Committee had decided to run a 'Scarecrow' competition which was hugely successful. The inventive and imaginative 'straw' creations were displayed in the Church during the fair so that all could enjoy seeing them. They ranged from a very smart sailor, courtesy of Dave Cox, to a sewage worker down a drain. The church tower was open as usual and, courtesy of Debbie Morris, a beautiful flower display at the entrance of the Church welcomed the many visitors. Children's craft activities were provided for independent play.

An energetic team of volunteers erected the two church tents before the fair got under way to give much needed extra cover and space for the various activities going on that day centred around the Chapel. The 'Buckland Bouncer and Buckland Bouncer' races continue to grow in popularity and numbers and the Chapel continues to be the central to the running of these events. Once again, the Chapel acted as the registration hub, bag drop and general gathering point for more than a hundred runners. The plentiful supply of teas, coffees and cakes were welcome energy boosts for the runners as well as the normal fair goers. As ever, a large team of cake makers, coffee servers and washer-uppers came forward from the congregation to ensure the smooth running of the refreshment facility. It was good to also provide space for a stall run by the dedicated members of the Charleston Café, who could raise funds for this important Village asset.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care team are nine in number and met three times during the year. The plan was to sustain this aspect of the church ministry as much as possible as we awaited the appointment of the new Vicar before launching into new initiatives. Two 'Welcome Suppers' inviting people that had recently moved into the Parish, were hosted by one of the pastoral care team, Karen Price & her husband Andy in their own home. Both these events welcomed about twelve individuals and feedback was very positive from those that attended. The wardens and their wives were also present along with our part-time curate Andy Farmer and his wife Debbie. At the one in November, our new vicar Andy Bowden & his wife Bethany, were also present.

We also hosted a Cream Tea that was held in the Buckland Chapel in June, it was good to welcome a few locals also some people visiting the village. Really good conversations were able to be had. This was a new venue as it was not possible to hold this on the Vicarage lawn as in previous years. During the year, a number of cards have been sent out, particularly for those who had recently been bereaved. The Christmas gifts this year were ten monetary local supermarket vouchers which were given to those identified within the church family, but also included two families that had been identified by the school. Along with these gifts, two hampers were given to two elderly members of

the parish. This was made possible by generous donations from members of the two congregations. A huge thank you to all who contributed to enable this to happen. They were very much appreciated by all the recipients.

Link with St Andrew's Primary School

At the beginning of September, the Pastoral Care team welcomed new parents to a Cake and Coffee event, held in the Buckland Chapel on the first Day of term. Dropping your child/children off at a new school for the first time can be emotionally difficult and so invitations were given out by the school to encourage new parents to join together, to get to know each other and to hear about initiatives happening within the parish. There was a buzz of conversation and really good feedback was received over this new initiative and it is planned to continue this in 2020. We utilise the relationship we have with St. Andrew's Primary School in the village throughout the term. Tristan and Andy now share the responsibility of leading weekly assemblies; Tristan and Sarah have run a weekly after school drama club, where they presented their Biblical drama in Messy Church on a monthly basis and have now changed this drama club to a craft club with a greater focus on serving Messy Church. More recently Rev. Andy has run a course focussed on staff wellbeing and Tristan and Sarah have started a Christian Union lunchtime club.

Parish Magazine "Outreach"

In 2019 the magazine was published bimonthly. It is planned that bimonthly editions of the magazine will again be published in 2020 with an extra one-off edition for any special events if required. The magazine is distributed to around 195 households in the parish, some of whom attend church, whilst many more are not. Past copies are also placed in doctors' surgeries, dentists, pubs, hairdressers, etc. which expands the readership of each issue. Digital copies of Outreach are available on the Church website.

Mark Woock and Denise Hume ably assisted by Nick and Diana Kilby coordinated the production of the magazine in 2019 assisted by David Oliver (advertising) and Margie Goodfellow and her helpers (subscriptions and distribution). This team will carry on in 2020 but anyone who wishes to help would be very welcome.

All contributors, distributors and editors provide their time on a voluntary basis, so that the only costs are the printing and web hosting charges. Outreach continued, in 2019, to be financially self-supporting with subscription, advertising and miscellaneous income of £3,206.23 (up 4.2% on 2018), against costs of £2,371.92 (down 1.3% on 2018) leaving a surplus of £834.31 for the year (up 23.7% on 2018). The only concern is that subscription income was down 15.7% year on year probably a reflection on the general move away from print media. This trend if it continues will ultimately have an impact on advertising revenue. The team are grateful to all our contributors, advertisers and distributors for their work during 2019. **NOTE:** Within in Annual accounts there is a slight difference from the income reported above and this is due to the Independent Examiner making an adjustment to correct an anomaly from the previous year.

Please continue to contribute articles, news, jokes or pictures to the magazine, and send all material to Mark Woock by email to: outreacheditor@outlook.com

c) GENERAL CHURCH ACTIVITY

Children and Youthwork Reports - Continued nurturing of our Young people, as seen in the following reports.

The Sunday School caters for children in the preschool years as well as key stage 1 and key stage 2 (up to secondary school age) every Sunday in school term time, except the first in the month when they are in church for the whole service. **Bubbles** is a group for children from the age of approximately 3 -7 and **XStream** for children aged 7-11.

During 2019, Bubbles had 3-7 children regularly attending; XStream had 4-6 regular attendees, with 14 other children joining the groups either sporadically or as visitors. The leaders ensure that the church's safeguarding policy is fully implemented with respect to all the children attending.

Crèche facilities are available in the South Porch of the church, providing a warm space for parents to take their baby or toddler if required, during services. With a speaker now installed, this enables parents/carers to hear the service

as well. A rota for leaders to provide this service for parents has not run over 2019, as there has been little demand. This should perhaps be reviewed, as more families with very young children have joined the church and others are reaching a stage where parents may wish to leave their toddlers in crèche.

During 2019, the Bubbles and XStream groups have studied the following topics using resources from the Urban Saints Energize website:

- Spring term: The Sermon on the Mount.
- Summer term: (i) Evangelism and Pentecost (using resources from the 'Thy Kingdom Come' - a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It was started in 2016 with an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England, has now grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer).
(ii) The Holy Spirit (using Urban Saints resources).
- Autumn term: Parables that Jesus told.

Deborah Corness, Heather Keane, Hellen Williams and Hannah Waine continued as leaders of the Bubbles and XStream groups, assisted by a small but faithful team of helpers. During the year, the team had meetings with Tristan Stevenson-Coulshaw and latterly, Andy Bowden, to co-ordinate the ministry to the young people of the church.

All-Age Services continued to be held in St Andrew's church once a month. These were organized by a small team and included liturgy and prayers that were more accessible for the children - and talks designed to engage and challenge the whole congregation, from young to old.

Youth Emmaus

Youth Emmaus meets every other Sunday during the main church service. The other Sunday's being an All-Age Service and the other attended by the young people in order to accustom them to a regular service. An average group is twelve and they are mixed range between 11-17 years old. We meet for approximately one hour, where we build fellowship through games and hot chocolate and general chat. We then have a time of teaching from the Bible and prayer at the end. We have also used this time to sing praise and worship to God and encourage the young people to play their instruments. This has been key to involving them in the sung praise during the main services. Youth Emmaus meet weekly at our home (Tristan & Sarah's) for the Youth Home Group. We meet with 11-14's and 15-17's separately. We average nine young people. This is a relaxed environment where we eat, chat, have Bible teaching and pray. We also have one-to-one discipleship for particular young people.

We also meet for socials. From taking them to Adrenaline Park, going Clay-Pigeon Shooting or having a film night, these are great ways for them to bond together but also to invite their unchurched friends over.

Community Outreach to young people

We have taught about evangelism and sharing the gospel, encouraging and equipping the young people to speak about Jesus to their friends and living a more authentic Christian life. This has brought in several other young people into our home group, particularly those who have currently no faith in Jesus.

The Church's 'Outreach' magazine is distributed throughout the Parish and there is a fixed component of that regarding youth work.

We are on the Messy Church planning team and help organise, run and lead this and value this as a great opportunity to reach out to the younger generation in the community.

In the Christmas season we held a Crib Service and that were particularly aimed at the younger generation and families.

Networking with other Youth groups

In June 2019 a group of 9 went to the SPREE SW event. This was a great way to meet with different groups. I attend SWYM (South West Youth Ministries) training on average every two months and I have links with the Minster Church of St. Andrew's, Plymouth. This link has involved me visiting the Christian Union at Devonport High School for boys. Our annual Parish Camp has a great importance to the youth work, and this has proved to be a prime opportunity to invite young people from other local groups and churches to join us.

The youth at St Andrew's are growing deeper roots in their relationship with Jesus, with some of them making bold choices for the sake of their faith. Integrating them into the life of the whole church family is key to their discipleship.

Building up the parents is an area of particular importance for the growth of the young people. Working with the parents through casual, as well as intentional conversations and meetings, is an area I would like to see develop in time.

Messy Church

Messy Church is an outreach initiative, started by volunteers from St. Andrew's Church 6 years ago, primarily to serve those in the community who do not regularly attend Sunday services. It is held in St. Andrew's Church and Buckland Chapel after the end of the school day, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. We welcome children of all ages with their parents, grandparents and carers; the young and young-at-heart! Together, we learn about God and His love for us through crafts, songs, stories, fellowship and food. Each session is planned around a theme which we explore through different activities (some messier than others!) followed by some songs and a short talk, before we all sit down together to share a meal.

Messy Church has seen a number of changes in the 'team' over the past year. In May 2019 we were sad to say farewell to the Tucker Family, Louise having been one of the founding team members who, through her involvement in both Playgroup and School, encouraged so many families to come along. Another founder member of the team, Rosemrey Bancroft, stepped down at the end of the year. She will be missed for her amazing craft ideas, particularly for banners, and together with 'Scruffy' and 'Bananas', will be missed for their interactive messages! Thank you to all the above mentioned for their contributions to and support of St. Andrew's Messy Church.

Although we now do not have the Year 5 and 6 Adventure Service Challenge students from St. Andrew's School, who had provided valuable assistance with activities and helped serve and clear up after the meal. The school are no longer able to run this due to rising charges from the organising body. However, there have also been several 'welcomes' to the team including from the Spring term of 2019, Sarah Stevenson-Coulshaw. She runs an after-school drama group, with children from St Andrew's school, who joined us to introduce the theme at each session; and Sarah and Tristan took on leading the message. A number of the drama group children's families also chose to stay on and take part in the rest of the session. This year, the group are now an 'Art Squad', learning the crafts and activities in order to take the lead on these at Messy Church.

Since the relaunch in September 2019, we have registered 27 families, introducing a number of new families via the summer BBQ (coinciding with the new Foundation children's visit day) as well as the Welcome event at the start of term and the September taster session. We currently have up to 20 volunteers in various roles, both from the St. Andrew's Church Family and parents from Messy church families, supporting at each session.

Parish Camp

2019 was a year where God again blessed us as a church family through Parish Camp. Held in the last full week of July, we were still in the period of Interregnum and so God graciously enabled Rod and Ruthie Gilbert to be our speakers for the week. Rod and Ruthie have been to Camp before and so were able to lead us with great wisdom and gentleness.

The theme for the week was "Seize Eternity - What does it mean to live life to the fullest?" in which they spoke of how we are all created to have an eternal relationship with God and how that knowledge changes our view of the present. They also showed how the law-based religion of the Old Testament was replaced with a grace-based relationship with God and how we can treat each other with that same grace.

Despite being an interregnum year, this was the biggest Camp to date with over 160 people coming to Camp throughout the week and on average 100 people each day. It was possible to manage with these increased numbers with the addition of two smaller marquees which could be used for the youth and children's work, and beautiful sunny days which meant that we could eat outside each day – perfect!

The youth and children played an important part of Camp and we were all blessed by the youth leading us in Spirit filled worship and managing the Power-point and sound system. In the feedback, many commented on how a highlight of Camp was the opportunity given for the children and young people to pray for their parents and other adults. Speaking for myself, I can still remember what was prayed for me and it has been profoundly encouraging. The youth also showed us how to burn the candle at both ends by getting up to swim in the sea at 6am but also staying up late at night to play wide games in the field!

Just as in previous years, we welcomed some Egyptian friends. Heidi and Karim came from Canada with their daughter Emily and it was wonderful to renew our friendship and look out beyond ourselves to think of the wider church. We were also able to offer holidays to four families who would not otherwise have been able to afford a family holiday.

Throughout the week, we were aware of God's provision for us and the sense of Camp being part of the transition happening in church. It was wonderful to welcome Graham and Christine back at the beginning of the week to share in the service of thanksgiving for Arianna and then towards the end of the week to have Andy and Bethany join us with Benji, Tommy and Verity and I am looking forward to this year when they can enjoy the whole of Camp with us.

d) FURTHER CHURCH ACTIVITY

Lent course

This year we explored together, the concept of Holy Communion; the invitation to a feast, our intimacy and fellowship with God, symbols of the new covenant and so much more. Attendees had the opportunity to share their connection with this sacrament and learn from other fellow pilgrims. It followed the format from the Pilgrim course and was led by Readers as well as guest speakers from our congregation; Rachel Perry, David Waine and Tristan Coulshaw. It was held every Tuesday from 7.30 to 9 pm in Buckland Chapel, immediately following the Ash Wednesday service and finishing with Maundy Thursday Communion in church.

Home Groups

There are 7 homegroups that meet each week. Each aim to play its part in providing time and space for people to meet and encourage each other in the faith. They allow people to get to know each other and their circumstances better, so that we can share in the joy of walking with the Lord, praising him for what he has done for us, and supporting each other through challenges and in difficulties. They also allow us to prayerfully apply what we've heard from God through Bible Study.

At present each group follows its own agenda. Some work through Bible passages together, others use Bible study guides, others use material from elsewhere to fuel discussion. The eventual plan is for all groups to move towards using the same material and follow the Bible passage being read and preached on that week.

All but one of the (seven) groups are full; meaning of a size that makes it harder for everyone to contribute to discussion and harder for new people to join. We urgently need new people to coordinate a new group and/or offer a place to meet. This may be a new group, or the division of a current large group. We need to encourage people to join a homegroup - but it is hard to do so when there is little room for them.

Ladies Fellowship

Twice a month, we meet for lunch, Bible study and prayer. We study using various publications, and at present are working our way through a course based on a book by John Ortberg, called "Soul Keeping. In the past we have done courses on prayer, women in the Bible, and an advent course. Scripture is the foundation of all we study!

All are welcome and on average we are 10-14 in number and always end time for prayer.

Men's breakfast meetings

Throughout the year, usually on the first Saturday of the month, we hold a breakfast for men. This is an opportunity for them to meet together and invite those on the edge of the church family; to chat over a cooked breakfast and to hear an inspirational speaker.

Prayer Ministry Team

The Prayer Ministry Team are a group of people who are all committed to this ministry by making themselves available to pray with anyone requesting prayer for themselves or others at the conclusion of the Church Services weekly. There is a rota, with on average, three people who are available to pray with anyone who asks. It is intended to offer some training both to present members as a refresher and to

anyone else in the church who would like to feel confident to pray with others and perhaps join the team in future.

Since this is a confidential service offered to the church and those visitors attending worship, it is not appropriate to publicise answered prayer unless the recipient wishes to share their experience with others. However, the church encourages more testimony of God's gracious presence, healing and power received by many who have been prayed for in this way.

Sung Worship within both Churches

The psalmist writes, 'Come let us sing with joy to the Lord', and that is certainly carried out in the parish! The sung proclamation of praise, thanksgiving and prayer is an integral part of our corporate worship in both churches. It is led by many who plan our congregational singing of hymns and songs, and who provide musical accompaniment. The regular services of Easter and Christmas the regular members are augmented by many individuals from the congregation to create a choir to sing some more traditional pieces, we are thankful to Caroline Mitchell who at Christmas undertook the leading of the choir.

Up until the end of May 2019, Pippa Brown was leading the sung worship at St Andrews and organising rotas Sunday by Sunday. At the end of May she felt led to join her husband Robin, at St. Andrews in Plymouth, where he was based in his ministry training. For the remainder of the interregnum Paul Nixon and Jane Oliver took on this role. We met with the worship leaders to organise rotas and to discuss how the worship was going, as well as trying to encourage our young people to be part of the teams. Denise Nixon and Jane Oliver have led three mornings with the young people, where we have encouraged them to bring instruments along to play and worship together. We have had some very special times with them and gradually we have been blessed with them being part of the teams. This is something we are all keen to encourage.

In October 2019, all those who are involved with worship, including those who are on the sound and vision team, met in the Buckland Chapel and had a morning led by our new minister Andy Bowden. It was a very positive morning and resulted in Sophie Whitfield being encouraged to take on the organising of worship teams. This she has done with humility and grace, but sadly for us, happily for her, Sophie will be leaving us in March to begin a career in NHS management. We wish her well and she will be greatly missed.

We are very blessed at St. Andrews with many who can play instruments and sing, so we are able to share with the leading of the sung worship Sunday by Sunday. There is much we can do to improve and learn from each other. We must never forget Audrey Mills who Sunday by Sunday plays the organ with such skill and authority each week in Buckland, also those who faithfully lead the music in Milton Combe. Thank you to Audrey, Brenda Dilnot & Elizabeth Baxter, we would all be lost without them.

Bellringers

There are currently 14 experienced ringers associated with the team at St. Andrew's. 12 live in the parish, one lives just outside the parish and another lived in the parish until some 12 years ago but now lives about 12 miles away but regularly turns up for ringing each Sunday. They ring for weddings and also on New Year's Eve as well as opening the Bell Tower during the Buckland June Fair Day. Of these 14 ringers, 6 regularly worship at St. Andrew's; 1 other is much involved and worships at another church and 4 others who do, more often than not, attend the services at Easter, & Christmas.

e) UK AND OVERSEAS MISSION GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Supporting people in full time service both in prayer and financially:-

Missionary Aviation Fellowship:

We are the home church for Missionary Aviation Fellowship family, Matt and pilot Becki Dillingham with their children Bethan and Luke. We were fortunate to be visited in the Autumn whilst the family were home on furlough - because, whilst they were in the UK both Becki and their youngest, Luke, were hospitalised due to contracting Malaria. Beckie was able to update us on life in Chad for them as a family also with the work that she is doing as a MAF pilot. Now back in Chad where Becki has taken on more responsibility to add to her flying, she is now also overseeing the Operations Management.

New Growth Ministries:

Our link with New Growth Ministries in Zimbabwe continues with its very worthwhile work on a Zimbabwean farm with a loving orphanage supporting children and young adults, also enabling them to have an education. NGM provide significant help in the local community as well.

Egypt:

We continue to maintain contact with and support Bishop Mouneer of Egypt and North Africa, and our other Egyptian friends.

Open Doors:

Once a month a small number of us from both churches meet, usually on a Thursday morning, to pray for the persecuted church, inspired in our prayers by the Holy Spirit, also by the very helpful short films on the Open Doors website. These open our hearts and minds to the faith and courage of our brothers and sisters in Christ in places where it is hardest to be a Christian – for example North Korea, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, Iran and Syria. In the face of appalling suffering and unimaginable daily challenges, we see the power of prayer and are encouraged to keep praying as a church. This year we were particularly struck by the testimony of Christians in Sri Lanka whose response to the horrific Easter bombings was to praise and worship God, and this gave us a sense of coming together to praise God and pray as one church in all circumstances, as well as to pray for the wider church. In November, Buckland Chapel hosted a special time of prayer for Nigerian women and girls, through the portraits and stories of seven courageous women who have suffered sexual violence following attacks of northern villages by Boko Haram. Their accounts of the transforming power of Jesus' love and mercy spoke to many of us in a very powerful way.

Shekinah Day Care Mission

This year our Harvest thanksgiving sent both money and non-perishable foods to a local Charity, Shekinah Day Care Mission in Plymouth.

Impani Project

This is a new initiative that was introduced to the congregation by a church member who's friend, a Church leader in Malawi, has been led to build a school for a very poor, rural community there. We are currently raising money for this project.

Buckland Chapel Trust

The church has strong links with the chapel and members of the congregation are on the board of trustees. Caroline Mitchell and Roger Watkins have been trustees of the Chapel since 2017 and 2016 respectively and in 2018 they were joined by Andy Price, Susanna Campbell and Nicola Bovey. The church uses the chapel for various church activities. A full BCT report will be available at the PCC AGM.

f) Other key people and groups

There are many other individuals and groups who contribute greatly to the smooth running of both churches:- Our Verger; our Cleaner; the Flower arranging team; the Guild members; Coffee serving teams; and those that organise and take part in the rotas for sidepersons, prayer ministry, and the weekly notice sheet.

2020 Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll at 12th April 2020 contained 149 Names. There have been 13 added and 6 removed during the year. Of those removed 2 sadly have died and 4 have moved away from the area.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod, which met three times during the year,

At the February 2019 meeting, The Revd John Marlow spoke about the Deanery Plan. He made the following points; 1) it's an opportunity to reflect how the deanery works, and 2) the plan will help churches to focus and understand the strategy and 3) to have a clear purpose.

Churches are to decide as parishes and consult with locals within their parish; then, to enter the information on-line so that there are consistent answers across the diocese.

At the June 2019 meeting, there was feedback on The Deanery Plan.

- A sacred space outside the church within the church yard that had had benefits in one parish.
- The church is a cornerstone but needs to build.
- The question on how far people travel to attend church and the Chair, Annie Jeffries said that the laity had to spread the load with the clergy in the work in schools and nursing homes.
- There is a need to creatively engage with people and bring the Gospel to them.

At the October Meeting, there was further discussion on The Plan. Revd, John Marlow gave feedback on the 'answers on a postcard exercise' sixteen groups had participated, responses were taken from the number of cards received. He said that what is important about Church is 'what is God doing in them and what is He calling us to do!' In conclusion, with that previous statement in mind, he added that the number of full time Clergy would go down from 7.5 to 6. The overall vision was as follows: To bring hope to our communities and to show God's love, especially to families. To continue to encourage outreach to the next generation of worshippers. Following the Diocesan Statement to: Grow in Prayer, Make Disciples, Serve the people of Devon with joy.

g) STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointing PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Andrew's, Buckland Monachorum and the Church of the Holy Spirit, Milton Combe, we started the year in an interregnum and the Church Warden's and a part-time Deacon were supported by visiting clergy as well as our wonderful Lay Readers to ensure both churches provided regular Sunday services. We were pleased to welcome our new vicar, Rev Andy Bowden in mid-September.

The PCC consists of the incumbent, a self-supporting Minister and nine ex-officio members; together with seventeen other elected members. Included in the total of 26, are three representatives for the Church of the Holy Spirit in Milton Combe and six lay readers. The PCC also has a Standing Committee which can deal with urgent matters more effectively than calling a full PPC meeting, and a Finance Committee which meets regularly a week prior to the PCC meetings, to deal with any financial matters in more detail than the full meetings allow. The full PCC met on six occasions during the year. The standing committee did not need to meet. The Finance Committee also met six times.

Financial Review

The church received a total income for this year ending 31st December 2019 of £155,421 compared to £166,337 in 2018. The majority of this was from planned giving, of £96,121 together with £25,804 from recoverable tax on Gift Aid receipts. The amount of £33,496 was received from sundry donations.

The total Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2019 was £146,139 compared with the previous year of £178,357 in which we had a major project expenditure on St Andrew's church organ. The Parish Share increased by £11,859 from the previous year being £62,136.

Overall, there was a small surplus of around £9,000. Also, we continue to fund a full time Youth Worker.

h) ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Church of St. Andrew's, Buckland Monachorum is situated in the village of Buckland Monachorum, Devon PL20 7NA. The Church of the Holy Spirit, Milton Combe, is in the village of Milton Combe, Devon PL20 6HP.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2019 until the 31st December 2019 were:

Ex Officio members:

The Reverend Andrew Bowden (appointed in September 2019)
The Reverend Andy Farmer (Self-supporting minister)
Margie Goodfellow (Reader) retired at the end of 2019)
Paul Nixon (Reader)
Mrs Rumbi Mukono (Treasurer)
Mrs Patria Topham (Safeguarding Representative)

Deanery Synod Members:

Mr P. Tuckett (Reader & Vice Chair)
Mr P. Nixon (Reader)
Mr Roy Matthews (Reader)

Churchwardens:

Mr R Barnes
Mr David Oliver

Deputy Churchwardens:

Mr T. West (buildings) elected member

Members:

Mr P Coates	Mrs Sally Reid (Milton Combe)
Mrs D. Farmer	Mr J. Girven (Milton Combe)
Mrs B. Girven (Milton Combe)	Mrs Deborah Corness
Mrs H Hopkins (Hon Secretary)	Mr R. Hopkins (electoral roll officer)
Mrs H Keane	Mrs D. Kilby
Dr M Perry	Mr J. Smart
Mrs A Smart	Mrs Bronia Coulshaw
Dr Mark Smith (Reader)	Dr David Waine (resigned in May 2019)
A Young person representative (Not yet appointed)	

Safeguarding representatives: Mrs Patricia Topham & Deputy Mrs Jane Oliver. DBS Officer: Helen Hopkins

Church Accountant: Mrs Felicity Harris – Moorlands solicitors

The Report was approved by the PCC at a Zoom meeting held on Monday 18th May. The Report was signed by the

Rev Andrew Bowden, Vicar: and

Bob Barnes, Church Warden: